



HIS MAJESTY KING MOHAMMED VI

Kingdom of Morocco

Praise be to God

May peace and blessings be upon the Prophet, His
Kit hand Kin

Your Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to send this message to the participants in the third World Policy Conference, which is being held in Marrakech, and to assure them of my esteem and high regard.

I should like to extend special greetings to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Organization, His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, who is attending this important event. I commend all he is doing to promote peace and stability around the world, as well as his untiring efforts to ensure the issues of development and good governance continue to take centre stage in the action of the United Nations. I also praise his initiatives and constructive efforts to make sure the United Nations Organization remains our common home and the conscience of mankind.

As you know, this important conference is being held at a time when the adverse impact of the global financial crisis is still being felt. Several developments and negative indicators show that other crises can happen, and that situations can deteriorate – even become explosive – at any moment, anywhere in the world.

At the two previous WPC meetings, you highlighted the risks of 'truncated globalization' and of failing to enforce the mechanisms of global governance.

At the same time, you drew attention to the limitations of one-sided, unchecked liberal thinking which tends to ignore human and social considerations. You also pointed out the perils of standardization, a phenomenon that can lead to reclusiveness which can, itself, feed all forms of extremism.

Similarly, you emphasized the roles the elites must play to contribute effectively to finding practical solutions to the problems arising from the rapid changes affecting the world.

I am sure this third World Policy Conference will make decisive contributions towards the development of rational solutions to the above-mentioned problems, particularly in connection with global governance. Indeed, your conference provides a platform for discussion and exchange of ideas that can foster a spirit of dialogue and cooperation, which should prevail over any inclinations towards inflexibility or confrontation.

Your Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Morocco cannot but support your views as you recognize the inexorable nature of political, economic and social diversity, as well as the need to reorient the debate to focus, once again, on states in general, and those of the South in particular.

Our country, just like the countries of the South – especially in Africa – looks forward to the emergence of fair globalization which contributes to balanced consistent and sustainable growth and human advancement, preserves human dignity, fights all forms of humiliation, defamation and segregation, and eliminates the root causes of poverty, exclusion and marginalization.

Ignoring the local dimension and the complexity of the everyday life of billions of people in the universe could potentially threaten the balance of the world and would be synonymous with a blind globalization that strays from its lofty goals and objectives.

The local dimension – from which everything starts and to which everything ultimately leads – is not antithetical to the universal. In fact, the notion of “universal” would be meaningless if it did not encompass all that is “local” and absorb the richness of local components. Similarly, the “universal” would be neither practical nor tangible unless local development were both sustainable and open onto the world.

To rise to this challenge and to make sure it embarks on the right course of action, Morocco has sought to combine the local and the national with the universal. Hence, in 2005, we launched the National Initiative for Human Development, which primarily aims to meet the basic, day-to-day needs of individuals and groups who generally live on the outskirts of cities, or in rural and remote regions.



In developing this strategy, we adopted a consensual, inclusive approach that relies on democratic participation and a system of governance based on closeness to the citizen. Rooted in the Initiative's philosophy is the desire to get the parties and stakeholders concerned to embrace the projects selected and them their own. The ultimate goal is to remedy shortcomings in social services by promoting income-generating activities that can also create jobs.

This bold initiative, together with thorough institutional, development-oriented reforms as well as strategic sectoral plans and the mega-projects related to them, have made it possible for Morocco to achieve a substantial progress in fighting poverty, vulnerability and marginalization.

Thanks to strong political will, our country has also made significant progress in giving concrete substance to the principle of gender equality in areas relating to family, health, education and employment. Women's political representation and their effective participation in public life have also increased.

At the strategic level, the interplay between the "local" and the "universal" has been duly taken into account in the various institutional reforms as well as in the courageous, historical conciliation initiatives carried out in social, legal and territorial spheres, including the bold initiative we have proposed to resolve the artificial dispute over the Moroccan Sahara. Considering their realistic character, the Maghreb dimension underlying them and the universally recognized democratic criteria on which they are premised, our efforts in connection with this initiative have been deemed serious and credible by the Security Council and the international community.

The same approach is being used for the formulation of a system of broad regionalization meant to serve as a critical democratic tool for the implementation of a purely Moroccan development model based on good governance.

Given the importance I attach to the environmental factor, without which the sustainable development we want to achieve cannot be attained, we have taken successful measures to protect the environment and mitigate the impact of climate change.

To promote sustainable human development, particularly through the optimal use of clean, modern technologies, I have launched a pioneering solar energy plan as well as an integrated project for the production of wind energy. These landmark projects are expected to be instrumental in enabling us, by the year 2020, to meet almost half of our energy needs using clean renewable resources.

Regarding food security in the world, my country has always attached particular importance to this issue. As we firmly believe in the need to promote a global partnership to achieve co-development, Morocco was keen to make food security an integral part of an innovative, tangible South-South cooperation policy that benefits African sister nations in particular, as well as agricultural-based countries and those pursuing a green agenda.

Your Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Sharing a creative vision regarding South-South transatlantic relations – that would bring African regional groupings closer to Latin American blocs – would not only open up new avenues for the transfer of know-how, but it would also herald a major shift in the political balance of power, as well as a major change in trade regulations and in the free movement of ideas.

For that to happen, however, the roles to be played by the main regional groupings should be more accurately defined, and innovative ways and means should be adopted in the area of governance to ensure active participation in defining the conditions for effective global governance.

That is the right approach to follow. It should allow us to proceed from the local and the particular to the universal and the general. In other words, it should enable us to work for the emergence of what we might call the “biodiversity of globalization”.

I do hope your conference will consider ways to thoroughly reform global governance mechanisms in order to give a greater say to regional groupings, particularly African ones, upon which we pin our hopes in this regard.

Regions in general – but more so in Africa – should be seen and treated as full-fledged players in this globalized world.

To achieve this goal, we must develop the mechanisms required to promote political stability, ensure fair trade relations and guarantee respect for regional cultures and identities.

Your Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

A project such as this must not be yet another top-down plan dictated by obvious or hidden influential forces, speculators or pressure groups. This crucial project should be perceived as the result of an essential cultural and political process, backed by genuine political will, that can contribute to lasting peace, the right to fair trade and respect for diversity when it comes to matters relating to culture and faith.

Thanks to a longstanding tradition in facilitating inter-faith dialogue, and as a result of the country’s practice of an open, moderate form of Islam, Morocco, building on a wise policy that combines faith with good judgment, has always believed in the virtues of having close relations with other peoples and communities. In medieval times, many prominent philosophers underscored the importance of these values. Some of them lived in Morocco during the most significant and prolific period of their life, like Ibn Khaldoun, the eminent historian and founder of sociology; others were from the region, like the eminent Ibn Rushd (Averroes), who spent his most productive years in the ochre city of Marrakech and died there, after having paved the way for the age of Enlightenment.



As the custodians of this inspiring legacy, and since we are keen to ensure Morocco continues to play a distinctive cultural role, we look forward to hearing the ideas, proposals and recommendations to be adopted by your conference, thanks to the contributions you will be making as seasoned statesmen, eminent politicians and reputed experts and specialists.

The World Policy Conference, whose current meeting is being held under my patronage, is one of the most important international platforms which inform decision-makers and international public opinion about the most effective ways to rehabilitate politics and political action. The aim is to promote ethical principles and human values so that we may ensure a dignified life for future generations, and build a common future for all human beings, in which security, stability, progress and prosperity prevail.

Before concluding, I wish to extend a warm welcome to the illustrious participants and to commend the distinguished people and respected institutions involved in the preparation of this conference. I want them to know how much I appreciate their efforts to ensure the success of this event.

I wish you all a pleasant stay in your second home, Morocco, and in Marrakech, this Moroccan city which has made a name for itself in the region and across the world. Embodying a nation's identity, Marrakech has, since time immemorial, been a prestigious centre for constructive interaction between civilizations and cultures; its cultural and historical monuments bear testimony to a subtle, harmonious blend of the local, the regional and the universal.

I pray that Almighty God grant you every success.

Thank you.

Wassalamu alaikum warahmatullah wabarakatuh.

Mohammed VI

King of Morocco

The Royal Palace, Rabat.

14 October 2010.