

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



البعثة الدائمة للمملكة المغربية
لدى الأمم المتحدة
نيويورك

**Statement on behalf of the Delegation of the Kingdom of Morocco
2020 UN day for South-South Cooperation**

Thursday 10th September 2020

Good morning, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentleman,

I have the honor to take part of today's virtual meeting.

I would like to align this statement with the declarations made by Guyana on behalf of G77 and China and Egypt on behalf of the African Group.

-First of all, I would like to congratulate the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) for organizing this high-level commemoration, in these special circumstances.

- We would like, also to congratulate Mr. Jorge Chediek for tremendous efforts done as the Envoy of the Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation and the Director of the UNOSSC. Morocco would like to align itself with the call by the African Group for the respect of the geographical rotation in the direction of the UNOSSC among the regions of the South.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentleman,

-The 2020 UN Day for South-South cooperation is, indeed, a non-usual commemoration. As the world is facing an unprecedented crisis, we need, today, more than ever, to galvanize the spirit of Solidarity which is rooted in South-South Cooperation, as a key principle to face the economic and social impacts, and also to RECOVER and build back better.

- One year after the adoption of the outcome document of the Second High-Level UN Conference on South-South Cooperation/BAPA+40, we have to take the opportunity to make the response to COVID-19 pandemic as a tool to leverage the role of South-South and triangular Cooperation through concrete actions for building resilience and mobilization of financial resources, that would help the Global south to speed up the recovery and accelerate the path towards the 2030 agenda.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentleman,

- Under the leadership of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, the Kingdom of Morocco has made of South-South cooperation one of the main pillars of its foreign policy, by giving the African continent a privileged place.

- In a decade, more than 1,000 bilateral agreements and conventions have been signed and entered into force between Morocco and its African partners and around forty (40) joint commissions been put in place. Several investment conventions and trade agreements with preferential tariff rates have also been signed.

- Guided by the Vision of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, the Moroccan Agency for international cooperation, which was created 34 years ago, plays a central role in scaling up projects and initiatives that boost partnerships and promote South-South and triangular cooperation. In the area of development of the human capital, Morocco has tripled, over the past five years, the number of foreign students enrolled in Moroccan public universities, a large majority of which benefit from scholarships of studies.

- Moreover, over the past years, Morocco has leverage the role of South-south and triangular cooperation for promoting the climate action at the African level. I would like to note, in this regard, the initiatives launched on the margins of COP22 and the African Action Summit, namely:

1. The triple S initiative which aims to promote Stability, Security and Sustainability and facing the migration caused by environmental degradation and climate change;
2. The Adaptation of Agriculture in Africa (Triple A) initiative.

Last year, September 2019, Morocco has launched, jointly with Ethiopia, the Coalition for Sustainable Energy access, during the United Nations Climate Action. The initiative seeks to ensure 100% access to energy in the least developed and other developing countries by 2030. This initiative embraces the core value of South-to-South cooperation (SSC) in addressing the energy deficit in remote areas of LDCs and ODCs.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentleman,

- With the same core principle of solidarity, the Kingdom of Morocco has engaged actively in bringing the essence of South-South cooperation for ensuring an effective response to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- His Majesty King Mohammed VI launched an initiative by African Heads of States and Governments aimed at establishing an operational framework to work with the African countries in the fight against the pandemic.

Moreover, Morocco has send medical aid to the African Union Commission and to 20 African countries in order to counter the COVID-19 outbreak in a new expression of intra-African solidarity. Those medical aids are manufactured in Morocco by Moroccan companies, and comply with the standards of the World Health Organization.

Thank you for your attention.