



# AMINA BENKHADRA

Minister of Energy, Mining, Water and the Environment

**Mr Presidents, Chief Executive Officers**

**Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen**

I am very happy and honoured to be with you today at this third World Policy Conference, which is taking place under the patronage of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, may God be with him, and at the initiative of the French Institute of International Relations (IFRI) in the historic city of Marrakech, a crossroads of cultures and civilizations.

The high patronage of his Majesty the King and the presence of His Excellency Mr Ban Ki-moon, Secretary General of the United Nations, demonstrate the level of importance accorded to this Conference at the highest levels of the Kingdom and international bodies. Since it was first held in Evian, France, in 2008, the World Policy Conference has established itself as a key event which brings together eminent personalities and experts whose discussions and recommendations help us to progress toward solutions to critical issues of global governance.

Allow me to welcome all of our guests and to express my sincere appreciation to IFRI and all of its Moroccan and international partners, specifically the OCP Group, without which this forum for initiative and dialogue would not be possible.

**Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen**

We are clearly living in an era of radical change and moving toward an interdependent, multipolar world in a context of globalisation that we must control and regulate. Indeed, in October 2008, the world plunged into an unprecedented financial crisis that many said could have destroyed the entire global economic system.

Only the massive intervention by States and international coordination prevented the recession from turning into a depression.

This example shows the necessity, if we even need to be reminded, of **thinking seriously about the issue of global governance** to seek a better balance among the institutions that govern economic and social activities.

This new world that we are building requires innovative and participatory world governance capable of triggering a **new development dynamic that reshapes power centres, democratises institutions and changes current production and consumption methods that are not sustainable for the economy, society or environment.**

#### **Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen**

The world is experiencing profound changes that will transform our current production system to ensure sustainable development combining responsible economic growth, a fair distribution of wealth and the fight against climate change. This major transformation must lead to an economy based on the production of values in a real, non-virtual economy; careful, responsible growth saving raw materials, promotion of new sustainable activities and new consumption methods; and a planet transformed by proximal solidarity instead of the obsolete distinction between North and South.

Our polycentric world consists of interdependent geo-economic bodies such as the EU, NAFTA, MERCOSUR and ASEAN, with the interactions of regional trading blocs shaping our increasingly globalised economy. In view of these upheavals and the changes wrought by this widespread trend, it has become essential to create a new model of development and international relations.

In summary, this new world impels us to give more serious consideration to the social responsibility of our actions and to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, particularly those that relate to access to vital resources such as energy and water. Today, 1.6 billion human beings, mainly living in rural areas, have no access to electricity, 1 billion people have no access to drinking water and 2.5 billion have no access to sanitation.

In this environment, we must make some changes in the way essential resources like energy and water are managed. These sectors figure amongst the key issues involved in transitioning to a new development model that is simpler, fairer and compatible with sustainable development requirements.

With respect to energy, the energy transition at global level will face major challenges:

- The emergence of developing countries with rapidly growing economies and energy demands (their energy needs are expected to rise by 40% by 2030, and 90% of this growth is concentrated in just two countries – China and India).
- Increased pressure on fossil fuels, which will remain the main energy source at high prices as they are gradually being depleted.
- The urgent need to limit the emission of greenhouse gases and their impact on the climate
- The burning necessity to remove carbon from fossil fuel products

- Faster growth in renewable energies and energy efficiency
- Implementation of a wide range of new, proven technologies and national and regional strategies to secure supplies and expand access to energy at reasonable prices
- Securing of the funding necessary for energy investments (an estimated \$26,000 billion by 2030, according to AIEA)

In view of these challenges, the energy system must be profoundly transformed to **ensure energy availability and its widespread access at reasonable prices in order to promote sustainable development and secure the financing for the major changes this revolution requires.**

The issue of water brings up the same challenges and concerns. This essential and scarce resource must take centre stage in our policies, with shared and consensual solutions. Water, this precious resource, will require a collective struggle based on everyone's cooperation and participation, including public authorities, civil society, NGOs, manufacturers, elected officials and experts.

This collective approach seeks to rise to the ecological challenge that no state or social institution can hope to meet alone, thus paving the way for solutions and strong commitments built and borne by us all.

**Good governance** is the main tool for ensuring responsible growth that combines economic development, environmental protection and reduced inequalities. The world must achieve this new revolution to fulfil its growing energy and water needs. This involves both technological changes and new social behaviours, with issues addressed at different levels: local, regional and national, as His Majesty the King Mohammed VI, may God be with him, underlined during his royal speech at the opening of this important forum:

- **Local:** because the most appropriate solutions are found in close vicinity to populations
- **National:** by implementing energy policies tailored to each country's intrinsic development
- **Regional:** because integration is essential
- **International:** because without cooperation, solidarity, the transfer of technological expertise and appropriate governance, development can only be limited and heterogeneous

Our global challenge is to reconcile growth and environmental preservation for the well-being of future generations.

To avoid an irreparable ecological disaster, the world must undergo a true revolution involving profound technological, economic and social transformations by radically changing its production and consumption models.



This transformation requires the responsible use of finite resources to ensure the transition to the massive use of renewable resources that are cleanly produced, rationally consumed, conserved rather than wasted, and recycled instead of thrown away.

### **Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen**

Located at the gateway to Europe, with its long Atlantic coastline and Mediterranean peninsula, Morocco is a crossroads of diverse cultures, whether they be African, Asian, Mediterranean or European.

This geographic asset makes Morocco an ideal meeting point between North and South, between the Mashreq and Maghreb.

Morocco, which has undertaken major political, social and economic reforms, is seeking a good governance model for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA).

In fact, since the accession of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, may God be with him, to the throne, Morocco has been stepping up efforts to boost economic and social development in line with a sustainable development programme that reconciles responsible economic growth, social equity and environmental preservation.

Morocco, confident in its human and economic potential and benefiting from its credibility with outside partners, is beginning a new growth phase with the implementation or launch of numerous development projects at the local, regional and national levels. These concrete projects were designed on the basis of clear objectives and broken down into precise and coordinated action plans.

Due to their integrated design and world-class scale, these projects represent a major breakthrough from a human perspective (INDH) in the key sectors of energy (expand renewable energies and energy efficiency, Moroccan Solar and Wind Power Projects at 2,000 MW each); water (develop and rationally manage water resources); agriculture (Green Morocco Plan to transform the country into an agricultural yet non-rural country); tourism (Azure Plan to develop tourism that protects natural areas and the coastline); housing (construction of new-generation cities in a healthy and welcoming setting); phosphates (industrial hub); industry (Emergence Plan to modernise and expand the country's industrial fabric); infrastructures (extending the motorway network, building new ports and airports, and opening up isolated rural areas); and a new logistics strategy. Morocco is truly taking a leap forward with these

projects, which integrate sustainable development requirements based on good governance, the effective use of human resources, environmental protection and the long-term availability of natural resources.

This unprecedented development is leading to a growing need for various forms of energy at a robust annual rate of 5%, on average. Thus, **by 2020, primary energy consumption will at least double and electricity consumption triple** compared to current levels.

The new energy strategy we put into effect in March 2009 to meet these rising energy needs mainly seeks to **secure the supply** of diverse forms of energy that are socially and ecologically **acceptable**, to ensure **ongoing availability and widespread accessibility** at fair and affordable prices, and to **streamline the use and exploitation** of energy sources in an **environmentally friendly manner**.

To achieve these objectives, we have adopted the following strategies:

- **Implement a diversified and optimised energy package**, particularly for producing electricity, based on clean, reliable and competitive technologies.
- **Undertake large-scale development of the nation's considerable renewable energy resources, especially solar and wind power** to cover a substantial portion of our energy needs, decrease our energy dependence, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect the environment.
- **Promote energy efficiency**, which has become a national priority because it is the fastest and least expensive way to use and save energy while reducing our energy costs.
- **Exploit domestic fossil fuels** by expanding oil exploration, developing the country's huge oil shale deposits and extracting uranium from phosphates.
- **Integrate into the African and Euro-Mediterranean system** to strengthen energy security, lower supply costs, expand exchanges and cooperation, transfer technology and solidarity. As a regional player, Morocco is a suitable partner for promoting electricity exchanges between the northern and southern Mediterranean basin by joining the Mediterranean Solar Plan and the Transgreen Initiative.
- **Implement environmentally friendly measures** in all energy activities at an **early stage**.

Karen Tucker

**Commentaire:** I'm not sure if this is referring only to financial support or other forms of support as well, though the sentence already mentions "exchanges and cooperation."



This strategy, while **ambitious**, is **realistic**: it is based on long-term, global energy trends and takes into account Morocco's actual potentials.

Like energy, water is a key factor in our country's sustainable development. It is a very scarce resource, requiring us to take proactive efforts to make up for our shortage of water and the overuse of our aquifers.

These efforts play an integral role in an **innovative and integrated** strategy that Morocco has developed in accordance with the Royal Objectives, which are based on the following principles:

- **Proactive management of demand**, especially for irrigation
- Increased **access to drinking water and sanitation**
- Expanded wastewater **treatment and reuse** in our cities
- **Protection and recharge of our groundwater resources**
- **Innovative methods for securing water supplies**, particularly through seawater desalination and interbasin transfers

Due to our arid climate and scarce conventional water resources, we must gradually resort to desalinating seawater to provide drinking water to our coastal cities.

The Kingdom's energy and water strategies are perfectly consistent with a sustainable development approach, which has become a national priority.

Our environmental protection and sustainable development project is particularly well illustrated by our current planning of a national development strategy and its framework law, in line with the instructions of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, may God be with him, to strengthen our governance and boost our environmental efforts.

**Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen**

**Sustainable development is not limited to rational resource management and environmental preservation, which are certainly essential pillars.** It is, instead, a comprehensive and integrated concept with many human, social, economic, technological and environmental dimensions that views the individual as the actor and *raison d'être* for all development. Sustainability is a melting pot of the nation's diverse civilisations, cultures and regions. built a In



this clear, future-oriented vision that is rooted in our authenticity, and on the basis of the rule of law and institutions, participatory democracy, social equity and interregional solidarity, **His Majesty King Mohammed VI, may God be with him**, propels the **social project** that is driving Morocco to the forefront of modernity and the new economy of knowledge and understanding that characterises the 21st century's historical orientation.

**Thank you for your attention.**