

*The Permanent Mission  
of the Kingdom of Morocco  
to the United Nations*



البعثة الدائمة  
لمملكة المغرب لدى الأمم المتحدة  
نيويورك

**Address**

**By**

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Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation  
of  
The Kingdom of Morocco**

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UN General Assembly**

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**Madam President,  
Mr Secretary-General,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I would like, at the outset, to extend my sincere congratulations to you and the brother country of the Kingdom of Bahrain, on your election as the first Arab lady in the history of the United Nations Organization to preside over the General Assembly. I wish you every success in your task during this session and would like to avail myself of this occasion to express my warm thanks to your predecessor, H.E. Mr. Jan Eliasson, for his brilliant presidency of last year's session.

Allow me also to seize this opportunity to reiterate Morocco's appreciation of H.E.Mr. Kofi Anan for the noble tasks he has been undertaking and for his constant efforts all along his mandate in consolidating our Organisation's stance at the international level and revitalizing its role for the maintenance of international peace and security. We equally appreciate his unfailing support for development activities pursued both at the regional and international levels to ensure the promotion of the United Nation's mechanisms and structures and thus reinforce their effectiveness.

The Kingdom of Morocco welcomes the adhesion of the Republic of Montenegro to the United Nations.

**Madam President,**

This year's session coincides with the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Morocco's joining the United Nations Organization. Fifty years of clear and concrete commitment towards the objectives and principles of our Organisation aimed at fostering peace and security worldwide and at consolidating the sustainable development for the benefit of all peoples and states, mainly in developing countries.

Joining the United Nations was one of the first sovereign decisions Morocco made in the wake of its independence. It expresses the Kingdom's firm belief in the efficiency of multilateral action as one of the most viable mean of managing chronic crises and as an appropriate tool to face the increasing international challenges. It equally reflects Morocco's unfailing commitment to the values of active solidarity and fruitful cooperation. This had been expressed in the speech of Late King Mohammed V, pronounced on the 6th of November 1956 when He stated that "*Morocco's attachment to the principles which constitute the foundation of the UN Organization reflects its commitment to support freedom and peace in the world and establish international relations built on arbitration and concord, away from any recourse to violence or force, relying on cooperation and solidarity and not on animosity and discrimination*".

**Madam President,**

Since joining the UN, the Kingdom of Morocco has endeavoured to significantly contribute to helping our Organisation attain its status as a central actor in the establishment of international peace and security, as well as in remodelling and promoting international relations thus creating a world order built on cooperation,

justice and international legality. The Kingdom has always been an advocate of the principles of international law, UN resolutions and multilateral actions emanating from constructive dialogue and ongoing consultations as the most viable means to peacefully settle international conflicts and crises.

Throughout this period, the Kingdom has contributed, to the best of its means, to numerous UN peace-keeping operations as proof of its commitment to international peace and of its deeply rooted belief in the importance of collective security and of the role of the United Nations Organization in this field. Today, our country is contributing to five peace-keeping operations, in Africa, the Caribbean and Europe. This has earned Morocco the thirteenth position among the countries contributing to the peace-keeping operations internationally, the second at the Arab level and the sixth at the African level.

In addition, the Kingdom of Morocco has entered a process aimed at establishing an active solidarity among members of the international community through constructive and fruitful partnerships between the North and the South, on the one hand, and the reinforcement of South-South cooperation as a strategic priority, on the other, in order to achieve sustainable and balanced development for the benefit of all.

The Kingdom of Morocco further endeavoured to implement the recommendations adopted by important UN meetings and conferences on development issues, including the Millennium Development Goals.

In this regard, the National Initiative for Human Development, launched by His Majesty King Mohammed VI on 18<sup>th</sup> of May 2005, testifies to Morocco's willingness to lay the foundations for a development model that embodies Morocco's political choices and helps achieve a modern and democratic society. Modernization, Democratization and economic development as well sustained human development indicators are interdependent in the quest for equitable opportunities, dissemination of knowledge and provision of basic social services.

This development initiative attaches a special interest to the empowerment of the Moroccan citizen, as the focus of development in line with the UN Secretary-General's report of 2005 entitled "*In Larger Freedom: Towards Development, Security and Human Rights For All*".

In this same context, Morocco has engaged, through the equity and reconciliation commission, which ended its mandate in 2006 with specific recommendations, in a critical and transparent evaluation of a specific period of its past with a sense of responsibility and vision of its future. It has, thus, shown its deep attachment to the spirit and intent of international instruments and it endeavours to harmonize national priorities with international commitments.

***Madam President***

Since its inception, the United Nations has contributed to the settlement of many international disputes and the establishment of peace and security in many regions. However, the Middle East and Africa still suffer from many conflicts, wars and economic and social crises which thwart peoples' natural aspiration for stability and development.

In this regard, and having welcomed the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza, as a first step towards the establishment of a Palestinian State, in accordance with the Road Map, Morocco hopes that the currently degrading situation, which has led to even more killing and destruction, be rapidly put to an end.

Following the failure of various international and regional efforts to resume the peace process and settle the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Kingdom of Morocco reiterates its call to the International Community and the Security Council in particular, to assume their responsibilities in the search for a global and lasting solution to this conflict, in accordance with the Peace Process milestones, relevant UN resolutions and international legality as well as the land-for-peace principle.

Concerning the crisis in Lebanon, Morocco has welcomed Security Council resolution 1701 and expresses its hope that all concerned parties cooperate to provide the appropriate political conditions for a lasting settlement on the basis of the Taif Agreement and the relevant resolutions of the Security Council. Morocco, also, calls upon the International community to provide more cooperation and solidarity for the reconstruction of Lebanon and to support the success of efforts for peace.

As for the situation in the brother country of Iraq, Morocco appreciates the outcomes of the political process in which all Iraqi parties and influential political components have taken part. However, Morocco is still hoping that an end be put to the ongoing tension which continues to bring suffering to innocent Iraqi civilians.

It is our hope that our Iraqi brothers agree, as soon as possible, on the time and venue of the Conference for the Iraqi National Accord which may allow them to lay down the foundations for the completion of institutional reforms, thereby ensuring the sovereignty, territorial integrity, security and stability of their country.

The Kingdom of Morocco, which chairs, through the person of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, the Al-Quds Committee, reiterates its commitment to work together with all forces in favor of a fair and global peace in the Middle East. The realization of this objective is dependent upon the withdrawal of Israel from all the occupied Arab territories and the establishment of a Palestinian State, with Al-Quds as its capital, living side by side, in peace and security, with the State of Israel.

Morocco firmly believes in dialogue and communication as a means of settling international disputes. It also considers that resorting to force, whatever the reasons, will not succeed in imposing workable solutions, nor will it achieve fair, lasting and global peace in the Middle East. On the contrary, it will only serve to exacerbate the existing status quo.

Morocco is equally convinced that peace in the region can only be achieved if the United Nations provides the appropriate context that may help to eradicate the causes of tension and escalation, coordinates the regional and international efforts aimed at putting the peace process back on track so as to ultimately achieve security and a lasting peace. Consequently, the peoples of the region will move towards a more promising future in which the coming generations can cooperate together and live in harmony.

***Madam President,***

The African continent faces today a number of serious threats and major challenges. It is currently suffering from many crises and conflicts that have proven difficult to settle. In fact, Africa harbors half of the armed conflicts witnessed by the world during the last decade, and hosts half of the number of refugees worldwide. The continent is also confronted with numerous economic and social plagues such as poverty, hunger, desertification and infectious diseases that threaten the daily lives of millions of people.

As a result of this critical situation, which should by no means be considered as inevitable, Africa represents a priority on the agenda of the United Nations and the international programs for development. However, these programs and initiatives need more harmony and interaction to ultimately provide the appropriate conditions for sustainable development in Africa. To this end, we must consider the idea of creating an international mechanism composed of experts in the fields of security and development to supervise the implementation of the different international programs and initiatives concerning Africa.

For its part, the Kingdom of Morocco will continue to support all efforts for development in Africa. His Majesty King Mohammed VI, bearer of the torch of peace and development and holder of a wise vision stemming from a deep understanding of the concerns of the continent, has taken many initiatives and visited many African countries in the aim of strengthening the bonds of brotherhood, cooperation and solidarity among the African peoples.

In this regard, Morocco calls for a high-level dialogue in the course of the next year on « Africa and the issue of development » to further deepen the discussion on development with a view to launching mechanisms likely to guarantee the implementation of all international initiatives aimed at using the continent's full economic and human potential at the service of its development.

***Madam President,***

In his first address before the General Assembly, His Majesty Late King Mohammed V declared that « the Kingdom of Morocco has chosen, as a basis for its international relations, negotiation as a mean for reaching mutual agreements and for providing the requirements for peace, unity and solidarity among nations ».

In keeping with this vision, the Kingdom of Morocco has renewed its commitment to cooperate with the Secretary General and his Personal envoy in order to find a lasting and mutually acceptable political solution to the dispute over the Moroccan Sahara.

In this respect, and in response to the call of the Security Council to overcome the current impasse and to progress towards a political and consensual solution to this dispute, Morocco will present an autonomy plan which will enable the inhabitants of the region to manage their local affairs in the framework of the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Kingdom of Morocco.

To this end, nationwide consultations have been launched, since November 2005, with all concerned parties and representatives of the region alike, within the

framework of the Royal Consultative Council for Saharan Affairs, which membership has been enlarged, its structure modernized and its mandate strengthened. As for other important issues, this process has been conducted through a participatory and transparent approach aimed at encouraging the adherence of all to the notion of autonomy. This represents a unique experience in North Africa region.

***Madam President,***

More than ever, the world needs today a more efficient United Nations Organization that can translate the aspirations of all the peoples of the world, uphold the principles of international legality and foster the spirit of multilateralism with innovative mechanisms, enriching components and innovative ideas likely to yield positive results.

We do believe that the reform process should not be an objective in itself, nor should it be used to highlight eventual failures of the Organization. We equally believe that the true rehabilitation of United Nations, with a view to keeping up with the challenges of the 21st century, requires:

1. The harmonization of the Organization's agenda with that of the International Community.
2. The implementation of the proposed institutional reforms simultaneously with the provision, to the Organization, of the necessary financial, human and technical resources in order for it to accomplish its tasks fully, and in an efficient and transparent manner.
3. The creation of a permanent follows up mechanism of the reform process and to continuously assess its results and help the Organization rationalize its internal actions.
4. The development and implementation of clear strategies and tools to deal efficiently with global challenges and problems such as organized crime, international terrorism and illegal migration that have recently surfaced, and to provide cooperative frameworks for lasting solutions. Tackling such problems, eradicating their deep causes and limiting their social and political impact require solidarity, a multi-faceted and global approach.

Indeed, the Kingdom of Morocco has contributed during the past fifty years to the consolidation of the values of our Organization and to enhancing its performance. Today, it undertakes to contribute, in the years ahead, to strengthen the Organization through improving its performance and its role at the service of peace, development and brotherhood among the different peoples of the world.

**Thank You**