



# HIS MAJESTY KING MOHAMMED VI

King of Morocco

Praise to God

May Peace and blessings be upon  
the Prophet, His Kith and Kin

Your Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to send this message to the participants in the second session of the World Policy Conference. I commend your choice of Morocco, a land of peace and open-mindedness, as the venue for your conference.

As you know, this important conference is taking place at a critical time when complex trends are gripping the world.

The financial crisis and the economic crisis, which followed, have affected all major international markets, prompted questions and underscored the need to reconsider the rules of the game worldwide. The new situation also requires much vigilance, lest the financial crisis become a chronic social and political crisis.

The recent economic and financial crisis has seriously undermined an economic order whose sustainability was never in doubt, particularly amid the general eagerness to embrace liberalism.

The collapse of some of the major financial institutions, the widespread loan crisis and unbridled deregulation have profoundly challenged the myth of omnipotent, omniscient liberalization. The gaps that were exposed showed the limitations of the vision based on the End of History, and the triumph of liberalism, which is itself founded on the "all-powerful" market, in which states seem to have relinquished their strategic responsibilities.

In fact, the situation underscores the need for the state to resume its strategic role, not as a totalitarian state, but as a modern regulator. The part it plays has been somewhat overshadowed by the great strides made by liberal economic thinking.

At the same time, there has been increased awareness of the need for equitable, global governance which is capable of checking sweeping globalization and regulating the mighty forces of globalized markets.



When this tidal wave hit the world, Morocco was one of the few countries that were prepared for it and did what it could to address the crucial issues involved.

Although it embraced a liberal economic policy quite early, Morocco has been cautious not to be carried away by the excesses of liberalism. One cannot, however, deny the historic role liberalism has played in the advancement and liberation of mankind.

Because it has always had a well-structured, regulated financial and banking system, a balanced economy rooted in agriculture, and a diversified industrial base, Morocco has managed to check the effects of the economic crisis that has rocked the world and limit, to a certain extent, its adverse consequences.

Well before the recent crisis struck, it had anticipated the need to practise what one may call “governance with a human face”, that is to say a system of governance that is capable of mitigating the effects of globalization and make this phenomenon, which has marked the past decades, more humane.

In this respect, Morocco has actively sought to address a number of issues and act on the basis of major policy guidelines that have since proved to be particularly relevant and timely.

By the Grace of Almighty God, we have remained deeply committed to a middle-of-the-road approach in our earnest efforts to fulfil the genuine legitimate aspiration of our citizens and of the nation's forces. We have also managed to show tangible solidarity with disadvantaged regions and segments of the population, while keeping up with the times. To achieve this, I have launched several bold initiatives and the country has been able to accomplish a lot. If we mention some of our achievements, it is not because we want to sing our own praises, but rather to show how aware we are of the amount of progress made. Those accomplishments constitute an incentive to make headway on the long, arduous path ahead in order to complete the task of building a united, democratic, advanced and modern nation.

Constructive politics will always be a basic part of human activity. As the art of the possible and the linchpin of democracy, politics is most efficient when it is close to the citizen's concerns, and when it shuns politics for politics' sake by promoting broad participation, outreach programs, good governance and global citizenship.

This is how we came to adopt participatory democracy in a state which derives its strength from the rule of law and deep respect for all types of human rights. At the same time, we are seeking to place man at the heart of the development process and have, to this end, launched the National Initiative for Human Development in order to fight poverty, vulnerability, social exclusion and marginalization. Furthermore, we have initiated major projects through government investments. We have also embarked on a policy based on good governance at regional and community levels. Similarly, we have come up with a proposal for an autonomy status in the southern provinces. We are also implementing far-reaching reforms in the justice sector. Furthermore, we are actively involved in the ongoing interfaith dialogue and are seeking to uphold spiritual values and humane ideals which advocate tolerance, moderation, solidarity and fraternity, and oppose all forms of extremism, violence and ostracism.



Ladies and Gentlemen,

The current crisis has shown the limitations of standardized models and of blind financial conformity without careful examination of financial practises and models.

It has also shown the need to respect the diversity of people, or ideas, of cultures and of the physical environment in which they evolve. Finally, it has demonstrated the need for a broad-based, inclusive and participatory form of globalization that takes into consideration different opinions, views and approaches.

In short, the crisis may well prove to be a blessing in disguise, provided we manage to reconsider the basic premises, dominant schools of thought and intellectual barriers that have wreaked havoc on entire segments of the global economy.

We need a sophisticated approach to light the way for a world that is almost groping in darkness due to superficial, simplistic methods, and to avoid having to choose between the state and/or the market and to avoid zero-sum games.

The aim is to opt for the only approach that is realistic, relevant and ambitious, in which the state supports, regulates and supervises economic activity, while helping to achieve the full potential of the market.

To fulfil this objective and promote the above vision, Morocco is counting on the World Policy Conference to prompt serious reflection on all the aspects involved and actively seek solutions. We look forward with keen interest to your valuable contributions, given your vast experience and great competence in your respective fields.

You have highlighted the dangers of truncated globalization and of the inadequacy of global governance mecanisms.

You have also been reminding us of the limitations of liberal thinking and of the risks inherent in standardizing models as well as in deadlocked situations that result from uninspiring ideas and from the complicity of certain leaders, their procrastination, or their failure to play a pioneering role in terms of giving global developments a humane, positive meaning, anticipating them, interpreting them properly and giving them concrete substance in everyday life, in a wise, competent, impartial manner.

You have earnestly been calling for political, economic and social diversity, promoting the virtues of openness and seeking to convince others to embrace the same ideals and re-focus the debate on states in general, and the countries of the South in particular.

In this respect, I would like you to go a step further, enrich "globalness", add a human and spiritual dimension to it, and take into account the vast array of complex challenges confronting mankind.



I request you to look further south and link the current debate on the Mediterranean to the stakes in Africa, and to incorporate issues relating to new paradigms of thought that seek to bolster the unity, sovereignty and inviolability of states, encourage regional integration to fight backwardness, partition, terrorism and instability, resist hegemony and the creation of fragile entities for which there is no place in this time and age of major blocs and groupings, and promote good governance. Special emphasis should also be laid on key questions regarding agriculture, water resources, energy, food, security, health care, the climate and the environment.

Calling for new economic regulations and a restructuring of the world's geopolitical balance is not a form of speculative musing. The density and complexity characterizing interaction between nations and people constitute a threat to global peace and stability, perhaps to the survival of mankind.

Ensuring peace and stability requires genuine governance based on justice and discipline. The reference here is to setting up a "universal society" based on bottom-up, participatory decision-making processes, the development of an international policy forum and the adoption of spiritual parameters, such as *niyya*, which refers, in Islam, to a fundamental dimension involving a dynamic interplay between intention, sincerity and faith.

Such a project should not be yet another instruction from people in senior positions; rather, it should be the result of an inclusive political and cultural process that can contribute to lasting peace, guarantee the right to balanced trade and ensure respect for diversity.

It should be based on a fundamental approach that seeks to uphold universal values by focusing on the individual, not by crushing him. This roadmap for global peace, sketched out more than two centuries ago, is a timely project that we should be able to implement in the medium term, provided we come up with the means required and adopt an approach that is both practical and ambitious.

Morocco is keen to remain at the heart of this powerful trend which heralds a sweeping reorganization of political forces, of the rules of the economic game, of social practices and of the exchange of ideas.

"Globalness" is still a new concept everywhere in the world. Morocco is calling for a new, more equitable, participatory "globalness"; a "globalness" with a human face; one that makes the world at peace with itself, promotes integration, imparts a sense of purpose and enhances confidence.

We have to make sure everyone is actively involved in this global trend; all players, all countries – big and small – should rally around an unprecedented, inspiring project : that of building a "universal society" which helps us reconnect with the spirit of the Enlightenment, as seen by Emmanuel Kant, and with the work of Ibn Khaldun, the first theoretician of the international history of civilizations.

We will then be on our way toward achieving a major ambition, namely to give "globalness" a truly human and universal essence.

Welcome to Marrakech, a city steeped in history, with a myriad of cultural monuments; a symbol of the human empathy and mutual assistance we all yearn for. I keenly look forward to your constructive proposals and recommendations.



Before concluding this message, I would like to pay tribute to all those who were directly or indirectly involved in organizing this major event and seeking to ensure its success.

Wassalamu alaikum warahmatullah wabarakatuh

Mohammed VI

King of Morocco

The Royal Residence, Errachidia,

October 27, 2009.