



# Morocco

## *in Focus* 2019

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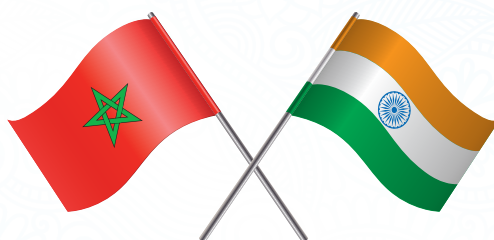
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On the occasion of  
The 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the  
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# Social Inclusion and Economic Development: Looking Back at 20 Years of Reign of HM King Mohammed VI



By Dr. Bouchra Rahmouni

Director for Research, Partnerships & Events (Policy Center for the New South, Morocco)

Since the accession to the throne of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, Morocco has undergone significant transformations in many areas, thanks to a remarkable process of modernization, progress and human-centered development in the first place. Thus, the Sovereign

religion does not reprove profit. On the contrary, it encourages initiative, personal growth and promotion by merit. Moreover, the Waqf institution represents an original form of entrepreneurship, remarkably anchored in our traditions of solidarity between generations". Extract from

them. The inclusive approach of entrepreneurship and the spirit of openness to other horizons, particularly the African ones, for a shared economic growth was very early advocated by HM the King. It is therefore relevant and necessary for the Moroccan public authorities to



Photo: MAP News Agency

**HM King Mohammed VI chairs a meeting of the Council of Ministers on 7th February, 2019 at the Royal Palace in Marrakech**

has constantly advocated the establishment of mechanisms for the fight against poverty, the anchoring of human development, sustainable and equitable, and national social solidarity. It is also important for Him to remind on each occasion the importance of solidarity and inclusion in the Moroccan economic system in the respect of its traditions, and the ambition to guarantee a better future for the younger generations. "Our

HM the King's Message to participants in the Fifth Edition of the Global Entrepreneurship Summit, on 20/11/2014 in Marrakech.

The foresight of His Majesty Mohammed VI has therefore, since the beginning of His Reign, regularly called for freeing spaces and energies for the social and entrepreneurial spirit of Moroccan society throughout all the territories of the country, and especially the most remote and most isolated of

develop and implement integrated strategies for the Social and Solidarity Economy sector, focused on the economic and social development of the citizens and territories, responding to basic needs of the most vulnerable categories in the Moroccan population. The focus must be on a type of entrepreneurship that deploys principles that value equality, innovation, inter-generational solidarity, social act and ethics, above all purely economic element.







Photo: MAP News Agency

## HM King Mohammed VI visits several projects that fall within the framework of the Rabat Old Medina Rehabilitation and Upgrading Programme

### The fight against poverty, the bedrock of the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE)

The political and economic transition initiated since the nineties gives priority to the fight against extreme poverty by crossing two dynamics.

On the social front, a new Moroccan society has its roots in the combined effect of the fundamental reforms of the family code and the great operation of national reconciliation, alongside the constitutional reform of July 2011, which paved the way for the consolidation of the democratic process and an increased sharing of powers and responsibilities between the Monarchy and the Government Executive.

At the level of the economic strategy, the policy of major infrastructure works, the liberalization and stimulation of foreign direct investment

suggested a better anchoring of the Kingdom in its international environment. The effort also concerned all areas that influence the decision and attraction of investors with the launch of major projects (TGV - Tanger Med - urban real estate) and the creation of specialized institutions covering areas such as the credit guarantee, the taxation, the alleviation of administrative procedures, the modernization of the financial sector, the labor market, the regulation of competition, support for SMEs and business ethics. Creating such an environment for FDI enabled, in turn, to respond to a fundamental dimension of the establishment of a SSE ecosystem that consists of attracting and retaining contributors, mainly firms, which often intervene on several levels: Financing, accompaniment ... Morocco is also ranked sixtieth (60) in the *Doing Business* ranking of the World Bank in May 2018, out of

a total of 190 countries; and is the second highest ranked country behind the United Arab Emirates for the Middle East / North Africa region. This ranking highlights the Kingdom's ability to attract foreign investment as well as its environment that is conducive to business creation.

On another level, starting from the fact that digital transformation, reducing the digital divide is an important prerequisite for stimulating a dynamic of social entrepreneurship through connected objects or Internet of Things (IoT) that permit responding to needs as basic as those of health and education. According to the National Telecommunications Regulatory Agency (ANRT), Internet was established in Morocco to more than 23.77 million subscribers at the end of 2018 and performing a penetration rate of 67.5% against 2% in 2002.



## HM King Mohammed VI launches in Rabat Large-Scale Railway Projects in the wake of the Inauguration of High-Speed Train "Al Boraq"



Photo: MAP News Agency





HM King Mohammed VI at inauguration ceremony of Casablanca Tramway (T2), January 23, 2019.

Photo: MAP News Agency

On this momentum of connectivity, the Kingdom of Morocco has given great importance to road infrastructures. The road network, thus, ensures 90% of people's journeys and 75% of goods transport, contributing to the balanced development of the territory and making it possible to support investments and the opening up of rural populations. His Majesty the King has, in this respect, made innumerable visits to remote areas of the national territory in order to stimulate a real dynamic of opening up and connection to the rest of the regions better off in terms of basic infrastructure. The Mohammed V Foundation for Solidarity, under the effective leadership of HM King Mohammed VI, also plays a major role in the sustainable development of these territories and for the most fragile citizens living there. The Foundation has, thus, developed recognized know-how in terms of targeting to complete basic infrastructure projects, such as drinking water supply or connection to electricity.

In fact, electrification has, in turn, given impetus to the dynamic of opening up. Indeed, the global rural electrification program (PERG) has achieved a real prowess in 22 years, with an increase of 18% in 1995 to 99.62% at the end of October 2018. This rate should increase to 99.85% in 2020. This network providing driving force is essential to industrial, agricultural and social development. Electrification makes it possible to contribute to the servicing of social entrepreneurship projects in order to intensify the contribution of the rural environment in the development process.

#### **The economic and social integration of women and Moroccan youth: a strategic priority for HM The King.**

It is important to underline that Morocco has for decades been part of a voluntary process that has enabled women and young people to gradually integrate different sectors of public, political, socio-economic and cultural life. Thus,

in the perspective of a democracy of proximity and participation meeting the legitimate aspirations of the Moroccan people, HM King Mohammed VI has made the promotion of the situation of women and youth a national strategy.

Regarding women, under the leadership of His Majesty Mohammed VI, several advances have been made in this area, crowned by the major contribution of the 2011 Constitution, which clearly affirmed the equality of men and women in their civil, economic, political, social and cultural rights and freedoms. Various structures and tools have, hence, been put in place to ensure gender equality and combat all forms of discrimination, accordingly meeting the royal guidelines in this area.

At the economic level, the National Initiative for Human Development (INDH) enables thousands of women to realize their entrepreneurial spirit through







the creation of microenterprises and cooperatives around income-generating activities. This reigning project of the INDH was able to demonstrate the dynamism of Moroccan women and the success of their business creation projects. Thus, out of more than 15,000 Moroccan cooperatives, around 2,800 are feminine.

Youth, meanwhile, represents more than 30% of the Moroccan population and has always been at the forefront of the demand for change and modernization of society. His Majesty the King has continually sought to associate the youth in the political debates surrounding constitutional reforms. In this context, the new Constitution of 2011 reflects the richness and diversity of the proposals of the associative movements with the creation of the Consultative Council of the Youth and the associative action, in particular, in relation with the importance of the contribution of the youth to the process of democratization. Youth training and qualification infrastructures, libraries, information and communication technology spaces, and other income-generating activities were provided as part of the Royal attention to social and solidarity entrepreneurship and its axial role in the integration of Moroccan youth. The Mohammed V Foundation for Solidarity has also developed a new approach to the integration of young Moroccans into the working life; by providing them with qualifying vocational training, while giving them the benefit of accompanying measures in order to awaken their entrepreneurial spirit and encourage them to create their own production units.

#### **Promoting Social and Solidarity Entrepreneurship: Royal Attention and Interest in Innovation**

The Royal Vision for Development has always focused on the fact

that innovation is a key factor of national competitiveness and has advocated spreading a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship among the Moroccan society. This is illustrated by the royal initiatives to encourage dynamics involving companies, research and training centers and institutions, to develop and stimulate the emergence of innovative collaborative projects. For this, Morocco has already launched in 2012, under the leadership of HM the King, several major

territorial space by improving its attractiveness and, thus, strengthening its economic competitiveness.

In this overall framework of economic and social development of Morocco, Social and Solidarity Entrepreneurship takes its place. And this, through innovation in the ideas and mechanisms advocated by HM the King, and His calls to strengthen the productive capacity of actors of this type of entrepreneurship through the



**HM King Mohammed VI delivers a speech to the Nation on the occasion of the 43rd Anniversary of the Green March on November 6, 2018**

projects for the establishment of technological infrastructure and innovation, particularly in the framework of the Morocco Innovation Strategy, inspired by the Royal High Orientations.

Moreover, it is essential to highlight the global and integrated nature of the Royal Guidelines in relation to the promotion of the economic and social development of Morocco, and this by placing this vision in the framework of advanced regionalization and the laws governing the Regions. HM the King has always called for the Regions to use their powers to promote the integrated and sustainable development of their

formation of interest groups and competitiveness clusters and the involvement of the higher education and research body in a partnership approach around joint innovative projects. This essentially aims at strengthening the individual action of each actor, and the visibility of the actions of a regional social and solidarity economy, both nationally and globally. ■

*(The article has been translated from French to English at the Embassy of Morocco, New Delhi)*







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# Morocco Now Strategic Partner with India



**H.E. Mr. Mohamed MALIKI**  
**Ambassador of His Majesty the King of Morocco**  
**to India (Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal & Sri Lanka)**

**A**s the Kingdom of Morocco celebrates the 20th Anniversary of the Enthronement of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, it is satisfactory to note that Morocco-India have built strong content for their “strategic ties”. The intensifying relationship gradually and steadily is moving upwards and the total bilateral trade by December 2018 had touched US \$ 1.8 Billion compared to US \$ 1.3 Billion in year 2017.

Justifying an increasing bilateral trade volume, is now the presence of around 30 Indian companies in Morocco. The Indian investment into my country is a testament of our economy’s growth, economic reforms and creation of business opportunities. The Indian community has always been welcomed in Morocco and it’s heartening to hear about stories of cultural integration.

After signing a new generation bilateral Air Services Agreement, efforts are underway to kickstart direct air connectivity between New Delhi/Mumbai and Casablanca. The management of Royal Air Maroc, Air India and Ministry officials are holding discussions to explore this critical possibility, which will not only boost business, people to people contact, but tourism as well.

Morocco is sparing no efforts in fast tracking bilateral ties with India. The annual publication by the Embassy

of Morocco, titled “Morocco In Focus” is an exercise in this direction. The year 2019 marks the 10th issue of the special edition. Our Ministries, institutions and other stakeholders have editorially contributed regularly to publish success stories and challenges ahead.

This year we are also focussing on the ongoing economic development in the southern provinces of Morocco. After a detailed tour of the region, the magazine features stories from Laayoune, Tarfaya and the port city of El Marsa (south of Laayoune), which also has Phosboucraa plant by the OCP Group. India is one of main importers of fertilizer being produced including at this unit in Morocco. The reportage supported by photographs counters the false propaganda against the Kingdom of Morocco, regarding the exploitation of natural resources.

Good air connectivity, all weather roads, developing ports, modern communication infrastructure, sports facilities, mentoring of local leaders, health facilities and quality education is there for everyone to see. Job opportunities for local population are being created. Clean drinking water, reliable power supply and an increasing recreational activities for the young, children and families. The southern provinces with the pace of progress taking place are on the path of progress. Do read these articles in the magazine.

Another pathbreaking development is the inauguration of TangerMed 2. The port now connects Morocco to 77 countries and 186 ports worldwide and offers world class facilities. Morocco is now included in great maritime countries and has become an inevitable destination. With the friendly visit by India’s INS Tarkash to Tangier recently, this famous Moroccan city is getting its due attention.

Come and visit Morocco. As Moroccans have emotional connections with India thanks to historical links as reported by the great traveller Ibn Battouta and Bollywood movies, you will also love Morocco as a tourist destination and will bring back cherished memories.

My counterpart in Rabat, Ambassador Shambhu Kumaran, has recently presented copies of his credentials to H.E. the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Mr. Nasser Bourita. I wish both of us success in further development of our bilateral relations. ■







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# India's External Affairs Minister Visits Rabat, Morocco-India Sign Four Agreements

**T**he then External Affairs Minister of India, Mrs. Sushma Swaraj visited Morocco from February 17 to 18, 2019. In a meeting with Kingdom's Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Mr. Nasser Bourita on February 18, both ministers discussed ways to enhance bilateral cooperation in a number of areas including defence and security, counterterrorism and trade and investment.

"Sushma Swaraj met with Foreign Minister of Morocco Mr. Nasser Bourita. Productive discussions on enhancing cooperation in trade and investment, defence and security, counterterrorism, Science and Technology, tourism, culture and consular issues,"



The then External Affairs Minister of India, Mrs. Sushma Swaraj handing over to Mr. Nasser Bourita, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Morocco in Rabat a special message from Prime Minister, Mr. Narendra Modi for HM King Mohammed VI



## Morocco-India delegation level talks

India's External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Raveesh Kumar informed.

India's visiting Minister handed over to Minister Bourita a letter from Prime Minister,

Mr. Narendra Modi addressed to HM King Mohammed VI. "The then External Affairs Minister of India, Mrs. Sushma Swaraj handed over a letter from PM Narendra Modi, addressed to His Majesty the King of Morocco,

to Foreign Minister of Morocco Nasser Bourita. This was in response to His Majesty's letter," Kumar said.

Minister Swaraj called on Head of Government of Morocco,







Mr. Saad-Eddine El Othmani. They discussed steps to expand ties, specially by deepening the strategic content through cooperation in areas such as counterterrorism, Kumar said.

“Swaraj called on President of House of Representatives of Morocco Parliament, Mr. Habib El Malki. Discussion on expanding cooperation between Parliaments of both countries as a way to further consolidate our cooperation,” he said in a tweet. Swaraj also laid a wreath at the Royal Mausoleum in Rabat, paying her respects to the Monarchs of Morocco.

India and Morocco signed four MoUs following the delegation-level talks between Minister Mrs. Swaraj and her Moroccan counterpart Mr. Bourita in Rabat.

Briefing media after the meeting, Mrs. Swaraj said, the MoUs include setting up of Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism, Cooperation in Housing and Human Settlement, Reciprocal facilitation of procedures for issue of Business Visa and Cooperation in Youth Matters.

Both countries agreed to set up a Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism to develop a comprehensive approach to combat the menace, including cross- border terrorism, terrorist financing and recruitment of terrorists. ■



**The then External Affairs Minister of India, Mrs. Sushma Swaraj calls on Head of Government of Morocco, Mr. Saad-Eddine El Othmani (February 18, 2019)**



**The then External Affairs Minister of India, Mrs. Sushma Swaraj and Mr. Nasser Bourita, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Morocco signing the agreement in Rabat (February 18, 2019)**



**The then External Affairs Minister of India, Mrs. Sushma Swaraj in a meeting with Mr. Habib El Malki, President of Chamber of Representatives, Parliament of Morocco (February 18, 2019)**





## Moroccan National Tourism Office Opens in Delhi



The then Minister of State for Tourism (I/C), Mr. Alphons Kannanthanam and the Minister of Tourism, Air Transport, Handicrafts and Social Economy of Morocco, Mr. Mohammed Sajid witnessing the signing an agreement of cooperation between ITDC, India and SMIT, Morocco, in New Delhi on September 17, 2018.

**M**r. Mohammed Sajid, Minister of Tourism, Air Transport, Handicrafts and Social Economy of the Kingdom of Morocco along with an important delegation, visited India between 16th September to 19th September 2018, to sign agreements, conduct bilateral meetings and launch Moroccan National Tourism Office in New Delhi.

The Members of the delegation included Mr. Adel El Fakir, Director General of the Morocco National Tourism Office, Mr. Imad Barakka, Director General of Moroccan Society of Tourism Engineering, Mr. Zakaria Belghazi, Director General of Civil Aviation. Ms. Fatima Zahra Jabri, Head of the Department of Partnership in Royal Air Maroc.



Mr. Mohammed Sajid, Minister of Tourism along with an important delegation, visited India between 16th September to 19th September 2018, to sign Agreements, conduct Bilateral Meetings and launch Moroccan National Tourism Office in New Delhi.







The then Minister of State for Tourism (I/C), Mr. Alphons Kannanthanam and the Minister of Tourism, Air Transport, Handicrafts and Social Economy of Morocco, Mr. Mohammed Sajid along with the Ministry officials, at the India - Morocco Tourism Bilateral meeting, in New Delhi on September 17, 2018.

The ceremonial day of launch began with signing of MoU between India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC), the PSU under the aegis of Ministry of Tourism and Moroccan Agency for Tourism Development (SMIT), an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Tourism, for strengthening cooperation in the field of tourism. This MoU was signed by Ravneet Kaur, Chairperson and Managing Director (CMD), India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC)

and Imad Barrakad, Chairman and CEO, SMIT in the presence of Mr. K J Alphons, the then Minister of State (independent charge) for Tourism of India and Mr. Mohammed Sajid, at The Ashok, a flagship property of ITDC.

Then, the Minister Mr. Mohammed Sajid along with the members of delegation proceeded to ITC Maurya, wherein the Morocco National Office of Tourism was successfully launched in the

presence of Ambassadors from several countries, distinguished guests and media fraternity.

Thereafter, a bilateral meeting was held between Mr. Sajid and Mr. Suresh Prabhu the then Minister of Commerce and Industry and Civil Aviation which was followed by signing of Updated Air Services Agreement, which will also be an enabler for greater air connectivity between India and Morocco. ■







# Minister of Health of Morocco Visits India

Bilateral issues of mutual interest were discussed during meetings with key ministers of India



Minister of Health of Morocco, Mr. Anas Doukkali paid a working visit to India between 10th and 13th December 2018

Minister of Health of Morocco, Mr. Anas Doukkali, paid a working visit to India between 10th and 13th December 2018, along with Professor Rachid Bezaoui, Director of the National Centre for Reproductive Health.

The visit was to take part in the 4th edition of the "Forum of Partners for the Health of

the Mother, the newborn and the Child (PMNCH)". This was an International Conference, organized by the World Health Organization 'WHO', which aims to reduce child mortality and improve maternal health globally.

During his visit to India Mr. Doukkali, also met, on the sidelines of his participation in the Forum, the then Minister

of Health and Family Welfare, Mr. J.P. Nadda and the then Minister of State for External Affairs, Gen. V.K. Singh (Retd.), to hold discussions on bilateral issues of mutual interest. The Minister also met other senior Indian officials, some of its African counterparts as well as Indian operators in the hospital and pharmaceutical sectors.





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# Morocco-India Education Cooperation

**Secretary of State for Higher Education and Scientific Research of the Kingdom of Morocco, paid a working visit to India**

**M**r. Khalid Samadi, Secretary of State for Higher Education and Scientific Research of Morocco, paid a working visit to India, on the 22nd – 23rd of January, 2019.

During his stay in New Delhi, Mr. Khalid Samadi held a bilateral meeting with his Indian counterpart, Mr. Satya Pal Singh, Minister of State for Human

Morocco and the prospects of cooperation between the two countries in the field of higher education”, in the presence of officials from the University and number of Phd candidates students.

Mr. Samadi also visited the National Physics Laboratory (NPL), the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) and the

This MoU aims to encourage student mobility between Morocco and India by facilitating the possibility for students to pursue their studies in either country according to the laws and regulations of both countries. It also aims to facilitate the mobility of teachers and researchers between them.

This visit of Mr. Samadi



**Mr. Khalid Samadi, Secretary of State for Higher Education and Scientific Research of Morocco, paid a working visit to India, on the 22nd – 23rd of January, 2019.**

Resource Development, Higher Education, Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation as well as with the Chairman of the University Grants Commission, Prof. D.P. Singh, and visited Jawaharlal-Nehru University of New Delhi, where he gave a lecture on “the opportunities of studies in

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT).

Mr. Samadi, also signed, on the 22nd of January, 2019, a Memorandum of Understanding on the mutual recognition of diplomas delivered by accredited educational institutions in both countries.

to New Delhi took place after his participation in the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2019, along with Mrs. Rakiya Eddarhem, Secretary of State for Foreign Trade, and many high officials and representatives of various Moroccan agencies and businessmen. ■



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# Morocco and India Sign New Agreements - Minister of Justice Visits India



Morocco and India signed an agreement to further mutual legal assistance in Civil & Commercial Courts. India's Minister of Law & Justice and Electronics & IT, Mr. Ravi Shankar Prasad and his Moroccan Counterpart Mr. Mohamed Aujjar, Minister of Justice were present on the occasion.

The Minister of Justice of Morocco, Mr. Mohamed Aujjar, paid an official visit to India from 11th to 18th November 2018.

During this visit, Mr. Aujjar met on 12th November 2018, the Minister of Law, Justice, Electronics and Information Technology, Mr. Ravi Shankar Prasad, and the then Minister of State for Law, Justice and Corporate Affairs, Mr. P.P. Choudhary.

During this meeting, Mr. Aujjar and Mr. Prasad signed the Agreement on Legal and Judicial Cooperation in Civil and Commercial Matters between of Morocco and India as well as a Joint Declaration of Intent between the two Ministries.

The same day, Mr. Aujjar had a meeting with the then Minister of State for Home Affairs, Mr. Kiren Rijju. The two Ministers signed the Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters between Morocco and India.



The then Minister of State for Home Affairs, Mr. Kiren Rijju and the Minister of Justice of Morocco, Mr. Mohamed Aujjar signing an Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters between the two countries in New Delhi on November 12, 2018.

On 13th November 2018, Mr. Aujjar met with the then Minister of State for External Affairs, General V.K. Singh (Retd.). During this meeting, the two Ministers signed the Extradition Agreement between Morocco and India.

This meeting was followed by another discussion with Attorney

General of India, Mr. K.K. Venugopal.

In addition to these bilateral meetings, the visiting Minister, Mr. Aujjar, participated in the 19th International Conference of Chief Justices of the World which was held from 14th to 20th November 2018 in Lucknow. ■







Defence Secretary of India Mr. Sanjay Mitra receiving the Minister Delegate to the Head of Government in charge of the National Defence Administration of Morocco, Mr. Abdellatif Loudiyi at South Block, New Delhi on September 25, 2018.



Mr. Abdellatif Loudiyi inspecting the Tri-Services Guard of Honour at South Block, New Delhi on September 25, 2018.



The then Defence Minister of India, Mrs. Nirmala Sitharaman and the Minister Delegate to the Head of Government in charge of the National Defence Administration Morocco, Mr. Abdellatif Loudiyi holding delegation level talks at South Block



MoU is signed between India and Morocco on 'Cooperation in peaceful uses of Outer Space' in the presence of the then Defence Minister, Mrs. Nirmala Sitharaman and the Minister Delegate to the Head of Government in charge of the National Defence Administration of Morocco, Mr. Abdellatif Loudiyi

## Morocco a Key Partner of India to Fight Terrorism, Inks MoU for Co-operation in Outer Space

**M**orocco is emerging as a key counter-terror and de-radicalisation partner for India in North Africa. The two countries inked a MoU on 'Cooperation in peaceful uses of Outer Space'.

It was signed in the presence of the then Defence Minister Mrs. Nirmala Sitharaman and the visiting Minister Delegate to the Head of Government in charge of the National Defence Administration of Morocco, Mr. Abdellatif Loudiyi.

In 2015 the two countries decided to elevate bilateral ties to a Strategic Partnership and have been working to include new areas of cooperation to the partnership such as space, military cooperation besides the traditional ones of fertilisers, chemicals, automobiles, renewable energy and construction.

As reported earlier "Indo-Moroccan relations have been strengthened, particularly after

the historic visit of King Mohammed VI to New Delhi in October 2015 as part of the third India-Africa Forum Summit."

Morocco, fast emerging as North Africa's economic leader and a major source of phosphates for India, which is the largest Asian recipient of Moroccan public investment. The return of Morocco to the African Union in 2017 after three decades added further momentum to Africa-India relations. ■





# Minister Elalamy- India Can Use Moroccan Platforms to Increase Indian Investment in Africa

**M**orocco's experience in doing business in Africa will benefit Indian operators looking to increase their investments in Africa.

Africa is the primary beneficiary of Moroccan direct investments, thanks to the development of partnerships and the royal interest in the continent's development, said Moroccan Minister of Industry, Investment, Trade, and Digital Economy, Mr. Moulay Hafid Elalamy.

In an interview with Maghreb Press Agency (MAP), Mr. Elalamy stated that Morocco invested MAD 37 million in Africa from 2013 to 2017, thanks to partnerships and the organization of the national economy towards South-South cooperation, in accordance with King Mohammed VI's vision.

The Minister stressed that Morocco is now one of the top African investors of the Economic Community of West African States and the Economic Community of Central African States. Mr. Elalamy added that the notable growth of Moroccan investments in Africa in the last decade is due to Morocco's strong commitment to developing the continent.



**I**n an interview to Morocco World News, Mr. Elalamy said that "Morocco's presence in the Africa-India conference is extremely important following meetings with leading Indian companies having high investment prospects."

"Morocco is now a real platform at the African level, having free trade agreements with 60 countries, making Morocco a real production and export platform," he highlighted.

The Minister also spoke of Morocco's long-standing business relationship with India. "Our Indian friends have joined other American, Chinese, and European investors already established in Morocco," he said.

He added, "Some Indian companies are well established in Morocco. They know very well how our country works and they







Group photo of Mr. Moulay Hafid Elalamy (standing in middle row, fifth from right), Minister of Industry, Investment, Trade and Digital Economy of Morocco along with participants of the 14th CII EXIM Bank Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnership held in New Delhi on 17-19 March 2019.

aspire to strongly develop their activities further.”

The Minister evoked the lengthy presence of the Indian group, Tata, in Morocco and the inauguration of the first plant by India's Varroc group in the Tangier free zone on February 26.

Mr. Elalamy said, “The Varroc group is of Indian origin in terms of capital and is active in the automotive sector and manufactures lighting.”

The Minister appeared optimistic overall about the Indian-Moroccan partnership's future, saying, “We have many things to do together and I think the future will bring us more important partnerships than we have had in the past.”

Source: Morocco Press Agency (MAP)



He noted that HM the King carried out 50 royal visits to more than 30 countries since 2000 and signed more than 1,000 agreements.

Morocco has invested in the sectors of fertilizers, cement, agro-food, and pharmaceuticals. Morocco is also heavily present in banking-with 30 banks operating in Africa-telecommunications, construction and public works.

“India can use Morocco's [established] platforms ... to promote its investment volume in Africa,” pointed out Mr. Elalamy, speaking from a conference in India.

The visiting Minister took part in the 14th CII-Exim Bank Conclave in India, along with a Moroccan delegation.





## Indian Navy's INS Tarkash Anchors in Tangier

India aims to improve its already-cordial relations with Morocco by anchoring the INS Tarkash at the port in Tangier.







Morocco and India have made efforts over the last few years to further improve relations with one another. In this context an Indian naval vessel visited the northern city of Tangier. On July 8, the Indian Naval Ship (INS) Tarkash dropped anchor at the Port of Tangier for a three-day visit to the Kingdom.

Considered one of the Indian Navy's most state-of-the-art vessels, the INS Tarkash is currently part of the ongoing peace mission to the Mediterranean. The mission is intended to further cement India's relations with Morocco, among other countries.

During its stay in Tangier's Port, a number of Moroccan officials — including high-ranking naval officers — visited the vessel. The Tarkash has also planned to participate in a number of activities with the Royal Moroccan Navy, including a Passage Exercise at sea.

For years India has been working to establish stronger relations with Morocco, and the Tarkash's stay in Tangier is another step in strengthening the bond between Morocco and India.

Beginning with the India-Africa Forum Summit in New Delhi, bilateral relations between India and Morocco have drastically improved over the years, exemplified by 19 ministerial visits between the two countries since the forum in 2015.

In 2018-19, trade between the two countries surpassed US\$ 1.8 billion, with the commercial relationship between Morocco and India being the best it has ever been.

With both Morocco and India continually becoming more powerful players in international affairs, each country has seen the relationship as a mutually beneficial opportunity. Relations between the two countries will remain cordial for the foreseeable future. ■





# Vibrant Gujarat 2019 Summit: Prime Minister Modi Met Secretary of State for Foreign Trade, Mrs. Rakiya Eddarhem of Morocco

On the sidelines of her participation in the "Vibrant Gujarat 2019" Summit, Mrs. Rakiya Eddarhem, Secretary of State in Charge of Foreign Trade, of the Kingdom of Morocco was received by the Prime Minister of India, Mr. Narendra Modi, on the 17th of January 2019 at Gandhinagar.

During this meeting, in which the Ambassador of HM the King of Morocco, Mr. Mohamed Maliki to India took part, the Prime Minister of India asked the Secretary of State to convey his best wishes to HM the King and prosperity to the Moroccan people, while recalling his historic and memorable meeting with His Majesty on the occasion of the 3rd India-Africa Summit in 2015.

The Prime Minister Modi expressed his appreciation on the quality of the multi-sectoral delegation led by the Secretary of State for the 9th edition of the Vibrant Global Gujarat Summit 2019. He welcomed the positive developments in bilateral relations and the large number of high-level delegations that have visited India in recent years, stressing the real ambition to develop these relations especially in some important sectors such as Information Technologies (IT).

The Secretary of State hailed the participation of Morocco in the Gujarat Summit as a Partner Country and thanked the Prime Minister and the Government of the State of Gujarat in this regard. She stressed the importance



**Mrs. Rakiya Eddarhem, Secretary of State in Charge of Foreign Trade of Morocco with Prime Minister of India Mr. Narendra Modi**

that Morocco attaches to the development of its multi-dimensional relations with India, not only bilaterally but also on tripartite cooperation by launching joint initiatives for the development of Africa.

Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Mr. Modi inaugurated, in the presence of the Secretary of State and the African Heads of Mission in India, the African Pavillion where Morocco had the largest national stand.

## **Remarkable participation of Morocco in "the Vibrant Global Gujarat Summit 2019" in India**

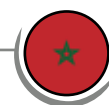
A high-level Moroccan delegation composed of Mrs. Rakiya

Eddarhem, Secretary of State in charge Foreign Trade and Mr. Khalid Samadi, Secretary of State In Charge of Higher Education participated in the event alongside with several Heads of State and Government, Ministers and high officials representing more than 100 countries.

In her speech at the inaugural session and in presence of the Prime Minister of India as well as the President of Uzbekistan and the Prime Ministers of Denmark, Czech Republic and Malta and other Ministers, Mrs. Eddarhem expressed her thanks, on behalf of the Government of Morocco, to the Government of India and the Government of Gujarat for the excellent organization of this event while indicating the privileged







place enjoyed by Morocco at this Summit in which the Kingdom participated as a Partner Country with an important delegation.

Highlighting the excellent relations between Morocco and India, Mrs. Eddarhem recalled that the visit of His Majesty the King to India in October 2015 gave a real impetus to the relations between the two countries which have a balanced foreign policy based on respect for the international legitimacy and territorial integration of States and on the defense of the interests and just causes of the developing countries.

The Secretary of State added that Morocco will take advantage of its participation in the "Vibrant Global Gujarat Summit 2019" to discuss joint initiatives to be launched with India around the priority areas for both countries and for which each of them has accumulated good expertise. She recalled that Morocco, thanks to its very attractive environment for investments and business, has been able to improve its ranking on the ease of Doing Business by moving from the 128th position in 2009 to the 60th in 2019. From his part, the Indian Prime Minister in his inaugural address thanked all the delegations present at this Summit and in particular the Partner Countries like Morocco. He added that, for the first time, the "Vibrant Global Gujarat Summit" celebrates a day dedicated to Africa, to mark the historical and cultural ties that have united, for centuries, the African and Indian peoples.

The Africa Day, which was inaugurated on the 19th of January 2019 by Mrs. Sushma Swaraj, the then Minister of External Affairs of India, constituted another occasion for the Moroccan delegation to share with Indian and African high officials the commitment of Morocco for the development of its continent, Africa. Furthermore, Morocco organized a seminar on investment opportunities in the



**Mrs. Rakiya Eddarhem, Secretary of State in Charge of Foreign Trade of Morocco with the then Minister of Commerce of India, Mr. Suresh Prabhu. Sitting on the left is Ambassador Mohamed Maliki.**

Kingdom on the occasion of the Africa Day.

The special guest of this seminar was the then Minister of Commerce and Industry of India, Mr. Suresh Prabhu, who thanked the Moroccan delegation for its remarkable participation in "the Vibrant Global Gujarat Summit 2019" as a Partner Country and encouraged the Indian business community to trade and invest in Morocco and urged the Indian citizens to travel to Morocco and visit its beautiful cities especially Marrakech. As one of the main speakers of the Africa Day, Mrs. Eddarhem emphasized that Africans have got reasons to believe that they have a great destiny. She added that what is needed is to translate the visions into actions mentioning that the only source of knowledge is experience and that is why Morocco is very keen to pursue sharing it with its African brother countries.

During this seminar, attended by a large number of Indian businessmen and companies

interested by the Moroccan and African markets, Mr. Samadi stressed the importance of the Moroccan policy regarding higher education in attracting more foreign investments by assuring a first class training for the Moroccan youth in order to accompany the Moroccan and foreign companies by providing quality skillful manpower.

Morocco participated as well at the cultural night, organised on the occasion of the Africa Day, by the famous singer Nasrallah Megri and his band as well as by a troupe of dancers representing the Morocco-Asia Friendship National Association (ANAMA). These two groups highlighted through their performances the solidity of the ties between the two peoples of Morocco and India.

It should be noted that Morocco participated to this summit with an important delegation of about 50 delegates and had the largest national stand in the African pavilion at the "Vibrant Global Gujarat Summit 2019". ■



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# India and Morocco's New Cooperation Areas: Focusing on Security and Preventing Violent Extremism

By Ihssane Guennoun

International Relations Specialist, Policy Centre for the New South



## Introduction

With India looking more towards Africa as a home for sustainable partners, it is also looking at diversifying the areas of collaboration with several African countries, especially with

established diplomatic relations based on mutual understanding, tolerance and respect. Since then, the two countries have enjoyed fruitful relations that materialized in various sectors.

in the framework of the Non-Aligned Movement. The relationship evolved to include further collaboration in the fields of agriculture, trade and food security amongst others. Indeed, the traditional areas of



Photo: Ministry of External Affairs, India

HM King Mohammed VI visited India in October 2015 to participate in the 3rd India-Africa Forum Summit held in New Delhi. During the bilateral meeting with Indian Prime Minister, Mr. Narendra Modi it was decided to elevate relationship to "Strategic" level.

Morocco. As early as 1967, India's then Vice-President Zakir Hussain visited Morocco and set the tone for engagement between both countries. The latter has

## Drivers for Security Cooperation

Indian-Moroccan engagement started with freedom as a key driver after their independence

cooperation used to be fertilizers, chemicals, automobile, renewed energy, construction, and tourism to some extent with the opening of a regional office of the Moroccan







Tourism Authority in India. Morocco was one of the main partners to walk India towards its green revolution. By providing fertilizers that are adaptable to the needs of Indian soils, Morocco helped India walk faster towards achieving a green revolution.

While we could consider that the collaboration between India and Morocco has reached an optimal level, both countries are looking at taking the collaboration further. Looking at assets from both countries indicates that there is room for upgrading the type of mutual engagement.

Morocco enjoys an advantageous status of being one of the most stable countries in North Africa. In the wake of increasing security challenges in North Africa but also in the Sahel region, Morocco continues to play a key role in enhancing regional stability. Its soft power approach to countering violent extremist discourses and smart management of social demands fueled its image a politically stable country. Indeed, Morocco's approach to preventing violent extremism (PVE) and countering violent extremism (CVE) is based on three multidimensional pillars. First, intelligence gathering. Second, socio-economic reforms. Third, the reform of religious schools. In addition, Morocco is already partnering with the United States of America, France and Spain, -amongst others, in the field of countering and preventing violent extremism.

Furthermore, Morocco's Central Bureau of Judicial Investigation (BCIJ) holds positive records that reinforce Morocco's position as a leader in countering radical discourse and deconstructing violent extremist discourses. The BCIJ, created in 2015, has been actively working on dismantling some of the terrorist cells and arresting terrorism-

related suspects. It has also worked with partner countries on intelligence sharing to prevent violent extremist attacks.

Similarly, we can praise India's approach in the fields of defense and security. Indeed, India has

transnational threats, it is essential to reinforce the cooperation between countries to capitalize on each other's experience.

There are growing interests from both sides to leverage on each country's expertise. Both countries



Photo: Ministry of External Affairs, India

**The then External Affairs Minister of India, Mrs. Sushma Swaraj and Mr. Nasser Bourita, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Morocco met in Rabat (February 18, 2019)**

a historic tradition inherited from Hindu pacifism whereby it considers military power as a tool for self-defense and resistance to domination. In parallel, India's experience in shipbuilding is recognized worldwide and the country enjoys several competitive advantages in this sector. It's low labor cost combined with a strong domestic demand make up for favorable shipbuilding industry, including the manufacturing of some ship components.

Whether on a side or another, both countries have remarkable experience on which they can leverage to reinforce their collaboration in the security field. Given the multiplication of complex new threats, including

have a growing interest in security issues as they are located in the middle of a volatile environment and face threats to their internal as well as external stability. The issue of violent extremism cannot be dealt with at the national level only but it also requires a joint multidimensional approach.

Furthermore, cyber threats are increasingly worrying and are part of the tools for asymmetric wars. Despite countries efforts to improve their IT security, cyber-attacks and security breaches persist. Besides, the rapid evolution and sophistication of cyber-attacks can threaten the digital transformation which usually includes highly sensitive data. The rapid deployment of





Photo: Embassy of Morocco, New Delhi

**The then Minister of State for Home Affairs, Mr. Kiren Rijiju and the Minister of Justice of the Kingdom of Morocco, Mr. Mohamed Aujjar signing an Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters between the two countries, in New Delhi on November 12, 2018.**

digital technology puts digital infrastructures at risk. Since cyber-attacks are transnational, cooperation for preventing them is increasingly important.

#### **From High-Level Visits towards Concrete Actions**

Since His Majesty King Mohammed VI's visit to India in 2015 on the occasion of the Africa-India Summit, several agreements were signed between both countries. While the emphasis was mostly on food security, security, including cyber, emerged as priority cooperation area. Following His Majesty King Mohammed VI visit, the two countries elevated bilateral ties to the level of a strategic partnership.

Since 2018, there are more signs that India and Morocco are looking to expand their collaboration to the security field. Given their shared challenges, collaborating on security aspects is of utmost importance to secure

joint patterns of peace and prosperity. Morocco stands out as one of the top security partners for India in North Africa. This new collaboration on security matters will feed the India-Morocco partnership.

In September 2018, Deputy Minister for Administration and National Defense, Abdeltif Loudyi met with Indian Minister of Defense, Nirmala Sitharaman in New Delhi. The discussions covered new areas of mutual interest. Indeed, the two ministers addressed issues of national defense, maritime security and defense industry. To assert their cooperation in those newly identified fields, the two countries signed two MoUs to collaborate in areas of defense and security, including cybersecurity. The first MoU signed by the Moroccan Computer Emergency Response Team and its counterpart aims at deepening cooperation in the cybersecurity field. The two

parties agreed on exchanging knowledge to cope with security-related incidents. The second MoU covered the peaceful uses of outer space. This MoU which comes with more technical cooperation aims at deepening cooperation in the science of space and satellite technologies. The collaboration on space comes as an additional step in tackling transnational issues that affect both India and Morocco. With their respective experiences, India and Morocco can highly benefit from joining efforts in preventing external threats. Both countries also agreed to collaborate in shipbuilding and manufacturing support. Two months later, Indian Minister of State for Home Affairs, Kiren Rijiju, and Morocco's Minister of Justice, Mohamed Aujjar signed an agreement on mutual legal assistance and to create a joint legal framework both for tackling crimes and preventing acts of violent extremism. The collaboration between both







countries looks at identifying, investigating and prosecuting crimes as well as any terrorism-related activities. It also includes an agreement for extradition measures.

In February 2019, the Indian Minister of External Affairs, Smt. Sushma Swaraj was on a two-day visit in Morocco where she met with the Moroccan Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. The visit was translated into the signing of four cooperation agreements.

of funding of violent extremism and ending the recruitment by violent extremist groups. They have also agreed to reinforce their collaboration in the framework of multilateral security bodies.

Since then, Morocco has provided India and Sri Lanka with relevant information days before the Sri Lankan terrorist attacks. Morocco's Central Bureau of Judicial Investigation service has identified the identity of nine suicide bombers of the attack on 21 April 2019. Thanks

the Royal Moroccan Navy and the Indian Navy organized joint activities such as a special passage exercise at sea. This exercise took place on the sidelines of the Indian Naval Ship Tarkash three-day visit to Tangier. The choice of Tangier highlights India's recognition of Morocco's strategic positioning in the Mediterranean.

### Conclusion

In sum, including security in the cooperation agenda of Morocco and India is a way to upgrade



Photo: Embassy of Morocco, New Delhi

**Morocco and India signed an agreement to further mutual legal assistance in Civil & Commercial Courts. India's Minister of Law & Justice and Electronics & IT, Mr. Ravi Shankar Prasad and his Moroccan Counterpart Mr. Mohamed Aujjar, Minister of Justice were present on the occasion.**

One of them aims at countering terrorism through joint efforts. The two ministers discussed the possibility of setting up a working group on security cooperation and information sharing. This collaboration reaffirms the need for cooperation on issues affecting countries globally. The issue of violent extremism cannot be dealt with at the national level only but it also requires a joint multidimensional approach. Indeed, Rabat and New Delhi will be working together on various aspects such as identifying sources

to its intelligence data, it was able to provide Sri Lanka with relevant information to conduct an operation in Colombo aiming at eliminating terrorists who were planning a second round of attacks after the Easter Sunday Bombings. In general, Morocco holds a substantial database about ISIS and some of its network.

Beyond intelligence sharing and cooperation on preventing acts of violent extremism, there was also a rapprochement with the Royal Moroccan Navy. In July 2019,

the relationship between both countries. This new field of cooperation entails benefits not only to the two countries but also to their respective regions. Furthermore, it will help India and Morocco undertake more concrete actions to prevent and react to global issues. ■





# Tanger Med 2 to Become the Top Container Port in the Mediterranean

By Harun Riaz in Tangier  
Additional inputs Mohamed al-Alawi



Photo: TangerMed Port Authority

The Crown Prince HRH Moulay El Hassan inaugurated the modern TangerMed2 of Tanger Port on June 28, 2019. In the centre is Mr. Fouad Brini, Head of TangerMed special agency.

**T**he Crown Prince of Morocco, HRH Moulay Hassan, son of HM King Mohammed VI, inaugurated Tanger-Med 2 of Tanger port, which will enhance the Kingdom's position in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

Tanger-Med 2 now has the largest Mediterranean port capacity and by connecting Morocco to 77 countries and 186 ports, the port contributed to the location of Morocco on the international maritime scene, announced Head of the Tanger Med special agency Fouad Brini. "Tanger today represents the top port in the Mediterranean in terms of capacity."

Morocco is now in the 17th place according to the United

Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Brini said, adding that: "That's something to be proud of."

Brini pointed out that the port provides Morocco with world-class infrastructure in Gibraltar Strait and makes the Kingdom a regional and industrial player of the first level in Africa and the Mediterranean. He added that the visionary decision of the King of Morocco to launch the studies and construction of Tanger-Med 2 enabled Tanger port of tripling its capacity from 3 million to 9 million containers per year.

The Head of the agency added that in 2018, Tanger-Med 1

handled 3.4 million containers, which enabled it to be located as the first port in Africa, ahead of Egypt's Port Said on the Suez Canal and Durban in South Africa.

Tanger-Med is the first African port to be labeled EcoPort, part of the main environmental initiative which features equipment that respects the environmental standards of the European Maritime Ports Organization.

Brini noted that the momentum of development will continue for a new investment program worth \$900 million, adding that this investment programme aims at keeping pace with the growth of Moroccan industrial and agricultural exports, through expanding port processing capabilities and creating new facilitation zones.

This dynamism will contribute to improving the logistics competitiveness of the African continent and confirm Morocco's integration in the world's leading logistics corridors by enabling Tanger-Med to be located within the world's top 20 container ports, explained Brini.

He recalled that 12 years after the actual launch of the project, the innovative model of the Tanger-Med Agency's governance is systematically brought up in the best global practices.

A.P. Moller Maersk, CEO Morten Engelstoft said that Tanger-Med is one of the most developed ports within the port network in which the group operates. He added that this port platform is one of the strategic centers within the global network of A.P. Moller Maersk.

Engelstoft noted that Tanger-Med is a leading port with a very advanced technology that offers effective and safe







solutions. He praised the extraordinary business climate in Morocco, stressing that Maersk reaffirmed its commitment and trust in country.

Tanger-Med 1 & 2 port director Rachid Houari stated that the port put Morocco in the category of the world's great marine countries.

He also pointed out that Morocco has become an inevitable destination, and Tanger-Med is an indispensable port. The extension is the result of nine years of work and 1.3 billion euros of public funding along with an equivalent amount pumped in by private investors, explained Houari.

Morocco is hoping to increase Tanger 2's container handling capacity to 4.5 million TEUs by the end of the year, matching the capacity of Port Algeciras in southern Spain.

Morocco is preparing to operate new quays at the port of Tanger, which will turn it into the biggest port in the Mediterranean in terms of container capacity and a magnet for investment and manufacturing industries.

With the expected development of logistics facilities and the rise in the number of off-shore companies in an adjacent free economic zone, it is believed that the Tanger Med 2 port will become the primary port destination in the Mediterranean. It would surpass the two largest commercial ports in the region — Algeciras and Valencia in Spain.

"The inauguration of the Mediterranean port of Tanger 2 will be indicative of the success of the handling and services policy that Morocco is trying to implement in a range of free zones," Mohamed Yaouhi, a Professor of Economics at Rabat University, said in a statement.

"The new port will be able to handle a larger number of containers coming from different ports of the world as well as facilitate the transit of passengers."

Yaouhi said Morocco is taking advantage of its strategic location and of Moroccan King Mohammed VI's support for free-zone ports to aid

economic and social development.

For the handling and services policy to succeed and for Morocco to transfer industry and technology, Yawhi said local companies need to strike partnerships with international firms in the neighbouring industrial zone in industrial, logistics and service activities.

The port of Tanger, near the Strait of Gibraltar, has undergone a major expansion in the past two years. Since being equipped with three of the largest container cranes in the world last February, the port has been working at full capacity.

The port's website states that Tanger Med 2 represents the third stage of the development of the Tanger-Mediterranean port complex, along with Tanger Med 1, the passenger terminal and the small boat harbour. Port facilities are managed by APM Terminals, a joint venture between Danish Maersk, German Eurogate and a local company.

Tanger Med 2 provides a platform for exports from local production plants of automotive parts for French automakers such as Renault and Peugeot. Port authorities hope to capitalise on the port's location on the western side of the Mediterranean coast, to turn it into a hub for container traffic between Africa, Europe and Asia.

"About 90% of the container volumes passing through the port are transit containers going to other destinations," Hawari said. He explained that West Africa is the largest market with a 40% share, an area where Moroccan companies have expanded extensively in recent years.

About 20% of the volume of containers goes to Europe and 10% to the Americas. Morocco invested about \$1.13 billion in building and equipping the first

quay, providing about 6,000 jobs at the port and another 70,000 in a commercial zone in the region.

The port is about 50km west of Tanger. The site allows room for further expansion. Tanger also has a ferry port that handles 40,000 passengers a day during the summer season. The new port is expected to reduce waiting times and to ease the traffic pressure on central Tanger.

Deputy General Director of the Tanger Port Authority Hassan Abkari said the port of Tanger serves regular passenger and cargo sea lines with the ports of Algeciras and Motril in Spain, Sete in France and Genoa and Savona in Italy.

Said al-Hadi, head of the board of directors of Tanger Med, said: "There is a significant margin for growth for the ports of Tanger and of Algeciras. Over the next 10 years, both ports together will be able to handle 16 million containers a year."

Experts said Tanger Med 2 has an excellent chance of becoming the number one port in the region, especially after being awarded an Eco-Friendly Port Certificate in March 2016 by the European Organisation of Ports, the first African port to receive the certificate.

The port is connected to more than 186 ports in more than 77 countries. It is near the Free Industrial Zone, where 900 companies operate in various industries, including the automotive sector, textiles, electronic devices, air navigation, logistics, food and other value-added businesses. The zone employs about 70,000 people and brings in \$6.2 billion a year in revenues, port management data stated.

Since its creation in 2007, the Port of Tanger has made great strides. Data show that, by the end of 2017, it received more than 51.3 million tons of cargo and about 3.3 million containers.

Yaouhi said it is necessary to expedite opening the port of Nador, west of the Mediterranean, to provide support and enhance integration with the ports of Tanger and the free zone in Kenitra. ■





# Tanger Med: Global Logistics Hub

Source: TangerMed Port Authority

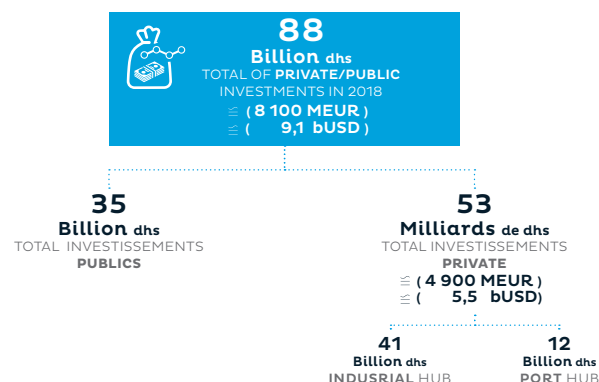
**T**anger Med is a global logistics hub, located on the Strait of Gibraltar and connected to 186 global ports, providing handling capacities for 9 million containers, 7 million passengers, 700,000 trucks and 1 million vehicles.

Tanger Med is an industrial platform for more than 900 companies representing an annual business volume of 8,3 b USD in various sectors such as the automotive, aerospace, logistics, textiles and trade.

## INFRASTRUCTURE

- A port complex comprising 3 ports over 1000 HA
- An industrial platform comprising 6 zones activity over 1600 HA

## PUBLIC / PRIVATE INVESTMENTS



## TANGER MED COMPANIES CREATED JOBS

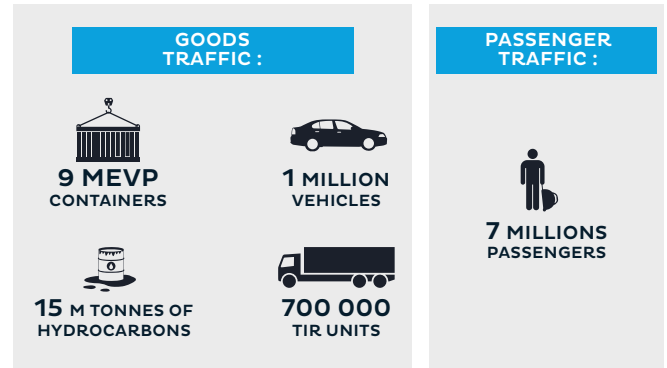


## INTEGRATED AND STRUCTURING PROJECT

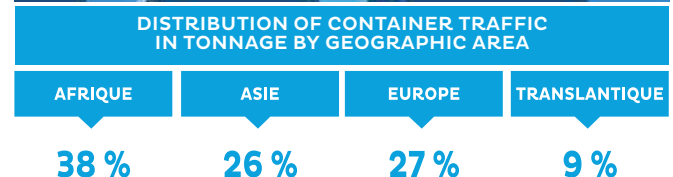
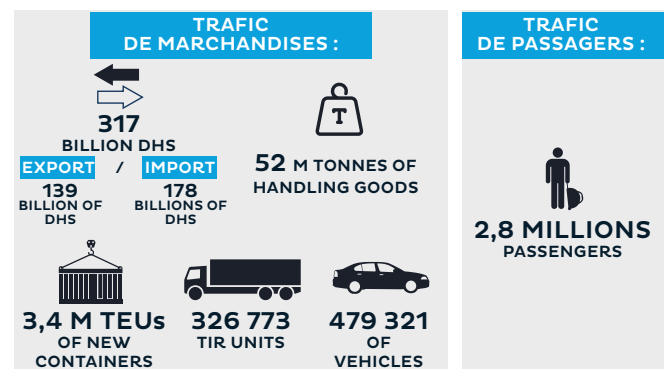


## PORT | COMPLEX

### PORT CAPACITIES



### RÉALISATIONS PORTUAIRES 2018 :



### RANKING







## LOGISTICS | HUB

400 000 M<sup>2</sup> OF COVERED AREAS IN THE FUTURE, 200 HA OF LOGISTICS AREAS

### MAIN ACTIVITIES:

- Added-value logistics in grouping, distributing and supplying
- Order preparation, storage, packaging, labelling, assembly and quality control.

### CLIENTS OF THE LOGISTICS AREA



## INDUSTRIAL | PLATFORM

### INDUSTRIAL ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2018:



### INDUSTRIAL SECTORS



## TANGER MED 2 | PORT

INFRASTRUCTURE: 4600M of Dams | 2800 M of Quay Length

### CAPACITIES:





# Morocco-India Vocational Training Exchange

The Secretary of State in Charge of Vocational Training, Mr. Mohamed Rherras, undertook a working visit to India from May 20 to 25, 2019,



Mr. Rherras, headed a large delegation comprising heads of the sectors involved in the roadmap for the development of vocational training in the Kingdom. The Moroccan delegation wished to learn and take advantage of the successful experiences in India in the field of vocational training, as part of the implementation of the roadmap for the development of vocational training presented before His Majesty the King Mohammed VI, May God Assist Him, on April 4, 2019.

During his visit to India, Mr. Rherras and his accompanying delegation visited the "Apollo MedSkills" training institute, which provides training in the health and paramedical fields for the benefit of health professionals and students from some schools. The Moroccan delegation also visited the "IL & FS" Skills Institute in New Delhi, which provides training in the

automotive, banking, financial, computer textile, tourism and hospitality.

The Moroccan delegation met with representatives of the Indian Ministry of Skills Development and Entrepreneurship who made a presentation on the various training programmes, particularly in the fields of information technology and logistics. On this occasion, Mr. Rherras emphasized that Morocco is interested in the Indian experience in the field of vocational training, before presenting to his interlocutors the outline of the roadmap for the development of vocational training in the country.

Mr. Rherras said that his working visit to India is part of the activation of the partnership agreements between Rabat and New Delhi in the fields of education, research and vocational training.

In addition, the Moroccan delegation also paid a visit to

the New Delhi City Council, which has a training center in health and energy. The Secretary of State, accompanied by members of the Moroccan delegation, visited also the Industrial Training Institute "ITI", one of the best Indian institutes providing training in the short and long term in the automotive, mechanical and electronic industries on the basis of the German model of training in the industrial field.

The delegation also visited the National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE), which is part of the Indian Ministry of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, and which offers various training modules in clean energy professions, including biomass, wind and solar systems. Explanations were provided to the Moroccan delegation on training programmes, its various sections and the teaching methods applied in this field. ■







# 20th Anniversary of Enthronement of HM King Mohammed VI

**T**he Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco in New Delhi organised an impressive event to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Enthronement of HM King

Mohammed VI. Held at Imperial Hotel on 30th July 2019, the diplomatic programme was full house, with Chief Guest, India's Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. V. Muraleedharan.

Big surprise was a rare attendance by famous industrialist Mr. Ratan Tata, who had participated in the 2018 celebration as well. In his brief remarks, Mr. Tata appreciated the development achieved by Morocco.

On the occasion, Ambassador Mr. Mohamed Maliki bestowed Commander of the Royal Order Al Alaoui (Kingdom of Morocco) on Honorary Consul in Mumbai, Mr. K.K. Kanoria and also on former Ambassador of Peru to Morocco and now Ambassador to India, Mr. Carlos R. Polo.

Well-known Moroccan singer and artist, Ms Karima Skalli, Lute player Mr. Haj Younes, Violin player, Mr. Ahmed Regragui, Percussion player and singer Mr. Rachid Rais and Organ player, Mr. Mustapha Regragui performed on the stage.



Ambassador of Morocco, Mr. Mohamed Maliki welcoming the Chief Guest, India's Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. V. Muraleedharan, to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the Enthronement of HM King Mohammed VI in New Delhi on July 30, 2019.

Well-known industrialist, investor and philanthropist of India, Mr. Ratan Tata attended the 20th Anniversary of the Enthronement of HM King Mohammed VI. Ambassador Mr. Maliki presented to him the special gift from the Kingdom of Morocco.





→ The Honorary Consul of Morocco in Mumbai, Mr. K. K. Kanoria was awarded with Royal Decoration as officer by Ambassador Maliki during the 20th Anniversary function in New Delhi on July 30, 2019.



← The former Ambassador of Peru to Morocco and now Ambassador to India, Mr. Carlos R. Polo was bestowed with Royal Decoration as Commander by Ambassador Maliki during the 20th Anniversary function in New Delhi on July 30, 2019.

→ The 20th Anniversary function also witnessed the soulful singing of Moroccan sufi songs by Moroccan singer and artist, Ms. Karima Skalli assisted by popular Lute player Haj Younes and other troupe members.



All photos: Kapoor Photographers







# Cultural Performance to Celebrate 20th Anniversary

The Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco in New Delhi organised a cultural event to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the Enthronement of HM Mohammed VI, King of Morocco. The musical performance was held on 31st July at India Islamic Cultural Centre (IICC).

The concert by famous Moroccan artist and



The violin player, Mr. Ahmed Regragui



Maestro and Lute player, Mr. Haj Younes



The organ player, Mr. Mustapha Regragui

performer Ms. Karima Skalli saw soulful singing of 14 Arabic and sufi lyrics. Titled "L'Amout est Ma Croyance" (Love is My Belief), Ms Skalli was supported by another well-known Lute player, Mr. Haj Younes. Included in the troupe were Percussion player and singer Rachid Rais, Organ player, Mr. Mustapha Regragui and Violin player, Mr. Ahmed Regragui.





# Moroccan Artist Karima Skalli: “My Quest for Sublime Art is Permanent”

**M**orocco's famous artist Ms. Karima Skalli with her troupe performed during the 20th Anniversary of the Enthronement of HM Mohammed VI, King of Morocco. Her performance in New Delhi and Kathmandu drew lot of appreciation. Here we are reproducing the translation (French to English) of an interview taken by Casablanca based Liberation magazine. The conversation is relevant in the wake of her scintillating performance in India and in Nepal, being organised by the Embassy of Morocco.

She does not intend to change her artistic line, to please a fluctuating market. She especially wants to take the path of an activist for universal love and transcendental passion. And for those who dwell on the cliché "it's the public who chooses", it constantly replies with this image of the communion between Sufi song and the general public, everywhere.

**From the sweet evenings of Ouarzazate to the beautiful gardens of the Oudayas, the same flavor and the same**



**For the past two decades, the Moroccan singer, Ms. Karima Skalli has performed worldwide and created own identity by devoting her singing to Arabic poetry, sufism, and deep cultural roots.**

**fervor. How do you feel on stage?**

.....  
First of all, I have the honor to take part in these artistic and cultural events. I am invited according to what I do, with poets and musicians. These are invitations that come from organizers of festivals and meetings that become aware of this type of art. All those who are convinced that poetry unites us to passion, can only love this expression.

**What did you sing about?**

.....  
For my participation in the various events this summer, it is mainly a real feeling to contribute to the proliferation of this kind of art, in the sense that I interpret not only songs, but a whole culture, a civilization and a mode of existence, a kind of interpretation of thought, love and sublime music. Thus, I interpreted some pieces of a work that I have just finished and which is based on



Moroccan artists alongwith Ms. Karima Skalli performed in Delhi.







A group photo of the Moroccan artists with Ambassador, Mr. Mohamed Maliki, and fellow Arab and African Ambassadors.

the poetry of Ibn Arabi and Ibn Zaydoun.

**It is often argued that people's tastes have changed, and that the genre you sing is no longer fashionable. What do you think?**

.....  
In any case, I will never be able to work on order. Everything I do comes from a deep inspiration and passion. I'm not there waiting for the orders of a "prefabricated" market, because I am indeed engaged in an experiment, well studied and which does not lack public. Just see how people welcome this kind of singing in Ouarzazate, Fez, Rabat or Marrakech or even in Paris and Brussels, to see the impact. This is not a job governed by supply and demand, it is above all a strategic cultural vision that has always inspired me and this quest will not stop. For me, Sufi poetry is a monologue, a dialogue and a breath that allows me to identify, mark and share this way of sharing.

**Is it a choice?**

.....  
Not even. I do not have to choose. It is a deep call at the inner level, and above all, it remains the work of an inspiration. There was first this participation in Fez, in 2000 and from there, I deepened my knowledge especially with our heritage of Samaa and beautiful poetry. I found an immeasurable pleasure in entering a world

where art is only part of a way of life. This is how permanent knowledge allows me to follow this extraordinary quest. I had sung Layla, a symbol of love and that Sufis borrowed to celebrate love, and I made Abou El Hassan Chouchtari, an Andalusian prince, whose poetry remains a rare pearl.

**And research at the level of heritage?**

.....  
The wealth is there, it's as if there is gold, but what are we going to do with it? Search or discovery is a permanent search for modeling. This is an interminable project that deserves the interest of many artists at once, and we will never be able to pin down it because we are facing a world of ideas and thinking. I do not get tired at all.

There are certainly some constraints, but they encourage me to do more. In fact, my experience was individual in production and work. So I have to do personal research and work technically my voice, because there are not really producers for this kind of art ... The market is moving more and more towards the commercial aspect.

**This obviously remains difficult?**

.....  
The word "easy" destroys the work to my knowledge. You should know that any project always requires construction work. Thorough and meticulous

research is required before beginning this phase of production. I do not find the way easy, but there is always this inspiration, this passion, this call that propels me to go forward. The effort and the suffering, the experience, the constraints are a wonderful springboard for any artist who knows how to put them on his side. The objective is to go to the end of oneself, each test must give more force for this fight.

**When we sing love?**

.....  
Elevation and transcendence deserve a song ... it is a call to the noble souls, to this part that every person has, it is enough to challenge and shake it ... We must transport the public towards a sublime knowledge, a high taste and quality craftsmanship. The culmination is this communion with the other and this renewable energy each time you sing and enchant a large audience. The artist also has a mission that must not be forgotten.

**You are indeed in a universal thought?**

.....  
Love is my nature, life, in general, invites us to more solicitude for good things. It is this return to the sources, to the truths that have always constituted the natural purity of birth. We must deal with everything that pollutes our spaces. We want this love to protect us. There is freedom in space, without being afraid to go to the peaks. ■

Source: <https://www.libe.ma>

All photos: Kapoor Photographers





## “Indians Respected in Morocco. Have Blended Into Moroccan Way of Life”- Chandru Nebhwani, President, IMCCI

**T**he Indian community has lived in Morocco since 1952. Till the late seventies, Indians mainly were in trading.

In recent times, as the Investment climate has improved and more welcoming to do businesses in Morocco, there is a change of perception and this has encouraged foreign businesses to invest in Morocco.

This change has encouraged many Indian companies to invest in Morocco for small size operations and bigger and more prominent industrialists to set up their manufacturing facilities in Morocco.

So, I would say that our diaspora in Morocco is growing and benefitting from the many advantages that they can obtain in Morocco. As you would know, that joint ventures have been set up in minerals, agricultural products, information and data systems, hotels to name a few.

The community is growing and we are now four generations of Indians present in Morocco



**Mr. Chandru Nebhwani,  
President, IMCCI**

and this will hopefully continue. Indians have to see the possibilities of establishing themselves in Morocco.

We have strong cultural connections between the Indians and Moroccans and this can be widely seen through the presence of Bollywood films which have a strong impact for the Moroccans and this has been there since decades. Indians are respected in

Morocco and have blended into the Moroccan way of life.

### **How their presence is affecting the current economic and trade scenario of the country?**

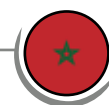
The economic and trade scenario, no doubt, is affecting to a great extent for both countries. Due to the various Indian investments in Morocco, this has helped Morocco in creating jobs, from the blue-collar to the white collar of Moroccans who are in need of these opportunities created.

The know-how in various fields which India offers has created a good economic climate and this has been welcoming and encouraging.

Excluding the trade between India and Morocco in phosphates, there are improvements, though not as expected. I would say that this can be improved and changed if we can convince the Moroccan policy makers to open up preferential trade possibilities such as removing tariff barriers, facilitating visa free entries for businesses, simplifying investment procedure, opening up







trade routes through direct airline connections and so on.

This should be mutually beneficial to develop the economic and trade of both countries. Today, I would say and as far as I can estimate, there are more than 1,500 Indians, either working or in higher administrative postings.

The main Indian industries established in Morocco since the past five years are: Varroc Lighting Industries, Sumilon Pet, Indore international, Onshore Construction, Furnace Fabrica,

Satguru Travels, GFL GM Fluorspar, Sunpharma, Varun Beverages, Imacid, Tata Motors, Cipla Limited, Larsen and Toubro, Sterling and Wilson and Oberoi Hotels.

India and Morocco had launched the India-Morocco Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IMCCI) in 2016 to accelerate the pace of economic development between the two countries.

The chamber was jointly launched by the then Vice President, Mr. Hamid Ansari and the then Moroccan Prime Minister, Mr. Abdelilah Benkirane.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Ansari said that a Chamber of Commerce and Industry did not exist because “we took things for granted”. He said that the world is changing and it has become a globalised world. “We do need bodies like the IMCCI,” the Vice President had added.

Meanwhile, IMCCI has organised following events, to boost business, investment, profit and new jobs. Some of the key events held;

Catalogue exhibition for the Bengal Global Business Summit on 06 January 2017 at Hotel Golden Tulip Farah in Casablanca; Catalogue Exhibition for Momentum

Jharkhand on 15th February 2017 at Embassy of India. Informal get-together of Indian and Moroccan businessmen on 15th February 2017 in the Embassy during which website of India Morocco Chamber of Commerce & Industry was operationalised.

The international textile exhibition organised from 24th till 27th February where a collaboration with the Indian Textile companies who participated during this exhibition. This was organised by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry. (FICCI)

Ministry of External Affairs of Government of India and Maroc Export organized the Morocco-India Business Forum on 20-21 April 2017 in Casablanca. IMCCI made efforts to have B2B connections between the Indian and Moroccan counterparts.

Catalogue exhibition for 32nd Surajkund International Crafts Mela on 18th September 2017 at Hotel Kenzi Tower in Casablanca. Presentation and B2B session on Indus Food (18-19 January 2018 in Greater Noida) organised on 9th December 2017 at Hotel Kenzi in Casablanca

Organisation of B2B sessions with Moroccan and Indian companies for CAPEXIL India; Meeting for promotion of PLASTINDIA 2018 / PROPLAST 2018 in the conference hall of CGEM, with all Moroccan plastic manufacturers.

31st July 2018 – Interactive session with the tourism and transportation development corporation to promote Delhi as a tourism destination.

13 September 2018 – B2B interactions at Hotel Hyatt to promote the important meetings

at Vibrant Gujarat 2019. This resulted in a delegation of Moroccan companies and some folklore participants from the India Moroccan Association of fraternity and culture - visiting Gujarat. This was organised by the Chamber in collaboration with Satguru Travels, the Moroccan Ministry of Cottage Industries and the India Morocco Association of fraternity and culture headed by Mr. Segrouchni Jilali, the IMCCI Vice President.

IMCCI was very much present in 2017 and 2018 at the SIAM international agricultural exhibition in Meknes. We had our own IMCCI stand during this exhibition wherein Indian companies and agents of Indian companies showcased their activities.

Setting up fruitful business talks between ATX pumps Coimbatore and Waterpluss Kenitra which resulted in a business partnership between these two important companies.

The Chamber was an important catalyser and help in setting up Indian investments in Morocco in the like of Sumilon Industries, Indore International.

2017 also witnessed the important Moroccan Ayurveda week with invited guests from Morocco and India. We had Dr. Pratap Chauhan from the Jiva Ayurvedic Institute and delegates from the Ministry of Ayush of India. This was to promote Ayurveda and natural sciences in Morocco. Credit for this event also goes to Pavan Nainani.

I wish to thank Mr. Gul Nainani, President of the Indian Association of Morocco who always shook hands with the Chamber in all its activities. ■





# Morocco Highlights on Fighting Terrorism, Humanizing Immigration and Protecting Human Rights



The Central Bureau of Judicial Investigations (BCJI)

## The Kingdom high points in fighting terrorism

Morocco remains a land of welcome, hospitality, openness and cohabitation and a peaceful country that works to promote the culture of peace and stability. The Kingdom is characterized by its singularity within its geopolitical environment, in terms of democratic choice, openness to the world. The Kingdom is distinguished by its exemplary experience in the fight against terrorism and extremism and its tangible efforts to reform the religious field in order to protect the Moroccan society against the risks associated with the ideological instrumentalization of religion. Because of its geographical position, Morocco is at the heart of regions affected by many factors of instability, but it is and will still remain safe:

- The rise of terrorism and violent manifestations of extremism, as well as the spread of the terrorist nebula, particularly in Africa;
- In 2018 alone, there were 327 terrorist attacks in North Africa, including Libya; 98 terrorist attacks in the Sahel region and 487 terrorist attacks in the rest of West Africa [source: Global Terrorism Index];
- A dozen (active) terrorist groups have been identified in the Sahel in 2018, compared with only one in 2010 [source: Center for Strategic Studies of Africa].

These factors are all the more alarming in that they operate in a context of fragility, marked by the proliferation of conflicts, the proliferation of non-state actors threatening the sovereignty and

territorial integrity of states, the rise of illicit trafficking of all kinds, and forced displacements of populations. Starting from the observation that the deterioration of the security situation in some countries represents a real obstacle for the future of the whole neighborhood, Morocco does not lose sight of these regional realities in the implementation of its efforts to fight against the threats both bilaterally and multilaterally.

The Kingdom has been committed from the very beginning to act voluntarily for the establishment of a lasting stability at global, regional and sub-regional levels through the adoption of a global approach based on an integration, in a coherent and complementary way, the security dimension, necessary but insufficient on its own, economic growth and human development, as well as the preservation of cultural and cultic identity.

Hence, Morocco's approach is cooperative, inclusive and based on the values of openness and integration of all actors aspiring to achieve the objective of eradicating terrorism. Morocco has made the strategic choice to promote solidarity-based South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation, which translates into the realization of concrete projects with several countries in areas essential for stability and human and sustainable development.

Morocco is investing not only in the military training of many brotherly African countries, but is also working for greater regional







National Council for Human Rights headquarter



Regularization of illegal migrants in Morocco

and sub-regional cooperation through the sharing and exchange of intelligence, the deployment of teams to assist and guide local services, training and introduction to intelligence techniques, provision of logistics and the organization of exercises and operational programs.

The Moroccan approach is complemented by proactive actions promoting prevention, such as the strengthening of infrastructures and institutions capable of responding to the underlying causes of violent extremism that may lead to terrorism, such as poverty and social precarity.

In this context, Morocco multiplies agreements with sister African

countries (1526 cooperation agreements), the very essence of which is the emergence of a sustainably stable and prosperous Africa.

Morocco is also involved in setting up platforms for the exchange of expertise and mutual enrichment in terms of development and human investment. In 2017, a committee was formed to establish a common roadmap to develop training, promote the exchange of good practices and share successful development models between Morocco, Senegal, Central African Republic, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Chad, Benin, Burkina Faso, Comoro Islands and Congo.

### The Kingdom's humanitarian approach to migration

Morocco is party to several international instruments of human rights, migrant law and international refugee law. The Kingdom was among the first countries to join the international awareness of migration issues by ratifying in 1993 the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, of which it was, also, promoter.

With a long experience in the different aspects of migration, the Kingdom is actively engaged in all Regional and International Consultation Processes on Migration (High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development, Valetta Process, Process Rabat, 5 + 5 Dialogue, Global Forum on Migration and Development and the Global Compact on Migration).

On the national level, since 2013, Morocco has had a national immigration and asylum policy, based on a humanist approach, in line with Morocco's international commitments and respectful of the rights of immigrants. Morocco also adopted, in December 2014, a national immigration and asylum strategy based on the socio-economic integration of immigrants. The implementation of this new immigration and asylum policy has materialized by the:

- Continuation of the upgrading of the legal and institutional framework for Asylum and Refugees and the fight against trafficking in persons;
- Measures to promote the socio-economic integration of migrants in the Moroccan society;
- The fight against trafficking networks of human beings.

Two exceptional regularization operations adopted by the Kingdom for sub-Saharan





immigrants, in an irregular administrative situation, in the national territory, took place in 2014 and 2016, which benefited 50,756 migrants, 23,464 of whom obtained a residence permit. As part of the implementation of the High Royal Guidelines on the new national immigration policy, the Government has drawn up an operational plan of action around the following four essential axes: The situation of refugees and asylum seekers; the question of foreigners in an irregular administrative situation; the fight against trafficking in persons and the improvement of the conditions of foreigners in a regular situation.

At the continental level, the nomination of His Majesty Mohammed VI, the King, as a Pan-African leader on the issue of migration, is making the Kingdom an active and committed defender of African interests both regionally and internationally. At the 30th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the African Union (AU), in January 2018, His Majesty the King, African leader on the issue of migration, presented a report for an African Agenda that considers migration as a factor rapprochement between peoples and civilizations and tends to make migration a lever for co-development, a pillar of South-South cooperation and a vector of solidarity.

During its June 2018 session, the AU Peace and Security Council adopted the proposal of His Majesty King Mohammed VI as African Leader on the issue of migration, settlement and an African Migration Observatory, to help realize the commitments made in migration management and to contribute to the formulation and implementation of policies implemented at the continental level.

At interregional level, as part of the follow-up to the implementation

of the Rabat, Process, Morocco hosted the 5th Ministerial Conference of the Euro-African Dialogue on Migration and Development on 1st and 2nd May 2018 in Marrakech. This Action Plan aims at maximizing the positive impact of regular migration on development in

165 governments. The Marrakech Agreement was adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on December 19, 2018, by 152 votes for, five votes against (United States, Hungary, Czech Republic, Poland and Israel), and twelve abstentions.

Thus, on issues of populations'



**Ms Amina Bouayach, President of National Council for Human Rights of Morocco**

the Rabat Process region and aligning this Action Plan with the priority areas of the Valletta Framework, in particular with regard to deals with irregular migration, protection and asylum, trafficking in human beings and return and readmission.

At an international level, Morocco has made the integration of migration into its development policies a priority. In this context, the Kingdom chaired the 11th Summit of the Global Forum on Migration and Development that took place in Marrakech from 5 to 7 December 2018.

Morocco also hosted the Intergovernmental Conference for the Adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration on 10th and 11th December 2018 in Marrakech, which culminated in the adoption of the Marrakech Agreement by representatives of

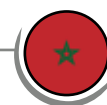
mobility, Morocco moved from being a country of emigration and passage to Europe, to becoming an immigration area with regularization of an important number of sub-Saharan migrants.

### **The Kingdom protecting human rights from the North to the South**

Human Rights are one of the three pillars of the UN Charter. Since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, the international architecture of the Human Rights regime has grown exponentially by the creation of the Commission on Human Rights that was replaced in 2006 by the Human Rights Council, the expansion of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the special procedures and the treaty bodies. Morocco has both invested heavily in its National Human Rights Institutions because it is







conscious of the fact that this century is going to be the century of Human Rights.

Under the Reign of His Majesty, the Royal Decree Establishing the National Human Rights Council in its first article sets the tone by setting a dual system of Human Rights protection and promotion both at the national and regional levels. Therefore, the thirteen Regional Commissions on Human Rights covering the entire territory of Morocco are entrusted with the responsibility to promote and protect Human Rights at the local and regional levels while acting under the aegis of the National Human Rights Council.

In the case of Morocco, the National Council for Human Rights is a national pluralistic and independent institution, created by the Royal Decree no. 1-11-19 of 1 March 2011 to deal with all matters in relation to the protection of human rights and freedoms, in accordance with national and universal norms in this field. It is the National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) of Morocco that benefits from the "A" status of the International Coordinating Committee which reviews periodically the grading of NHRIs across the globe. This "A" status comes in full recognition to the full degree of autonomy that the CNDH of Morocco enjoys. Having replaced the former Consultative Council for Human Rights, this institution's main tasks are the observation, monitoring and follow up of the human rights situation across the Kingdom.

In this context, the Council reviews all cases of human rights violations, either on its own initiative or on complaint of concerned parties, and carries out necessary surveys and investigations whenever it has confirmed and reliable information on these violations, whatever their nature or origin

could be. Within the framework of its mission of human rights monitoring in all of the Kingdom's regions, the Council may interview anyone whose testimony may shed light on a situation of infringement or alleged violation of human rights. Furthermore, the Council may serve as an early warning system, in coordination with relevant public authorities, in any delicate situation likely to cause human rights violations, by deploying all necessary mediation or conciliation means that may prevent the occurrence of such violations.

As a national institution, the Council is also tasked to visit detention facilities, prisons, child protection and rehabilitation centres as well as places of detention of foreigners in illegal situation. It has, moreover, to study the harmonization of laws and regulations with international treaties on human rights and international humanitarian law to which Morocco is a State party. In addition, it helps with the elaboration of national reports submitted to treaty bodies and international organizations, and encourages the Government to apply their final observations and recommendations. It contributes also to the observation of electoral operations. In fulfilling its attributions, Regional Human Rights Commissions are attached to the Council. Those Commissions are in charge of ensuring the protection and promotion of human rights, both at local and regional levels, and receiving complaints in relation to alleged violations of human rights.

Therefore, the Moroccan proposal is part and parcel of a process of global and in-depth democratic reforms gradually but irreversibly launched in the 90's in order to strengthen the rule of law and regionalization throughout the national territory. With the creation of administrative regions

and enhanced regionalization, the Moroccan autonomy initiative is indeed a qualitative leap in Morocco's decentralization process. Moreover, Morocco's CNDH became a constitutional institution in 2011. Article 161 of the Moroccan Constitution provides that "the National Council of the rights of man is a pluralist and independent national institution, charged with taking cognizance of the questions related to the defence and to the protection of Human Rights and freedoms, to the guarantee of their full exercise and of their promotion, as well as the preservation of the dignity, of the individual and collective freedoms of the citizens, and this with strict respect for the national and universal referents in the matter. In terms of regional powers, the CNDH has thirteen regional human rights commissions, among which two of them are in Dakhla and Laayoune, in the Moroccan Sahara.

A review of the Moroccan positive law shows that in terms of provisions related to the rule of law, in terms of human rights and good governance, Morocco has nothing to envy to established democracies. Morocco is a party to a number of international human rights treaties, particularly the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (May 3rd 1979), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (May 3, 1979), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (June 21' 1993), the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (December 18th 1970), the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment and Punishment (June 21st 1993), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (June 21st June 1993).







## 2019 Travel Risk Map, “Morocco as Safe as European Countries, US, Canada”

Global risk expert International SOS has launched the 2019 Travel Risk Map showing Morocco as “low” risk country

A group of Tourists in Morocco







**R**abat – When it comes to travel safety, Morocco is as safe as most European countries, the US, and Canada, having a low risk level.

The North African country maintained this level over the last three years. The map listed five categories of travel security risk: insignificant, low, medium, high, and extreme.

Morocco is the only country to have a low risk level in North Africa.

The Travel Risk Map 2019 helps organisations and travellers better understand the risks in the destinations where they operate and travel.

The travel security risk rating is based on the actual threat posed to travellers by political violence, namely terrorism, as well as social unrest and crime.

The danger level also takes into consideration other factors such as “the robustness of the transport infrastructure, the state of industrial relations, the effectiveness of the security and emergency services and the country’s susceptibility to natural disasters.”

The Ipsos MORI Business Resilience Trends Watch 2019 report shows that 43

## *Vision 2020: Morocco as World Leader in Tourism*

percent of business decision-makers expect travel risks to rise in 2019, according to the Independent newspaper.

“Although some 47 per cent think risks have increased over the past year, this represents a 16 per cent decrease from 2017, when 63 per cent said risk had increased.”

Very few countries such as Denmark, Norway, Finland, and Luxembourg are among the “insignificant” travel risk category.

The Medical Risk Map shows that Morocco is a medium risk country alongside Tunisia, Egypt in North Africa.

European countries are designated a low risk status while Eastern European countries are medium risk.

International SOS rates medical safety according to a range of health risks and mitigating factors including infectious diseases, environmental factors, emergency and dental service, access to quality prescription drugs, medical evacuation, and language, or administrative barriers.

International SOS released the map in collaboration with Control Risks and in conjunction with the Ipsos MORI Business Resilience Trends Watch 2019 report. ■







## Redefining the Paradigm of Luxury and Excellence

Shikara ride on Lake Pichola - The Oberoi Udaivilas, Udaipur

The Oberoi Group, founded in 1934, operates 32 hotels, two Nile Cruisers and a Motor Vessel in the backwaters of Kerala. The Group has presence in six countries under the luxury 'Oberoi' and five-star 'Trident' brand. The Group is also engaged in flight catering, airport restaurants, travel and tour services, car rentals, project management and corporate air charters.

A distinctive feature of The Group's hotels is their highly motivated and well-trained staff that provides exceptionally attentive, personalised and warm service. The Group's luxury hotels have established a reputation for redefining the paradigm of luxury and excellence in service amongst leisure hotels around the world.

Oberoi Hotels & Resorts is founded on the belief that the guest is everything. This philosophy is evident in every one of their people and manifested most visibly in the sincere personal care and attention that is afforded every guest. While it is true that



Aerial Shot - The Oberoi Sukhvilas Resort & Spa, Siswan Forest Range, New Chandigarh

Oberoi's exceptional properties, accommodations and facilities contribute greatly to the esteem in which they are held, they measure their success by the value of the human interaction practiced by their people and deeply felt by their guests.

Oberoi Hotels & Resorts have received innumerable awards and accolades that include Best

Hotel Group by Telegraph Travel Awards UK, 2017 and 2018, World's Best Hotel Brand by Travel + Leisure, USA World's Best Awards, 2013, 2015 & 2016, World's Leading Luxury Hotel Brand for 7 consecutive years by World Travel Awards 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 & 2018 and World's Highest Rated Luxury Hotel Brand by ReviewPro's 2014 to name a few. ■







Premier Lake View Rooms with Semi Private Pools - The Oberoi Udaivilas, Udaipur



The Oberoi, Gurgaon - Exterior



Lobby - The Oberoi Philae, Luxury Nile Cruiser



Premium Two Bedroom Villa with Private Pool - View - The Oberoi Beach Resort, Al Zorah





# Art and Crafts: The Creative Minds of Moroccan Sahara

A proven way of guaranteeing the success of small enterprises in the social economy consists of bringing out the value of their local know-how. The arts and crafts appear as a source for a variety of sustainable jobs in the long-term, in view of the diversity of their products and their centuries-old tradition. But this sector relies on the craftsman himself, as the quality of his products and the extent of his know-how can be arbitrary - both vary from one person to another - in the absence of manufacturing standards.

of *tatoui* ceilings, which are made from a muddle of bay tree wood painted in scarlet, was on the verge of being lost, until the last masters of this art were identified, who trained dozens of apprentices, now working in specialized cooperatives, and who are more and more solicited for the building of dwellings.

It was then necessary to make craftsmen comfortable in their traditions, to make it known that the red carpet with camel hair fringes has always been part of Sahara identity, to revive the cooperatives that wave *flij* by encouraging them to take orders



The tataoui, traditional ceilings painted in bright colors, are still very much sought after.

To strengthen this sector of the economy, it has sometimes been necessary to resurrect a disappearing art. The production

for tents made out of goat hair, so as to replace the tents for official gatherings made out of other fabrics, to ensure that cooperatives

use only the finest raw materials for the crafts that they traditionally produce out of leather (*tasoufra*, *kauntya*, *assermi*...), and to





**Weaving and basketry at Fom Zguid, in the province of Tata.**

teach new braiding techniques to the members of cooperatives specializing in basketry.

In all the Southern provinces of the Kingdom, dozens of cooperatives, jewelers, basket-makers, tapestry weavers, leather craftsmen, have been brought together, equipped, even taught in their profession, and they abide by a very high standard of quality. This involves taking training classes, and the latest trend is to connect craftsmen and designers, so as to enrich the portfolio of products with new, modern designs, or just to create new products for new uses. Sometimes, a simple idea can help improve a products appeal, as it is the case of the traditional tents, which are now produced in different standardized sizes (kits), and are easily dismantled, as the tent's framework has been improved to be more malleable.

"New craftsmen" have also appeared recently, as in the case of this cooperative made of ten people founded in the city called Es-Semara for the production of wooden crafts, like the fruit bowls, other traditional bowls (*gdah*), and even the sigh game

(very popular; resembles pick-up sticks).

Once the members of the cooperatives have been taught the latest arts and crafts techniques and have been trained on to manage their production, they are then organized in economic interest groups, able to take a large amount of orders, as is the case of basketry at the city of Tata, where the craftsmen are now able to take large orders for mats, baskets or bassinets.

At Fam El Hisn, an oasis known for its merchants selling silver



**Women's cooperative in Laayoune, producing filij**

jeweller, a "Metal house" is built, made up of workshops provided for the production of the jewels, as well as an exhibition hall which serves as a retail store.

Other market niches are also being researched, for example, the creation of cooperatives for the production of traditional outfits, in Laayoune. The patenting of a brand, exclusively for the arts and crafts of Moroccan Sahara is also being considered, so as to facilitate the development and structuring of this sector in a fair-trade network. ■







## Development in the Skies for the Southern Provinces of Morocco

**T**he flight time from the Southern provinces of the Kingdom to the Mohammed V Airport in Casablanca is a matter of hours, and let us not forget that Rabat, the capital, is about an hour North of Casablanca by car, which means that to get to Rabat from the South, well... that's quite a trip!

The infrastructure development is completed: at the airports of Laayoune and Dakhla hundreds of thousands of passengers land and take off each year, Tan Tan has an air terminal, and Guelmim an airfield. But the flight distances travelled are huge and the number of passengers on each plane is not enough to yield a profit such as ensuring a rotation frequency that matches the investments made in the Southern provinces of the Kingdom. Because managing an airline is a matter of cost-effectiveness, and its profitability is



World Famous footballer Diego Maradona at Laayoune Airport

ensured only when the destination is already well developed, while the development itself relies on accessibility.

In order to break this vicious cycle, an original government subsidiary

system has been the solution for nearly a decade, guaranteeing the airline companies that they will reach the minimum profit threshold, while selling airline tickets at accessible prices to the average traveller.





The results followed immediately: the number of flights to the Southern provinces doubled in the first years (from 2003 to 2006), until flights to Laayoune and Dakhla reached a daily occurrence, and flights to Tan Tan and Guelmim became available five days a week, with flights during appropriate hours of the day. The neighbouring Canary

Islands were not omitted, given that Guelmim, Laayoune and Dakhla are close by, and soon flights to these islands were available weekly, or even daily, thanks to the same system of guarantees subsidizing air transportation.

Could Laayoune become the economic metropolis of the

South? Could Dakhla become an international holiday destination? What about Tan Tan and Guelmim, the gates to the Azur Plan tourist stations? This is not a vision of a future paradise, but more and more a reality, one that is two hours away from Casablanca. ■







## Local Products of Moroccan Sahara

**T**he territory of the southern provinces is huge (58% of the kingdom surface area), and from this eternal immensity springs diversity...

Resources and production of the oasis world and the Saharan world come together in a vital and harmonious complementarity, just like the one between nomads and sedentary people from the Moroccan Sahara. Today, a thorough inventory of resources and expertise has allowed the

identification of hundred local products. Indeed, this unique heritage has a great potential to establish a strong social economy, which will favor private initiative and enhance local and regional identity. Thus the South Agency (The Agency for the Economic and Social Promotion and Development of the Southern Provinces) and its partners have launched a major program to structure and emphasize these ancestral resources.

More than 100 production units exist today. The beneficiaries are more than 250 associations or cooperatives. They have been trained, supervised and accompanied in productive specializations taking into account the specificities of the geographical area, in a vision of a sustainable territorial development. These units have all been brought up to the highest standards, establishing detailed specifications and a certification and labialization







#### Local Fish Products from Southern Provinces

process is ongoing, or already achieved, for many of them. From a quantitative and qualitative perspective, the structuring phase of these units into about twenty sectors, dedicated to food and cosmetics, was decisive for production.

Concerning the local Sahrawi products, it has more to do with arts of living, but it also clearly refers to an anthropological

dimension of the Saharan-Hassani culture. These local Sahrawi products, camel meat and meat products, camel milk and camel milk products, dates, daghmouss honey and other plants, multigrain khoumassi couscous, henna, cactus and cactus products, aromatic and medicinal plants etc. have already been identified. And they also have been structured into sectors

and enhanced through a network of cooperatives. However, they still need to be developed as part of a tourism development strategy, focusing on lifestyle' specificities (living in tents, nomadism, oasis world). Within the region, some products have gained such a significant reputation that they can travel thousands of kilometers to meet their consumers. ■





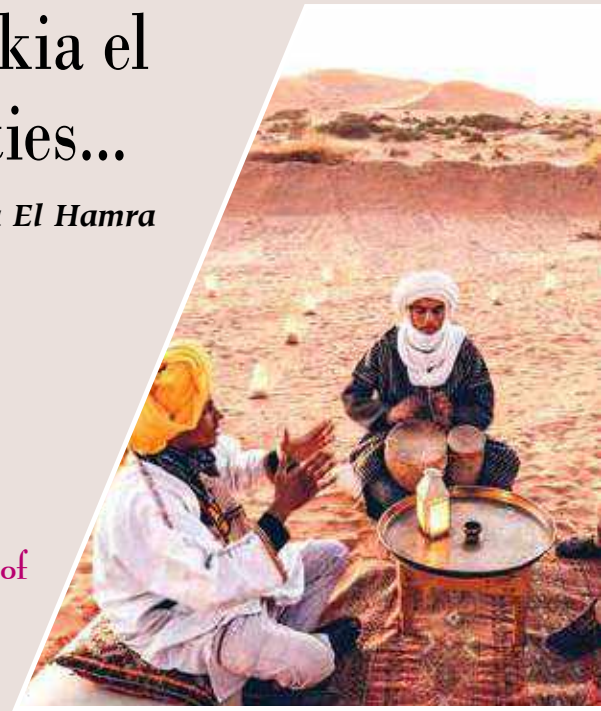


# The Region of Laayoune-Sakia el Hamra Multiple Opportunities...

*Source: Regional Investment Center of La youne Sakia El Hamra*

Attractive by the diversity of its landscapes, radiant by its economic opportunities, rich by the wealth of its patrimony and the generosity of its people.

The Region of Laâyoune - Sakia El Hamra spreads over an area of 140 018 Km<sup>2</sup>, i.e. 19,7% of the total area of Morocco, with a population of 367 758 inhabitants (RGPH 2014). It is bounded on the north by the region of Guelmim - Es Smara, on the south by the region of Wad Eddahab - Lagouira, on the east by the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and on the West by the Atlantic Ocean.



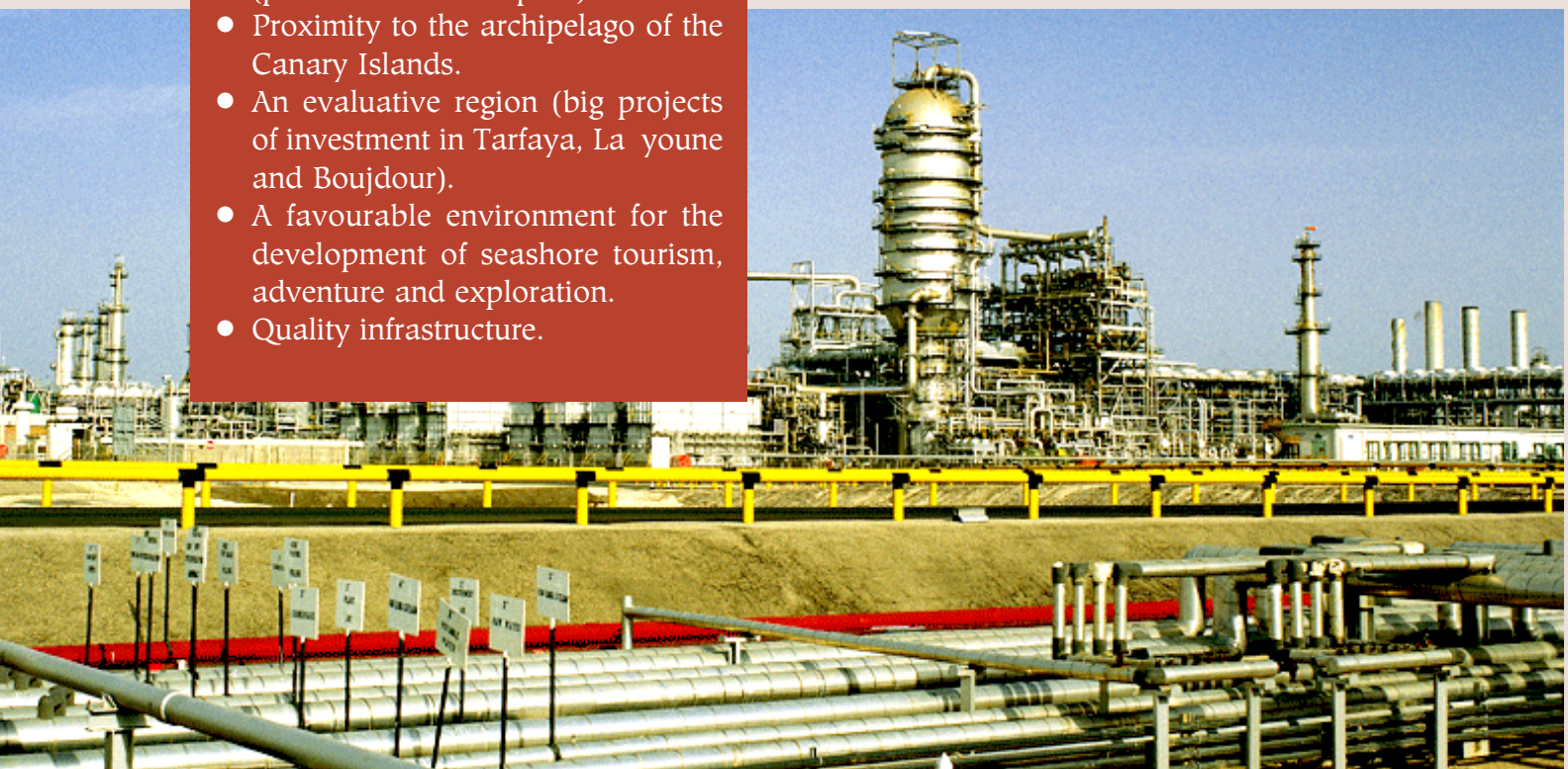
## To Invest in the Region ... why?

- The first sardine seaport and the first fish Hall in Morocco and in Africa as well.
- A Favourable geostrategic position.
- An attractive land offer.
- Abundant halieutic resources (pelagic, sardines, octopuses...).
- A young and active population (precious human capital).
- Proximity to the archipelago of the Canary Islands.
- An evaluative region (big projects of investment in Tarfaya, La youne and Boujdour).
- A favourable environment for the development of seashore tourism, adventure and exploration.
- Quality infrastructure.

## Tourism: A Diversified Offer !!

The region enjoys a considerable and extremely rich tourists potential. Hundreds of kilometers of coast establish an exceptional opportunity for the development of seaside tourism, with the beaches of La youne, Boujdour and Tarfaya, the sports peach (big-game fishing) and water sports.

The landscapes of a big diversity, with the oasis of Lamseid, the lagoon of N ila, the sand dunes, are convenient to the tourism of discovery and hike, adventure and disorientation.







## Fish Industry: The Pillar of the Region's Economy

- 47% of the national fish catch
- 520 km of coast
- Various circles favorable for the fish farming
- A developed harbor facilities
- The First One Hall in fishes in Africa (8600m<sup>2</sup>)
- 04 fisherman's villages
- 446 992 tons captured in 2017 of 2,32 MMDH
- 928 units of coast fishing
- 3119 unities of traditional fishing
- Sailor-fisherman: 18 237

## The Renewable Energies: The Real Opportunity of Investment

Thanks to its geostrategic position, in its climate brightened up all year long, in the big wind corridors offering a big resource, the Region LSH was recently equipped with the first wind farm in Africa in the province of Tarafaya with a capacity of 300 MW (ONEE project).

Other wind projects were realized of:

- 202 MW in Akhfenir;
- 55,5 MW in Foum El Qued;

## Breeding and Agriculture

- Favorable pastoral Environment (Middle) for the camelin breeding, caprine
- 4.090.000 Ha of route
- Highly evolutive poultry breeding
- Availability of solar and wind energy susceptible to be used for the pumping of water.
- Know-how of the breeders in camelin breeding
- Presence of a favorable biotope for the repopulation (restocking) of the Ostrich.





# Ongoing New Development Model for Southern Regions of Morocco

## Region of Laayoune Sakia El Hamra



### Preview:

The main program for region LSH aims the achievement of 254 projects, for a total cost of 40,6 Billion Dirhams, during the period 2016-2022. Those projects involve the 4 districts of the region:

District	Projects	Costs
Laayoune	106	25,5
Tarfaya	21	6,3
Boujdour	34	3,7
Smara	57	1,4
Horizontal program	36	3,7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>40,6</b>

### Funding:

The State: 72%

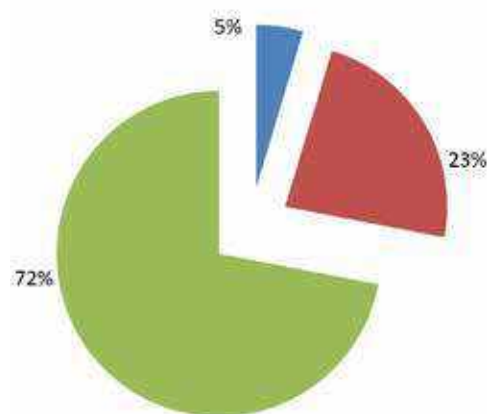
Public departments and administrations

Private funds: 23%

Renewable energy, mining, tourism...

Region LSH: 5%

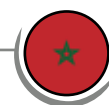
Highway Tiznit-Dakhla, 05 fishermen villages, waste water management...



### Objectives of the new developing model for RLSH

1. Improvement of the infrastructure to promote the region and its economic potentialities.
2. Support e the social development and access to the health and education services.
3. Motivate private investments to create jobs.
4. Valorisation of natural resources, without compromising sustainability.
5. Preserve the Sahraoui heritage as a development model.





## Actions

1. Establishment of a committee to supervise and follow up the integrated development program in RLSH.
2. Provide real estate containers for all projects registered in the program.
3. Ratification of all special and sectorial agreements (exception of one), and providing necessary funding.
4. Implication of local communities and public departments to achieve studies and autorisations.

## Projects implementation status (by sector)

### 1- Mining (Phosphate):

1. Storage and processing unit (4.3 Billion dhs):
  - Storage unit: constructions 100%, Storage mechanisms have been delivered.
  - Washing unit: construction and equipment started during last period of 2017.
2. Valorisation unit (8.3 billion dhs):
  - Engineering studies have been achieved.
  - Construction of fertilizers and sulphur stores.
  - Ongoing geophysical studies.
  - Preparation of bids for the deal of sulphuric line, desalination plant.
3. Phosphate port (4.2 billion dhs):
  - Construction started in 2018.

### 2- Social involvement of the OCP:

1. Techno-pole of Foug El Oued (2.1 Billion dhs):
  - University, high school...
  - Hospital
  - Industrial start-up hub, business center.
  - Museum, cinema, hotel...
2. Phosphate club Laayoune (0.75 billion dhs).

*Floods of the Oued Saguia on October 2015 have interrupted works in the site of Foug El Oued. Reconstruction happened before end 2017.*

### 3- Renewable energy:

Project	Cost (Mdhs)	Status	Remarques
Wind power plant Tisgrad 300MW	4 000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Engineering 100%</li> <li>● Preparing bids</li> <li>● Works start 2019</li> </ul>	Need settlement for real estate.
Wind power plant Akhfenir 100MW	1800	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Under construction since June 2016</li> </ul>	
Solar power plant Nour Laayoune	1 334	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Under study</li> <li>● Primary works 5%</li> </ul>	
Solar power plant Nour Boujdour	334	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Under study</li> <li>● Primary works started June 2017</li> </ul>	
4 projects	7 468		





## 4- Roads and transportation:

Project	Cost (Mdhs)	Status
Main road RN5 Laayoune Smara	160	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Under study</li> <li>works start in 2018</li> </ul>
Main road RN14 Tantan-Smara	180	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Under study</li> <li>works start in 2018</li> </ul>
Highway Tiznit-Laayoune	884	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>40km Under construction</li> <li>Bids for 97km in September 2017</li> </ul>
Main road RN1 Laayoune-Dakhla (Enlargement)	882	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>155km achieved</li> <li>100km Under construction</li> <li>Bids for 78km in November 2017</li> </ul>
4 projects	2046	

## 5- Water supply & wastewater management:

Project	Cost (Mdhs)	Status
Strengthening potable water production in Laayoune	400	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing</li> </ul>
Strengthening potable water production in Boujdour	134	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Achieved</li> </ul>
Strengthening potable water production in Smara	25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bids September 2017</li> </ul>
Strengthening potable water production in Tarfaya	50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Under study</li> </ul>
Restoration and strengthening of the water distribution network in Tarfaya	17.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bids September 2017</li> </ul>
Wastewater management in Fom El Oued	44	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Under study</li> </ul>
Wastewater treatment plant in Laayoune	450	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Under construction</li> </ul>
Restoration and strengthening of the wastewater network in Laayoune	450	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Under construction</li> </ul>
Restoration and strengthening of the wastewater network in Smara	51	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Under construction</li> </ul>
Restoration and strengthening of the wastewater network in Laayoune	70	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Under study</li> </ul>
	1331.5	

## 6- Hydrocarbons and mining:

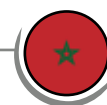
- Drilling programs privately funded for:
- Geological exploration: Lmessid Offshore (81 Mdhs)
- Geological exploration: Boujdour main land (405Mdhs)
- Geological exploration: Boujdour offshore (250Mdhs)
- Geological exploration: Hagounia main land (121Mdhs)

## 7- Farming:

Project	Cost (Mdhs)	Status
Valorisation and improvement of camel products in the region	104.28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing (37%)</li> </ul>
Rehabilitation of the Agricultural Training Center in Laayoune	134	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing (40%)</li> </ul>
Developing camel meat chain in Laayoune	172.02	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing (24%)</li> </ul>
Developing sheep & goats meat chain in Laayoune	62.77	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing (15%)</li> </ul>







Valorisation and improvement of milk production in Laayoune	36.36	● Ongoing (40%)
Local couscous production units in Laayoune	6.65	● Ongoing (20%)
Developing camel meat chain in Boujdour	151.85	● Ongoing (15%)
Developing sheep & goats meat chain in Boujdour	142.12	● Ongoing (10%)
Developing camel meat chain in Tarfaya	115.62	● Ongoing (15%)
Developing sheep & goats meat chain in Tarfaya	81,52	● Ongoing (15%)
Local couscous production units in Tarfaya	2,75	● Ongoing (20%)
Developing camel meat chain in Smara	75,15	● Ongoing (4%)
Developing sheep & goats meat chain in Smara	44,15	● Ongoing (6%)
Irrigated perimeter of Jrifia	450	● Ongoing (10%)
14 projects	1 579.24	

#### 8- Hydraulic plants and flood protection:

Project	Cost (Mdhs)	Status
Flood protection for Laayoune 1st part	35	● Works started June 2017
Flood protection for Laayoune 2nd part	25	● Preparing bids
Feeding the aquifer of Fom El Oued	13	● Engineering 100%
Construction of Mhajib dam in Dcheira	27	● Preparing bids
Flood protection for Boujdour 1st part	11	● Preparing bids
Flood protection for Boujdour 2nd part	19	● Preparing bids
Flood protection for Smara 1st part	58	● Works started June 2017
Flood protection for Smara 2nd part	32	● Preparing bids
Construction of Sidi Ahmed Rguibi dam in Smara	15	● Preparing bids
Construction of Ksat dam in Smara	15	● Preparing bids
Construction of Labouir dam in Tarfaya	13	● Preparing bids
11 projects	263	● Preparing bids

#### 9- Airports:

Project	Cost (Mdhs)	Status
Upgradation of the terminal of Hassan 1st airport in Laayoune	55.6	● Ongoing (25%)
Rehabilitation of Smara aerodrome	92.7	● Ongoing (20%)
2 projects	148.3	

#### 10- Urban rehabilitation:

Project	Cost (Mdhs)	Status
Urban rehabilitation in Laayoune district	625	● 40 projects under construction
Urban rehabilitation in Smara district	755	● 29 projects under construction
Requalification of ancient neighborhoods in Laayoune	205	● 01 project under construction

#### 11- Health care:

Project	Cost (Mdhs)	Status
Main hospital of Laayoune (500 bed)	1200	● Architectural bid in October 2017





Establishment of a regional emergency assistance service, with helicopter	72	● Achieved
Rehabilitation of the regional blood transfusion center	2	● To be achieved in September 2017
Rehabilitation of the regional hospital in Laayoune	57	● Architectural bid in October 2017
Providing a medical scanner 16 bands	4	● Scanner provided
Construction of the regional epidemiology center	5	● Under construction (70%)
Rehabilitation of 3 primary health care centers	7	● Achieved
Construction of a district hospital in Tarfaya (70 bed)	87	● Under construction (10%)
Rehabilitation of the district hospital in Smara (67 bed)	60	● Under construction (45%)
9 projects	1494	

## 11- Health care:

Project	Cost (Mdhs)	Status
Main hospital of Laayoune (500 bed)	1200	● Architectural bid in October 2017
Establishment of a regional emergency assistance service, with helicopter	72	● Achieved
Rehabilitation of the regional blood transfusion center	2	● To be achieved in September 2017
Rehabilitation of the regional hospital in Laayoune	57	● Architectural bid in October 2017
Providing a medical scanner 16 bands	4	● Scanner provided
Construction of the regional epidemiology center	5	● Under construction (70%)
Rehabilitation of 3 primary health care centers	7	● Achieved
Construction of a district hospital in Tarfaya (70 bed)	87	● Under construction (10%)
Rehabilitation of the district hospital in Smara (67 bed)	60	● Under construction (45%)
9 projects	1494	

## 12- Education:

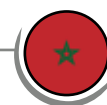
Project	Cost (Mdhs)	Status
Education administration in Smara	7	● Under study
Construction of 8 sports fields	4	● Under study
Construction of Abdelkarim El Khattabi elementary school	6	● Works start in September 2017
Construction of artistic, cultural & sports Institute in Laayoune	6	● Works will start in 2018
Construction of Taggal elementary school in Smara	6	● Preparing bids
Construction of Ana Ibno Malek school in Tarfaya	7	● Works will start in 2018
Construction of the Foun El Oued medium school	7	● Works will start in 2018
Construction of Hafsa Bintu Omar high school in Boujdour	7	● Works will start in 2018
Construction of Essalam elementary school in Smara	6	● Preparing bids
9 projects	56	

## 13- Collegial education & technical training:

- University of Chariaa in Smara: under construction.
- Laayoune Institute of Technology (Wahda): under construction.
- Tarfaya institute of renewable energy: Works to start before end 2017.







#### 14- Handicraft:

Project	Cost (Mdhs)	Status
Construction & equipment of a technical support center for wood works	5	● Under study
Construction of a hub for handicraft activities	20	● Under study
Construction of a handicraft institute	13	● Under study
Construction of 2 hubs for women operating in handicraft sector in Laayoune and Boujdour	4.4	● Under study
Establishment of an inventory of handicraft workers	0.2	● Preparing bids
Rehabilitation of the training center	01	● Preparing bids
Providing personal protective equipment for workers	0.8	● To be provided before end 2017
Organisation of exhibitions and commercial meetings	6.6	● Preparing bids
Organisation of the regional social forum	3	● Preparing bids
Providing technical training for handicraft workers	11.4	● Under study
10 projects	64.5	

#### 15- Culture:

- Exhibitions, festivals, cultural animation, book forum, conferences...: 17 Mdhs.
- Promotion of the Hassani music: 6Mdhs.
- Construction of 3 libraries: 6 Mdhs.
- Inventory of 6 rock etching sites.

Works are expected to start in 2018.

#### 16- Forests and combating desertification:

- Inventory of protected areas, combating sand creep, renewing local vegetation and conserving water and soil.
- Creating vegetative belts around urban centers:
  - Laayoune 70ha.
  - Tarfaya 80ha.
  - Smara 200ha
  - Boujdour 20ha

Works are expected to start in 2018.

#### 17- Fishing:

- Rehabilitation of 5 fishermen villages: Tarouma, Gti Lghazi, Ftissat, Amgriou and Lakraa (416Mdhs):
  - Housing and social centers.
  - Ice production units and fish stores.
  - Electricity and water supply.
- Acquisition of a school steamer (13Mdhs).
- Acquisition of a fishing and navigation mechanism (4Mdhs).
- Support to a female cooperative operating in algae collection (0.5Mdhs).
- Construction of shops for fishermen (30Mdhs).

Works are expected to start in 2018.

#### 18- Employment:

- Supporting national programs for integration and improvement of employment conditions (4600 employees):
- Supporting self-employment (525 employees).

Special agreement not ratified yet.

#### 19- Tourism:

- 34 projects for a total cost of (256Mdhs):
  - Public investments: 25 projects (107Mdhs).
  - Private investments: 9 projects (158Mdhs).

Works are expected to start in 2018.





# Mohammed VI Polytechnic University and Mass Challenge Launch the IMPULSE Acceleration Programme for Africa

*Let your startup grow for Africa's future*

**M**ohammed VI Polytechnic University (UM6P) announced on June 26, 2019, the launch of IMPULSE, a best in-class startup acceleration programme, with the support of OCP Group and its subsidiary OCP Africa.

Impulse aims to sustain OCP Group's ambitious innovation agenda. The program is designed with MassChallenge, a global accelerator organization, with a unique non-profit, zero equity and impact focused model. Impulse will be scouting talented entrepreneurs in the fields of agritech, biotech, nanotech and mining tech, and will be accompanying them with a sharp and bold value proposition.

Impulse will be open for the participation of other Moroccan and international corporates. The aim of such participation is to prepare the creation of a consortium of companies that will support the activities of an innovation hub in Morocco

that is industry agnostic and centered on African challenges. Such an ecosystem aspires to be a game-changer for the African social and economic scene, while helping to foster innovation and support entrepreneurship. The consortium is in the process of being formed with leading corporate organizations.

Speaking at the Impulse launching ceremony, Mr. Hicham El Habti, Secretary General of Mohammed VI Polytechnic University, declared: "By launching Impulse, a first of its kind program, Mohammed VI Polytechnic University takes pride into fostering entrepreneurship and innovation in Africa, for Africa. In addition to providing talents with access to important funding, Impulse will enable entrepreneurs to access a whole ecosystem composed of UM6P's research and innovation local and international network. We look forward to Impulse being a springboard for a larger innovation platform initiative

involving other corporate partners and aimed at transforming the African entrepreneurial scene."

Matt Lashmar, Managing Director of MassChallenge Switzerland declared: "MassChallenge is excited to be working with Impulse to help entrepreneurs in Africa make an impact and bring their ideas to market, adding value to society. We look forward to supporting UM6P in reinforcing its ecosystem with our unique capabilities and networks."

All startups participating in the Impulse program will benefit from numerous advantages to strengthen their innovative projects:

- Mentoring and coaching offered by OCP experts, UM6P professors and doctoral students and mentors of the MassChallenge network and the Moroccan entrepreneurial ecosystem.
- Access to business opportunities via OCP Group,







OCP Africa and UM6P networks.

- A cash prize of \$ 250,000 to be shared on the Demo Day between winning startups.
- Access to UM6P infrastructure: Fablab, experimental laboratories and living laboratories equipped with state-of-the-art equipment enabling startups to develop and test prototypes of their products and services.
- Study trips to the ecosystems of Boston and Lausanne.
- Access to a 430 m<sup>2</sup> co-working space, equipped with the necessary facilities and equipment to enable startups

to work on their businesses.

- Access to financing through a set of national and international investment funds and business angels.

#### Call for applications

The programme is open to all aspiring innovators and entrepreneurs from all over the world. However, preference will be given to startups that are beyond the idea stage. The program will be targeting startups that have a proof of concept “POC” or a minimum viable product “MVP” in the fields of agritech, biotech, mining tech and materials science and nano engineering.

#### Call for mentors

Impulse is open for experts from the Moroccan and the international entrepreneurial ecosystems who wish to volunteer as judges, mentors or speakers. Experts interested in joining the program are invited to apply on the program’s website: [www.impulse.ma](http://www.impulse.ma)

#### Key dates

- Applications open: June 26, 2019
- Applications deadline: October 1, 2019
- Start of the program: January 15, 2020
- Demo Day: April 8, 2020 ■

#### CONTACT:

Mohammed VI Polytechnic University (UM6P)  
Email: [Communication@um6p.ma](mailto:Communication@um6p.ma)



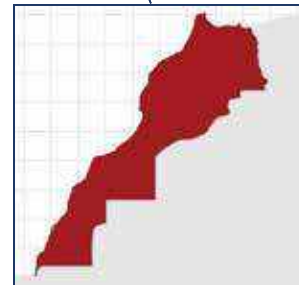


# Business Climate and Investment Opportunities in Morocco

Source: Moroccan Investment and Export Development Agency (AMDIE)

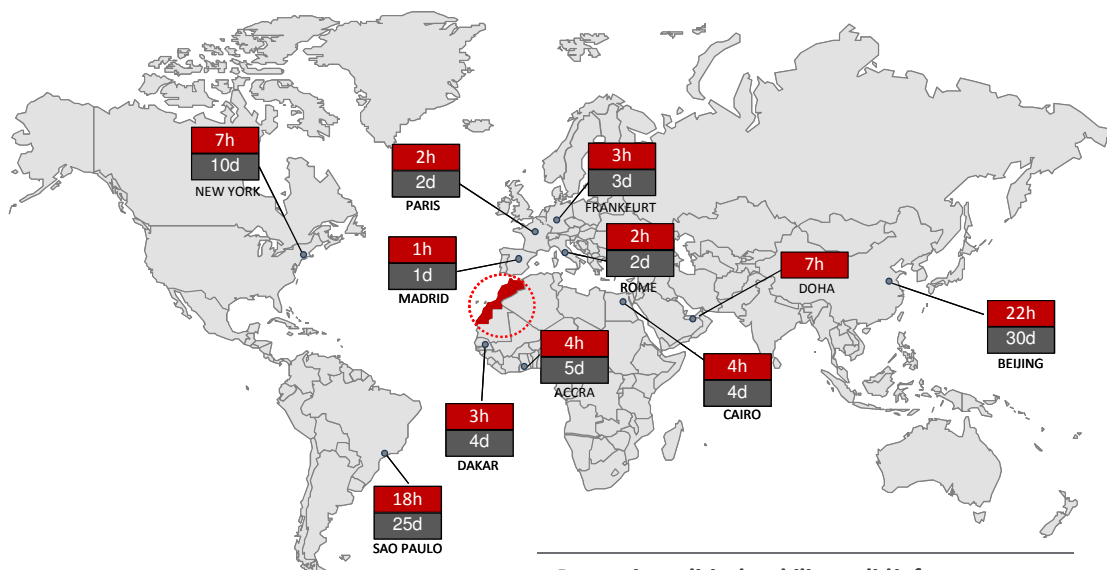
## MOROCCO OVERVIEW

Capital	Rabat
Institutional System	Democratic and social Constitutional Monarchy
Area	710 850 km <sup>2</sup>
N° of inhabitants	35.6 millions
Time Zone	GMT+1
Languages	Arabic and Amazigh (official) French. Spanish. English
GDP 2018	118 Billion USD
GDP per capita 2018	3 347 USD
Growth 2018	+3%
GDP Distribution 2018	Primary Sector 14% Secondary Sector 29% Tertiary Sector 57%
Inflation Rate 2018	1.1%



Sources : Commissariat au Plan

## GEOSTRATEGIC LOCATION AT THE CROSSROADS OF THE CONTINENTS



Due to its political stability, solid infrastructure, and strategic location, Morocco is rapidly becoming a regional manufacturing and export base for international companies.

Flight duration  
Sea/land route

Sources : Royal Air Maroc; COMANAV







## EXCELLENT INFRASTRUCTURES

### Airports

17 international airports  
Casablanca #1 hub between Europe and Africa



### Ports

2 shorelines: Mediterranean and Atlantic  
38 ports among which 13 dedicated to foreign trade.



### Highways

Network multiplied par 12 in 15 years  
Connecting 70% of the population



### Tramways

Rabat and Casablanca  
1 Billion EUR investment



### Trains

1<sup>st</sup> high-speed train (Tangier-Casablanca)  
1.8 Billion EUR investment



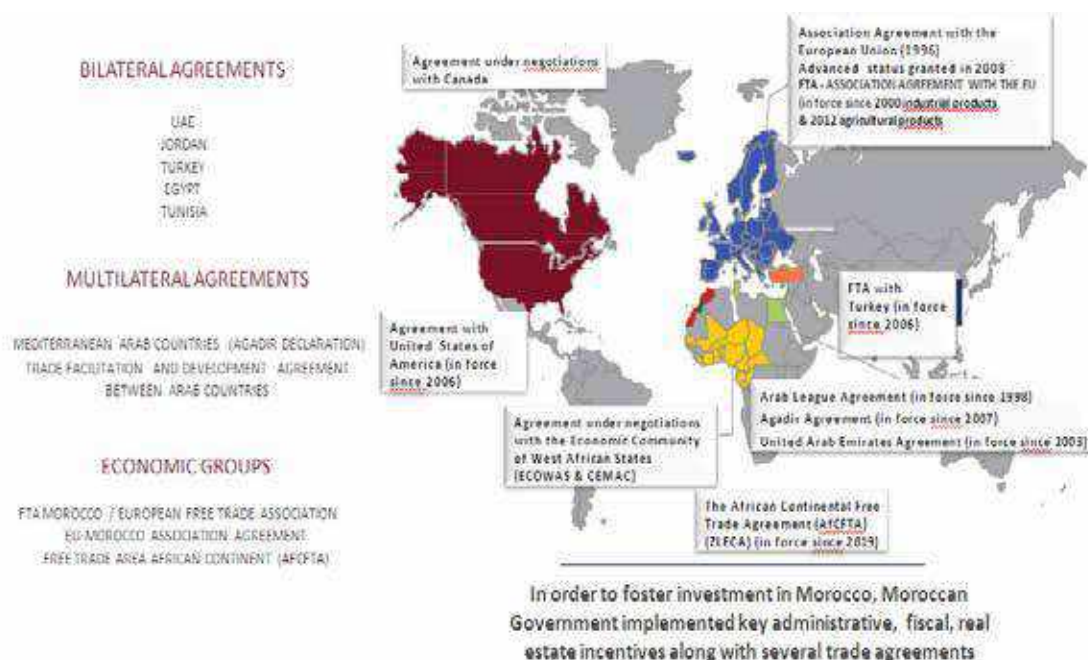
### Connectivity

Best 4G network in Africa  
Internet speed: 16 megabits / second (Mbps)  
10 million Internet users (penetration rate: 30%)  
(Growth rate: 73%)



Source: Autoroutes du Maroc, AMDI, UNCTAD report 2017, OpenSignal, annual report ANRT

## UNIQUE SET OF FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS





## AMBITIOUS SECTORAL STRATEGIES

### INDUSTRY : PERFORMANT CLUSTERS STRATEGY 2020



- Industrial GDP to reach 23% of global GDP
- Creation of 500 000 jobs
- Creation of Industrial Development
- Fund: \$2.5 Bn
- Allocation of 1 000 hectares of land for rent

### TOURISM : 2020 VISION



- 20 million tourists in 2020
- 200 000 new beds
- Tourism GDP: from US\$6 billion in 2010 to US\$17 billion in 2020

### ENERGY : MOROCCAN SOLAR PLAN 2020



- Renewable energy > 40% of national production by 2020 (52% in 2030)
- Capacity : 2 000 MW of solar power + 2 000 MW of wind power

### AGRICULTURE : GREEN MOROCCO PLAN 2020



- To modernize the agricultural sector
- US\$10 billion in additional GDP from agriculture
- US\$15 billion in public and private investments

### MINING SECTOR 2025



- Turnover x3 ➤ 1.5 Bn USD
- Investment x10 ➤ 0.4 Bn USD
- Jobs x2 ➤ 30 000

### LIQUIFIED NATURAL GAS



- 4,6 MM USD investment
- Gas terminal
- 400 km gazoduc
- Combined cycle power plant

## INDUSTRIAL ACCELERATION PLAN 2014-2020 : CREATE THE MOMENTUM FOR THE INDUSTRIALIZATION OF MOROCCO

Succeed in boosting  
our industrialization...

...through the development  
of competitive clusters

**500 000**

Jobs created in the industry, half of them through foreign investments

JOB  
CREATION

- Cornerstone of the IAP
- Competitive clusters as a key to modernize and integrate each industry

INDUSTRIAL  
CLUSTER  
STRATEGY

**+9pts**

Raise the share of industry in the GDP To 23%

ADDED  
VALUE

- Industrial fund : 20 Billion MAD
- Land : 1000 hectares
- Dedicated financial products
- Coordinated training programs
- OVsets and imports substitution

SUPPORTIVE  
MEASURES

**0**

Rebalance our trade accounts by promoting exports and substituting local sourcing to imports

TRADE  
BALANCE

- Cross-functional aims of the IAP :
  - Rebalance trade
  - Include informal economy
  - Increase vertical integration
- MNC/SMB

TRADE  
BALANCE  
AND INCLUSIVE  
DEVELOPMENT







## INDUSTRIAL ACCELERATION PLAN : SOME ALREADY SIGNED PERFORMANCE CONTRACTS



## MOROCCO, STRENGTHENING THE SOUTH-SOUTH PARTNERSHIP

### AFRICAN ECONOMIC POTENTIALITIES



- By **2050**, Africa's economy would be close to **10 times bigger** than it is today.
- **Six** of the world's ten **fastest-growing** economies in the world over the last decade were in Africa. It is expected to be **seven** by **2020**.
- There is a rise of a **consumer society**, which increases demand, boosts **local production** and amplifies **middle class**.

The true size of Africa embraces China, the US, India, Eastern Europe and the most important Western European countries





### MOROCCAN GEOSTRATEGIC VISION TOWARDS AFRICA



King Mohamed VI meeting Malian President (up) and Senegalian President (down)



- Under the vision of its King, The Kingdom of Morocco is keen to strengthen its position as an African leader. This is marked by the various visits of His Majesty to different African countries which resulted on multiple economic and business agreements with several countries from the continent.
- The Kingdom of Morocco is an important African investor in the continent.
- The Kingdom of Morocco is considered as a platform for foreign companies to project their activities in sub-Saharan Africa due to:
  - ✓ Deep knowledge of African markets
  - ✓ Very frequent airline connections
  - ✓ A strong Moroccan banking sector present in Africa
- Cooperation between The Kingdom of Morocco and the other African countries is expected to strength, in order to reach several sectors where Morocco can provide its support and experience.

### CONNECTIVITY FOR INTRA-AFRICAN WIN-WIN PARTNERSHIP

#### BUSINESS CONNECTIVITY : A LARGE MOROCCAN FOOTPRINT ACROSS THE CONTINENT

##### SOME BIG PLAYERS



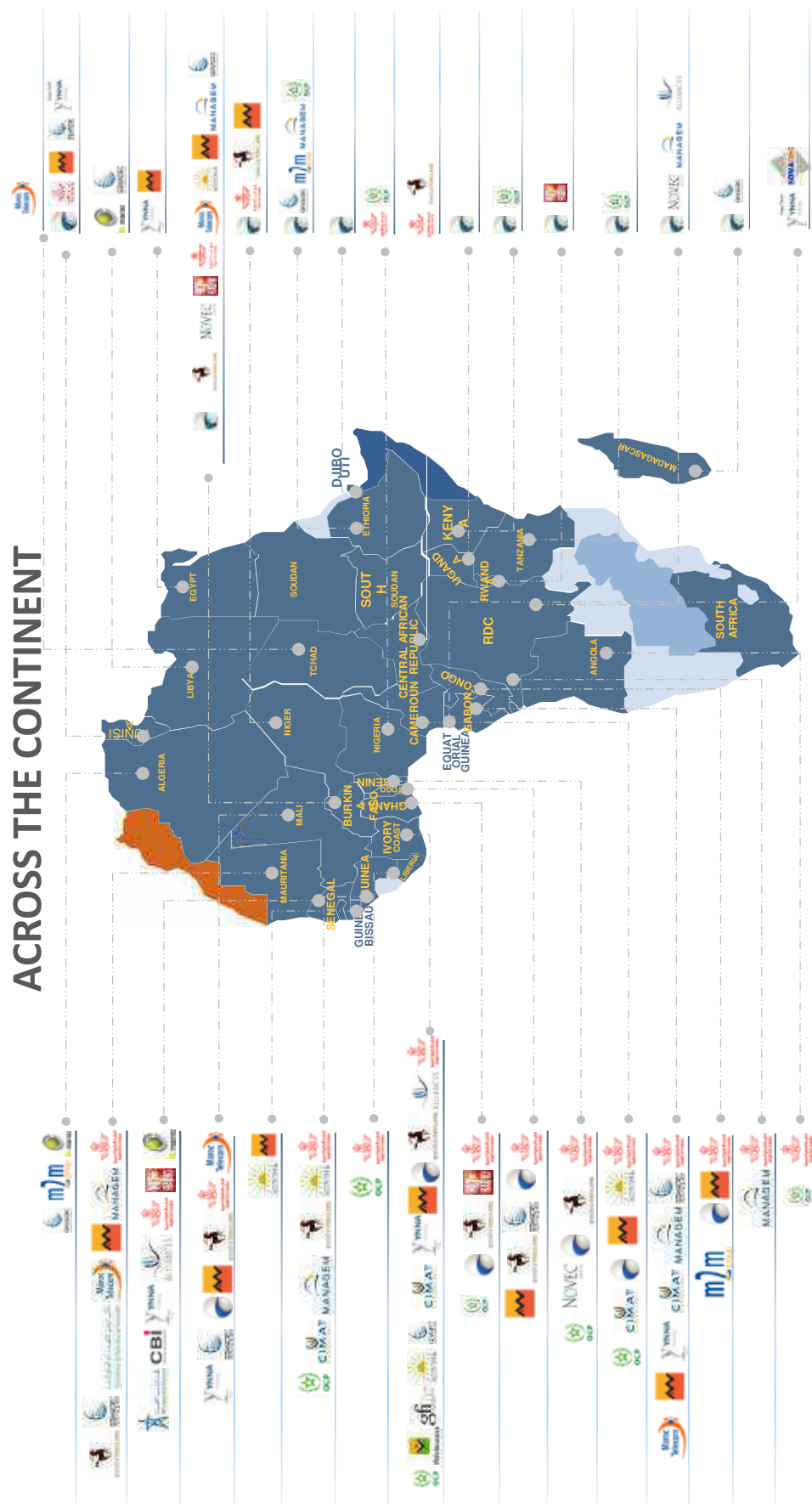
Morocco Intra-African Investments represented 85% of its overall FDI stock in diverse strategic fields  
Morocco is One of the main Investors in the Continent





# CONNECTIVITY FOR INTRA-AFRICAN WIN-WIN PARTNERSHIP

## BUSINESS CONNECTIVITY : A LARGE MOROCCAN FOOTPRINT ACROSS THE CONTINENT





# Agency for the Promotion and Economic and Social Development of Southern Provinces of the Kingdom of Morocco

By Mr. Jabran Reklaoui  
Director General

**I** will give you documents related to the establishment of Agency for the Promotion and the Economic and Social Development of the Southern Provinces of the Kingdom.

The geography and the environment of Sahara is difficult and challenging. When certain provinces from the Southern Region were integrated into Morocco the economic and development situation was very



The development of the Southern Provinces is being implemented by direct intervention of the State of Morocco. It was in year 2002 that King Mohammed VI decided to create - Agency for the Promotion and the Economic and Social Development of the Southern Provinces of the Kingdom.

This Agency now interacts with the locally elected representatives from the Southern Region.

## The Role of Metropolises and Large Urban Centers in Territorial Development

### - Case of the Southern Provinces of the Kingdom-

Located in fragile ecosystems, the Southern provinces did not return to the Mother homeland until 1975 after the historical Green March architected by the late King of Morocco Hassan II. At the time, the level of human development in these territories was lower than the national level with a human development indicator that did not exceed 0.4. More than 50% of the population was below the poverty line.

Forty-four years after 1975, we are witnessing a reversal of trends and



**The Director General Mr. Jabran Reklaoui of Agency for the Promotion and the Economic and Social Development of the Southern Provinces with Journalist Harun Riaz at his office in Laayoune**

bad. The poverty ratio was 50 percent. The Government of Morocco after the integration was obliged to provide the same level of development as in the North.

From the Green March of 1975 and till today we are engaged in economic development of the

region. We at the agency and other public institutions have been focusing on providing electricity, water, communication, transport and job opportunities for the local population. The critical issues of health and education are also being developed by implementing several economic projects.







these regions are ranked first in the ranking of Morocco's regions in terms of human development with a Human Development Index (HDI) of 0.641 against 0.612 as an average at the national level. The same trends are observed in terms of access to basic services. The gross education rate is 81.8% compared to 74.9% nationally. The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita is increasing by 5.8% per year and the poverty rate was around 3.5% in 2011 compared to 6.2% at the national level.

These advances are the result of the efforts made by the Government, the elected bodies and the civil society according to a voluntarist approach. In fact, the three Southern regions of the Kingdom are the first recipients of social assistance and the third beneficiaries of annual public investment in the Kingdom at 1.5 times the national average.

The efforts of development actors are multidimensional and concern all sectors and territories and especially cities, given the high rate of urbanization which is about 77.3% at the level of the three regions against 3% at the



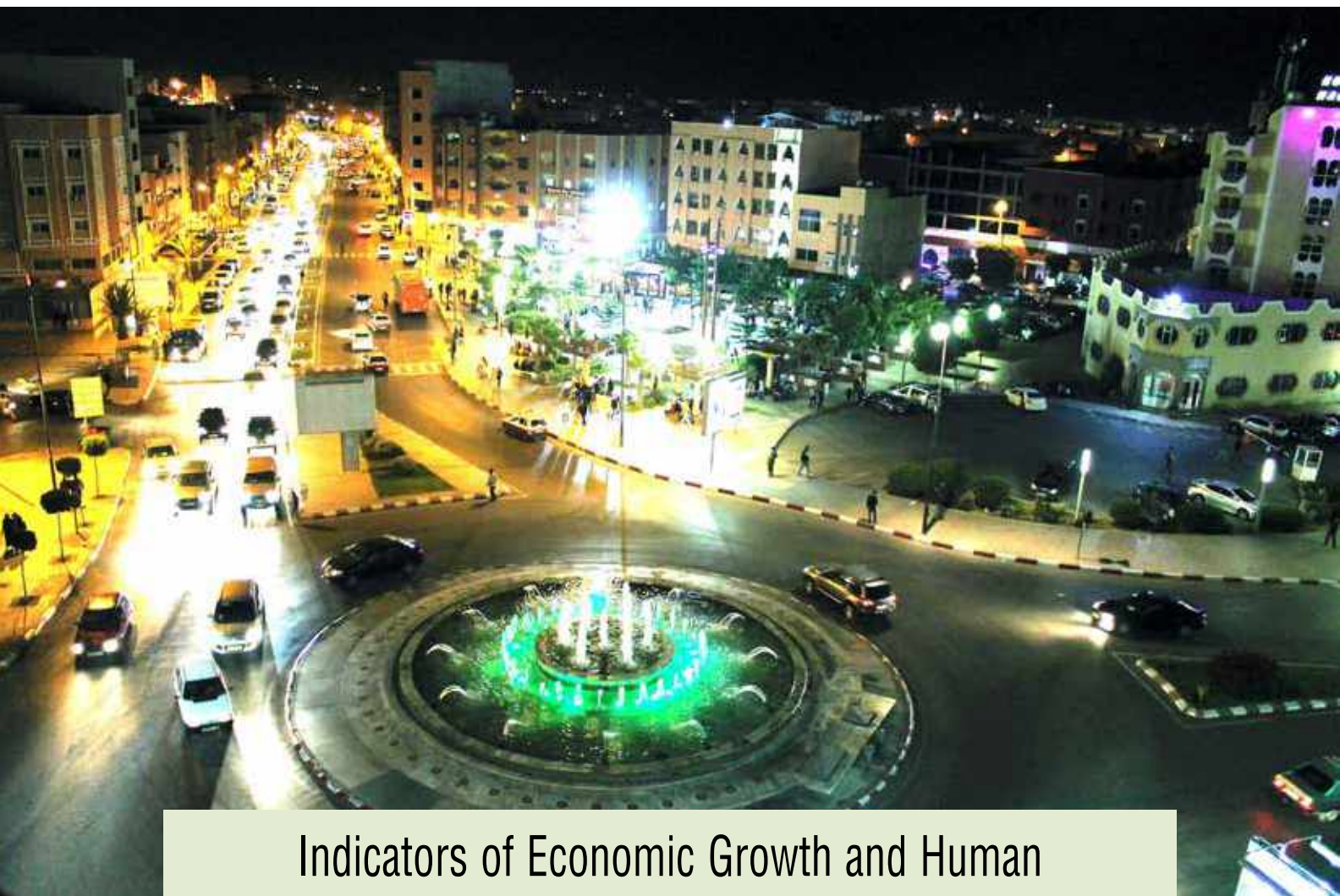
national level. This rate reaches 93.4% in the Laayoune-Sakia EL Hamra region.

The different Urban Development Programs were conducted using a participatory approach involving elected officials and civil society in the decision-making process from programming to implementation. In addition to the physical achievements, this approach allowed the transfer of competences to elected bodies.

This approach has also been adopted at a more strategic level to define the New Southern Provinces Development Model which concerns the three regions, namely Laayoune Sakia El Hamra, Dakhla Oued Eddahab and Guelmim Oued Noun. This model is the result of a national debate involving all actors at national, regional and local levels. This program, launched by His Majesty the King, may God Assist, and amounting to 77 billion







## Indicators of Economic Growth and Human Development in the Southern Regions of Morocco

- Urbanization rate; 77.3% against 60.3% at the national level;
  - 92% of urban households occupy villa type housing, modern Moroccan house apartment compared to 62.7% at national level;
  - 93.8% of urban households have access to electricity compared to 91.9% at the national level; 93.7% access to drinking water compared to 72.9% nationwide;
- Annual growth rate of GDP {2004-2013}: 8.9% against 6.1% at national level;  
GDP per capita increases by 5.8% per year, exceeds that of Rabat-Sale-Kenitra and comes closer to that of Casablanca-Settat;
- Per capita consumption expenditure growth rate (2004-2013): 6% against 5.6% nationally;  
Gross schooling rate (6-22 years) 81.8% compared to 74.9% nationally;  
Average number of years of schooling of the population aged 25 and over: 4.6 years versus 4.4 at the national level;
- Poverty rate, World Bank approach = 3.5% in 2011 against 6.2% at the national level;
  - Multidimensional poverty rate, the Oxford approach adopted by the UNDP: 4.3% in 2014 against 8.1% at the national level;
  - Human Development Index (HDI) measured by the UNDP: 0.643 against 0.512 at the national level; with an increase of 11.6% between 2004 and 2014 against 8.4% for Casablanca-Settat and 9% for Rabat-Sale-Kenitra.
  - National solidarity indicator for the benefit of the Southern regions:
    - Tax revenue in relation to national GDP: 21.8%
    - Tax revenues in relation to the GDP of the southern regions: 1.1%





dirhams, includes structuring projects that will inject a new dynamic into the development process.

The dual route, the Atlantic port, major agricultural projects, the construction of fishing villages, the connection of Dakhla to the national electricity grid, the drainage of private investment, the production of clean energy, the strengthening of the university and medical offers are among the projects being implemented as part of this ambitious program, carried out as part of wider regionalization.

As an indication, in 1974 the number of inhabitants in Laayoune was 12,152. From 1975 this city has experienced an unprecedented boom and is currently the main

pole of economic growth in the Southern regions of the country and is home to 31.3% of the population representing the first major city in the south of the Kingdom. This importance, this city owes to these structuring equipments such as the port of Hassan Ist, the port of Laayoune, the technology park of Foug El Oued as a center of academic influence, its cultural and sports infrastructure including its library and its theater in progress as well as its offer of professional training and higher education, which will be reinforced by the creation of the Faculty of Medicine and the University Hospital.

The development of the city of Boujdour is also among the most spectacular. A village consisting of

a lighthouse and some buildings at the time of recovery of the Southern provinces, Boujdour then quickly developed, taking advantage of its position connecting Laayoune to Dakhla. Maritime fishing, at the heart of the city's economic activity, received a decisive boost with the construction of the new port and administrative district.

These two cities were declared cities without slums in 2008, like the city of Dakhla, thanks to the various programs led by the public authorities, the last of which is the city of Es-Semara for the permanent eradication of unsanitary housing in these areas of the Kingdom. ■





## OCP Foundation in India

## Ten Years of High-impact Social Action



According to its mission in supporting and promoting positive community dynamics, OCP Foundation actions go beyond the borders of Morocco and extend to international communities. It commits to strengthen South-South cooperation and meets the needs of local populations.

OCP Foundation has launched several major projects in India. Since 2010, the Foundation has been supporting small farmers in nine Indian States in carrying out integrated agricultural projects.

Through a partnership with local contributors, the projects launched by OCP Foundation have boosted small farmers' yields and improved their living conditions by providing them with solutions to social, medical, and women's empowerment issues.

Among other things, the projects have made possible in improving beneficiary farmers' yields of cereals, legumes and vegetable crops.

As an example, the results of the

impact study of the agricultural extension project in Karnataka show that the average annual income of the beneficiary farmers has tripled from less than 1,000 USD in 2009 to over 3,500 US\$ in 2018. The projects have also made possible partnerships with the country's universities. Improvement of the beneficiaries' living conditions

As part of South-South Cooperation, OCP Foundation has launched a rural development project in the State of Karnataka.

In collaboration with the National Institute for Agricultural Research of Morocco (INRA) and the Indian Society of Agribusiness Professionals (ISAP) in India, OCP Foundation deployed the Agricultural Extension Services (AES) project in 2010 in Gulbarga, Bidar, and Raichur districts of North Karnataka. Its main goal was to set up an agricultural extension program to directly support several thousand-smallholder farmers. AES has

substantially improved small farmers' yields and incomes.

After the official closure of the OCPF-AES project in Karnataka, the presidents of all the existing Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) came together in what then came to be known as the Karnataka Farmers Maha Society (KFMS) that aims to bring farmers together and ensure work continuity.

The KFMS started procuring tur (red gram) from places such as Aland, Afzalpur, Ankalg, Raichur and Bidar. Under the Red Gram Procurement under PSF (Price Stabilization Fund), they supplied 288,748 quintals of red gram to the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED), an approved purchasing organization, for an average cost price of 5,050 rupees per quintal.

11,500 farmers benefitted from this endeavour. Moreover, the Karnataka State Government gave all the beneficiary farmers a bonus of 450 rupees per quintal, so that amounted to an additional 12.99 rupees crore.

In addition to these measures, KFMS has also set up Farm Machinery Custom Hire Service Centers that give small and marginal farmers, who cannot afford to purchase Farm Machinery, the opportunity to avail farm machineries like combine harvesters tractors, rotavator, seed driller etc. at nominal charges at their door step.

In addition, KFMS has facilitated access to emergency medical services for farmers in rural areas. They are now able to provide emergency medical care to persons who had suffered sudden or serious injuries or illnesses. Access to emergency services is crucial for people living in rural areas where access to first aid is generally difficult.





### Empowerment of women in agriculture

As part of the Integrated Farming System (IFS) project launched by OCP Foundation in association with ISAP in three districts of Rajasthan, many women were brought together to form Self Help Groups (SHGs). These groups later on amalgamated into what later became the Shree Dev Mahila Kisan Producer Company Limited in 2017 with the primary goal of expanding women's livelihoods opportunities. The beneficiaries were at the forefront of the Farmer Producer Organization (FPO), an entity that is ultimately solely made up of women.

With the project coming into their lives, they started attending meetings, and being able to speak



up in those meetings and share their opinions has allowed them to collectively try to come up with solutions to their daily problems. Gradually, the beneficiaries formed their own SHGs and later many of them became board members of the FPO.

Thanks, in particular to the IFS project, women were granted the right to occupy certain decision-making positions in the public and private sectors, thus putting an end to their lack of involvement in public, family, and even community debates.

### Impacts on the agricultural sector

India has undertaken ambitious reforms for the benefit of farmers. The will of the political authorities combined with initiatives such as those launched by OCP Foundation are boosting farmers' income growth forecasts and those in terms of improved living conditions.

### 9,600 agricultural beneficiaries

In February 2016, Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi,

while addressing a rally, set a goal to double farmers' income by 2022-2023 in order to promote farmers' welfare and bring parity between the income of farmers and those working in non-farm sectors.

Achieving this goal will require compounded annual growth of 10.4% in farmer income between now and 2022. Moreover, the Government of India is considering the following key interventions aimed at increasing farmers' incomes: irrigation, quality seeds, soil testing, post-harvest crop





## Improving the Agricultural Value Chain

OCP Foundation contributes to disseminating knowledge through its commitment to providing a better world for future generations. OCP Foundation is structured around several areas such as education, training, and R&D.

It pursues its engagement and implements its programs through a participatory approach with public and private partners in Morocco and in several countries of the Southern Hemisphere. This approach allows it to instill a positive momentum within communities thereby making it possible for the entire environment to progress for a just and equitable future.

As part of its programs to support local populations at the international level, OCP Foundation works alongside its expert partners to implement socio-economic projects through the improvement of the agricultural value chain.

- Research & Development and technology transfer: developing and improving crop management techniques;
- Empowerment of small farmers: capacity building, providing access to agricultural mechanization and promoting agribusiness;
- Digitalization of the National Office of Agricultural Council: implementing call centers and mobile applications;
- Structuring and organization: creating cooperatives and Economic Interest Groups (EIG).

losses, value addition to farmers, new crop insurance scheme and promotion of ancillary activities.

To this end, OCP Foundation's project has undertaken in India in partnership with ISAP is highly relevant as it aligns with Prime Minister's vision of "New India." The OCP Foundation-IFS project in Rajasthan promotes a balanced approach towards strengthening the agricultural value chain and improving farmers' livelihoods. The project was conceptualized and designed jointly by a team of experts from OCP Foundation and ISAP and senior agricultural scientists.

The Integrated Farming System project started in 2014 and has been implemented in three districts in South-East Rajasthan: Sawai Madhopur, Bundi, and Baran, covering six development areas. This project aims to increase productivity of field crops and maximize the resource base of the area for overall improvement in production income and diversification of farming practices in the project geography.

More than 9,600 farmers are directly

benefitting from the project and contributing to it. The expected improvement has been achieved through the implementation of improved crop production technologies, integrated farming system (IFS) and resource conservation; namely, water harvesting and farm management, recycling of natural and agricultural resources, as well as by generating farm level resource base like

vermi-compost, bio-pesticides and value additional farm gate. An innovative approach has been adopted to constitute and promote small farmers' production and agribusiness organizations with linkages to marketing and value chain stakeholders.

### Digitalization of agricultural practices

One of the innovations launched by the OCPF-IFS project is Krishi Gyan, the Android mobile application-based decision support system (DSS) for extension agents. This app helps extension agents/farmers in diagnosing disease and/or pest infestations in the project farms and offers control measures.

The application also contains information on proven cropping techniques through an animation video. . It additionally provides local weather information and allows extension agents and farmers to consult experts from a call center set up as part of the OCP Foundation's Kisan Call Center (KCC) project. The app is also available on Google Play and has been downloaded over 40,000 times to date.

*Furthermore, it enables extension agents/farmers to consult with KCC experts.*



## Key figures of OCP Foundation's actions in India since 2010

- 50,000 beneficiaries;
- Installation of more than 20,000 demonstration plots;
- Organization of more than 3,000 training courses and field schools;
- Improvement in farmers' yields of more than 70%;
- 70 research themes covered and more than 40 students involved in OCP Foundation projects;
- Implementation of three agribusiness and human development centers specializing in seed production, beekeeping, horticulture, and goat rearing;
- Reception of an Award for Innovative Practices (NGO category) from the UN Global Compact Network for the OCPF-AES Karnataka project;
- Reception of three awards as part of the competitions organized in India to promote digital agriculture for the development of an application for agricultural extension.







## Al Moutmir: OCP Model to Better Serve Farmers

**A**s part of its commitment to agricultural transformation, OCP Group has set up a multiservice outreach initiative to better support and serve the farmer in September 2018. Called “Al Moutmir,” which means fruitful, this agile and integrated initiative reflects OCP’s commitment to help transform the agricultural sector.

Al Moutmir is based on three main pillars: the scientific approach, to ensure a sustainable supply, the

partnership approach, to jointly establish innovative agricultural development models through the participation of stakeholders in the agricultural sectors, and farmers themselves as real agents of change through the implementation of a capacity building program aimed at farmers, women, cooperatives, and young leaders. The initiative comprises many services, including mobile soil testing laboratories that travel throughout the Kingdom in order to test soils directly on

farms, a training offer on all crop management techniques given by the Al Moutmir team with institutional partners, and demonstration platforms that help with training on agricultural best practices. The Al Moutmir initiative also includes a best-in-class digital and technological offer that includes a mobile application called “@tmar.” It features a range of assistance and technical support services for farmers such as climate data, fertilizer recommendations, farm





management operational advice, profitability simulators, and market information on agricultural product prices. This application is available to all farmers free of charge.

The offer also includes the services of the smart NPK Blend fertilizer production units (Smart Blender) that produce custom fertilizers. These production units use soil analyses and target yields to produce fertilizers tailored to each crop and soil type.

This initiative is carried out by over 60 agronomists deployed across over 40 provinces in Morocco and work daily with farmers, providing them with training, demonstrations, monitoring, and support.

#### **A strong impact on farmers**

In the short time since its inception, the program has had a major impact on the agricultural world, reaching 10,000 farmers, including more than 1,000 women. In total, over 10,000 soil analyses were carried out in the mobile laboratory and in laboratories at the Mohammed VI Polytechnic University.

Al Moutmir has also made it possible to launch 2,000 demonstration platforms, including 1,000 for cereal and legume crops, 700 for olive trees, and 300 for fresh produce.

In addition to the training component, Al Moutmir is capitalizing on the momentum generated by the Act4Community

initiative by launching Act4Farmers, an initiative that allows volunteer OCP employees to implement actions that help farmers in different regions of the Kingdom. Volunteer employees are given the necessary tools to better help farmers with the support and expertise of agronomists, exhaustive scientific documentation for each crop, the Al Moutmir mobile unit, mobile laboratories, demonstration platforms, and training.

#### **Technology is at the heart of Al Moutmir**

Using digital technology, Al Moutmir intends to heighten its impact on farmers by increasing its reach, making its various services accessible and capitalizing on its achievements.







We can also mention Agridistributors, a software used to manage the relationship between OCP and its partner-distributor network.

Agripedia is a digital platform that compiles OCP's agronomic knowledge for the benefit of farmers, agronomists, and OCP employees interested in agriculture. With a single click, users can access detailed scientific information on different crops according to their needs. Educational materials are used to make sharing best practices easy (instructional videos, graphics, technical guides, etc.).

Agritrials is an application that uses digital technology to manage

demonstration plots and provides real-time descriptive information on plant phenology and any threats they may face. It makes it possible to capitalize on demonstration platforms by providing a database that can be shared with the agricultural ecosystem with a view to exploring innovative models capable of fostering the emergence of prosperous and sustainable agriculture.

@tmar



@tmar is a multiservice mobile application developed by the OCP team to better support farmers.

It includes a wide range of services available to farmers free of charge, including weather information, plot monitoring, profitability simulators, and international agricultural market updates.

In a spirit of sharing, OCP intends to replicate this model in other countries or on other continents that are experiencing a similar agricultural transformation. ■





# Regus Opens New Centres in Casablanca, Rabat and Tangiers

Increasing its presence across Africa, Regus opens three new centres in Morocco in the vibrant business hubs of Casablanca, Rabat and Tangier

**W**ith the aim of reaching more businesses and entrepreneurs on the continent, Regus, the global leader in flexible workspaces, has added

operated since 1997,” explains Tarek Abou-Zeinab, country manager of IWG Africa. “The co-working way Regus works attracts more and more local

in the dynamic Sidi Maarouf district, is ten minutes’ walk from Casa Oasis train station and 20 minutes’ drive from Mohammed V international airport, making it a strategic and central location for business travellers.

In Rabat, Regus installed an ultra-modern office complex on the fifth floor of the Mahaj Hay Ryad centre on Annakhil Avenue, while in Tangier, the company secured a prime location in Ibn Batouta Mall, a shopping, entertainment and office complex close to United Nations Square, the Corniche and the marina. Many of the offices and workspaces have sea views and it’s a five-minute drive from Tangier train station and 20 km from the Tangier Free Zone.

“We are very happy to arrive in Tangier, the gateway to the African continent,” says Abou-Zeinab. “With the recent opening of the LGV Casablanca-Tangier and the rise of Tangier Med cargo port, we’re here to meet



Casablanca Twin Center

three more sites in Morocco, with brand-new offices in Casablanca, Rabat and Tangier increasing its coverage to 16 properties in the country.

Morocco has become a strategic market for International Workplace Group (IWG), the parent company of Regus, and in just three years has doubled the number of centres to meet the demands of local and international businesses who want to work smarter.

“We are proud to strengthen our presence in Morocco, where we’ve

companies, with nearly 2,000 of them currently using our services. The use of shared workspaces contributes to boosting their turnover, thanks to the tailored support offered by our on-site teams.”

Morocco has become the continent’s leading branding country and the second largest growth market in Africa, after South Africa. Opened in the first quarter of 2019, the trio of new properties add to the 13 established centres in the country. Casablanca, Zenith,







Capital city Rabat

the needs of local customers who want flexible and immediately operational office space for their businesses. Already nearly 2,000 companies in Morocco are using our services, and our new centre

at Ibn Batouta aims to exceed all expectations.”

The IWG group offer various flexible workspaces, including private offices, co-working space,

meeting rooms and business lounges, and caters for any type of company from digital startups to global corporations. While focusing on the accessibility of the site and the quality of the buildings and offices, the spaces also provide a variety of turnkey services, including mail management, telephone services, meeting rooms and access to broadband, enabling companies to work better. The centres’ on-site teams welcome clients in several languages, including French, English and Arabic, and ensure functional operation of all the sites.

Now with a presence in 20 African countries and some 3,300 sites worldwide, Regus gives its members access to a community of 2.5 million customers and partners around the world. ■

Source: Regus Online



Tangier, Morocco







# Moroccan Food Festival Held in Delhi

The Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco in New Delhi organised a Moroccan culinary festival at ITC Maurya hotel from the 22nd to the

31st March, 2019. Ambassador of Morocco, H.E. Mr. Mohamed Maliki during the launch spoke about Moroccan culture, history and cuisine. Two Moroccan

chefs were specially invited for the occasion.

According to food blogger, Ms Noor Anand Chawla who attended the launch event, dishes included Zalouk, Bakkoula, Carrot Macharmale, and a yummy beet dish. The main course consisted of fish tagine with vegetables, pastry encrusted meatballs called Pastilla, soft and flavorful Lamb Koufta's, a chicken dish served with olives, delightful vegetarian couscous, sweet and savoury safa (akin to sevaiyaan) served with lentils. She liked Lamb Koufta, vegetarian couscous, and the crusty Pastilla.

Ms. Chawla in her blog wrote that Moroccan desserts like Mango Mud Cake, a cream Chalha and delectable almond fillo pastries were also on the menu. And not to forget Moroccan tea.

Another food blogger, Ms Manjulika Pramod appreciated the use of spices, method of cooking and how



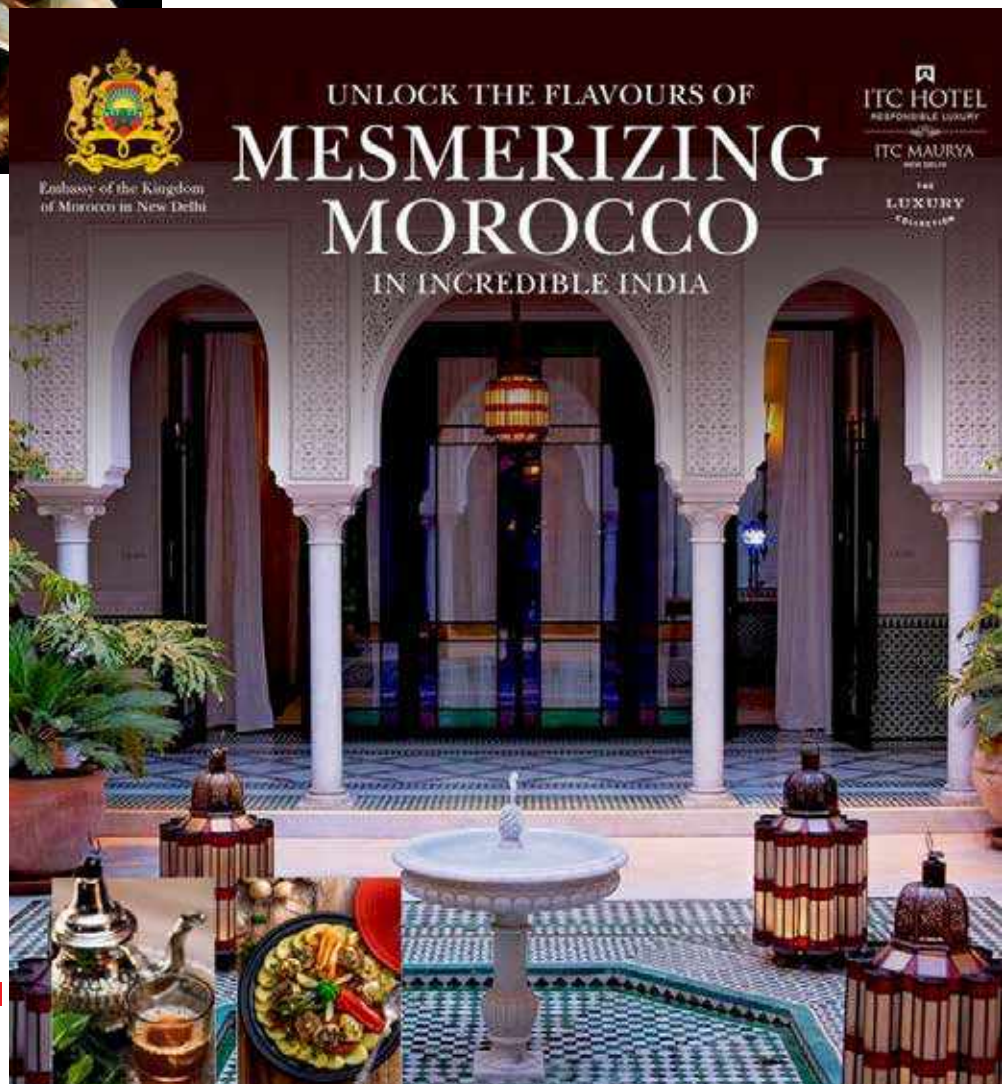




Indian and Moroccan cooking share similarities. "Moroccan cuisine is a delicious blend of Berber, Andalusian, Arab and Mediterranean cooking. Some of the popular dishes like Couscous, Tagine and Harira are Berber in origin," she wrote on her blog site.

Ambassador H.E. Mr. Maliki added during his remarks that, "Here comes Mesmerizing Morocco in Incredible India. Morocco and India have many things in common, especially culture. We share the love for food, for use of spices and elaborate cooking. Moroccans do not measure the ingredients when they cook, they use their hand which comes from experience. Just like Indian food, Moroccan food is also prepared patiently, with lots of love and dedication."

***Around 40 journalists and food bloggers attended the event.***



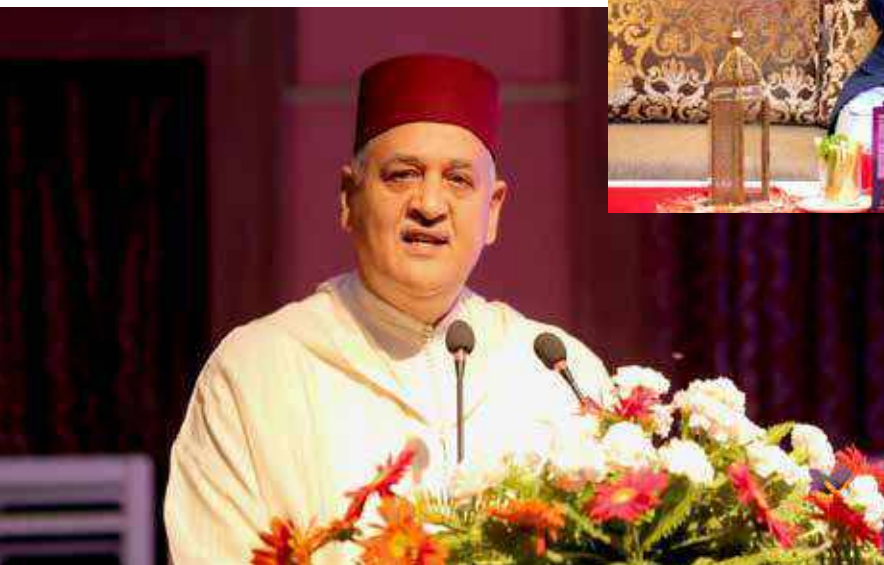




# 20th Anniversary of the Enthronement Celebrations in Nepal



The Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco in New Delhi (India) led by Ambassador, H. E. Mr. Mohamed Maliki alongwith Honorary Consul in Kathmandu, Mr. Basant K. Chaudhary celebrated the 20th Anniversary of the Enthronement of HM King Mohammed VI.



The special event was held on 2nd August in Kathmandu and Vice President of Nepal, Mr. Nanda Kishor Pun was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

A musical concert was organised to mark the celebration with Moroccan artist and singer,







Ms. Karima Skalli. Well known lute player Mr. Haj Younes, along with singer and percussion player, Mr. Rachid Rais, organ player Mustapha Regragui and violin

player Ahmed Regragui formed the Moroccan musical group.

First Secretary, Mr. Hicham Bayar with his family and Third

Secretary, Mr. Mohamed Wail Benabdellah from the Moroccan Embassy in New Delhi also travelled to Kathmandu to participate in the event. ■





## Ambassador of India Presents Copy of Credentials in Morocco



Photo: Embassy of India, Rabat

Mr. Nasser Bourita, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation received a copy of Credentials from Ambassador of India to Morocco, Mr. Shambhu Kumaran on July 17, 2019

## Simplification of Business Visa Procedure Between India and Morocco

Following the visit of India's External Affairs Minister of India to Morocco on 17th - 18th February, 2019 and signing of Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of India and the Kingdom of Morocco, on the reciprocal facilitation of procedures for issue of Business Visa, it has been decided to implement the same from 01 April 2019.

Salient features of the agreement are as follows:

- Each party shall issue business visas with multiple entries valid for a period of 12 months to visitor investor of the other country, on a case to case basis, who submits a request letter issued by a company duly recognised by that Party; a Chamber of Commerce and Industry, business and trade promotion council or business organisation duly recognised by that Party.
- Business visa seekers would be required to submit necessary documents, in accordance with the visa regulations, in addition to, as appropriate, notes verbales, official letters or letters of approval or invitation letters along with applicable visa fees;
- Business visas will be granted in seven (07) working days as far as possible, from the date of receipt of all required documents;
- Business visa holders would be required to register themselves with the competent authorities in case the aggregate stay on Business visa exceeds 180 days during a calendar year.

Source: Embassy of India, Rabat (Morocco)







# “Morocco and India Have Many Similarities in Music”- Haj Youness

The Moroccan artist and lute player, Mr. Haj Youness made his ninth trip to India. On the occasion of 20th Anniversary of the Enthronement of HM King Mohammed VI, following his performance in New Delhi and Kathmandu, he gave an interview to Journalist Harun Riaz. Awarded with Lute d'Or (Golden Lute) in 1983 by late King Hassan II, following are the excerpts of the conversation;

## How did you become a Lute player in Morocco?

.....  
You know when you are a child, interests and hobbies develop. My interests in musical instrument happened because of my childhood friends. As I was growing up my liking for playing Lute happened. Lute is made from wood and is like the belly of a duck. Lute is also more rich than the western guitar. The instrument offers more space and provides more depth, while playing it.

## You have travelled to India nine times and performed at various locations and settings. What has been the response of the Indian audience and understanding, to your musical performance?

.....  
Firstly, the love and affection shown by Moroccans for India is enormous. I was influenced by Indian movies made by Raj Kapoor, Shammi Kapoor and others. The songs and music of popular Hindi movies were learnt by heart. In my childhood I watched Hindi movies.

As an artists I have travelled to more than 45 countries worldwide, but affection, warmth and appreciation shown by the Indian audience is special. The audience here appreciates music, culture and performances by musicians. I strongly feel that there is a certain rhythmic fusion which is unique to Morocco and India.



## Can you tell us about the interest in arts and culture among the young generation of Moroccans? What about music curriculum at school and college level? And is the advent of modern technology making youth go away from traditional forms of art and culture?

.....  
On the contrary, the digital technology has in fact, popularised traditional art and culture more than the legacy media. Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, Google and Twitter have tremendously increased the reach of our arts. You just enter the name of any artist and you get all the details in seconds on world wide web.

In Morocco, we have special classes for artistic education including in smaller cities. How to play an instrument, how to sing, paint, perform etc. Our arts and culture are centuries old, have deep roots and modern technology

or the western influence will fail to prevent its continuity, growing popularity and fusion with other countries.

## How difficult or easy it is to make a career in the field of music in Morocco?

.....  
Let me inform readers that I am also a Professor to teach Lute in Morocco. I was also the Director General of all the concerts (total nine), and my office was based in Casablanca. At the same time, Morocco has some of the most talented artists today including Lute players. It is with happiness I can say that Lute as a musical instrument is as popular as ever.

HM King Mohammed VI gives lot of support to arts and music. Two big opera houses are being constructed in Casablanca and Rabat. Once operational, these will give lot of opportunities to the young Moroccan artists. ■





# Moroccan Sahara Through the Lens

Journalist Harun Riaz travelled to the southern provinces of the Kingdom of Morocco in the month of June 2019. During the three days of media work, he met with spectrum of officials and other stake holders, who are spearheading the inclusive development of the Moroccan Sahara.

Following are images captured for publication in “Morocco In Focus” 2019 edition. An analytical article featuring the conversations with Moroccan officials will be published online;



Director of Regional Investment Center of Laâyoune  
Sakia El Hamra, Mr. Mohamed Boumesmar



Governor of Tarfaya, Mr. Mohamed Hamim with visiting  
Journalist Harun Riaz



The water desalination plant for Laâyoune



Port in El Marsa







The sixth Vice President of City Council of Laâyoune Sakia El Hamra, Ms. Alia Hamani with visiting Journalist Harun Riaz



The members of Observatory of Sahara for Peace, Democracy and Human Rights (SPDH) in Laâyoune



Sports infrastructure in Laâyoune



The Museum of Aviator, Antoine de Saint-Exupéry in Tarfaya



The fisheries project in Laâyoune Sakia El Hamra



The ongoing development in Laâyoune Sakia El Hamra







Sumptuous lunch under the tent with tribal leaders of Laâyoune in Moroccan Sahara



Luncheon meeting with tribal leaders of El Marsa in Moroccan Sahara





## **The Southern Agency, Actor Development in the Southern Provinces of the Kingdom of Morocco**

The Agency for the Promotion and Economic and Social Development of the Kingdom's Southern provinces has as a mission studying and proposing strategies of development, federating efforts of different ministerial departments and seeking means of necessary funding in order to promote the concept and the accomplishment of projects of a undoubted economic and social impact.

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