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His Majesty King Mohammed VI Announces US \$ 12.8 Billion Recovery Plan for Moroccan Economy

His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco delivered his annual speech on the eve of the 21st anniversary of his accession to the throne, on July 29, 2020.

His Majesty King Mohammed VI while addressing citizens on the occasion of the nation wherein he drew a roadmap for economic revival and social integration amidst the COVID-19 pandemic that dealt a serious blow to the economy and to the income of households.

The Monarch announced a number of initiatives to revive the economy, including the launch of an ambitious economic stimulus plan to enable the productive sectors to recover and to increase their ability to provide jobs and

preserve sources of income. The initiatives also include the injection of US \$ 12.8 Billion into the national economy, the creation of a strategic investment fund to stimulate productive activities and support major public-private investment projects, and the expansion of social welfare coverage to all Moroccans within the next five years.

“Our action is not limited to simply facing up to the current epidemic. We also aim to address its social and economic effects by building on a comprehensive, future-oriented approach and

by drawing lessons from this experience,” King Mohammed VI said in the speech delivered on the eve of the celebration by Morocco of Throne Day, marking this year the 21st anniversary of the enthronement.

The Covid-19 crisis has revealed a number of drawbacks, especially in the social field, the Monarch noted, mentioning among these shortcomings the size of the informal sector, the inadequacy of social safety nets – especially for the most vulnerable groups – and the exposure of a number of sectors to external fluctuations.



The Governor of Bank Al-Maghrib, Mr. Abdellatif Jouahri presented the annual report of the Central Bank on the economic, monetary and financial situation for the fiscal year 2019 to HM King Mohammed VI on 29th July, 2020.





HM King Mohammed VI delivered a speech to the nation on occasion of the 67th anniversary of the Revolution of the King and the People on 20th August 2020.

“Consequently, we should seize the opportunity of the current situation to reconsider our priorities and to lay the foundations for a strong, competitive economy and for a more inclusive social model,” HM said, calling the Government and the various stakeholders to focus on the challenges and the priorities imposed by the current juncture.

“We need, first, to launch an ambitious economic stimulus plan to enable our productive sectors to recover and to increase their ability to provide jobs and preserve sources of income. This means we must mobilize all available resources, offer incentives and come up with solidarity measures to support businesses, especially small and medium-sized enterprises, which are the backbone of our economy,” King Mohammed VI underlined.

The Monarch announced, in this regard, that US \$ 12.8 Billion will be injected into the national economy, which represents 11% of the country’s GDP (2019). This

proportion will place Morocco at the forefront of the most enterprising countries in terms of post-crisis stimulus packages, he stated.

“I have also decided that a strategic investment fund should be set up to stimulate productive activities and support major public-private investment projects in various sectors,” the King announced, explaining that the State will contribute to this fund, which will be in charge of the streamlining and coordination of other funds.

The Monarch reiterated his calls for speeding up a sweeping reform of the civil service, and for addressing the structural deficiencies of public institutions and state enterprises to achieve, he said “optimal integration and increase these institutions’ economic and social effectiveness.”

The projects and initiatives launched and the reforms introduced aim to accomplish one goal, which is to promote development and achieve social

justice and inter-regional cohesion, he recalled, insisting that one of the foremost objectives, in this respect, is the provision of social protection for all Moroccans.

“This will remain my chief concern until all segments of society are properly covered,” he said deeming that time has come to launch a decisive process for the expansion of social welfare coverage to all Moroccans within the next five years.

This project needs to be implemented gradually, as of January 2021, using a well thought-out plan, starting with compulsory health coverage and family allowances, then moving on to pension and unemployment benefits.

Such a plan requires tangible reform of current social protection systems and programs in order to increase their direct impact on beneficiaries, especially through the rolling-out of the national social register, the King said, underlining that universal access to social protection coverage





HM King Mohammed VI, accompanied by HRH Crown Prince Moulay El Hassan, chaired, on 6th July 2020 at the Royal Palace in Rabat, a Council of Ministers, during which the general guidelines of amending the 2020 appropriation bill were examined in addition to the approval of several draft laws, a draft decree and several international agreements.

should serve as a lever for the integration of the informal sector into the nation's economic fabric.

"Therefore, I call on the Government to complete the development, together with the social actors concerned, of a comprehensive, practical approach that includes the timetable, legal framework and financing options needed to achieve effective universal social protection."

To attain this goal, "we must uphold good governance, which is based on constructive social dialogue and on the principles of integrity, transparency and fairness, and see to it that any perversion or exploitation of this lofty social project for political gain is avoided," King Mohammed VI said, urging all the nation's stakeholders, without exception to show a sense of patriotism and responsibility, both individually and collectively, and to be actively involved in the national endeavors to handle the current situation efficiently and

tackle its economic and social repercussions.

Addressing a population of 37 million citizens, the King said he is aware of the magnitude of the "adverse effects this crisis has had, not just on public health, but also at social and economic levels." The King said that the crisis affected all productive sectors. Family incomes, as well as the state budget, have also been "severely impacted."

Before going through details of the pandemic-induced crisis, the monarch issued a lengthy statement of thanks to Moroccan citizens, security units, and health professionals for their patriotism, solidarity, and contribution to the national campaign to fight the pandemic.

"I want you to know that I care as much about the Moroccan citizens' health and the safety of their family members as I do about my own children and my smaller family – even more so

in the difficult times Morocco and the world are going through today as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic."

This year, however, King Mohammed VI defined a clear deadline for the reform, saying all Moroccans must benefit from social security in the next five years. The Moroccan government should begin the reform in January 2021 through a gradual plan, the King stressed.

To do so, King Mohammed VI emphasized the importance of creating a national unified register. The register would allow the inclusion of workers in the informal sector and guarantee equality in access to social security for all Moroccans, he said.

King Mohammed VI concluded his speech on an optimistic note, quoting the Quran: "Allah puts no burden on any person beyond what He has given him. After a difficulty, Allah will soon grant relief."





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Management of Pandemics by Sultans and Kings in the Kingdom of Morocco



Sultan Mohammed Ben Abderrahman (1859 – 1873)

In older times and centuries back, the Kingdom of Morocco was known as The Empire of Morocco, a well-established old nation with administrative and territorial organisation similar to modern times. The world, as it was in the 19th and 20th centuries, witnessed and underwent not less than forty-five (45) pandemics,

such as: black plague, small pox, tuberculosis, leprosy and cholera...etc.

Most of the aforesaid pandemics were imported and were not locally outburst, following which the closure of borders by the Sultans and Kings of the Moroccan Empire was of a paramount importance. While the country

was facing any epidemic resulting from a pandemic, the Alaoui Sultans¹ and Kings undertook public health programmes, most of which concerned the isolation of the infected, providing them treatment, and the prevention from having mass deaths among the population living in different parts of Morocco.

Moreover, the Sultans reduced the contacts with the outside world, during pandemics and it has been reported that even letters and couriers the Empire received were disinfected with vinegar.

Most importantly, during the times of epidemics, the Sultans / Kings took particular care to ensure that their fellow citizens had adequate food. Indeed, in normal times, the Rulers of the Empire used the food stockpiles in two ways: pre-emptively, to protect consumers from the effects of hoarding and speculation, mainly during difficult times such as pandemics, natural catastrophes and calamities, they used them as a form of disaster respite and relief.

The Empire authorities usually controlled and had closer eyes on most of the major port cities in the country and had almost a monopoly on foreign diplomacy and trade, so that the Sultans are able to control the market and manage it while keeping balance between offer and demand. They were, thus, able to conduct an important export trade in grain and other food products. Under

¹Sultan, Arabic Sul n, originally, according to the Qur n, moral or spiritual authority; the term later came to denote political or governmental power and from the 11th century was used as a title by Muslim sovereigns.



normal circumstances, Morocco was a neat exporter of food products, particularly grain.

However, in times of crises, these authorities restricted sales of food to foreign merchants and made special arrangements, also, to import food from abroad and ensure a good stock for the population. Food products were especially important during the reign of Sultan Mohammed Ben Abdellah (Sultan of Morocco from 1757 to 1790 under the Alaouite dynasty), who undertook infrastructure works of most of the port facilities and who also established a major new international port of the then known as Mogador city (currently called Essaouira).

Equally important, the lockdown called “*Quarantina*”² was also of frequent use at times of pandemics. Orders of confinement from Sultans were transmitted by *Caid*s³ and *Pachas*⁴, who are always the key elements in managing crisis and pandemics in particular, to the citizens throughout the country. It is to be mentioned that it was well established that the Moroccan Sultans largely enjoyed a spiritual prestige and a popular respect among their population in the Empire.



Sultan Moulay Ismail Ben Sharif (1672–1727)

The Empire of Morocco's location, with its long coastline, gives this North African State a wide openness on European, African and Arab countries. Therefore, cause and effect of pandemics and epidemics were well known and structured. The objective of the Rulers was to prevent that any pandemic be transformed into an epidemic inside the Empire. So promptness in the Sultans and

Kings' reaction and management was crucial, knowing that if pandemics / epidemics were not tackled seriously they may reach a point of out break, difficult to contain and would lead to a disaster and loss of lives.

Records tell us that most of the epidemics that hit the Empire of Morocco came from abroad, either by sea via the northern

ports, especially Tangier and Tetouan, or by land via the roads from neighbour countries. The Sultans were perfectly aware about this fact and would react accordingly in case of need.

In this regard, when the Sultan Ahmed Al-Mansour Eddahbi (who ruled between the years 1578 and 1603) comprehended that the plague had spread in

²Quarantina : Latin word for quarantine transformed to Moroccan dialect.

³Caid : a Muslim local administrator, judge, and tax collector in Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia. b : a chief especially of the Berber tribal communities of the Atlas region.

⁴Pacha : title of a man of high rank or office in the Ottoman Empire and North Africa. It was the highest official title, always used with a proper name, which it followed.





Some of the pandemics, on the other side, entered the Moroccan Empire through the pilgrims when they returned from the East (Mecca). Hence, the closure of places of worship was mandatory. In the year 1056, for example, collective prayers were suspended and mosque doors were closed to protect from the Black Plague or Black Death. As for the pilgrimage, many of Maliki Ulamas⁵¹ (*Morocco's officially followed doctrine*) issued *fatwas* (religious pronouncements) defending that the preservation of lives was more important than religious duties. As preached by Almighty God and the Prophet Mohammad, Peace Be Upon Him, preserving lives precedes worshipping. In 1897, Alaoui Sultan, Moulay Abdelaziz (1894-1908) ordered the suspension of the pilgrimage to Mecca for health, and, partly, political reasons.

The Moroccan Sultans like Ismail Ben Chrif (1672-1727) Mohammed Ben Abdellah (1757-1790) and Mohammed Ben Abderrahman (1859-1873) distributed money and supplies among those in need in difficult



times, including during the periods of pandemics. In addition, the authorities distributed seeds among farmers, imported food,

fixed prices, and fought against speculation. Assistance was not limited to providing food and helping to the poor, but rather, was a hard smack on the monopolists and food hidiers, who were considered to be the main reason for the high cost of living.

In the 21st Century, the Kingdom of Morocco observed the spread of few viruses, including, to name but Records tell us that the recent two, the pandemic known as H1N1, in 2009, and the current Covid-19 as

Records tell us that most of the epidemics that hit the Empire of Morocco came from abroad, either by sea via the northern ports, especially Tangier and Tetouan, or by land via the roads from neighbour countries.

⁵Ulamas : scholars well acquainted with religious preaching.





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So promptness in the Sultans and Kings' reaction and management was crucial, knowing that if pandemics / epidemics were not tackled seriously they may reach a point of outbreak difficult to contain and would lead to a disaster and loss of lives

.....

participation of the military health staff, hand in hand, with the civilian health workers, are only few examples of the decisions taken by Morocco, under His Majesty's leadership, during these critical times that the humanity is facing.

With the same noble objective of the Moroccan Sultans during the past periods of pandemics, His Majesty the King Mohammed VI has been leading Morocco's fight



Morocco's King Mohammed VI (Since 1999)

a part of the worldwide corona virus pandemic. Once again, the Royal management of this crisis was globally recognized and efficacious.

Therefore, while combating this pandemic, His Majesty Mohammed VI, King of Morocco, being the 23rd King of the Alaoui Dynasty of the Kingdom, is following the paths of his predecessors, the Sultans. As the virus outbreak widened in many

places around the globe, His Majesty traced many measures to fight the epidemic, the majority of them were pre-emptive and were taken before registering any case of Covid-19 in the Kingdom.

The complete closure of land, maritime and air borders of Morocco, the Royal decision to create the Covid-19's Fund, in order to upgrade the medical infrastructure and to support the national economy, the

against the Covid-19 pandemic with a series of unprecedented and bold initiatives, prioritizing people's safety in Morocco on the economy on the national level.

South-South Cooperation and solidarity towards countries in need was not at rest, since the Kingdom offered assistance and aid in medical equipments to fifteen African countries and also to the Commission of the African Union.



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Morocco-Africa Solidarity During Covid 19 Challenge

By Harun Riaz



Mr. Nasser Bourita, Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates

The protective medical gears and anti-covid-19 drugs sent by Morocco's King to several African countries to help them cope with the coronavirus pandemic continue to receive widespread appreciation as a move which brings in hope, comfort and solidarity to the continent.

Hard times always reveal true friends and Morocco never leaves his African brothers combating alone a deadly virus. Sensing their urgent medical needs, King Mohammed VI rushed to help. He decided to send to 15 African countries nearly 8 million facemasks, 900,000 face shields, 600,000 hygiene caps, 60,000 protective clothing and 30,000 liters of sanitizers in addition to 75,000 packs of chloroquine and 15,000 packs of Azithromycin.

To ensure that this vital medical aid for the treatment of covid-19 patients reach its destination despite borders closures, Moroccan flag-carrier Royal Air Maroc (RAM) has mobilized its fleet to deliver this most-coveted items in the world to African countries.





A Royal Air Maroc cargo plane landed in Niamey, Republic of Niger on 14th June 2020, carrying a batch of protective medical equipment destined for Niger, as part of the medical aid granted, upon the instructions from His Majesty King Mohammed VI, to several brotherly African countries to support them in their efforts to fight the coronavirus.

Several countries have received the Moroccan medical aid. These include Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Comoros, Congo, Eswatini, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Malawi, Mauritania, Niger, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Senegal, Tanzania, Chad and Zambia.

In Addis Ababa, Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC), Quartey Kwesi said the Royal decision to send medical aid to several brotherly African countries to support their efforts to combat COVID-19 shows the King's active solidarity with Africa. In a meeting held at the AU headquarters with Morocco's Permanent Representative to the AU and UNECA, Mr. Kwesi said Morocco has always been "the first country to show up in good and bad times", which proves "that it is a true friend and a close brother" of Africa.

"The heart of Morocco has always been in Africa and this goes back to the African national liberation era", said the AUC deputy chairman.

For his part, the EU Commissioner for Economic Affairs Victor Harison expressed sincere

thanks to King Mohammed VI, the Moroccan government and people for the medical aid, saying the royal initiative gives the example of solidarity in Africa. AU Commissioner for human resources Sarah Mbi Enow Anyang Agbor also thanked the Moroccan Monarch for his supportive move, saying the medical aid sent by the Sovereign backs the efforts made by African countries to curb the coronavirus epidemic.

"We have a shared responsibility towards our continent, Africa. We must draw inspiration from the example set by King Mohammed VI", she stressed, praising the landmark cooperation, initiatives and projects launched by King Mohammed VI to boost inter-African integration, citing in this regard the Nigeria-Morocco gas pipeline project and the Moroccan fertilizer complex project in Ethiopia.



Minister of Foreign Affairs of Zambia, Mr. Joseph Malanji, on June 18, 2020 received Covid19 medical aid from the Kingdom of Morocco. The banner shows Morocco-Zambia friendship, taken at Lusaka Airport.





Moroccan medical aid for Côte d'Ivoire arrives in Abidjan. Banner displaying Morocco-Cote d'Ivoire bilateral ties on June 20, 2020, upon arrival of special aircraft carrying Covid19 medical aid upon the instructions from His Majesty King Mohammed VI.



The Commissioner for Social Affairs of the African Union, Ms. Amira Elfadil received the medical aid from the Kingdom of Morocco to prevent the spread of Covid19 pandemic in African continent. Talking to the media at Adis Ababa Airport, Ms. Elfadil appreciated the donation and said "this donation represents the values of support and solidarity between AU Member States. We agreed to fight COVID-19 through unity and solidarity."

In the Comoro Republic, one of the beneficiary countries of the royal anti-covid-19 medical aid, Mohamed El-Amine Souef, Foreign Minister of these Islands, said the royal initiative ushers in "a new step in South-South and African cooperation". It also reflects the fraternal and friendly ties existing between the Union of the Comoros and the North African Kingdom, added the Comorian top diplomat.

The speaker of the Pan-African Parliament Roger Nkodo Dang and SG of the Forum of Presidents of the Legislative Powers of Central America and the Caribbean (FOPREL) Santiago Rivas Leclair also commended the Moroccan medical aid to African countries.

HM King Mohammed VI's initiative to provide medical aid to brotherly African countries to back their efforts to fight the COVID-19 pandemic, "illustrates Morocco's

firm and permanent commitment to the continent," said Monday Jean-Patrice Koe, director of the office of the Pan-African Parliament (PAP), headquartered in South Africa.

"HM the King's initiative is highly appreciated at the continental level, as it mirrors the firm and permanent commitment of HM the King and Morocco to Africa," Koe told MAP.

"This is an initiative that must be welcomed once again and we thank Morocco for the efforts it is making continuously for the benefit of the African continent," said the PAP official. Noting that Morocco had already anticipated the consequences of the pandemic of the new Coronavirus, Koe stressed that, under the leadership of HM the King, the Moroccan industry has been able to adapt to the new realities imposed by COVID-19.

He added that the Royal Initiative is timely to highlight the values of sharing expertise and good practices. "This testifies and confirms the human aspect of the initiative, showing the way forward to strengthen the ties of cooperation and solidarity between African countries," he said.

The Permanent Representatives to the AU have also hailed the royal initiative showing the





Kingdom's firm solidarity with African countries during the global health crisis.

Similarly, Chad's Public Health Minister, Mahamoud Youssouf Khayal after receiving the aid said, "This donation of high quality comes at a timely moment and testifies to the high esteem that HM King Mohammed VI and the Moroccan people have for the Chadians,".

Youssouf Khayal, who expressed his sincere thanks to HM King Mohammed VI on behalf of the President of the Republic and the people of Chad, highlighted the

In New York, African ambassadors to the UN lauded Morocco's praiseworthy humanitarian gesture.

Commissioner for Trade and Industry of the African Union Commission, Albert M. Muchanga, has welcomed the initiative of HM King Mohammed VI to send medical aid to several brotherly African countries to support them in their efforts to fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, noting that in addition to this aid, Morocco can be a major supplier of products made in the Kingdom to Africa.

is not the only UN organization to commend Morocco's support for its fellow African countries. The World Health Organization (WHO) also issued a statement to express appreciation for Morocco's initiative to ship medical supplies to other African nations.

The United States commended on the occasion of Throne Day that HM King Mohammed VI for his support to fellow African countries as they address the challenges posed by COVID-19, highlighting the US-Moroccan partnership for a more peaceful and prosperous



Moroccan medical aid to fight Covid19 pandemic handed over to Guinea-Bissau.

long tradition of friendship and closeness woven by history and culture between the two peoples. Morocco is present in every Chadian house through rituals, cuisine, architecture, among others, he said.

This "extraordinary Moroccan aid" to Chad is "a sign that African solidarity is on the march and Morocco is one of its driving forces," the minister added, reiterating his warm thanks to His Majesty King Mohammed VI.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) expressed satisfaction with Morocco's decision to donate medical aid to 15 African countries.

A statement from FAO, quoted by Maghreb Arab Press (MAP), said the organization "wishes to salute the solidarity of King Mohammed VI with African countries that received medical aid from Morocco" to help them in their fight against COVID-19. FAO

Africa. "Over the course of the past year, we have continued to work together to create a more peaceful and prosperous Africa," said US secretary of state Mike Pompeo in a statement.

The United States, Germany and several others countries and international organizations have all welcomed Morocco's solidarity, its championing of south-south cooperation and its leadership in the fight against the coronavirus pandemic. ■





Celebration in India of the 21st Anniversary of the Enthronement of His Majesty Mohammed VI, King of Morocco

The Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco in New Delhi, organised a virtual event to celebrate the 21st anniversary of the Enthronement Day on July 30, 2020. Chief Guest, India's Minister of State for External Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs, Hon'ble Mr. V. Muraleedharan congratulated His Majesty King Mohammed VI and the people of Morocco and hailed Morocco-India bilateral ties.



Chief Guest representing the Government of India, Hon'ble Mr. V. Muraleedharan, Minister of State for External Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs.

Minister Muraleedharan termed the Morocco-India relationship as friendly with both nations having ancient civilization and deep historical connections and explained that under the framework of South-South cooperation, the bilateral ties has blossomed in key significant areas. Over the last four years 22 Ministerial visits have taken place, resulting in more than 38 new agreements and MoUs including in the areas of counter terrorism, extradition and space, Chief Guest explained and further added that bilateral trade has crossed US \$ 2 billion.

Delivering his keynote address, Minister Muraleedharan appreciated the ongoing efforts of the Moroccan Government in containing the Covid19 pandemic. "With decisive actions and programmes, the Government of Morocco has presented a model of good governance in this difficult phase, prioritising lives and livelihood of citizens," said the Chief Guest and expressed the gratitude of the Indian Government for the facilitation of special flight from Morocco, to bring back Indian citizens stranded due to Covid19 pandemic.



H.E. Mr. Mohamed Maliki, Morocco's Ambassador to India, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka.





The Ambassador of Morocco, H.E. Mr. Mohamed Maliki thanked the Chief Guest Minister Muraleedharan stating that it reflected positively on bilateral relations between Morocco and India.

Ambassador Maliki in his address during the special occasion stated that since the accession of HM King Mohammed VI to the Throne of His Glorious Ancestors, in 1999, Morocco has celebrated gloriously this event, without disruption, on 30th July of every year except for this year (2020), because of the pandemic situation worldwide.

“His Majesty decided to postpone the official celebrations and activities in order to preserve lives and avoid the propagation of Covid-19 among the population that used to celebrate; and participate massively to different events organised on this occasion. The Enthronement Day is indeed the flagship event of the year. It is much more than a mere celebration; it underlines the solid bonds between the Monarch and the Moroccan people and constitutes an occasion for a renewed allegiance from their part to the King. It is an act which has been carried out continuously for centuries, an act which emphasizes the symbiosis that has always characterized the links between the people and the King consecrated through the bonds of allegiance,” Ambassador Maliki elaborated.

“Besides the celebration itself, the event has always been an opportunity to take stock of what was achieved and offers a timely occasion to set the tone for the future with regards to the path that should be followed in many areas for the betterment of the lives of the population and the socio-



Mr. Ratan N. Tata, Chairman Emeritus of TATA Sons

economic development of the country. The traditional speech of His Majesty on this occasion has always been eagerly awaited, in this regards,” Ambassador Maliki explained.

“Since the Throne Day is an occasion to take stock of what has been done, it is with satisfaction to acknowledge that during the current year, and while building up on the strategic partnership between Morocco and India

decided in 2015 by our two leaders, HM King Mohammed VI and Prime Minister of India, Mr. Narendra Modi, both our Embassies have worked tirelessly to implement the orientations of this important project by setting up its essential foundations and giving it a concrete content,” Ambassador Maliki highlighted and further added that “The reinforcement of the legal framework remains an important part in this exercise as it constitutes the backbone of the bilateral cooperation. In this regard,

it is indeed gratifying to note that for the last three years only, more than 43 agreements and MoUs have been concluded between the two parties in various fields and areas including investment, trade, air services, culture, tourism, defence, education, infrastructure, health, ITCs etc... Even during the current difficult situation of the pandemic, a MoU was signed, on Friday, that is on 24th of July, between the The Supreme Council of the Judicial Power of



Dean of the Diplomatic Corps in New Delhi, the Ambassador of Dominican Republic, H.E. Mr. Hans Dannenberg Castellanos.





H.E. Alem Tsehaye Woldemariam, Dean of African Group Heads of Mission in India and Ambassador of Eritrea in India

the Kingdom of Morocco and the Supreme Court of India. This shows that the will of Rabat and New Delhi is stronger than any

pandemic. This gesture will undoubtedly enhance solidarity between the two regions and confirm, if need be, the place and role of India as the pharmacy of the world.



Chairman of RJ Corp, Mr. Ravi Kant Jaipuria.

juncture”.

The current pandemic has changed our behaviours dramatically but it also reinforced cooperation to combat it. I would like to take this occasion to thank the Government of India and particularly the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Mr. Modi, for facilitating the purchase of medicines by the Government of Morocco. India is also recognised to have provided to quite a good number of countries, especially from our continent, Africa, assistance in medicines and medical equipments to help them fight the scourge of Covid-19



Prof. Dr. Zikrur Rahman, former Indian Ambassador and Director of India Islamic Centre.

“It is also a great occasion to point out in the same vein, that His Majesty took many initiatives towards many countries in the African continent in order to help them overcome these difficult times with lesser effects. Indeed Morocco granted medical equipments for protection mainly to 15 African brotherly and friendly countries, besides the African Union Commission. Most of these products were made in Morocco,” Ambassador Maliki stated while concluding his address.

For the Embassy of Morocco, it has been a privilege for many

years with the participation of India's great industrialist, Mr. Ratan Tata in the festivities of Moroccan National Day. This year too, Mr. Tata, who is Chairman Emeritus of Tata Sons, congratulated HM King Mohammed VI via a recorded video message.

Dean of the Diplomatic Corps in New Delhi, the Ambassador of Dominican Republic, H.E. Mr. Hans Dannenberg Castellanos also attended the virtual event. He congratulated HM King Mohammed VI for the 21st Enthronement Day and the people of Morocco. He was specially appreciative of the containment efforts being put in by the Moroccan Government

to control Covid19 pandemic. Ambassador Castellanos looked forward to a direct air connectivity between Morocco and India and also mentioned that he has visited the Kingdom several times and loves the food and the people.

The other dignitaries who attended the virtual celebratory event, were Dean of African Head of Group and Heads of Mission in India, and Ambassador of Eritrea, Mr. Alem Tsehaye Woldemariam, Director of India Islamic Centre, Prof. Dr. Zikrur Rehman and Chairman of RJ Corp, Mr. Ravi Kant Jaipuria.





“Morocco Offers Stability and Safety of Businesses to Indian Companies” - *Ambassador Maliki*

The Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco has further strengthened and consolidated the bilateral bonds with India, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka. Hence, Rabat is, now, closer to New Delhi, Thimphu, Malé, Kathmandu and Colombo. An Interview by [Harun Riaz](#).

Excellency, you presented Credentials as an Ambassador of Morocco to India on February 15, 2017. It has been observed both in India and in Morocco, that Morocco-India ties have gained momentum and bilateral engagements have multiplied. What has been your role as an Ambassador representing the Kingdom?

.....
Being the Ambassador of His Majesty Mohammed VI, the King of Morocco, May God Assist Him, is an immense honor, for me, and a tremendous privilege. Moreover, being the Ambassador of His Majesty in a great country with an ancient civilization, like India, has been and, still, is more a huge responsibility besides being an honor.

I must say that usually the role of all Ambassadors representing their countries abroad is almost similar and consists of developing the bilateral relations, increasing the level of trust between their countries of origin and those of accreditation and bringing their views closer on a wide range of issues. It is also determined by the bilateral interests the countries have for each other and the intensity of their exchanges in different areas, including people to people contacts as they constitute the backbone of any relation.

Coming back to your question, An Ambassador is more of also a team leader and a manager. He is only one link, whatever strong it may be, among other links. Yet,

he assumes the full responsibility of the mission. To resume, an Envoy is like a bandmaster. All the members of the orchestra should tune their musical instruments on



The Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Mr. Narendra Modi, and the Ambassador of His Majesty the King of Morocco to India, H.E. Mohamed Maliki, during a brief exchange at Rashtrapati Bhavan (President House) in New Delhi on the occasion of India's Republic Day.





the same level to produce good music and satisfactory result.

As far as my role as the Ambassador of His Majesty the King of Morocco to the Republic of India is concerned, I would like to point out that my assignment took effect one year after the historical visit of His Majesty the King to India in October 2015 and to take part in the 3rd India-Africa Forum Summit. During this visit, His Majesty the King and the Honorable Prime Minister of India, H.E. Narendra Modi decided to elevate Morocco-India relationship to a new level of a genuine *Strategic Partnership*.

Thus, the role of the Embassy I have the honor to lead, has been always to contribute to further developing the political, economic, cultural and human relations between India and Morocco and building up a rich and concrete content within this framework.

You have mentioned that the bilateral commitments have multiplied. I must say that the main reason was the momentum given by the said historical visit of His Majesty the King to India, after which 23 Ministerial visits took place between the two countries in both ways. Since that visit, more than 43 Agreements and MoUs have been signed between the two countries; an average of one Agreement signed every month, which is a sign of the dynamic given to the bilateral relation between India and Morocco.

It is also important to underline the coordination between this Mission and the Embassy of India in Rabat, led by former Ambassador, H.E. Mr. Shambhu Kumaran in playing an important role for the materialization of these actions.

The Morocco-India bilateral trade though has grown slowly

between US \$ 1.4 billion, in 2016, to US \$ 2 billion in 2019, and also the trade favours the Kingdom due to fertilizer exports. What needs to be done to increase Indian investment and trade basket into Morocco?

.....
As mentioned earlier, the Morocco-India political relations are exemplary and in continuous development. However, it has been noticed that the bilateral trade did not follow this trend and grow at it should have given the potentials of both countries. The bilateral exchanges have registered an average of 1.6 billion US\$ yearly for the last decade.

I do admit, in this regard, that trade exchange and economic relations and investments have not taken stock fully of the political relations and from the high level of cooperation and collaboration bilaterally and multilaterally and understanding between the leaders of both countries, in



H.E. Mr. Mohamed Maliki, Ambassador of Morocco, met Hon'ble Dr. S. Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs of India, on March 11, 2020 in New Delhi at the Indian Ministry of External Affairs.





comparison of their respective potentials and to the bilateral trade of each of the two countries with the rest of the world.

In this regard, I would like to recall the meeting between the Moroccan Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Nasser Bourita and the former Indian Minister of External Affairs, late H.E. Sushma Swaraj in February 2019 in the Capital of Morocco, Rabat, during which they agreed that all facilitations would be extended so that India would be, in the next few years, among the top 15 commercial partners of Morocco. So the will has always been there and the way is for us to explore and implement.

Historically, phosphates and fertilizers are the top commodities on the list of those merchandises between Morocco and India. Furthermore, it is worth mentioning, in this regard, that Morocco, being the world's largest exporter of *Phosphate*, has decided to invest and contribute in ensuring food security of India based on the strong relations between the two countries and the spirit of a South-South cooperation.

As for the investment side, allow me to say again that His Majesty the King's visit to India in 2015 had a very big impact in increasing the number of investments to and from Morocco and India. India remains the largest receiver of Moroccan public investment in Asia, especially in the fertilizer and pharmaceutical sectors.

Likewise, in the last 4 years, the number of Indian companies present in Morocco has doubled. They cover many sectors, which were, till recently, a kind of privileged areas for Moroccan companies and their partners mainly from Europe, such as construction, pharmaceuticals, automotive, water and soda bottling, chemicals, IT, health, tourism, hospitality and others.

Among these Indian companies we can mention Onshore Construction, Sunpharma, Varun Beverages (PEPSI), Tata Motors, Sterling and Wilson, Larsen and Toubro, Satguru Travels, Gujarat Fluorochemicals Ltd., Oberoi Group, IM Gears, Mahindra & Mahindra to name but a few.

Meanwhile, the two countries are doing a remarkable effort in bringing the two business communities and people closer together, especially with the rich history and the economic development both countries enjoy in their respective regions.

To give a real impetus to their economic relations, the Indian and Moroccan Governments signed in Rabat, on the occasion of the visit of the then Foreign Minister to Rabat, in February 2019, a MoU for facilitating the visa process for their respective business communities. As a result, business people of both countries have been granted a longer validity for their entry visas to both countries.

I would like to add that, from my interactions with India's business community, it has been clear to me that the Indian companies and investors consider Morocco as a safe place to invest and are totally aware about the great progress that the Kingdom has achieved especially after Morocco progressed, in one year, from the 60th to the 53rd position in the recent "Ease of Doing Business report".

As you are in the middle of your fourth year as Ambassador to India and neighbouring South Asian nations of Sri Lanka, Nepal, Maldives and Bhutan, what are the new challenges, following the novel Corona virus outbreak and its ongoing effects on the economy?

.....
It is unfortunate to see how severe and aggressive the socio-economic

impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the global economic system and the national economies as well. However, whatever its level of severity, this global crisis shows us how interdependent countries are in the global value chain especially when it comes to medicines, medical equipment, food supply, technology and even workforce.

As you are aware, the majority of countries have implemented some kind of lockdowns, ranging from strict restrictions to complete confinement. This had a direct impact on the way the world used to interact, to produce and to trade. These lockdowns have caused a disturbance of the national production in most of the countries and resulted in a worldwide shortage and scarcity of most of the products.

This supply chain's disruption was not the only consequence of this pandemic on the economies. The restriction on the movement of people had a huge negative impact on all countries where the tourism industry represents a considerable part of their GDP.

In the middle of this, the main mission for any Ambassador is to find out the best ways to turn these challenges into opportunities by adapting to the new realities, creating new bridges, and emergency bridges if needed, between the country of origin and the country of accreditation.

Being an Ambassador in India during this pandemic has been a very special and challenging time for my colleagues and me. It is also important to see how India played a crucial role, recognized by the international community, as "the pharmacy of the world" namely in the beginning of this crisis. In this regard, I won't miss this opportunity to thank, once again, the Indian authorities for facilitating the purchase of





Ambassador H.E. Mr. Maliki met with Hon'ble Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of State (IC) for Civil Aviation, Housing and Urban Affairs and Minister of State for Commerce & Industry of India and discussed issues related to urban development, civil aviation access, trade & commerce between Morocco and India. The meeting was held in New Delhi on 13th November, 2019.

medicines by the Kingdom of Morocco during this critical times. The prompt response of the Government of India to the Moroccan request, at a time where restrictions were imposed on exporting medicines from India, testified the exceptional and strong existing relations between India and Morocco.

The other serious challenge has been how to bring assistance to Moroccan Nationals stranded in all the four countries to which the Embassy is accredited besides the country of Residence, India. The restrictions and the decision to suspend international flights from most of the countries, including Morocco and India, made the challenge even more difficult as most of the stranded people were not prepared financially as well as psychologically for long stays in the countries they visited either for training, studies, official visits, short-period missions or for tourism. The Embassy was mobilized 24/24 and 7/7 to assist those in need and whenever and wherever it is requested to provide assistance. I am particularly proud of all what my colleagues have accomplished in this regard.

Allow me, here, to underline the extraordinary effort that the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco has made to alleviate the sufferings of these people by paying their accommodation and providing medical assistance until the special relief flights were again operating. Now most of these people have already gone back home, few are in the process of finalizing their travel to Morocco. While looking back, I have a feeling coming from far to reach almost self-satisfaction despite few challenges. I seize this opportunity to thank and express my deep appreciation to the Authorities in Morocco and especially the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan expatriates, as well as to all members of the Embassy. They all proved to be at the level of the challenges posed by the pandemic and the exceptional and difficult juncture it led to.

Have you had dialogue with Indian policymakers to establish and enter the trade zone near Tanger-Med Port? This area is emerging as a promising business and

investment hub in Morocco and is connected to world ports.

.....
Everyone knows that business people look more for the political stability, the ease of doing business, the economic reforms, the incentives provided to foreign investors such as the total freedom of profit's transfer but also the availability of world class infrastructures such as new generation ports and logistic hubs.

The port of Tanger-Med, has become in few years one of the biggest ports' containers in the Mediterranean. It is a global logistics hub, located on the Strait of Gibraltar and connected, so far, to 186 global ports in different corners of the globe. It ensures a yearly handling capacity and processing of 9 million containers, 7 million passengers, 700,000 trucks and 1 million vehicles. This allows Tanger-Med to be an indispensable port in the global transportation scheme.

Tanger Med is also an industrial platform where more than 900 companies are present and





generate an annual business volume of 8,3 billion US\$ in various sectors such as the automotive, aerospace, logistics, textiles and trade...

Few Indian companies have already their industrial units in the industrial zone of Tangier-Med in few sectors like the fiber-optics, textile and plastic industry... Others are considering seriously to have a presence there, and benefit from the facilities it offers in terms of competitiveness and market free access to many countries and groupings like the US, Turkey, Arab and African countries, besides the European Union.

The Indian users of this world class infrastructure will also benefit from the strategic location of Morocco at the crossroad of Africa, Europe and the Arab world. This port could be a platform for India towards these regions and especially Africa.

In this regard, we keep updating the Indian competent authorities as well as the Indian business community on the ongoing development in such big projects in the Kingdom and the available opportunities they can benefit from, in order to further strengthen our economic ties.

But Tangier-Med is only one among quite a few logistic, industrial hubs and free zones in Morocco. Each one offers great opportunities and incentives to foreign investors including Indians. This Embassy stands ready to provide to the interested business people more detailed information on these zones and on Tanger-Med.

How much successful the Government of Morocco has been in developing "strategic ties" with India? And can you kindly explain this term as it is being used quite often these days during economic diplomacy deliberations.

.....

Let's start first with the term "Strategic ties" and allow me to say that the diversity and complexity of the international relations have led to the emergence of new expressions or concepts aiming at describing the level of the relationship between two countries or their common desire to further develop them in the future. It is both a strong signal and a commitment to deepen these ties and make them cover as many sectors as possible,

to share with each other. India has an advanced experience to share namely in technology, space and medicine, automotive, textiles among other sectors. On the other hand, Morocco has reached a recognised experience in food security, solar and renewable energies, counter-terrorism and combating extremism, to name but a few. Moreover, the Kingdom is a big player in Africa, a continent with whom India is very keen to develop stronger ties.



The Hon'ble Finance Minister of India, Mrs. Nirmala Sitharaman met with Ambassador H.E. Mr. Maliki in New Delhi. Issues of bilateral matters were discussed during the meeting held on 29th October, 2019.

including those considered to be sensitive like defense, intelligence, counterterrorism space....

Talking about a strategic relationship, more commonly known as Strategic partnership, means that relations between two given countries, have become mature enough and reached a very high level of understanding. This is usually achieved when a solid trust, mutual understanding on important issues and close coordination exist between them.

Regarding the strategic ties between both countries, I admit that India and Morocco have a lot

In this regard, I would like to mention the good number of Ministerial visits, around 23 bilaterally, which took place, in the last four years, between the two countries in various areas of interest and which were crowned by the signing of many Agreements and MoUs..

These high level visits, were the occasion to build up content for a strategic cooperation and, hence, partnership between both countries as decided by both leaders, His Majesty the King Mohammed VI and the Prime Minister of India, H.E. Narendra Modi.





Therefore, strategic fields have been added to the areas of focus in order to further strengthen the bilateral cooperation and bring it to a higher level between India and Morocco. These include defense, counter-terrorism, cyber security, space, air services, health and telemedicine, education, tourism, housing, water resources, mining and geology, railways, maritime, renewable energy, judicial cooperation, extradition, legal cooperation in criminal, civil and commercial matters, modernization and use of information technology and others.

As an illustration of the mutual trust existing between both countries, their Governments have recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the Mutual Recognition of Academic Qualifications, which means that the Moroccan and Indian diplomas and degrees are recognized as equals in both countries. This positive revolution in the educational links between Morocco and India will definitely encourage people-to-people connectivity and will open new horizons and create real opportunities for the young people of both sides.

Morocco and India have also decided to improve air connectivity between them by signing an updated Air Services Agreement which intends to further stimulate trade, investment, tourism and cultural and human exchanges between the two countries.

May I also ask, which are the other countries, with whom the Kingdom of Morocco has "strategic ties"?

Before all, it is important to recall that the Kingdom of Morocco is a Nation with a history of more than 12 centuries.

Going back in history, the Kingdom of Morocco sent an Ambassador

to England as back as in 1600 AD. Abdelouahed Anoun was the Envoy / Ambassador of the Moroccan Sultan Ahmad al-Mansur to the court of Queen Elizabeth I of England, whose primary task was to promote the establishment of an Anglo-Moroccan alliance.

Also, the Kingdom of Morocco was the first country to recognize the independence of the U.S.A on December 20, 1777. In 1786, a treaty of peace and friendship was signed by the two countries.

This is to say that the links of Morocco with the rest of the world were very ancient and have a direct impact on our today's diplomacy. The Kingdom of

France and Spain and to a large extent with the European Union, Morocco was keen to develop strong or strategic relations with other key players in the international scene, in particular the big and emerging powers, such as China, Russia, India, Turkey, Brazil, Countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

In this regard, I would like to emphasize that maintaining a high level of bilateral relations with India is also part of the His Majesty's Guidelines calling for the diversification of the Kingdom's partners.

In fact, the vision underlying Morocco's foreign relations since the beginning of the reign of His

Being an Ambassador in India during this pandemic has been a very special and challenging time for my colleagues and me

Morocco is one of the 54 countries of Africa, belonging at the same time to the Arab world and is 14 kilometers from Europe. These regions have always shaped and influenced largely the strategic ties / outreach of the Kingdom.

However, since His Accession to the Throne of his Glorious Ancestors, His Majesty the King Mohammed VI has reshaped the contours of the Moroccan diplomacy and established the bases of a foreign policy in line with the changes in the global geopolitics.

The Sovereign has made the very judicious choice of opening up to all players in international arena, making of the diversification of its partners a strategic choice. Thus, in addition to strengthening the bilateral cooperation with the Kingdom's historic partners, in particular with the Arab and West African countries, the US,

Majesty the King Mohammed VI has been focusing on strengthening the Kingdom's Cultural influence and economic presence, its cooperation, actions and its place among nations. At the backbone of this vision is the promotion of the values of peace and solidarity, development of South-South cooperation, commitment to the global effort to fight terrorism, among others.

Are there any joint ventures or technology transfer or business partnership possibilities in the health sector between Morocco and India, following the Covid-19 outbreak?

Well, one of the pillars on which the Strategic Partnership between India and Morocco is built is the health sector.

The specificity is that the cooperation in the health sector between the two countries was





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Morocco has reached a recognised experience in food security, solar and renewable energies, counter-terrorism and combating extremism, to name but a few.

.....

not dictated by the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic. It was discussed, decided and implemented few years back.

During a Ministerial visit to India, an Agreement was signed by the Governments of the two countries to enhance cooperation in several areas of health sector, namely in the non-communicable diseases, including child cardiovascular diseases and cancer, drug regulation and pharmaceutical quality control, communicable diseases and maternal, child and neonatal health.

This Agreement has also included other areas of cooperation such as hospital twinning for exchange of good practices and training in administration and management of health services.

During the same occasion, a MoU related to the cooperation in the field of telemedicine was signed between the Jawaharlal Institute of Post Graduate Medical Education and Research in Puducherry in India and the Mohamed VI University Hospital in Marrakech in Morocco. One of the focus areas under this MoU is the technical support in controlling epidemics.

Furthermore, in July 2018, a delegation comprising representatives from the Moroccan Ministry of Health and Mohammed VI University Hospital in Marrakech visited India for the First Meeting of the Morocco-India Joint Working Group under this MoU.

This is to say that the contact between the Indian and Moroccan health officials was persistent and uninterrupted even before the Covid-19 outbreak.

This dynamic did not benefit to the public sector only, the private sector has also been included and looks for opportunities within these frameworks. A number of Indian leading companies in the pharmaceutical industry in India, like Sun Pharma and Cipla, have also chosen Morocco to expand their activities.

It is worth mentioning that the Indian business community, particularly in the medicine sector, has become well-informed and conscious about the advantages of having a footprint in Morocco because of the easiness in doing business and in facilitating market access for all regions of Africa and Europe as well.

I must add that big names in the global pharmaceutical industry are progressively looking at Morocco as one of the best industrial hubs in Africa and in the Arab world, thanks to its strategic location, competitiveness, well-trained workforce and world-class infrastructure.

As a diplomat, how will you describe the experience of being in Delhi during Covid19 lockdown, fear of the virus infection, and absence of diplomatic get togethers?

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In fact, since the first day in their career, all diplomats consider themselves soldiers, without uniforms, in the service of their countries whatever the circumstances may be.

As Moroccan diplomats living in India during this pandemic, we felt like forgetting the fear of the virus as we were managing the

fear and anxiety of our stranded citizens not only in India, but in the neighboring countries such as Sri Lanka, Maldives and Nepal.

Since the closure of borders by the Moroccan authorities in mid-March 2020, we were working tirelessly in order to provide the necessary assistance to our stranded citizens, to ensure accommodation, and food and medicines for those in need.

Honestly, being focused on the management of this crisis helped us a lot. It allowed us to overcome the normal fear and stress that such pandemic provokes in every human being. Besides, it is always gratifying to serve our community in the region.

With regard to the absence of diplomatic functions and gatherings, I believe that, nowadays, diplomatic missions around the world are being used to this new situation which is called now the New Normal. In fact, what is clear enough is that diplomacy, with all its protocol's background and human interaction, has brilliantly proven its capacity to adapt itself to every time and circumstance.

This New Normal has also characterized the way the Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco celebrated the 21st Anniversary of the Enthronement of His Majesty the King Mohammed VI.

A virtual event has been organized to commemorate this important occasion and was marked by an official speech of the Honorable Minister of State for External Affairs & Parliamentary Affairs, Shri V. Muraleedharan, as the Chief Guest representing the Government of India, and by the delivery of special words from important Indian businessmen and great friends of Morocco, and from other high Indian and foreign dignitaries and diplomats. ■





Morocco-India Strategic Ties on Track

By Harun Riaz

Why India is expanding its relationship with the Kingdom of Morocco and gradually “strategic ties” route is getting strengthened? A detailed news analysis by Harun Riaz, following his back to back trips to Rabat, Casablanca, Fes, Tangier and Laayoune between 2016 and 2019. 2020 trip was planned, but Covid19 struck and it got postponed. The visiting journalist interacted with serving Ministers, researchers at think tanks, academics, business community and citizens from

cross section of society in the past five years, and found bonhomie, close cultural linkages, and desire to enhance people to people meetings.

The most immediate answer is phosphates and related food security. Phosphates are used for fertilizer, making them extremely valuable to agrarian societies such as India. Moroccan phosphate resources are among the most extensive in the world, with only China and the United States reaching similar levels of production.

The United States produced 23.0 million tons of phosphates in the same year, but Morocco produced 36 million tons, earning it a place among the two leading global superpowers. However, Moroccan phosphate reserves are the largest in the world by a significant margin; some estimates place Moroccan phosphate reserves at half of the world’s total.

This makes the Kingdom an ideal trading partner to India, with resources that will only increase. Given the importance of food resources to a nation as populous



Official inauguration of the Moroccan stall at the “India International Cooperative Trade Fair - IICTF” by Hon’ble Mr. Narendra Singh Tomar, India’s Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. Also present were Moroccan Ambassador to India, Moroccan delegates, Indian officials and journalists. Event was held from 11th to 13th October 2019 in New Delhi.





as India, obtaining phosphates is a top priority. In return for these and other resources, India offers automobile manufacturing and pharmaceutical production to Morocco.

India is one of the major markets for Moroccan phosphate and its derivatives. Other main items of export to India are metallic ores and metal scrap, semi-finished products and inorganic chemicals. The main items of India's exports to Morocco are cotton yarn, synthetic fibre, transport equipment, pharmaceuticals, agricultural implements, chemicals, spices and manufactured metals.

To improve its own position on the geopolitical stage, India must become more involved with the affairs of so large a continent as Africa. This is especially pertinent given India's ambitions to obtain a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council.

On a more fundamental level, India and Morocco share certain societal outlooks and political situations. They certainly have no animosity for one another, as characterized by India's former Vice President Hamid Ansari during his well-covered visit to Rabat, "There are no points of conflict (between India and Morocco) and politically our outlooks do not clash."

India and Morocco are separated by 8,458 km (5256 miles), but united by trade. The economic advantages to a partnership are abundantly clear, but the relationship could go far beyond an exchange of goods alone.

Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco, Mr. Mohamed Maliki while speaking with Morocco World News commended the long-standing Moroccan-Indian cooperation, especially in the fertilizer sector. "It is important to mention here that supplying fertilizers to India was an



H.E. Mr. Mohamed Maliki Ambassador of Morocco, at India-Africa Defence Ministers' Conclave held during the DefExpoIndia 2020 in Lucknow, India. Two high-ranking officers from the Royal Armed Forces of Morocco namely Colonel Naoufal Raissouni, Head of the General Affairs Department at the National Administration of Defence and Colonel Abdelmjid El Mouhaddib, from the General Inspection of the Royal Armed Forces also participated in the event.

important decision to help Delhi to ensure its food security," said the Ambassador. Indian companies and investors, Ambassador Maliki added, "consider Morocco as a safe place to invest, and are totally aware of the great progress the Kingdom has made."

It has repeatedly been pointed out that a major milestone was the visit of Morocco's King Mohammed VI to India in 2015 to participate in the India-Africa Forum Summit in New Delhi. The gesture of the Indian government inviting the Moroccan monarch for the Summit despite Morocco not being part of the African Union (AU) back then was certainly a big one. It put Morocco-India relations on a higher platform and opened the door to new possibilities.

According to Moroccan analysts, those possibilities were further enhanced when Morocco regained African Union membership– a development that New Delhi has already welcomed. With Morocco back in the African institutional family, India has a new strong partner to further its interests in Africa. It definitely helps that Morocco can be India's bridge to Africa where New Delhi is keen to strengthen. Add to this the fact that Morocco has emerged as an island of stability in north Africa, as a top investor in the Sahara and Sahel regions, and as an economy that is poised for significant growth, New Delhi can benefit tremendously from taking relations with Rabat to the next level.

Journalist Rudranil Ghosh writing in Times of India revealed that despite





the opportunities available, Other countries are ramping up ties with Morocco. Recently, King Mohammed presided over the signing ceremony for the Mohammed VI Tangiers Tech City – a project to be carried out by the Tangiers-Touan-Al Hoceima region, HAITE Chinese group

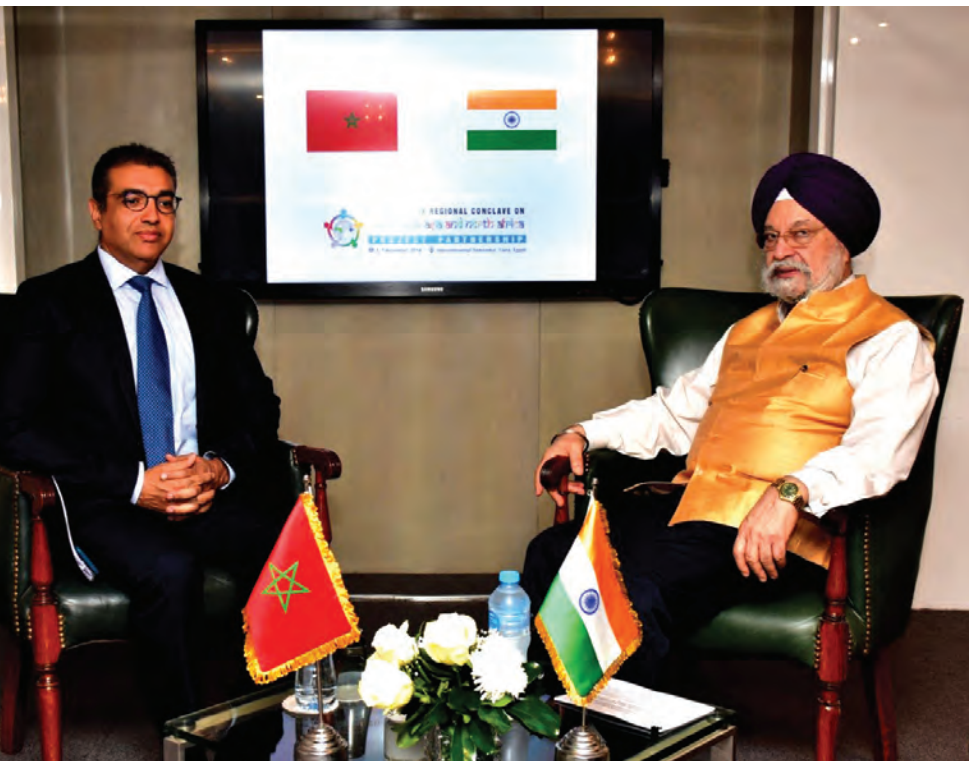
strategic geographical position at the crossroads of continents and only 15km from Europe. Add to this the existence of well-developed infrastructure in the form of the Tangiers Med port. Taken together, the Mohammed VI Tangiers Tech City is a strategic foreign investment in Morocco

company, OCP, has invested in Paradeep Phosphates Ltd. in India.

Moreover, several Indian companies have established collaborations with Moroccan companies and are working in the Kingdom in diverse sectors. TATA Motors has a plant in Casablanca for manufacturing bus bodies. Ranbaxy has set up its own manufacturing plant for production of medicines in Casablanca. PepsiCo India has acquired the beverage maker's entire franchise bottling operations in Morocco. Indian industry and business associations CII, FICCI and ASSOCHAM have institutional arrangements with Moroccan industry and business associations. A number of trade delegations from various industry and export promotion councils of India, such as ASSOCHAM, CAPEXIL, TEXPROCIL and EEPC have been visiting Morocco periodically. During these visits, a number of trade promotion activities such as expositions, buyer-seller meets, etc., are organized.

There is lot of interest in Morocco in Indian art and culture, especially Hindi cinema. The Marrakesh International Film Festivals regularly screen Hindi movies and invite Indian actors. Indian musicians participate in the Fez Festival of World Sacred Music on a regular basis.

The present level of cooperation between India and Morocco is beyond the actual potential. There is a huge scope for improvement in core sectors including economic and trade ties, defence and security ties, etc. Both the nations need to work hard if they are to strengthen the present level of ties, which is not comprehensive in nature as of now, in order to impart strategic character. This partnership will enable both the countries to harness the vast potential of



Hon'ble H.E. Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of State (IC) for Civil Aviation, Housing and Urban Affairs and Minister of State for Commerce & Industry of India met Mr. Hicham Boudra, Acting Director General, Investment and Export Development Agency of Morocco on the sidelines of the "CII- EXIM Bank Regional Conclave on India - West Asia & North Africa".

and BMCE Bank. It involves building an economic pole that would generate 100,000 jobs and consists of establishing 200 foreign companies operating in automotive manufacturing, aerospace industry, aviation spare parts, electronic information, textiles and machinery manufacturing. The total investment of the companies in the area after a period of 10 years is expected to reach \$10 billion.

The choice of Tangiers as the host of the Mohammed VI Tangiers Tech City underlines Morocco's

that leverages the best of two countries.

"It's time to make Morocco a veritable axis of India's diplomatic and economic outreach to Africa, and convert words into action," Ghosh argued.

An Morocco-India joint venture in fertilizer sector in Morocco, called IMACID, was set up in November 1999. At present, the JV is producing around 430,000 MT per annum of phosphoric acid, nearly all of which is imported by India. The Moroccan phosphate





Given the importance of food resources to a nation as populous as India, obtaining phosphates is a top priority. In return for these and other resources, India offers automobile manufacturing and pharmaceutical production to Morocco.

It is expected that trade between India and Morocco to remain on a growth trajectory, although the value may decline in 2020 compared to earlier trends. India's exports to Morocco are unlikely to see major declines. The key sectors for exports from India to Morocco are gas oils and fuel oils, synthetic and artificial fibre yarn for weaving, pharma products,



A Moroccan delegation from the Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Services of the Fez-Meknes Region (CCISFM), led by Mr. El Mehdi Laraqui Houssaini, 2nd Vice-President of the CCISFM, paid a visit to New Delhi in October 2019. This is a group photo including the Moroccan Ambassador to India with the National Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency of India.

bilateral relations, drawing upon complementarities and each other's intrinsic strengths, and work together to address regional and global challenges. In the long run, India will continue to remain an important partner for Morocco and vice versa.

Ghosh strongly believes that the pace of bilateral relations is yet to achieve its true potential. This is because unlike African nations like South Africa, Kenya and

Tanzania, Morocco doesn't have a traditional Indian diaspora. But also unlike other African nations, Morocco is strategically located with both Mediterranean and Atlantic coastlines, with continental Europe just a few hours away. This makes Morocco the perfect launchpad for Indian investments into Europe and North Africa. Add to this Morocco's durable infrastructure, world-class ports and strong economic foundations.

electrical and engineering goods, and spices and food products.

Morocco's exports to India are predominantly phosphoric acid and phosphates, amounting to up to \$1 billion annually. India is the single largest market for Morocco's phosphates. Because the Indian government strongly incentivizes agricultural production, the South Asian country's high demand for Moroccan phosphates is unlikely to change.





Ambassador of India to Morocco, Mr. Shambhu Kumaran called upon business communities to work towards expanding and diversifying trade in both directions, reiterating India's interest in early commencement of official discussions on a Preferential Trade Agreement. Indian investment in Morocco could produce "interesting scenarios," the Ambassador noted. He said one of the less-recognized trends over the past few years has been the rise of Indian direct investment in Morocco.

Indian investment in Morocco covers sectors such as auto components, food processing, mining, recycling, optical fibre manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, travel, and hotels. While companies are likely to be hesitant about investing abroad amid the COVID-19 crisis and its aftermath, Indian companies are likely to remain positive towards the Moroccan market. There may also be some "interesting new valuations that could justify brownfield opportunities," the ambassador added.

Kumaran highlighted three promising areas of Morocco-India trade: Health and pharmaceuticals, IT and the digital economy, and agriculture. Noting that financial measures to support the health sector are highly likely in Morocco, the Ambassador called for regular, sustained dialogue to establish good value propositions for Indian and Moroccan partners.

IT and the digital economy have emerged even stronger as a priority for all countries as a consequence of the COVID-19 crisis. Morocco and India can pursue opportunities for mutually beneficial partnerships in software services as well as IT education and training.

Agriculture and food will remain a strong source of trade between the two countries. Morocco has a continuing need for affordable

.....
Indian companies and investors, Ambassador Maliki added, "consider Morocco as a safe place to invest, and are totally aware of the great progress the Kingdom has made."
.....



Signing of MoU between the Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Services of the Fez-Meknes Region (CCISFM) in Morocco and the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry in India on the 9th of October 2019.



In the long run, India will continue to remain an important partner for Morocco

agricultural equipment and machinery, where India has good competencies.

Food products, especially spices, will remain in good demand, while rice exports from India may increase. The Indian ambassador added that he hopes Moroccan tea importers will explore India as a serious alternative to their single current supplier.

The quality and affordability combination that Indian businesses can offer can be useful for Morocco, the ambassador stressed, calling on Indian companies to upgrade their efforts to tap the Moroccan market. "The global COVID-19 crisis should encourage businesses in both our countries to actively explore new forms and partnerships opportunities across sectors," the ambassador stated.

Several sector-leading Indian companies have set up plants in Morocco, most notably India's largest conglomerate, Mahindra. The multinational car manufacturer has opened its showroom in Casablanca in collaboration with Comicom of Morocco for the sale of Cars, SUVs, Light Commercial Vehicles, Agricultural Machinery, and Generator Sets.

Morocco-India exports also include transport equipment, chemical products, agricultural implements, manufactured metals, spices, petroleum products, pharmaceuticals, medicinal products, plastics, synthetic fibre, cotton yarn, and textile products, Ambassador Maliki added.

Although Indian-Moroccan mutual cooperation has great potential, certain roadblocks are



The Ambassador of Morocco, H.E. Mr. Mohamed Maliki meeting H.E. Mr. Dinesh K. Patnaik Director General of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR). Mr. Patnaik served as India's Ambassador to the Kingdom of Morocco from 2015 to 2016.

currently holding the business side of the relationship back.

Second Secretary Mr. Singh explained that there are currently high customs duties on Indian products. The customs duties make imported Indian goods expensive compared to similar products imported from other countries with whom Morocco has Free Trade Agreements (FTAs). In the absence of Preferential Trade Agreements (PTA), Indian products will remain expensive.

"We hope that with the signing of PTA between India and Morocco, there would be a substantial increase in bilateral trade," Singh noted.

India is interested in strengthening its bilateral cooperation with Morocco notably in fields pertaining to economy and industry, India's Foreign Minister, Mr. S. Jaishankar said.

The two countries, already bound by strong ties, have yet to unlock the full potential of their relations by increasing mutual investments and by examining prospects for a free trade agreement, he told Morocco's news agency MAP. Businessmen from both countries should consider win-win projects, he said.

Minister Jaishankar cited technology as a promising field of cooperation notably after the opening of a Moroccan-Indian IT excellence center. The automotive sector and pharmaceutical industry also stand as key areas of cooperation, he said, noting that India looks at Morocco as a gateway to investments in Africa.





CyFy Africa Recognises Morocco as Gateway



Now in its third year, CyFy Africa- Conference on Technology, Innovation and Society, has established itself in Morocco as the African continent's pre-eminent platform for discussions around economic, political, and strategic dimensions of cyberspace and emerging technology domain.

Recognizing that Africa will be the cauldron from which future technology issues will emerge, the Observer Research Foundation, in partnership with the Government of the Tangier-Tetouan-Al Hoceima region and Ministry of Industry, Investment, Trade and Digital Economy of Morocco, hosted the first Africa edition of CyFy from 10-12 May 2018.

This Conference on Technology, Innovation and Society, sought to bring African voices to the forefront

by engaging thought leaders, innovators and policymakers from Africa, Asia, the Americas, and Europe to identify priorities and share lessons for sustainable growth. The inaugural CyFy Africa conference, held in 2018 in Tangiers, Morocco hosted over 100 speakers and over three hundred attendees from over 40 countries, a majority of whom were from developing nations in Africa and Asia. Alongside the economic opportunity of cyberspace and critical issues of privacy and inclusive access, it discussed how Asia and Africa will rely on artificial intelligence and robotics to reshape their societies and resolve a range of apprehensions around gender, race, ethnicity and equity.

Encouraged by the overwhelming response to the inaugural edition, the second Conference repeated

in June 2019 made the platform an annual event on the India-Morocco annual calendar. The second Conference saw over 140 speakers from over 63 countries gathered together to share thoughts, insights, and solutions on all things digital impacting the emerging world. A series of publications on the policy impact of technology for the future in the developed and developing world incubated through these forums continue to provide valuable insights for the future. This conference recognises the importance of Morocco and India partnership in the African continent and sees Morocco as the gateway and an important hub that will integrate Africa's rise with the world. ■

More details are available on: <https://www.orfonline.org/cyfy-africa/>





10 African Countries Open Consulates in Moroccan Sahara

The year 2019-2020 has witnessed opening of 10 General Consulates by friendly African countries in Laayoune and Dakhla cities in Moroccan Sahara, consolidating the Kingdom's foreign policy and boosting South-South cooperation.

Early this year in January 2020, the opening of a Gabonese Consulate General in Laayoune shows the firm support of the government of this African country for the Moroccan identity of the Sahara, said Gabonese Foreign Minister Alain-Claude Bilie-By-Nze.



Inauguration ceremony of the Comoros general consulate in Laayoune, Moroccan Sahara on 18th December 2019

"We already have an Embassy in Morocco and the opening of this Consulate General in Laayoune is part of the continuity of this diplomatic representation," said Bilie-By-Nze during a joint press briefing with Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates, Mr. Nasser Bourita. Welcoming the "singular, special and close" relations uniting Gabon and Morocco, the Gabonese Minister invited the Gabonese community to settle in the

southern provinces of the Kingdom to benefit from training in the fields of fisheries, tourism, renewable energy and building.

"Gabon will continue to work with Morocco on other subjects which are part of a dynamic of strengthening our cooperation and the fraternal ties between our two countries," he noted. The Republic of Gabon inaugurated on January 20, 2020 a Consulate General in Laayoune. The third diplomatic representation that opened in this city after the honorary consulate of the Cte d'Ivoire which opened last June, and the consulate general of the Union of the Comoros which started offering its services in December. The city of Dakhla also hosts the consulates general of The Gambia and Guinea.

In another development, Djibouti has officially opened its general consulate in Dakhla, southern



Gabon opened its Consulate in Laayoune city of Moroccan Sahara on 17th January 2020





Morocco. Morocco's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Bourita chaired the opening ceremony along with Djibouti's Ambassador to Morocco, Ibrahim Bileh Doualeh.



On 28th February 2020, Djibouti opened its Consulate in Dakhla city of Moroccan Sahara

Djibouti's consulate is the third diplomatic representation in Dakhla after Guinea and Gambia both inaugurated consulates in the city in Moroccan Sahara. A growing number of African states, including Burundi, have opened general consulates in Laayoune.

The Central African Republic, Sao Tome and Principe, Gabon, Comoros, and Cote d'Ivoire, have all expressed their support for Morocco's territorial integrity through the opening of diplomatic missions in the two cities in Moroccan Sahara.

Morocco's government considers the openings as significant diplomatic milestones for the national cause.

During the opening of the Ivorian consulate in Laayoune on February 18, the Moroccan Foreign Minister said that the Moroccan Sahara region is connecting with "its African roots."

The opening of seven diplomatic representations of "brotherly and friendly" African countries in Morocco's southern region reflects the importance of Moroccan Sahara, explained Bourita during a previous press conference with his Ivorian counterpart Mr. Ally Coulably.

Joining the diplomatic initiative Liberia has strengthened its diplomatic presence in Morocco with the official opening of a consulate in the southern city of Dakhla.

In addition to the Embassy in Rabat and a Consulate in Casablanca "we intend to upgrade our relations with Morocco and extend our services to new regions of the Kingdom," The Liberian Foreign Minister had said during a visit to Morocco, announcing the setting up of a consulate general in Dakhla.

Liberia brings to ten the number of African countries that have opened consular representations in the Moroccan Sahara. These are the Comoros, Sao Tome and Principe, Gabon, Central African Republic, Cote d'Ivoire, and Burundi, which have consulates in Laayoune, and Gambia, Guinea, and Djibouti which chose to open their consulates in Dakhla.

Confirming the irreversible dynamics of recognition of the moroccanity of the Sahara, Cote d'Ivoire



The opening ceremony was chaired by Liberian Foreign Minister, Mr. Gbehzohngar Findley, in the presence of his Moroccan counterpart, Mr. Bourita on 12th March, 2020.



Guinea opened its Consulate in Dakhla city, Moroccan Sahara on 17th January 2020

proceeded, on February 18, 2020, to the opening of its General Consulate in Laayoune in the Moroccan Sahara.

This inauguration reflects the excellent relations between Morocco and the West-African country



Cote d'Ivoire opened its Consulate in Laayoune on 18th February 2020



Opening of the Consulate of Sao Tome and Principe in Laayoune on 23rd January, 2020

and the willingness of C te d'Ivoire to confer to its partnership with Morocco a Pan-African orientation.

Through this opening, C te d'Ivoire matches its words with deeds as the opening of its General Consulate has undergone a thorough internal legal and institutional process and has been approved by the Council of Ministers as well as through the publication of Presidential Decrees.

When the Union of the Comoros opened its General Consulate in Laayoune on 18 December 2019, a significant number of countries followed its footsteps within a period of two months.

The choice made by C te d'Ivoire to open a General Consulate in Laayoune is not random as it was the first African country to have an Honorary Consulate in the largest city of the Moroccan Sahara, which alone hosts 5 General Consulates.

With the opening of the Ivoirian General Consulate, the policy undertaken by African countries to open their General Consulates in the main cities in the Moroccan Sahara becomes an irreversible reality, in accordance with the territorial integrity of the Kingdom of Morocco.

Through this new policy, Morocco puts into practice





the doctrine of sovereignty advocated by His Majesty the King of Morocco, entailed by the support of the territorial integrity of Morocco by brotherly and friendly countries through the opening of their diplomatic representations in the two main cities in the Moroccan Sahara namely, Laayoune and Dakhla.

The Moroccan Sahara, "an important commercial crossroads" between Morocco and African countries, will become a leading South-South cooperation pole, said Minister Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates, Mr. Bourita.

"The Moroccan Sahara region is an important commercial crossroads and a South-South cooperation pole. It connects Morocco to its African depth", Mr. Bourita pointed out at a joint press conference with C te d'Ivoire's Minister of African Integration and Ivoirians abroad, Mr. Ally Coulibaly.

This was clearly reflected in the opening of several diplomatic representations of brotherly and friendly African countries, said Bourita, who co-chaired with Coulibaly the opening ceremony of the Consulate General of the Republic of C te d'Ivoire in Laayoune.

In this regard, Bourita noted that the diplomacy of the two countries has always worked within the framework of an active solidarity with regard to the supreme interests of the two friendly States, adding that the opening of this consulate reflects the attachment of C te d'Ivoire to its position on the Sahara issue.

"It is a very important symbolic act. C te d'Ivoire has always stood alongside Morocco in all the struggles for the preservation of the territorial integrity of the Kingdom through positions, mobilization and acts", he stressed.

The opening of this consulate general is not only the expression of this clear political position, but also an instrument for strengthening bilateral cooperation, he said, recalling the several visits paid by HM King Mohammed VI to this African brotherly country.



Consulate General of The Gambia in Dakhla was inaugurated on 7th January 2020



Burundi opened its Consulate in Laayoune city in Moroccan Sahara on 28th February 2020



The Central African Republic opened its Consulate in Laayoune on 23rd January 2020



An In-Depth Look at Morocco's Economy Pre and Post Covid 19

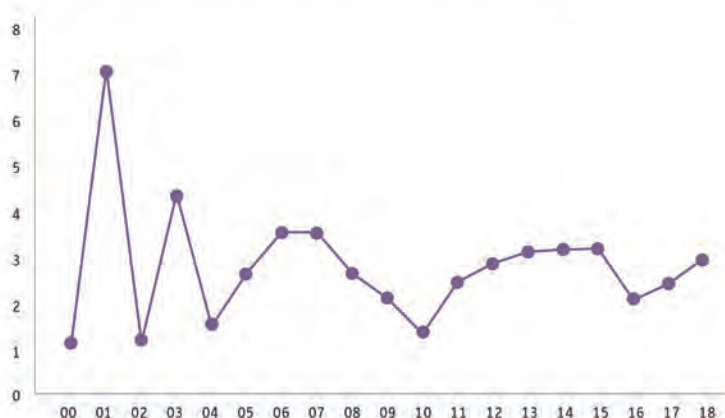
Pre-Covid-19 Macroeconomic Overview

Morocco has made significant strides since 2000 in diversifying and strengthening its economy. Key sectoral strategies such as the Green Morocco Plan (Plan Maroc Vert, PMV) and the Industrial Acceleration Plan (*Plan d'Accélération Industrielle*, PAI) have propelled the country to the forefront of development in sectors such as agriculture, aeronautics and automotive manufacturing, endowing it with some of the most dynamic industrial centres on the continent.

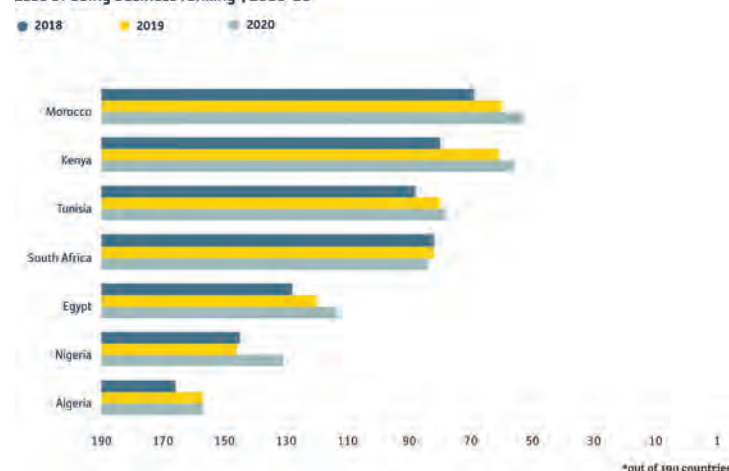
On the back of such programmes, Morocco has made impressive progress over the past decade on the World Bank's ease of



Net inflows of foreign direct investment, 2000-18 (% of GDP)



Ease of doing business ranking*, 2018-20



doing business index, which measures national economic competitiveness around the world. Between 2010 and 2020 Morocco

moved from 128th to 53rd out of 190 countries.

Some of the main reforms that

have helped improve Morocco's position include the digitalisation of construction permit procedures, making it possible to obtain





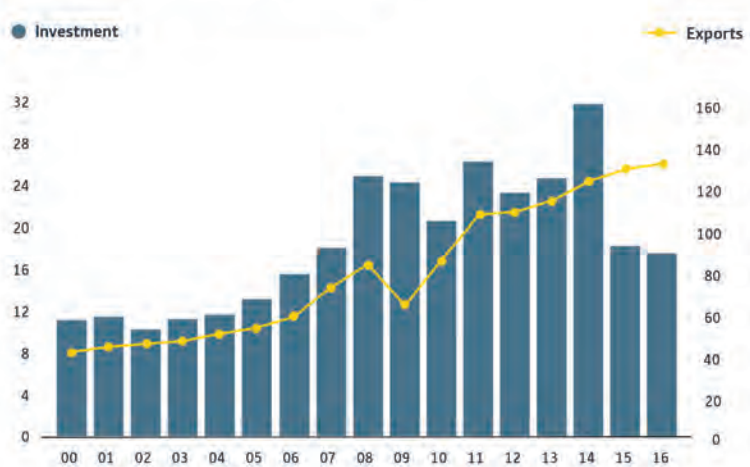
The PAI, meanwhile, has played a leading role in driving industrial expansion since 2014 by boosting value added and attracting foreign investment. The plan established a target to increase the sector's contribution to GDP from 14% in 2014 to 23% by 2020, as well as create 500,000 jobs. By mid-2017 Morocco had already reached the contribution-to-GDP target, and by August of that year it reached 97% of its job-creation goal.

certificates of conformity online; improvements in accessing electricity; more robust minority investor protections; reduction of the corporate income tax; the introduction of e-payment for port fees; the extension of port operation hours; and greater transparency of the judiciary through automation and court measurement performance reports.

According to the World Bank, however, further transparency is needed in terms of property registration by making data related to property transactions and land disputes more widely available.

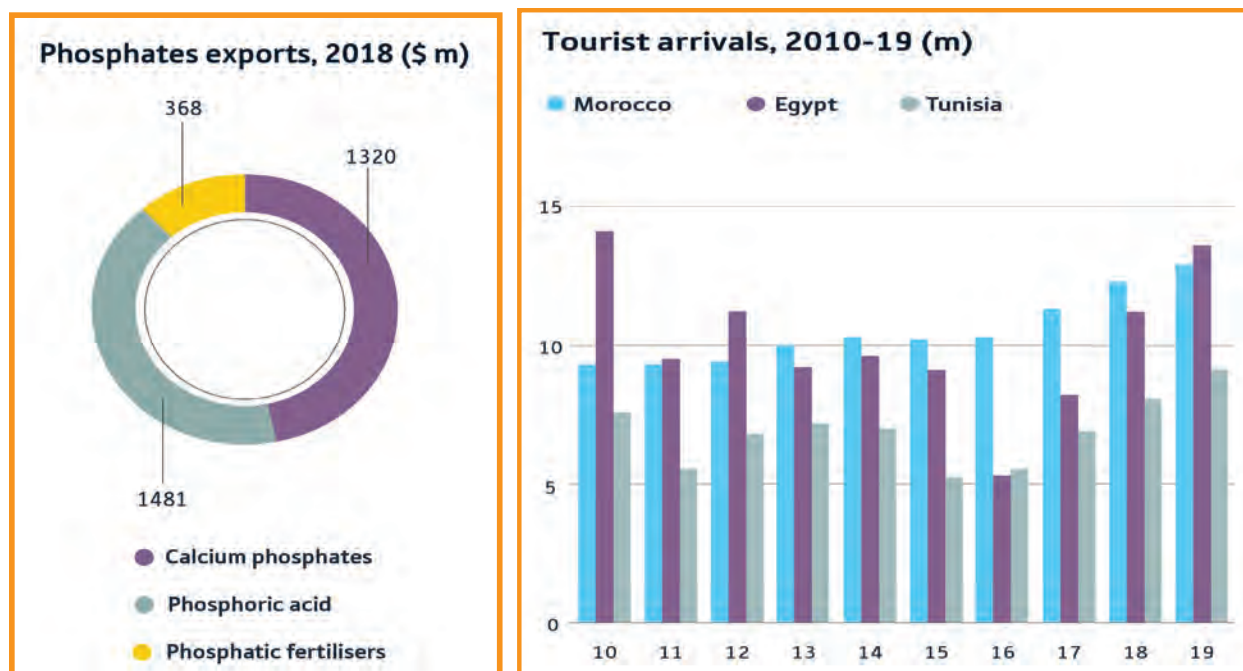
The PMV – which was introduced in 2008 to develop the agriculture sector and make it more internationally competitive – significantly expanded output of important fruits and vegetables.

Industrial sector metrics, 2000-16 (Dh bn)



Initiatives associated with the plan boosted the sector's value added by an average of 6.9% between 2008 and 2018, compared to the 2.2% registered during the 1999-2007 period.

As Morocco is home to 75% of the world's known phosphate reserves, mining has been a major contributor to economic expansion. In 2018 phosphates – which account for 90% of



extraction – were the third-largest export after automotive and agro-industrial goods, generating some Dh52bn.

Success stories can also be found in renewable energy, notably with the 2016 inauguration of the 160-MW Noor I concentrated solar power plant in Ouarzazate, the world's largest such facility. Under its National Energy Strategy, launched in 2009, Morocco

aims to generate 52% of its energy needs from renewables by 2030.

Morocco is the first country in Africa to establish a high-speed rail line. Inaugurated in 2019 the Dh22.9 billion, 323-km-long project connects Tanger to Casablanca via Rabat, and reduced travel time from 4 hours and 45 minutes to just over 2 hours. There are plans in the

pipeline to extend the line to cities such as Marrakech and Agadir, with the ultimate goal of creating a 1500-km, high-speed rail network by 2030. Another key development in Morocco's transport and logistics sector was the 2018 expansion of the Tanger-Med port complex, making it the largest port on the Mediterranean and connecting it to 186 other ports in 77 countries.





that the economy would contract by 5.2% that year, due to the economic ramifications of the Covid-9 pandemic. The IMF foresees a contraction of 4% in 2020.

One of the government's priorities in recent years has been to reduce the budget deficit, lowering it from 7.3% of GDP in 2012 to 3% in 2017. This was mainly achieved by better tax collection, which increased from Dh208.9 billion in 2015 to Dh242.5 billion in 2018. At the same time, debt grew from 47% of GDP in 2009 to 64.9% in 2018.

Morocco also still has some way to go in terms of social indicators. According to a 2016 report by the High Commission for Planning (Haut Commissariat au Plan, HCP), 1.6 million Moroccans lived in poverty that year and 4.2

Morocco's financial sector has grown in size and influence as well, reaching across Africa. The country boasts some of the largest banks on the continent and the authorities are striving to position Casablanca as a regional financial centre.

At the same time, tourism has boomed since 2010, thanks in large part to efforts to diversify offerings and the rise of Marrakech as a key destination for international visitors. In 2019 Morocco attracted a record 12.9 million visitors – up from 9.4 million in 2012.

While stable, annual GDP growth has remained relatively low, registering 3% in 2018 and 2.3% in 2019, mainly due to a slowdown in cereal production.

According to the IMF, Morocco's economy grew from \$92.5 billion in 2008 to \$118.5 billion in 2018, while GDP per capita rose from \$1374 in 2000 to \$3366 in 2018. Despite this progress, annual growth rates remain highly

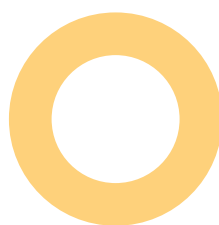


contingent on the performance of the agriculture sector, which is subject to weather and international price fluctuations. Morocco's dependence on energy imports also leave it vulnerable to variations in oil prices, though the decline in costs witnessed since 2014 has helped the country maintain economic stability.

In June 2020 Bank Al Maghrib, Morocco's central bank, forecast

million citizens were considered to be in a situation of vulnerability.

To address bottlenecks to growth and improve social indicators, in the summer of 2019 King Mohammed VI established the 35-member Special Commission for Economic Development to investigate challenges to growth and extend the benefits of recent economic gains to all segments of society.



Carbon Free Industrial Base"- Minister of Industry



Moulay Hafid Elalamy
Minister of Industry, Trade, and Green
and Digital Economy

outbreak. Restoration plans were initially scheduled to take eight to 14 months.

We addressed our mask shortage by converting machines that made bags into ones capable of producing masks with certified non-woven fabric; output has now exceeded 10m units per day. Furthermore, Morocco did not make its own ventilators prior to the outbreak, but today we have three teams of engineers producing local ventilators of the highest standards.

In this respect, Morocco will continue to uphold strong international partnerships and position itself as a complementary manufacturing platform. The country has already demonstrated its ability to do so, sealing strategic partnerships with firms such as Boeing. Our strategy is to continue to boost the competitiveness of Morocco and establish a carbon-free industrial base with domestic renewable energy generation.

What are the measures Morocco should take to sustain its digital transformation momentum?

Because of Covid-19, we have been able to achieve what previously took us five years in just two months. One reason for this rapid transition is the fact that Covid-19 lifted all inter-ministerial barriers and the psychological reluctance of citizens to embrace digitalisation. Efforts were quickly mobilised to ensure Moroccans' needs were met, but the challenge now is to maintain this momentum and continue to expedite digital projects.

How did Morocco's industrial sector respond to Covid-19?

Under the leadership of King Mohammed VI, the level of responsiveness of Morocco's industrial sector has been impressive. In order to meet our need of hydro-alcoholic gels, a factory producing ethanol was restored in seven days after a fire had brought its operations to a halt eight months prior to the Covid-19

In what ways can Morocco position itself to attract more investment as some countries choose to relocate certain activities closer to home?

There is a shift under way that is redesigning how industrial centres are distributed throughout the world. Over the years, the competitiveness of China saw companies worldwide cede a share of their production to their Asian counterpart. However, this dependency is increasingly being scrutinised by the US and countries across Europe.





Government Actions

Morocco took swift and drastic measures as soon as its first patient was confirmed on March 2, immediately closing borders and schools. On March 20 the government imposed a total lockdown. Masks were made compulsory in public gatherings and internal travel was subject to special permits, with police deployed to ensure adherence to the new rules. A public information campaign was rolled out in both Arabic and Berber, with special broadcasts tailored to children, the elderly, women and men.

The early response and information campaign proved effective. According to a survey published in May 2020 by the HCP, awareness of the pandemic

and individual efforts to protect against the virus were near universal: 99.5% of Moroccan households had adopted some measures to protect against Covid-19, with a large majority of the population wearing face masks, avoiding handshakes and limiting their outings. Around 83% of households were aware of the new toll-free numbers citizens could use in the event of a suspected Covid-19 infection.

In order to address both the health and economic crisis, the kingdom opted to divide the country into two zones. Zone 1 contained small towns and areas with low population densities, where life and economic activity were less restricted, and Zone 2 comprised the country's major cities and

urban centres. Zone 2 accounted for 39% of the population and – as of mid-June – 87% of corona virus patients. As such, more stringent lockdown rules were maintained in these areas. The strategy ensured that the impact on the more rural and economically vulnerable population in Zone 1 was limited.

In line with these measures, Morocco increased its daily testing rate from 2000 per day in April to 20,000 per day in June, going from three to 24 laboratories over the same period. A large-scale testing campaign targeting private sector employees was initiated in early June by the General Confederation of Moroccan Enterprises (*Confédération Générale des Entreprises du Maroc, CGEM*)





in partnership with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Interior.

Phase 1: June 11-24

Zone 1

Residents of Zone 1, which included Tetouan and Meknes, were able to move freely outside of their homes without special authorisation. Beauty salons and hairdressers were allowed to resume activities but not exceed 50% capacity. All public servants returned to their duties, except those suffering from chronic diseases. Urban public transport resumed at 50% capacity.



Zone 2

Residents of Zone 2, which included Rabat, Fez, Marrakech and Casablanca, were only able to leave their homes for work or necessities. The majority of businesses were able to reopen if they respected safety regulations. Only public employees stationed at front offices were permitted to resume work.

The government maintained a ban on large gatherings, weddings and celebrations in both zones.

Phase 2: June 25-July 8

Zone 1

Coffee shops, restaurants, hammams, gyms, other businesses and shopping malls were permitted to resume their normal activities. Train and land transport services were able to run at 50% capacity, with passengers presenting an authorisation form.

Zone 2

Authorisation was required for residents to leave their homes. Beauty salons and hairdressers were allowed to resume activities at 50% capacity.

The government maintained a ban on large gatherings, weddings and celebrations in both zones.

Phase 3: July 9 onward

Zone 1 & 2

Normal activity resumed, though localised measures may be reimposed. The government reinstituted a lockdown in Tangier on July 13 due to rising case counts. Measures include the suspension of public transport to and from Tangier.

Economic Impact

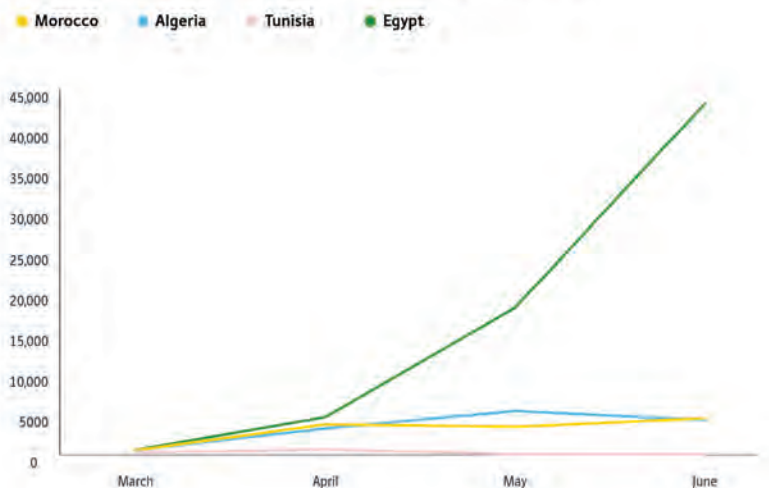
Lockdown measures implemented to stem the spread of Covid-19 resulted in a daily loss of Dh1bn, according to the Ministry of Economy and Finance. By mid-April nearly 142,000 companies – equal to 57% of the country's firms – had permanently or temporarily stopped their activities, according to the HCP. As a result of the stoppage, the HCP announced in May that it anticipated an 8.9% contraction in GDP during second quarter of 2020. The full-year impact on the economy is more difficult to predict, with several national and international institutions giving varying projections of contraction, ranging from 5.2% to 1.7%.

The hospitality and restaurant sector was the most affected, with 89% of businesses shut down. Other sectors that were severely impacted in the short term





Number of confirmed monthly Covid-19 cases, March-June 2020



Maroc Telecom is expected to record a 5% rise in turnover for the year.

included the textile and leather industries, with 76% of associated companies ceasing activity; the metal and mechanical industries, which saw a 73% closure rate; and construction, where 60% of companies halted operations. Fishing, mining and agro-industry were the sectors least affected by the health crisis, with 24%, 32% and 34% of the respective sectors' enterprises at a standstill. Around two-thirds of exporting companies were affected by the pandemic, with 11.1% completely stopping and 55.6% temporarily halting operations. One-third of exporters reported reduced activity.

According to the HCP's May 2020 survey, 34% of households claimed lost income due to the decline in economic activity. Agricultural labourers were among the most severely impacted, with 46% of farm workers losing their salaries. Despite these financial challenges, 93% of households maintained access to basic food products and 97% were able to source cooking gas, with 75% of households seeing no increase in the cost of essentials.

While the short-term impact was severe for most businesses, some segments of the economy expanded during the pandemic, and certain companies were able to adapt their operations

or anticipated a recovery in the medium term. For example, the increased demand for digital communications provided a boost to the telecommunications sector, which saw mobile data consumption increase by 50% during the lockdown period, according to an April 2020 report by Attijari Global Research.

It is projected that digital penetration will continue to tick upwards as consumption patterns permanently change. The increased usage through the second quarter of the year did not result in significant reductions in connectivity or service quality, indicating that Morocco has strong digital infrastructure. While agro-industry initially faced headwinds, it is set to benefit in the medium to long term, both from domestic demand and export opportunities. With a resilient and robust supply chain, and players that were able to adapt swiftly to changing circumstances, the segment is likely to not only recover, but witness growth in 2020.





Case Study



Through more than 120 innovative and fully digital community services, PortNet provides a real competitive advantage for its ecosystem of more than 55,000 users from government agencies, public institutions, banks, import/export companies and other businesses across the country. Its mission to accelerate and inspire is facilitated by innovation, technology, community intelligence, and the competitiveness of Moroccan trade and logistics. By implementing a proactive approach, PortNet has spared no effort to preserve the health of its employees, customers and partners. The company maintained and strengthened its activities through ensuring resilient IT infrastructure for remote work and continued collaboration; establishing a mature business continuity plan; and creating an end-to-end digital journey for customers.

“To date, the digital space has not been utilised to its full potential to aid the country’s socio-economic development. The crisis we are experiencing is the biggest change campaign we have ever seen in favour of digitalisation. It is a full-scale demonstration of what digital technology can provide for our economy and people,” Jalal Benhayoun, CEO of PortNet, told OBG. Benhayoun believes that digitalisation and all related tools – such as big data, artificial intelligence and machine learning – are essential to strengthen the country’s mechanisms to anticipate and interpret weak external signals, allowing for better responses to future crises.



Financial Support

The Special Fund for the Management and Response to Covid-19 was established on March 15 by King Mohammed VI to support the health care system, as well as the country’s social and economic needs. The fund is open to contributions from the public and private sectors, development agencies and civil society. Around Dh33bn had been contributed to the fund as of late May.

Up to 800,000 informal sector employees who lost their jobs due to Covid-19 have received financial compensation. In addition, households were able to request deferral on interest payments. The government also provided financial support through the Medical Assistance Regime (*Régime d'Assistance Médicale, RAMED*), which was launched in 2009 to provide medical coverage for people with lower incomes. As of April 24, around 2.3m households where the primary breadwinner had their income suspended received a stipend.

A number of initiatives were rolled out in support of businesses facing financial headwinds as well. As early as March 11 a monitoring committee was established by a handful of ministries, Bank Al Maghrib and CGEM to oversee and finance companies’ needs. The most significant lifeline is Damane Oxygène, a state-backed credit line introduced on March 26 to secure companies’ working capital. As of June 12 banks had granted Dh13.8bn in Damane Oxygène loans to at least 27,750 businesses. In addition, 491,500 requests for postponement of credit maturities were approved.

On June 15 two additional lines of credit known as Damane Relance and Relance TPE were introduced. Companies with turnovers in excess of Dh10m are eligible to apply for Damane Relance, while Relance TPE – referring to *très petites entreprises* (very small enterprises) – is dedicated to small firms with turnovers below Dh10m.

Furthermore, on June 16 the World Bank approved a \$48m loan for Morocco that will support government actions to manage the effects of the pandemic. The loan is part of financing that was approved in 2015 through a results-oriented programme to support primary health services. The financing will be supplemented by an additional \$35m allocated via an accelerated aid mechanism established by the World Bank in response to Covid-19. The fund will be used in part to support the prevention, detection, surveillance and case management actions deployed by public authorities.





Hicham Boudraa
Acting Managing Director of the Moroccan
Investment and Export Development Agency

Morocco's Expertise Recognised Worldwide"-AMDIE

Moroccan expertise in a variety of sectors contributed to a remarkable performance. This agility and ability to recover, recreate and reinvent characterises our economic fabric. In short, this crisis has confirmed all the assets of Morocco's economy that we have highlighted in recent years. Under these circumstances we are not just restoring confidence, but confirming it in a concrete manner.

This performance shows that, despite the uncertain context, the growth of foreign investment in Morocco is maintaining its course, and that a clear interest is being expressed by investors to quickly deploy their projects in the country.

How has the Covid-19 crisis impacted the performance of Moroccan exports?

.....
Morocco, like most countries in the world, has been affected by the current health crisis, as demonstrated by several macroeconomic indicators. The kingdom's exports reflect this, since most sectors have seen their turnover slow down. However, some sectors have been able to seize opportunities to rapidly reorganise, namely the textiles industry. This enabled Morocco to appear on the short list of countries that had self-sufficiency in terms of producing protective masks.

This efficient conversion of production units, which was carried out in record time, facilitated confidence in the quality of Moroccan masks and brought about a strong development opportunity for the personal protective equipment manufacturing industry. Between May 21 to June 8, nearly 18.5m units were exported by 69 Moroccan companies to 11 countries on four continents, and the trend is upward, with new orders in recent weeks. ■

How have the public and private sectors in Morocco mobilised in response to the pandemic?

.....
The vision of King Mohammed VI allowed us to show great responsiveness by implementing measures that combined Morocco's human, financial, technological, and industrial skills and assets. Our economic operators have shown a high level of agility in transforming their activities in record time, and often under extreme conditions, to ensure sustained production. Hence, Morocco has demonstrated expertise that is recognised worldwide, particularly in the manufacture of face masks, hydroalcoholic gels and respirators.

Which sectors are likely to generate more interest among investors after Covid-19?

.....
In spite of the exceptional economic and health situation of the first half of 2020, foreign investor interest continues in a wide range of sectors. On June 25, during the national investment commission meeting, 45 investment projects were approved for a total \$2.33bn. These investments span sectors such as industry and commerce, infrastructure, renewable energy, telecommunications, tourism and leisure, health and transport. Of these investments, 61% come from joint ventures with foreign partners who have reconfirmed their confidence in Morocco. They come from Italy, Germany, Spain, Qatar, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia and other countries.



Private Sector Mobilisation

Introduction

A central component of Morocco's Covid-19 response has been wide-ranging industrial mobilisation. Morocco boasts a robust and diversified industrial base, developed through years of heavy investment, that was able to support the country's actions to control the pandemic and mitigate supply chain disruptions.

Key to the sector's historical growth is the Industrial Acceleration Plan (*Plan d'Accélération Industrielle, PAI*). The first phase, implemented in 2014 and running through the end of 2020, aims to create segment-specific ecosystems, formalise sector activities, align the workforce with the needs of industry, and improve the competitiveness of small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs). As of early 2020, 54 industrial clusters had been created in segments such as automobiles, aeronautics, agri-business, textiles and pharmaceuticals. The country also reached several milestones at that time, with automobile production capacity reaching 700,000 vehicles per year and the aeronautical industry seeing sales growth of 20% per year.

Industry is an important component of Morocco's GDP. According to the African Development Bank, industrial GDP expanded from \$21.6bn in 2009 to \$29.3bn in 2018. In January 2020 the government announced a second phase of the PAI to capitalise on these gains. The new iteration of the programme will focus on integrating SMEs and encouraging technological transformation, and is slated to run from 2021 to 2025.



Case Study



ABA Capital is an investment firm with a focus on business models of the future. It supports companies looking to develop their business in innovative ways, and assists them with financing and asset management. The firm employs three axes to steer the future of business models: Industry 4.0, online services and sustainable living solutions. During the Covid-19 crisis, ABA Capital pooled its resources to provide innovative and sustainable solutions, turning to technologies such as 3D printing and the Internet of Things to develop face shields and ensure that social distancing was respected. Furthermore, its subsidiary Nextronic, a robotics start-up, produced Morocco's first infrared thermometer. Up until this development, Morocco had imported all of its infrared thermometers. This consolidates ABA Capital's contributions to the emergence of health technologies in Morocco, following the firm's recent partnership with the Mohammed VI University of Health Sciences. The partnership's goal is to create an incubator to accelerate new start-ups, a mission that will be carried out by Mentor, an action-oriented think tank and subsidiary of ABA Capital. Mentor supports youth entrepreneurship through various programmes and road shows, and operates DEMARY.MA – the first digital platform that helps entrepreneurs and managers of small and medium-sized enterprises restart their businesses once the disruptions of Covid-19 pass.

"We have a long-standing commitment to supporting entrepreneurial talent in Morocco by producing innovative start-ups and building resilient business models. We are now partnering with different actors and public institutions to support the post-Covid-19 economic relaunch," Mohamed Ben Ouda, co-founder of ABA Capital, told OBG.





Industry Response

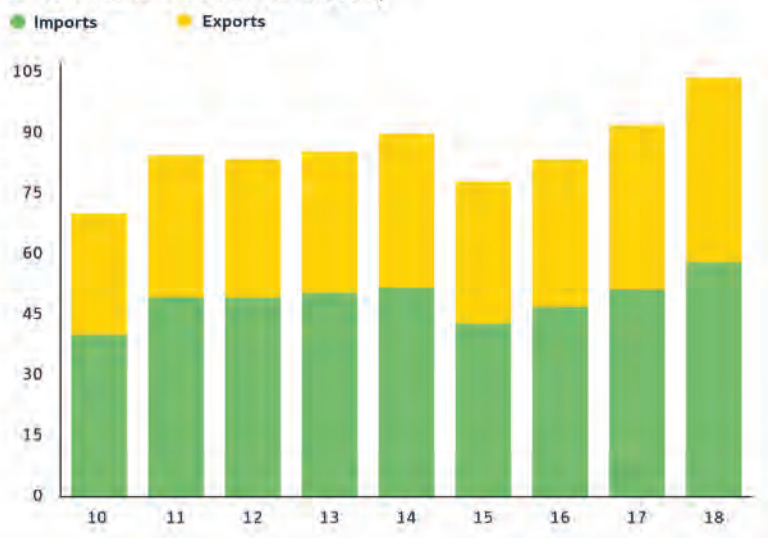
The kingdom was quick to establish guidelines for the supply, manufacture and distribution of face masks in anticipation of global shortages, with the Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Green and Digital Economy releasing technical specifications for the equipment via decree in early April. The decree also laid out requirements for the material and quality of the personal protective equipment (PPE), and established a framework for enforcing the standards. The decree fell under a compulsory reference framework for manufacturers and distributors of protective masks subsidised by the Special Fund for the Management and Response to Covid-19, with the maximum selling price to the public set at Dh0.80 per mask.

Supported by these specifications, the country mobilised its considerable industrial capacity to produce the PPE essential to fighting the virus. Moulay Hafid Elalamy, the Minister of Industry, Trade, and Green and Digital Economy, told OBG that the country was producing about 10m masks per day in June.

Anticipating worldwide shortages of diagnostic tests, the Moroccan Foundation for Advanced

.....
The Moroccan Foundation for Advanced Science, Innovation and Research announced in June that it had designed a reverse-transcription polymerase chain reaction diagnostic kit.
.....

International trade, 2010-18 (\$ bn)



Science, Innovation and Research announced in June that it had designed a reverse-transcription polymerase chain reaction diagnostic kit.

According to the foundation, the test is both faster and up to 50% cheaper than imported tests. It aimed to deliver 10,000 tests that month following a public order, with considerable interest from private sector companies. Private sector actors across the board adapted and increased cooperation during this time. The

efforts demonstrate the country's potential, while positioning it as an attractive location for production and service provision. The private sector's response should serve the country well, particularly at a time when European and North American firms are looking to re-examine their supply chains and dependence on factories in Asia.

Textiles

The textiles industry is of strategic importance and a key component of the wider sector, contributing





15% to industrial GDP, according to the Moroccan Association of the Textile and Apparel Industries (Association Marocaine des Industries du Textile et de l'Habillement, AMITH).

The sector has long been an important source of job creation, employing 185,000 people across 1200 companies. This makes textiles the country's largest industrial employer, representing 27% of industrial jobs and 7% of industrial value added.

The sector produces around 1bn pieces per year, divided among subcontracting (600m pieces), co-contracting (300m) and selfproduced collections (100m).

With more than 50 years of trade with the US and European markets, Morocco's textiles and leather products form a significant and growing source of export revenue, accounting for one-quarter of exported goods, valued at Dh38bn in 2018. The domestic market, meanwhile, accounts for €4bn in turnover with more than 80 brands and franchises.

Morocco's main trade partner for textiles is the EU, with exports to the trade bloc increasing by 2.5% year-on-year in the first nine months of 2019, according to AMITH.

In 2019 the Kingdom was the EU's eighth largest supplier, accounting for 3.1% of the European body's textile imports that year. In the Mediterranean basin, Morocco is the EU's second-largest exporter, after Turkey.

While textiles and garments have grappled with periods of crisis, broad industrial policy measures have helped to develop the industry. Under the Industrial Acceleration Plan (*Plan d'Accélération Industrielle, PAI*) 2014-20, textiles representatives signed an agreement with the

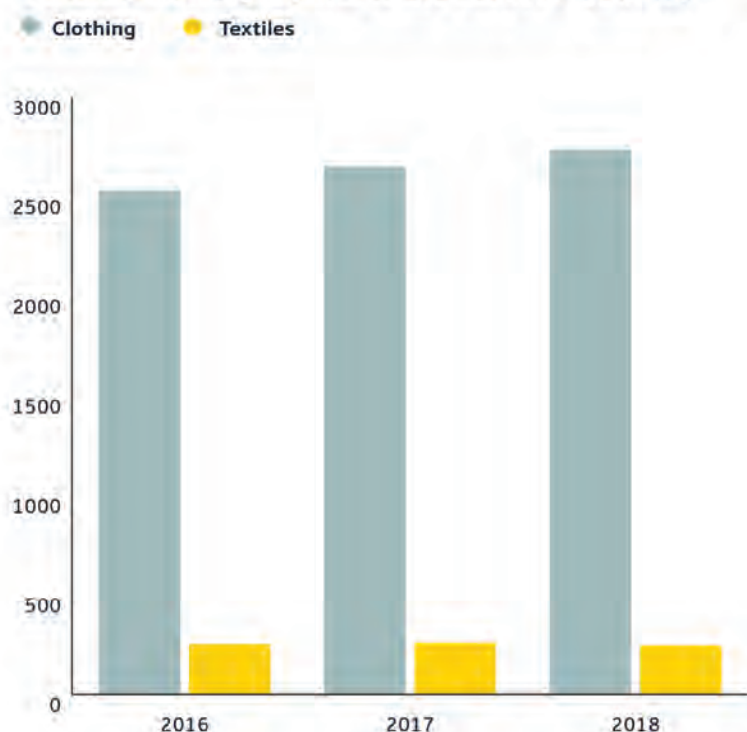
authorities in 2015 to revamp the industry with a focus on product design, developing local brands and enhancing competitiveness. The benefits of the agreement have been evident, as by 2018 investment in the sector reached Dh4bn, up from Dh300m in annual investment before the signing of the agreement, according to AMITH.

However, as Covid-19 pandemic ramped up in early 2020, the initial impact on the segment was significant, and production was halted in most factories by March 20. According to the High Commission for Planning, in the

and to workers by paying furloughed employees €180 per month through the same period. As a result, there were no recorded factory bankruptcies in the textiles segment as of late June, per industry reports.

Textiles producers were not only able to overcome immediate challenges, but managed to capitalise on new opportunities brought on by increased demand for PPE. The rapid mobilisation to make such equipment was successful in large part because of the groundwork provided by a modernisation programme that began in 2014 under the PAI,

Textile & clothing exports to the EU, 2016-18 (€ m)



first quarter of 2020 the textile industry saw a 2.4% decrease in production levels, and the leather and shoe industry saw a 26.3% decrease compared to the same period in 2019.

The government quickly provided relief to business owners by allowing them to delay tax payments until the end of June,

which aimed to enhance product development and branding. Even before the pandemic, this adaptability has been an asset. "We not only have a competitive proximity to European markets, we also have a great level of flexibility," Fatima Zahra Alaoui, acting general manager of AMITH, told OBG prior to the outbreak of Covid-19. "This





US multinational Honeywell has been present in Morocco since 2008 and operates two factories in Casablanca dedicated to the manufacture of protective gloves and shoes.

both flexible and essential during the health crisis.

Agro-industry represented about 30% of industrial GDP and 25% of manufacturing jobs in 2017, and agricultural and agro-industrial

is important because as fashion cycles are getting shorter and shorter, Moroccan manufacturers can respond quickly to changing preferences."

During the pandemic this ability to adapt was lifesaving, with factories pivoting to produce single-use and reusable face masks. According to local media, in the two weeks between May 21 and June 8, 69 Moroccan firms produced and exported 18.5m masks to 11 countries, including France, Portugal, Spain and Germany. Over three-quarters of these exports were woven fabric masks, with the remainder non-woven. This has strengthened the international reputation of the segment and created closer cooperation in the domestic value chain – a trend that is anticipated to provide opportunities for growth into the future. Company reports have reflected this positive trend. Casablanca-based clothing and fabric manufacturer Charaftex told local media in June that its domestic and international orders were higher than before the Covid-19 pandemic. Like many other manufacturers, the company anticipated being able to have 100% of their staff back at work in July.

The company expanded during the crisis, recruiting 75 internal employees and external subcontractors to fulfill large export orders.

Agri-business

Morocco's agricultural base has allowed the country to establish an advanced agroindustrial production network that has been



COPAG-Jaouda also distributed free protective masks to customers through the cooperative's 100,000 points of sale across Morocco.



exports were the secondmost valuable segment in 2018 after automobiles, outperforming phosphates, textiles and aeronautics.

An important focus of agricultural policy and the PMV in the years leading up to the pandemic has

Global Research. This, combined with government support for the sector, has positioned agri-food to gain strategic importance during the crisis and beyond. At a webinar hosted by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation in May, Moroccan digital tracking

Morocco" label supported by national advertising to promote local products, reducing Customs duties on inputs, introducing food cheques for the unemployed, and a host of other measures seeking to promote consumption and provide financial support for struggling producers.

Moroccan digital tracking system Attaissir ("Tighten") was voted the best protection for farmers in the MENA region.

been the creation of production clusters across the country.

The clusters have allowed farmers to share production, distribution and marketing methods to improve their competitiveness. This has not only made the sector more productive overall, but has permitted smaller growers to be effectively integrated into larger value chains. The resilience of these value chains has served the country well in ensuring food security and maintaining agri-businesses during the current crisis. On a smaller scale, the Green Morocco Plan has promoted agricultural cooperatives, which enable the integration of smaller and often artisanal producers into larger production chains and provide them easier access to international markets.

One of the largest integrated cooperatives in the country, COPAG-Jaouda was able to maintain its production rate during the height of the pandemic, with the 20,000 small farmers in its network continuing to supply regular quantities of milk.

Agriculture and related businesses have seen comparatively little disruption in production or demand, and robust value chains have been maintained, according to an April 2020 report by Attijari

system Attaissir ("Tighten") was voted the best protection for farmers in the MENA region.

Attaissir allows farmers to control their crops remotely, thus facilitating social distancing. Leading sugar manufacturer Cosumar, together with local firms, created the system in 2019 to digitise cultivation and harvesting processes. The remote monitoring of GPS-linked agricultural machines provided by the system proved an effective means to continue operations when the pandemic threatened to disrupt agricultural activities. Meanwhile, the export of fruit and vegetables to the EU increased in the first half of 2020 due to a production slowdown in Spain, Portugal and Italy – the kingdom's main competitors. Prices also rose during those months.

Nonetheless, a downturn in demand from a number of food categories – including chocolate and confectionaries, beverages, cheese and coffee – has meant that large segments of agro-industry faced a significant decline in revenue. In May 2020 the National Agri-Food Federation urged the government to adopt a number of policies to provide relief and ensure the sector emerges stronger than before. The policy proposals include creating a "Made in

Similar to textiles, agri-food players have been mobilised in the fight against Covid-19. Companies such as Danone, oil manufacturer Lesieur Cristal, water producer Ain Saiss, Agro Juice Processing, Cosumar and Sultan Tea have not only maintained their levels of production, but have collectively donated necessary food products such as milk, cooking oil, bottled water, sugar, tea, juice and couscous to families in need.

Some companies went even further.

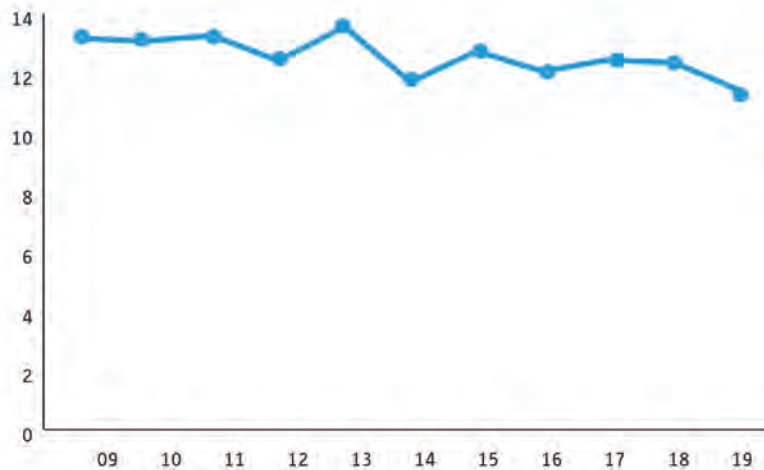
The machine is an autonomous remote-controlled ventilator that can help Covid-19 patients at home should they be unable to reach a hospital.

In May a locally produced respirator was developed by the Foundation for Research, Development and Innovation in Science and Engineering, and a medical team from Mohammed VI University of Health Sciences, with financing from Cosumar.





Agriculture, forestry & fishing value added, 2009-19 (% of GDP)



As of 2020 two French automobile manufacturers – Renault and Groupe PSA – had established a presence in Morocco, and in December 2017 Chinese electric car manufacturer BYD announced it would build a facility to produce battery-powered passenger cars, buses and trucks, which should be operational by 2025. These producers have brought with them an array of suppliers to industrial zones in Tangier, Kenitra and Casablanca.

Automotive exports increased from Dh42.7bn to Dh72.3bn between 2014 and 2018, and the sector employed some 180,000 people as of late 2019. The automotive industry helped spur the rapid growth of aeronautics industry. As of late 2019 the aeronautics sector had 140 firms in operation that employed 17,000 people, and mobilised annual exports of \$1.4bn with an overall annual growth rate of 20% between 2017 and 2019. Morocco based manufacturers make components for 30 aircraft models produced by industry leaders such as Airbus, Boeing, Embraer, Bombardier and Sukhoi.

Like other sectors, the growth of the aeronautics industry has been supported by special economic zones, which centralise government services and suppliers, and cater to the needs of manufacturers. However, both the global automotive and aviation industries were severely impacted by the pandemic due to a sudden decrease in demand stemming from movement restrictions, with the European car market seeing a 52.3% year-on-year decline in consumer purchases in May, as well as supply-side difficulties as factories closed and raw materials and parts from China disappeared. While the pandemic could permanently alter both industries, Morocco is positioning itself to come out of the crisis stronger than before.

Case Study



Gharb Papier & Carton (GPC) is a private company established in 1992 specialised in manufacturing packaging and corrugated carton. As a branch of YNNA Holding, one of the biggest industrial groups in Morocco, GPC activities are a barometer of Covid-19's impact on wider economic growth.

A strategic supplier for sectors such as automotive and agro-industry, the company set up a plan to balance gains and losses along its supply chain stemming from consequences of the lockdown. Public procurement for essential food products has significantly stimulated the industry during the turmoil, with GPC providing packaging for factories manufacturing masks and foodstuffs in the country.

After a drop in activity from mid-March through June, the company targets a recovery in late 2020. "Covid-19 shows that local industry is ready for diversification and densification in its global production capacities," Mounir El Bari, general manager of GPC, told OBG when speaking on how Moroccan industries can unlock their potential in the face of crisis. A post-Covid-19 economic reorganisation is hoped to underline Morocco's business maturation in the industrial sector.

At the same time, sustainable growth and development is a priority for GPC, and the company recycles 100% of its carton materials. The company is also investing in a new solid waste treatment plant.

Automotive & Aeronautical Manufacturing

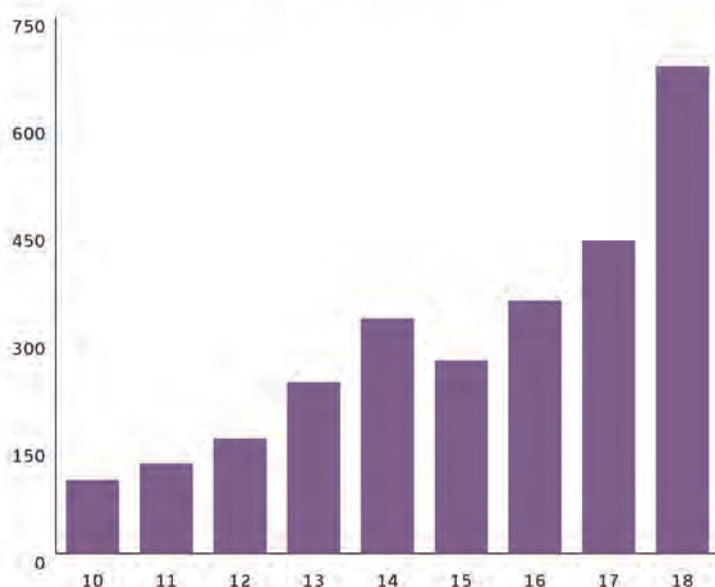
Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic Morocco had transformed itself into a global centre for

the automotive industry, taking advantage of its proximity to Europe and setting the right incentives for manufacturers and suppliers.





Exports of aircraft parts, 2010-18 (\$ m)



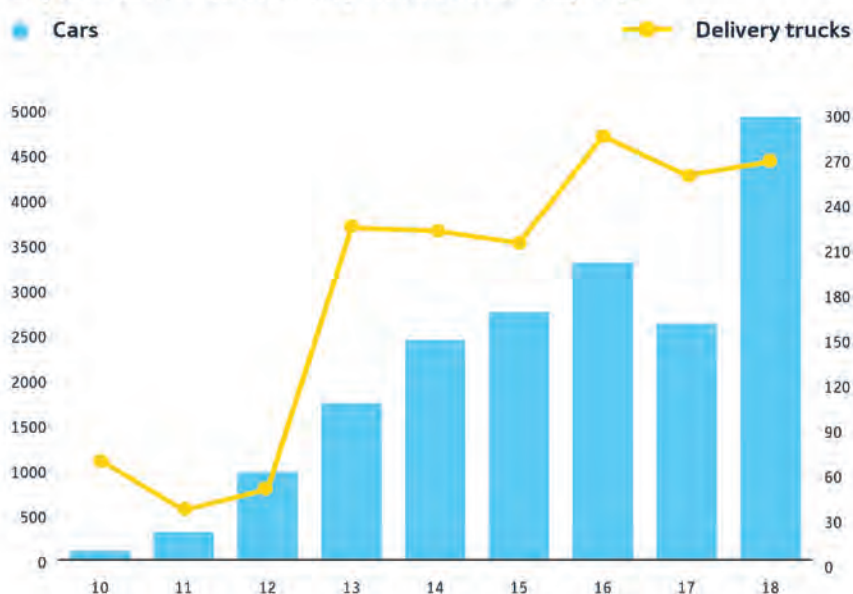
the manufacturer's industrial facilities were able to restart early. On April 27 Renault's Tangier factory reopened, followed by resumed activity at its Casablanca site on May 4. Renault's health protocols were recognised as exemplary by the government, which heralded the opening of the factories as a sign of the recovery of the automotive sector. Early on in the pandemic, through its network of dealers and automotive transformation partners. In addition, Renault's Tangier and Casablanca plants made some of their infrastructure available to the local authorities mobilised to manage the pandemic.

Moreover, Moulay Hafid Elalamy, the Minister of Industry,

The kingdom is likely to benefit from manufacturers looking to relocate Asia-based production, as supply chain disruptions have resulted in many companies pursuing a strategy of nearshoring. Morocco's position as a regional manufacturing leader and its strategic location joining Europe, Africa and the Middle East provides opportunity for further expansion, namely building on existing partnerships with European and US firms. At the same time, the pandemic has demonstrated the importance of manufacturing self-sufficiency and local content, both of which could provide opportunities for aeronautical manufacturers that already have advanced capabilities to produce key equipment.

A cautiously positive sign for automotive manufacturers came in May, when French President Emmanuel Macron outlined his country's automobile industry rescue plan. While the plan focuses heavily on relocating manufacturing activities to France, the Moroccan factories of Renault and PSA will not be affected. The Committee of French Automobile Manufacturers stressed the

Exports of cars and delivery trucks, 2010-18 (\$ m)



Groupe Renault Maroc contributed 50 new vehicles that were turned into ambulances

importance of the Moroccan plants in a statement that month, and clarified that the companies would remain dedicated to their facilities in the country. Renault's factories had been affected by the pandemic and lockdown measures, but with strict health and safety measures in place,

expressed optimism to local media in May, saying that the sizeable planned investment in electric and hybrid vehicles in France opens up opportunities for facilities in Morocco. As sourcing will no longer be done from Asia, Morocco is poised to become a greater supply platform





In June Aviarail, a firm that specialises in engineering and designing aeronautics and railways, announced that the company had created the Oxylife respirator in partnership with other local industry players.

for French manufacturers. The minister cited the Moroccan automotive industry's positioning, competitiveness and ability to comply with environmental rules – which is becoming a decisive criterion for manufacturers – as reasons why the country was anticipating new investment in the hybrid and electric vehicle segments of the market. Some nations have already seen a rebound in demand for automobiles, and there are early indications that the pandemic could lead to a spike in vehicle purchases in the near term. After posting double-digit declines in vehicle sales in the first three months of 2020, China recorded a 4.4% y-o-y increase in purchases in April – the country's first increase in 22 months. This indicates that consumer preferences may have shifted due to the need to social distance and move away from public transport.

Faced with long-term subdued demand in air travel, many aeronautics producers were able to pivot to the manufacture of medical devices.

The device was manufactured with cost-competitive and readily available domestic components, and its technical characteristics and performance meet all relevant international medical standards. In addition, the consortium made available detailed instructions for how to make the respirator to allow production to scale up quickly. Sa d Benahajjou, President of Aviarail, told local media that month that the achievement heralded the beginning of a new technological ecosystem, with the group working on products such as electrocardiogram systems, scanners and defibrillators. "Our goal is to position Morocco as first on the world – or at least regional – chessboard," he said.



Case Study



Altran, part of the Capgemini Group, is a global engineering and R&D firm. With around 2000 consultants in Casablanca, the company's activities are 98% export-oriented, serving international customers mainly in the automotive, railway, life sciences and aerospace sectors.

As the pandemic led to a decrease in demand in the global aeronautics and automobile industries, Altran implemented a work-from-home policy for its employees and reduced the work week from five days to four. The company also benefitted from the unemployment scheme put in place by the government. As a result of these measures, Altran was able to decrease its operating expenses, ensure business continuity and avoid dismissing any employees.

Meanwhile, Altran has been working under the leadership of the Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Green and Digital Economy with industrial and laboratory partners on a hospital reanimation bed prototype made entirely of local components. Launching in July, the aim is to bridge the shortage of medical beds without the need for imports.

Despite the hardships of the pandemic, the crisis has also brought an opportunity to expand the customer base served from Morocco and pivot to new operations, which will require continuing innovation and upgrading skills. "The post-Covid-19 period is increasing demand for cost-effective and industrialised engineering," Idriss Elasri, CEO of Altran Morocco, told OBG. "I anticipate a comeback to pre-Covid levels of activity by the end of 2020. Moreover, I believe Morocco can become an engineering destination of choice because it has talent, strong analytical skills, industry knowledge, cultural proximity to Europe and a proven quality-to-price ratio."



IT & Offshoring



Morocco has made significant progress in recent years in digitalising the economy, with developments primarily driven by national blueprints Maroc Numeric 2013 and Maroc Digital 2020. In 2017 the Digital Development Agency (*Agence de développement du digital, ADD*) was established, which plays a key role in overseeing progress by regulating ICT-related projects and reforms. Among its main responsibilities are the digitalisation of public services and business processes, and reducing the rural-urban digital divide.

These trends accelerated in the midst of the pandemic, bringing a range of developments for both the public and private sectors. As happened in most countries, the arrival of Covid-19 meant that Morocco had to find solutions to ensure services such as education, health care, retail and public administration continued, while following social distancing measures. Multiple digital platforms and solutions were created towards this end. For example, in collaboration with the ADD, the Ministry of Economy and Finance implemented various solutions to enable public employees to work remotely. Online services were also created to allow citizens to carry out administrative procedures from home. These efforts build on past successes in digitisation initiatives, such as creating a digital registry and electronic signature system.

On the back of such developments, Morocco ranked 53rd out of 190 countries in the World Bank's 2020 ease of doing business index, with this ranking largely attributed to wider adoption of digital solutions in the public sector.

While there are still gaps to be filled, Morocco has considerable digital potential. In a survey of the country's business community conducted by OBG in June, 67% of respondents said that it was likely

Case Study



Ineos/Cyberforce is a Casablanca-based digital solution and cybersecurity service provider. In anticipation of the lockdown that was imposed by the authorities on March 20 to stem the spread of Covid-19, Ineos set up a business continuity plan to minimise disruptions for staff, partners and clients. Measures included providing employees with laptops and home internet connections to facilitate remote work; enabling free access to online platforms to streamline communications and conduct meetings and workshops remotely; installing free-of-charge VPN solutions to reinforce online security; and establishing an in-house crisis unit. All employees were tested for Covid-19 when work in the office gradually resumed.

IT solutions have been leveraged by many companies to enable remote work and continue communications. Thus, the crisis has helped highlight the importance of IT development. "The Covid-19 pandemic has helped expose the significant untapped potential of Morocco's digital market," Reda Bakkali, CEO of Ineos, told OBG. Building on this potential will lead to a trend of consolidation in the IT space in the short to medium term, according to Bakkali. Fostering local expertise, supporting innovative startups and further strengthening the country's digital ecosystems are also of crucial importance. To this end, efforts to train and retain more locals in the sector will be key to advancing digitalisation in Morocco.

or very likely that the crisis will drive more efficiency in public administration.

Companies have also made new investments in digital and IT tools since the start of the pandemic. Nearly half, or 47%, of respondents said their firms significantly or very significantly increased investments in tech and digital tools during Covid-19, and 31% said they had somewhat increased these investments.

Integrating such solutions was imperative for many companies after the virus started to spread. For





instance, banks' customer service departments were overwhelmed with client requests when the country first went into lockdown and, as such, financial institutions mobilised resources to initiate a transition to remote banking. Equally important to the industry was to make remote work for employees not just possible, but secure.

Call centres faced the same challenge. With up to 80,000 employees, Morocco's business

process outsourcing sector represents one of the main pillars of the Pact for Industrial Emergence programme, and is an area that has experienced significant expansion since the early 2000s. As of end-2018 the kingdom's offshoring revenues exceeded Dh10.5bn. Morocco's geographic location, developed infrastructure and multilingual workforce have made it an ideal destination for companies looking to outsource their operations.



Case Study



Intelcia is a Moroccan outsourcing player specialising in customer relationship management (CRM) and IT solutions. It has a presence in 16 countries and accounts for 15% of Morocco's CRM industry. Like most companies, the advent of Covid-19 entailed many adjustments for the firm. Intelcia adapted by shifting some 9000 employees to remote work and readjusting work spaces to accommodate no more than 30% of staff on site at one time.

Key among the company's priorities in light of Covid-19 was to ensure the health and financial security of its employees, as well as the continuity of business for its clients. To this end, Intelcia pivoted its attention to the most strategic activities, allowing employees to adjust their workflow so that it aligned with the new economic and safety conditions. "The main challenge during this crisis has been to strike a balance among the interests of our clients, employees and the company," Nadia Ben Bahtane, group marketing and communications director at Intelcia, told OBG.

Despite a 20% drop in turnover in the first months that followed the outbreak of the pandemic, adjustments were made that included reinforcing on-site safety measures, communicating awareness campaigns and creating a crisis unit to streamline decision making. All this has allowed the company to resume activity both remotely and on site, as well as move ahead with recruitment and international expansion plans. According to Ben Bahtane, the resiliency of outsourcing activities will be contingent on the size of the company and the type of sectors and clients they cater to.

Furthermore, to support national efforts to fight the pandemic, Intelcia employees contributed Dh4m to the Special Fund for the Management and Response to Covid-19 set up by King Mohammed VI on March 15, 2020.



Socio-economic Outlook

Socio-economic Outlook

The Special Commission for Economic Development (*Commission Spéciale sur le Modèle de Développement*, CSMD) was formed by King Mohammed VI in the summer of 2019 to identify challenges to growth and promote the generation and distribution of wealth to enable a greater portion of the population to reap the benefits of recent economic gains. The commission comprises 35 members from a wide range of academic and professional backgrounds who have knowledge of Moroccan society and political, economic, social, cultural and environmental issues. The body includes Moroccans working in the country and abroad from across government, the private sector and civil society.

The CSMD originally planned to

release its findings regarding the most urgent structural challenges facing the Moroccan economy by June 2020. The Covid-19 pandemic, however, disrupted the commission's ability to conduct its research.

Given the pandemic's major health and economic implications for the country's development, the CSMD invited citizens to share lessons they have learned from the crisis, which will be incorporated into its findings. To facilitate this input, in April the CSMD launched its digital collaborative platform "Csm.d.ma" in Arabic and French for Moroccan citizens around the world.

While the results have yet to be released, it is clear that key socio-economic challenges include inefficient public administration and underdeveloped health and education systems – which, in

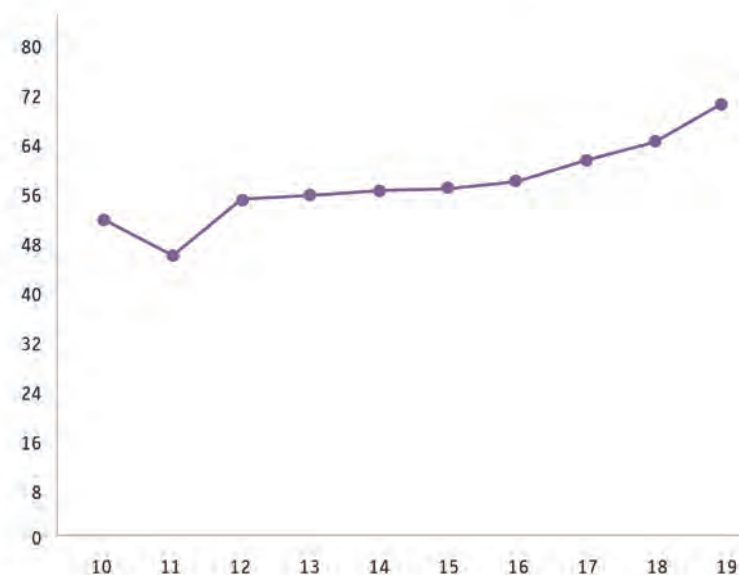
many cases, were exacerbated by the pandemic. However, there is hope that the crisis will provide momentum for greater investment in health and education. In June Saïd Amzazi, the Minister of National Education, Vocational Training, Higher Education and Scientific Research, told local media that building human capital will be an essential pillar of the national development model.

Professor Omar Kattani of the Mohammed V University in Rabat told local media in late April that it will take an estimated Dh80bn-100bn to ensure a sustainable economic recovery – a cost roughly equal to the expenses incurred during the country's lockdown. According to Kattani, such a recovery package will require a mix of government, private and international support. Even with this scale of investment, however,





Individuals using the internet, 2010-18 (% of population)



economic austerity measures will be needed in the coming years to absorb the financial shocks of 2020. A structural challenge that has been highlighted and intensified by the pandemic is the rural-urban divide.

The rural economy has been impacted significantly by the crisis, seeing higher rates of unemployment and lower access to skills development. Therefore, a large influx of workers from the countryside to the cities is expected in the near future. The rural-urban divide is also a digital divide: a 2019 survey by the National Telecommunications Regulations Agency found that while internet access has risen threefold in the past eight years, rural households continue to report lower rates of connectivity. Whereas 80% of urban households can access the internet, the figure is just over half for rural areas.

Looking towards 2021, there are several sectors likely to provide support in the kingdom's economic recovery. In OBG's 2020 Morocco CEO Survey, 28% of respondents – the largest portion – identified the industrial sector as having the most potential to drive growth,

followed by ICT and innovation at 24%, and agriculture at 10%.

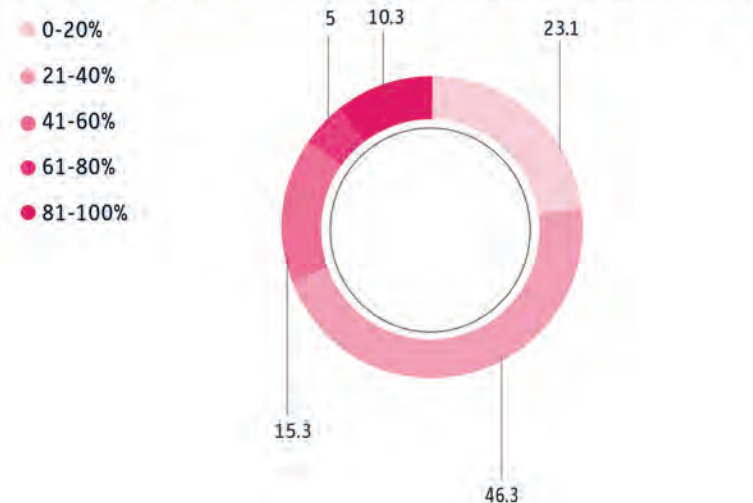
Business Outlook

Approximately 55% of survey respondents expect their turnover to decline in 2020. Of those who provided an estimate, 70% anticipate a drop of up to 40%. A further 25% of respondents expect turnover to remain stable, 4% expect to see an increase and 16% are unsure.

Similarly, 60% of respondents anticipate a decline in order books in 2020. Roughly 45% of those who provided an estimate expect a drop of 21-40%. Meanwhile, 21% expect order books to remain stable, 6% forecast an increase and the remaining 13% are unsure.

Covid-19 has affected the way companies do business, and has ushered in new practices such as remote work for both the public and private sector. In the 2020 survey, 61% of firms said remote work is likely or very likely to become common practice.

To what extent are you expecting a fall in turnover in 2020 compared to 2019? (%)



To what extent could telework become a common practice in your business? (%)





Corporate Social Responsibility

Corporate social responsibility (CSR) and better environmental practices are expected to become more ingrained in businesses' decision-making processes. About 89% of OBG's Morocco CEO Survey participants said such policies were important or very important for their firms. CSR initiatives have long played an important role in the Moroccan business environment, but gained momentum in the years leading up to the pandemic. In 2017 the Observatory of Corporate Social Responsibility in Morocco was created as an information and exchange platform regarding CSR, with the objective to promote responsible practices and stimulate scientific research on CSR. That same year, in response to more Moroccan companies adopting CSR practices, the ISCAE business school in Casablanca established a new master's degree programme for strategy, sustainable development, and corporate social and environmental responsibility.



Case Study



Menara Holding was established in 1976 and has 12 companies under its umbrella. While the largest share of the company's activities is focused on the construction sector, it also has operations in the energy, transport and logistics sectors, among others.

With construction being one of the hardest hit industries during the Covid-19 pandemic, putting 90% of projects throughout Morocco on hold, Menara Holding swiftly took action to limit the impact on the company and its employees. Some of the main measures included capacity adjustments, cash flow management and redirecting commercial activities towards less affected sectors. To manage internal communications, the company set up Ya9ada, an ad hoc committee that enables it to communicate effectively and safely with employees through platforms such as WhatsApp, YouTube and Teams.

Furthermore, to assist national efforts in the fight against Covid-19, Menara Holding contributed Dh3m to the government's Special Fund for the Management and Response to Covid-19. The company also took an active role in supporting hospitals and families in need with food assistance.

"Menara Holding is a strong advocate of responsible management and sustainable practices in Morocco, and places employees and society at the heart of its undertakings," Mohamed Ait Benzaiter, Deputy General Manager of Menara Holding, told OBG.

On the back of these efforts, in March the company joined the UN Global Compact, a corporate sustainability initiative where companies report on the implementation of sustainable and socially responsible policies in their operations.





Renewable Energy

In light of Covid-19, governments and businesses alike will be looking for solutions that guarantee sustainability, self-sufficiency and growth when crafting their long-term strategies. To this end, renewables and Morocco's experience in the field offer considerable potential. While 90% of the country's energy needs continue to be met through imports, Morocco has an ambitious plan in place: the National Energy Strategy was launched in 2009 and aims to generate up to 52% of the country's electricity needs from renewables by 2030. Key projects include the 580-MW Noor solar power plant, the 800-MW Noor Midelt hybrid plant and the 850-MW Boujdour wind farm. Moreover, in October 2019 government officials inaugurated Id Mjahdi, touted

as the first fully solar powered village in Africa. The 50-person village is supplied with power produced by 32 photovoltaic panels, which generate over 8.3 KWh of electricity.

With companies and policy makers expected to increasingly adopt green practices to bolster their standing both locally and among the international investment community, the need to develop sustainable energy sources is growing. The positive environmental impact of Covid-19 – namely reduced carbon emissions – has further reinforced this perspective. Morocco is well placed to capitalise on its experience and become a global player in the field of green energy, contributing to further developments at home and beyond its borders.

Case Study



The Moroccan Agency for Energy Efficiency (*Agence Marocaine de l'Efficacité Énergétique, AMEE*) is a public institution overseen by the Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Green and Digital Economy. It is set to play a key role in the country's recovery from Covid-19, as it looks to boost investment in sustainable solutions. "While Morocco has made significant headway in the field of renewable energy, it is time to extend our know-how into all sectors of the economy," Said Mouline, CEO of AMEE, told OBG.

AMEE's goals include promoting clean production, energy efficiency and sustainable mobility. Gains have already been made in the agriculture sector, where 30,000 farmers have been trained and equipped with solar powered pumps. According to Mouline, the promotion of rational energy consumption could help reduce energy bills by 20-30%, therefore boosting competitiveness. "Many industrial players took advantage of the slowdown induced by the crisis to review sustainability policies, especially as Europe prepares to introduce a carbon border levy in 2021," he added.

Another important area for AMEE is the support of local content development that will assist Morocco in its green economy transition. The country currently produces 70% of the components needed to make a wind turbine, for example, and in February the first made-in-Morocco electric car hit the market. Capitalising on Morocco's resources and know-how can help replicate such successes across other sectors.



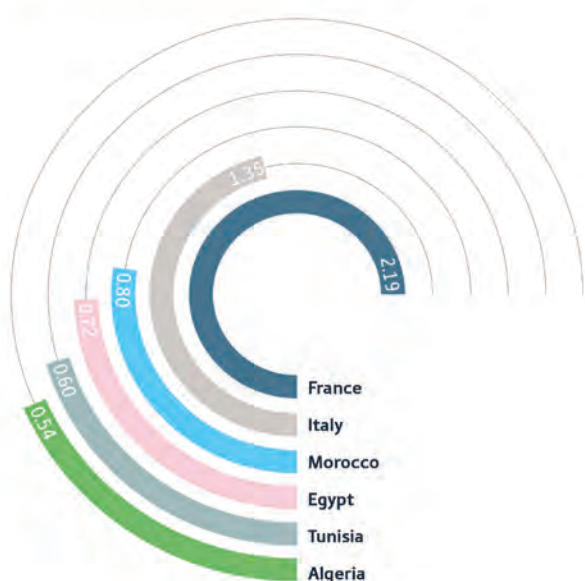


Research & Development

Around the world, the Covid-19 pandemic has brought the importance of research and development (R&D) to the forefront. According to a 2019 OBG survey, R&D ranked third after engineering and leadership on the list of skills most needed in Morocco. This is especially significant in Africa, where R&D budgets have traditionally been limited. A number of developments during the pandemic have come to demonstrate the added value that could be generated from increased R&D. In the early stages of the pandemic, R&D institutes across Morocco mobilised to find innovative solutions to the health crisis. These efforts brought together researchers from universities and private organisations to produce much-needed medical gear and equipment. Ventilators have been one of the key outputs of this collective effort.

In May the Mohammed VI Polytechnic University concluded an agreement with the Institute Pasteur du Maroc, Groupe OCP and Foundation OCP to pool their resources to expand R&D on virology.

R&D spending as a share of GDP, 2017 (%)



Fostering a sense of unity and knowledge sharing can drive developments further. In late March the Ministry of Health launched an app for doctors and medical staff to share strategy and know-how related to the virus. Capacity building, maintaining momentum and boosting investment in R&D will play a key role in the country's recovery and future economic plans.

Skills & Education

Adapting education to industry needs and retaining skilled workers will be determining factors in Morocco's future economic prospects. While the country boasts a developed private education sector, gaps remain in certain areas, notably in engineering and ICT – two sectors that have taken on further importance during Covid-19.

In OBG's 2019 survey 75% of respondents identified education as the sector most likely to enable the country to unlock its economic potential. Like most countries around the world, e-learning platforms started to take hold in Morocco following the implementation of lockdown measures to ensure continuity of education. For areas lacking connectivity and digital infrastructure, educational content was made available on television and radio.





Pursuing South-South Relations

The global race for medical supplies and essential goods during the Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the pressing need to foster regional integration across Africa, where intra-continental trade accounts for around 16% of the total, compared to 80% in Europe and 70% in Asia. The pandemic exposed the vulnerability of existing continental supply chains, stressing the importance of developing stronger ties that will outlive the crisis. The Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), ratified in 2019, aims to boost trade ties and develop African businesses, and may play a leading role in building strong intra-regional supply chains. The implementation of AfCFTA has been delayed due to the pandemic, with the July 1, 2020 target for trade commencement being postponed in early June 2021. Nonetheless, preparatory activities are going ahead, with the Pan-African Payment and Settlement System pilot programme, supported by the African Export- Import Bank, slated for debut in September 2020 – a delay of just three months. Negotiations on outstanding

schedules are set to resume and could conclude as early as end-2020, demonstrating a continued commitment to the agreement from all principal participants.

In the interim, Morocco – on the back of years of business expansion into the continent – can play a significant role in bridging some of the region's immediate shortcomings and help establish a solid economic foundation. The country has dedicated considerable investment to the continent since the turn of the century, with companies venturing into key sectors such as financial services, transport, construction and telecommunications. In 2018 Moroccan exports to Africa accounted for 7.8% of the kingdom's total exports. Compared to its exports to Europe (70%), however, the current level suggests much room for growth, particularly in light of the disruptions caused by the pandemic. Africa remains a net food importer, spending \$35bn more than it earns in exports – a gap that is expected to triple by 2025 if current trends hold, according to the African Development Bank. Thanks to its relatively diversified economic base and experience in sectors such as agriculture, tourism, renewable energy, and

• • • • •
The kingdom has donated 8m masks, protective equipment and medicine – all manufactured in Morocco by Moroccan companies – to 15 nations on the continent.
• • • • •

the automotive and aeronautics industries, Morocco can play a decisive role in driving growth and recovery in Africa during and after the pandemic. Moreover, the well-established air links to the region and sophisticated port infrastructure provide Morocco with a clear competitive advantage.

The strength of Morocco's industrial capacity and its dedication to providing support to other African countries was on display during the pandemic. With the kingdom's considerably scaled up industrial capacity more than meeting domestic demands, King Mohammed VI launched an initiative for African solidarity. ■





Agreements & MoUs Signed between the Kingdom of Morocco and the Republic of India

1981	
1	Trade Agreement
2	Cultural and Scientific Cooperation Accord
3	Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation
1992	
4	MoU between the Federation of Indian Export Organizations (FIEO) and Casablanca Chamber of Commerce and Industry
1996	
5	MoU between the Federation of Indian Export Organizations (FIEO) and the Moroccan Export Promotion Centre (CMPE)
1998	
6	MoU on regular consultations between the two Foreign Ministries
7	Convention on Avoidance of Double Taxation
1999	
8	Agreement on Tourism
9	Agreement for Cooperation between Maghreb Arab Press (MAP) and Press Trust of India (PTI)
2000	
10	Agreement for cooperation in the fields of Merchant Shipping and Maritime
11	Agreement between Doordarshan and RTM (Radio-diffusion Television Marocaine)
12	MoU between the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and the General Confederation for Moroccan Enterprises (CGEM) for setting up a Joint Business Council
13	MoU between the National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) and the Moroccan Association of Professionals and Information Technologies (APEBI)
2001	
14	Agreement on Plant Protection and Plant Quarantine
15	Agreement on Veterinary Sanitation
2004	
16	MoU in the field of Agricultural Research and Education
2006	
17	MoU on bilateral cooperation in housing sector
2013	
18	Protocol amending the India-Morocco Double Taxation Avoidance Convention (DTAC)
19	MoU between National School of Applied Sciences, Tangier in Morocco, and Jaypee University of Information Technologies, Solan in India
2014	
20	Agreement on Environmental Cooperation signed in Marrakech
21	MoU on Cooperation in Marine Fisheries signed in Marrakech
22	MoU concerning setting up of a Centre for Excellence in Information Technology (CEIT) in Morocco
2015	
23	MoU between the General Confederation for Moroccan Enterprises (CGEM) and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) for strengthening commercial relations by expanding and deepening economic, trade and investment cooperation





24	Agreement on Exemption of Visa requirement for Holders of Diplomatic, Official and Service Passports between India & Morocco signed in Delhi
25	MoU between the Moroccan Centre for Export Promotion (Morocco Export) and the Federation of Indian Export Organizations (FIEO)
26	MoU between the Moroccan Centre for Export Promotion (Morocco Export) and the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the Republic of India
27	MoU between the Attijariwafabank and ICICI Bank Limited on the establishment of a wider cooperation framework between the two groups
28	MoU between the Moroccan Association of Exporters (ASMEX) and the Indian Association of Importers
2016	
29	Cultural Exchange Programme (CEP) for 2016-2019 between India and Morocco
30	MoU between the Foreign Service Institute at the Ministry of External affairs of India and the Moroccan Academy for Diplomatic Studies at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Morocco
2017	
31	MoU between Indian Council for Cultural Relations and Mohammed V University on the Establishment of ICCR Chair for Hindi Language
32	MoU between Indian Council for Cultural Relations and Mohammed V University on the Establishment of ICCR Chair of Indian Studies
33	MoU between the Indian Council for World Affairs (ICWA) of India and the Royal Institute for Strategic Studies (IRES) of Morocco on Cooperation in Institutional Relations
34	MoU between "Prasar Bharati" of India and "la Société Nationale de Radiodiffusion et de Television (SNRT)" of Morocco
35	MoU between the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of the Government of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Health of the Kingdom of Morocco on Cooperation in the field of Health
36	MoU between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco on Cooperation in the field of Water Resources
37	Cooperation Agreement between Indian Railways (IR) Moroccan National Railways Office (ONCF)
38	Agreement to establish Cooperation between Indian Maritime University (IMU) and the Higher Institute of Maritime Studies (ISEM) of Morocco
39	Framework Agreement for Cooperation in Training between the Indian Maritime University of the Republic of India and the National Ports Agency (Port Training Institute) of the Kingdom of Morocco
40	Cooperation Framework Agreement between the Institute of Training in Engines and Road Maintenance (IFEER) under the Ministry of Equipment, Transport, Logistics and Water of the Kingdom of Morocco and the Indian Academy of Highway Engineers (IAHE) under the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways of the Republic of India
41	MoU between Marrakech Mohamed VI University Hospital in Morocco and Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education & Research (JIPMER) in India for Telemedicine collaboration
2018	
42	Agreement on Scientific and Technical Cooperation between the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in India and the National Centre for Scientific and Technical Research (CNRST) in Morocco
43	MoU on Cooperation between the Ministry of Law and Justice of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Justice of the Kingdom of Morocco
44	MoU for Cooperation in the field of Renewable Energy





45	MoU in the field of Mining and Geology
46	Work Plan for the Years 2018-20 between the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Agriculture, Marine Fisheries, Rural Development and Waters and Forests of the Kingdom of Morocco under the MoU on Cooperation in the field of Agricultural Research and Education
47	MoU on Cooperation between the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA) in New Delhi, India and the Moroccan Centre for Strategic Studies (CMES) in Rabat, Morocco
48	MoU on Cooperation between the Moroccan Agency for Tourism Development (SMIT) and the India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC)
49	Air Services Agreement between the Kingdom of Morocco and the Republic of India
50	MoU between the National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) of the Republic of India and the National Agency for the Promotion of Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (Maroc PME) of the Kingdom of Morocco on Cooperation in the field of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises between India and Morocco
51	MoU between the Government of Republic of India and the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco for Cooperation in Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
52)	MoU between the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology of India and the Moroccan Computer Emergency Response Team (ma-CERT), of the National Defence Administration of Morocco, on Cooperation in the area of Cyber Security
53	Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters between the Kingdom of Morocco and the Republic of India
54	Agreement on Legal and Judicial Cooperation in Civil and Commercial matters including the service of Summons, Judicial documents, Letters of Request and Execution of Judgment and Arbitral Awards
55	Joint Declaration of Intent between National Informatics Centre, under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology of the Republic of India, and the Ministry of Justice of the Kingdom of Morocco on Cooperation in the field of Modernization and Use of Information Technology
56	Extradition Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco
2019	
57	MoU on Mutual Recognition of Academic Qualifications between the Kingdom of Morocco and the Republic of India
58	Partnership Agreement on the field of Vocational Training between the Office of Vocational Training and Employment Promotion of Morocco and the National Skill Development Corporation of Morocco
59	MoU on setting up of Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism between the Kingdom of Morocco and the Republic of India
60	MoU on Cooperation in Youth Matters between the Kingdom of Morocco and the Republic of India
61	MoU on Housing Settlement between the Kingdom of Morocco and the Republic of India
62	MoU on Facilitation of Business visa between the Kingdom of Morocco and the Republic of India
63	MoU between the Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Service of the Region Fez-Meknes (CCISFM) in the Kingdom of Morocco and the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the Republic of India
2020	
64	MoU on judicial cooperation between the Superior Council of the Judiciary (CSPJ) of the Kingdom of Morocco and the Supreme Court of the Republic of India





Map of the Kingdom of Morocco



Source: Moroccan National Tourist Office
Website: www.visitmorocco.com



New Holland TT3

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- + VERSATILITY AND VALUE:** A three-point linkage, extended servicing intervals and easy maintenance access



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Mohammed VI Polytechnic University is a hub of research, innovation, education and entrepreneurship, aspiring to become a solid bridge of knowledge between Morocco, Africa and the world



UM6P applies a “learning by doing” approach and develops sound partnerships with world-class universities, to promote leadership and training in focused research areas.

By contributing to the training of a new generation of researchers, entrepreneurs and leaders, UM6P is committed to positioning

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Mohammed VI Polytechnic University aspires to become a world-class university, committed and actively engaged in shaping leaders in Science, Technology and Humanities.