

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



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Statement by

**His Excellency Mr. Taïb Fassi Fihri
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation**

At

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**Mr. President of the General-Assembly,
Mr. Secretary-General,
Excellencies, Heads of State and Government
Distinguished Ladies and Gentleman,**

In the name of God the Merciful and the Compassionate

On behalf of the Kingdom of Morocco, allow me to warmly congratulate you on your election to the presidency of the 64th Session of the General-Assembly of the United Nations. We are even more proud to see a son of a brotherly country from our region at the helm of this universal body. Rest assured of our delegation preparedness to fully support your endeavors towards a bigger role for our Organization in meeting the challenges of the new era.

I wish also to seize this opportunity to express our appreciation to His Excellency the Secretary General Mr. Ban Ki-Moon for his relentless efforts aimed at realizing the objectives for which our Organization was created as well as fulfilling the aspirations of the peoples of the world in the course of this third millennium.

By their inclusive nature, their multifarious dimensions and different implications, world crises have constituted an additional impetus to buttress our collective action and strengthen coordination among the different constituents of this universal Body.

Today, the world is witnessing recurrent and unprecedented crises in the economic, financial, food and energy fields that have shaken the premises of universal governance. They also adversely affected the socio-economic and environmental systems in all states, especially the developing countries.

The United Nations, the most representative organization, embodies the collective conscience of the international community. As such, it is the most appropriate forum for a coordinated joint action and for the reactivation of collective initiatives in order to analyze the root causes of these crises, contain their implications through the adoption of agreed solutions likely to mitigate their effects.

Effective and fair economic governance is dependent on the revitalization of the multilateral system on the basis of efficiency, realism and innovation as a means of coming up with solutions that reflect the aspirations and hopes of present and future generations.

Mr. President

The Millennium goals were adopted as a common platform of action with clear objectives, and a timeframe for implementation, with a view to achieving human development in the world. Much progress has been achieved in numerous states, since the millennium summit, thanks to the efforts deployed by the international community.

However, the pace of achievement does not proceed consistently with the same frequency inside the same state or among the states in general. Current economic crisis, through its negative implications, may exacerbate those disparities, especially in Africa.

Therefore the few remaining years separating us from 2015 require that we adopt a global and coordinated approach and build a real partnership in order to mobilize additional financial resources in conformity with the commitments entered into in the "Monterrey Consensus" and "the Doha Declaration" on financing for development as well as the declarations of the "G8" and "G20".

In this context, Morocco hopes that the fourth high level meeting on financing for development, to be held in November 2009, in New York will yield results commensurate with the expectations of the developing countries, thus giving new impetus to the efforts made for the achievement of the millennium goals. We also hope that it would lead to the creation of "an international alliance for development in Africa" as a framework for the coordination of efforts and initiatives designed to accomplish the achievement of those goals within the agreed timeframe.

The United Nations development agencies should also mainstream the millennium goals in their policy both in the form of programs of work and frameworks for action.

In this context UNDP, in particular, should, when drafting its report on "Human Development", use the millennium goals as practical and comprehensive agreed indicators. It has become imperative to adopt, when measuring living standards, a new approach that reflects better the ever evolving concept of development.

In keeping with this vision, the National Initiative for Human Development, launched in May 2005 by His Majesty Mohammed VI, constitutes in this context a pillar of the Moroccan social policy. The initiative is based on an integrated approach to development in all its political, economic, social, environmental and cultural dimensions. By building roads, providing energy services and encouraging income-generating activities, the Initiative has achieved concrete results in terms of fighting poverty and exclusion, improving infrastructure and de-marginalizing rural areas.

Mr. President,

Collective efforts in the field of development will remain insufficient unless they are accompanied by daring and active policies for the protection of the environment, and concrete measures to mitigate the impact of climate change which is threatening, more than ever before, the future of mankind.

In this connection, Morocco is convinced that the conference on climate change to be held in Copenhagen next December will undoubtedly constitute an important step towards an international agreement on climate.

In this regard, Morocco reiterates the proposal it had made at the conference held in Poznan, Poland, in December 2008, for the creation of a "Multilateral fund for the transfer of technology to the developing countries" in order to enable them to deal with the grave implications of climate change.

Mindful of the necessity to operationalize concrete measures to protect environment and contain the impact of climate change, His Majesty Mohammed VI instructed the government "to quickly draft a comprehensive national environmental charter with the aim of protecting the countries national resources and natural reserves as part of a sustainable development policy. The environment should be considered a common heritage of the nation, whose protection is a collective duty which falls to current and future generations".

In the same extent, the strategy adopted by Morocco in the field of energy aimed at developing renewable energies as well as recycling waste waters, will be reactivated.

Mr. President

Convinced that the peace process is the only viable option in the Middle East, the kingdom of Morocco has constructively participated with a sense of responsibility in all efforts of the international community aimed at reactivating the peace process on solid bases. This means that the process should be in conformity with international legality, the previous agreements and commitments among the concerned parties, the roadmap, the Arab peace initiative as a realistic option that reflects a joint Arab will to arrive at a fair and comprehensive solution that ensures the Palestinian people the right to create its own independent state, with Jerusalem as its capital, the withdrawal of Israel from all occupied Arab territories, including Syrian and Lebanese territories, as well as a stable, secure and peaceful existence for all the peoples of the region.

The Kingdom of Morocco expresses its appreciation to the American administration for its efforts and to the encouraging stances of president Obama, and hopes that it will continue its perseverance efforts to overcome obstacles to the peace process. We also commend all other international efforts including European ones, in this regard.

Mr. President,

These efforts will be productive only if the illegal practices of Israel are halted. These practices, on top of which is the establishment of settlements in the Palestinian occupied territories and the unfair blockade against our brotherly Palestinian people, run counter to the peace option.

The settlement activities and expulsions taking place in Al Quds with a view to changing the legal and demographic status of this holy city constitute a flagrant violation of the international agreements and requires an urgent action from all peace loving powers.

His Majesty Mohammad VI, in his capacity as Chairman of Al Quds Committee, has always warned the international community against the risks associated with altering the legal status of al Quds. He has also been urging the influential international powers to speedily apply the requirements of international legitimacy in order to preserve the religious, cultural and spiritual features of this holy city, in a manner conducive to activating the peace process.

Mr. President,

The achievement of peace through conflict resolution is the essence of the United Nations historical function. It should be based on the principles of peaceful resolution, equality among states and respect for their independence and territorial integrity in conformity with the charter of the United Nations. Let's not also forget the need to put an end to all forms of arms race and the fight against Terrorism.

As a member of the United Nations Peace Building Commission, Morocco will pursue its action and continue mobilizing efforts for the support of African countries. This action falls in the framework of south-south cooperation with concrete projects, defined goals and common benefits in conformity with the priority of the Moroccan foreign policy as determined by His Majesty the King Mohammed VI.

As such, Morocco as a pioneering participant in the UN peace keeping missions has always taken keen interest in the United Nations' efforts to upgrade those operations within the framework of the "new partnership" proposed to accommodate the developments in the world and the requirements for lasting peace.

Mr. President,

Furthermore, recent developments in Disarmament are a source of optimism. The positions expressed and declarations made at the highest levels augur well for efforts in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation.

We are hopeful that efforts will be deployed at the international and regional levels for the entry into force of the "Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty" in the light of the results of the

meeting on article 14 of the treaty, which I had the honor to chair, along with my colleague the Minister for Foreign Affairs of France, last Thursday.

Mr. President,

Since its inception, the United Nations has endeavored to promote international and regional cooperation to entrench the principles of coexistence, peace, good neighborliness and consultation at a time when regional economic gatherings are playing a pivotal role in tackling economic, social and environmental issues.

Convinced of this role, Morocco has taken keen interest in consolidating good neighboring relations within its African, Maghreb and Mediterranean regions. Likewise, Morocco supports the Mediterranean Union as a promising framework to enhance dialogue and cooperation between the two sides of the Mediterranean Sea. Also, aware of the important role of the Atlantic Ocean and of the opportunities it provides for joint action, Morocco launched, on 4 August 2009, an initiative for cooperation among African countries bordering the Atlantic Ocean, as a premise for a broader partnership with the other coastal countries of this geo-strategic space.

Mr. President,

His Majesty the King Mohammad VI reiterated Morocco's strong and standing resolve to contribute in good faith to the consolidation of the Maghreb Arab Union, to the reactivation of its structures, and the strengthening of the relations among its five members, in particular, with Algeria. This regional body can indeed play a central role in building fruitful partnerships and ensuring security and stability at the level of African, Middle eastern and Mediterranean region.

Our belief in the need for reactivating the Maghreb Arab entity, as an embodiment of our peoples' hopes and aspirations, is commensurate with our sincere desire to work for the removal of all obstacles impeding the fulfillment of our peoples' expectations in terms of communication, integration, stability, peaceful coexistence and brotherly relations among its five members.

In this regard, Morocco reacted faithfully and responsibly to the appeals of the Security Council to seek a political, lasting and negotiated solution for the regional dispute over the Moroccan Sahara. A daring autonomy initiative, considered serious and credible by the international community, was proposed as a promising and realistic platform for a lasting solution to this artificial conflict.

With the same determination, Morocco has been engaged in the new dynamic emanating from its initiative with the support of the Security Council, through the negotiation track under the supervision of the United Nations. In its resolutions 1813 and 1871, the Security Council called for serious and intense negotiations in a spirit of compromise and realism, with a view to reaching a political, lasting and negotiated solution in line with the principle

of self-determination that cannot be monopolized by any one or interpreted in a selective manner to cover undeclared objectives and a hidden agenda.

Morocco will pursue its cooperation with the Secretary General and his Personal Envoy with a view to reaching a final solution to this regional dispute, with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Kingdom of Morocco, while granting the population of the Sahara provinces an autonomous status that is likely to ensure their progress and well being and allow them to manage their domestic affairs in a democratic way.

Mr. President,

The Kingdom of Morocco has always been at the forefront of international and regional initiatives aimed at promoting the values of dialogue, tolerance and openness, especially as related to the necessary dialogue between Islam and the west, as well as to respect for universal human rights standards.

Impregnated with such principles, Morocco will continue promoting its fruitful cooperation and positive dialogue at the bilateral, regional and global levels. Motivated by the same spirit of commitment, the kingdom of Morocco will assume its responsibility and will play its role fully within the main UN bodies with a view to reinforcing its efficiency and its contribution.

Thank you.

Allah's peace and blessings be upon you.