

United States – Africa Leaders Summit Peace and Security in Africa: The Kingdom of Morocco’s vision

- 1. The Kingdom of Morocco congratulates President Barack Obama for taking the initiative to convene this unprecedented Summit, bringing together all of the African States with the United States of America. This Summit offers us a precious opportunity to lay the foundations of a partnership benefiting from innovative tools, substantial and diversified aims, and that is resolutely geared towards the future.**
- 2. Such a partnership must be tailored to deal with the rise of new international challenges, as well as the deep mutations that the Continent is facing. It must also be implemented through specific and concrete actions seeking to ensure political stability and the social and economic progress of Africa, based on a successful, fair and balanced model of north-south cooperation.**
- 3. Morocco especially welcomes this initiative on Africa which has always been part of the joint agenda established for the Strategic Dialogue between the Kingdom of Morocco and the United States of America. Indeed, peace, security and stability issues were at the heart of the talks held between His Majesty King Mohammed VI and President Barack Obama, during their meeting in Washington, last November.**
- 4. Morocco’s active participation to this Summit reflects the high priority granted by His Majesty King Mohammed VI to the relationship between Morocco and the Continent it is part of. This strategic choice is based on Morocco’s geography, its centuries-old history that has forged its identity and culture, as well as its aspiration to act as a beacon of stability and regional development.**

- 5. Africa today faces a turning point in its history. Factors for progress and liberal ambitions are confronted by burdens inherited from the past. Its potential, assets and energy are often held back by challenges stemming from insecurity, demographic, ecological and unfortunately, sometimes, political considerations.**
- 6. Sustainable stability in Africa is the key to the future of this Continent.**
- 7. In this regard, the Vision of His Majesty King Mohammed VI for sustainable stability in Africa is based on a firm and resolutely “afro-optimist” conviction.**

8. This Vision rests on a global, integrated and inclusive approach seeking to promote peace and stability, support human development and preserve the spiritual identity of populations in full respect of universal values and human rights.

Promoting peace and security in Africa

9. Africa is constantly facing threats to its stability. In addition to conventional threats, as well as territorial and internal disputes, we are now witnessing the advent of new transnational perils such as organized crime, terrorism, drug and human trafficking, as well as religious extremism.
10. These challenges form a major obstacle annihilating all State efforts to preserve stability and foster sustainable development.
11. Morocco's commitment as a partner for peace and security in Africa is constantly reflected in all its actions. Morocco namely contributes to peacekeeping and stabilization efforts of the International Community in Mali, the Central African Republic, Cote d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of Congo and anywhere else its input may be deemed useful.
12. Morocco will continue to share its experience and resources with brotherly and allied African States that seek assistance in their efforts to instill and preserve peace and security in their countries.
13. The fight against security threats in Africa can only be effective if it is inscribed within a collective framework of action involving regional cooperation and supported by the International Community.
14. Exclusionary measures and sectarian approaches have revealed their limits and ineffectiveness, often proving counterproductive.
15. Morocco has repeatedly called for the establishment of inclusive, collective and concerted actions, as well as for greater coordination between all concerned countries, within a consensual approach based on international law.
16. Sub-regional African organizations have an essential role to play in the elaboration of strategies aiming to stabilize our Continent. In this respect, Morocco pays tribute to the effective mechanisms set up by ECOWAS in favor of West African stability; calls for a better exploitation of the all the potential CENSAD has to offer; and deeply regrets the lethargic state which continues to undermine the Maghreb Arab Union.
17. The Atlantic space shared by Africa and America holds a vast and untapped potential for cooperation, as well as major challenges to

overcome. It should become a space for geopolitical cooperation between the two continents. The Conference of African Atlantic States, whose headquarters are in Morocco, is keen to contribute to the development of actions to this effect.

Reinforcing sustainable human development

- 18. Security approaches cannot be the single answer to global instability challenges. Investing in sustainable human development is key to any strategy seeking to effectively ensure lasting stability.**
- 19. Despite its vast natural resources, as well as its demographic assets and potential, Africa remains the Continent facing the most important developments challenges.**
- 20. Africa must believe in Africa, as underlined by His Majesty King Mohammed VI in Abidjan. It must achieve its economic emancipation and look resolutely and optimistically towards its own future. It needs investments more than it needs development aid and it needs access to markets for its products more than it needs humanitarian assistance.**
- 21. In this spirit, Morocco welcomes the convening of the United Nation's High Level Meeting on Investment in Africa, which was finally held last June and which His Majesty King Mohammed VI had called for in 2010. The recommendations stemming from this meeting will be particularly useful to our proceedings.**
- 22. Africa also needs strategic structural projects, as well as smaller revenue-generating projects that can bring about important social benefits.**
- 23. Traditional cooperation mechanisms must evolve in line with the needs and expectations of the Continent.**
- 24. Morocco has placed Africa at the very heart of its priorities and has made the natural and strategic choice to promote South-South cooperation, for which an innovative, diversified and mutually beneficial cooperation model has been set up, involving both public and private sectors.**
- 25. Morocco also seeks to establish itself as a major platform and hub linking Africa with the rest of the world. This South-South cooperation model is to be enriched by triangular cooperation projects. As a pioneer in this field, Morocco has undertaken numerous actions with international organizations and Partner countries supporting Africa in this specific framework.**

- 26. In partnership with the United States of America and in conformity with the decisions taken by His Majesty King Mohammed VI and President Obama, Morocco has committed to undertaking a series of actions in favor of African food security, energy and investments.**
- 27. Improving living conditions for populations must also be accompanied by a dedicated effort seeking to safeguard and preserve their spiritual identity.**

Preserving the spiritual identity of populations

- 28. The threat undermining the Sahel-Saharan region, stemming especially from radical terrorist movements, represents a challenge which not only affects this strategic region, but also the stability of North Africa, Europe and the wider world. It targets the very foundations of society in this African region.**
- 29. This threat, which also affects other regions of the African continent, arises from a misconstrued, fallacious and devastating exploitation of religion, transforming it into a nihilistic ideology seeking to destroy the pillars upholding our society, which rest on civilization's universal values of tolerance and peace.**
- 30. This is a new, complex and transnational trend whose eradication is proving complicated, difficult and protracted.**
- 31. It demonstrates that stability in these regions will depend on the protection of religious identity and the safeguarding of the humanist values of an open and tolerant Islam which has fostered centuries of harmonious coexistence between African populations.**
- 32. Morocco's religious model, which is steeped in a historical frame of reference reflecting the openness and tolerance of the Malekite rites of Islam, has evolved thanks to the reforms undertaken to adapt to the imperatives of modernity.**
- 33. His Majesty King Mohammed VI has offered to share this model with interested African countries and support their efforts in fighting against the exploitation of religion for political purposes, namely through a training program for Imams.**
- 34. The majority of African states are equally confronting challenges linked to pluralism, cultural diversity and ethnicity within their populations.**
- 35. This issue is a destabilizing factor for certain States and should be resolved within a framework of national unity and territorial integrity of States.**

Sub-regional integration in Africa: the cornerstone to a strategy for sustainable stability

- 36. The African continent must irreversibly engage in favor of sub-regional integration processes that are the only way to overcome the repercussions of the partitioning it has been subjected to.**
- 37. Morocco, which remains loyal to the pan-African legacy, reiterates its constant calls for the emergence of integrated and economically viable regions that meet the legitimate aspirations of populations in terms of free movement and shared prosperity.**
- 38. The stability and development of Africa also depend on opening up and integrating African states into the frameworks of economically integrated regions. These sub-regional zones have the potential to act as levers and launch pads for strategies seeking to foster peace and stability.**
- 39. Taking into account its history, geographic position, privileged and diverse relations with partners from the northern hemisphere, as well as its deeply rooted experience in Africa, Morocco has the capacity to act as a bridge between a prosperous north and a south in search of its future.**
- 40. In a global and interdependent world, openness and cooperation are the cornerstones on which we can build a future of peace, solidarity and shared prosperity.**
- 41. As a Continent equally brimming with opportunities and challenges, Africa represents the world's future. This Continent, currently in full progress, must resolutely turn towards a future built on shared interests and fair and balanced partnerships.**
- 42. By pooling our efforts and strengthening dialogue and consultation, we can better identify the appropriate responses to the issues hindering this Continent's prosperity so as to promote greater freedom and ensure human dignity to all Africans.**
- 43. The Kingdom of Morocco, as an African country and longstanding partner of the United States of America, stands ready to commit fully and resolutely to the implementation of the conclusions and recommendations resulting from this Summit.**