



National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS)

Executive Summary



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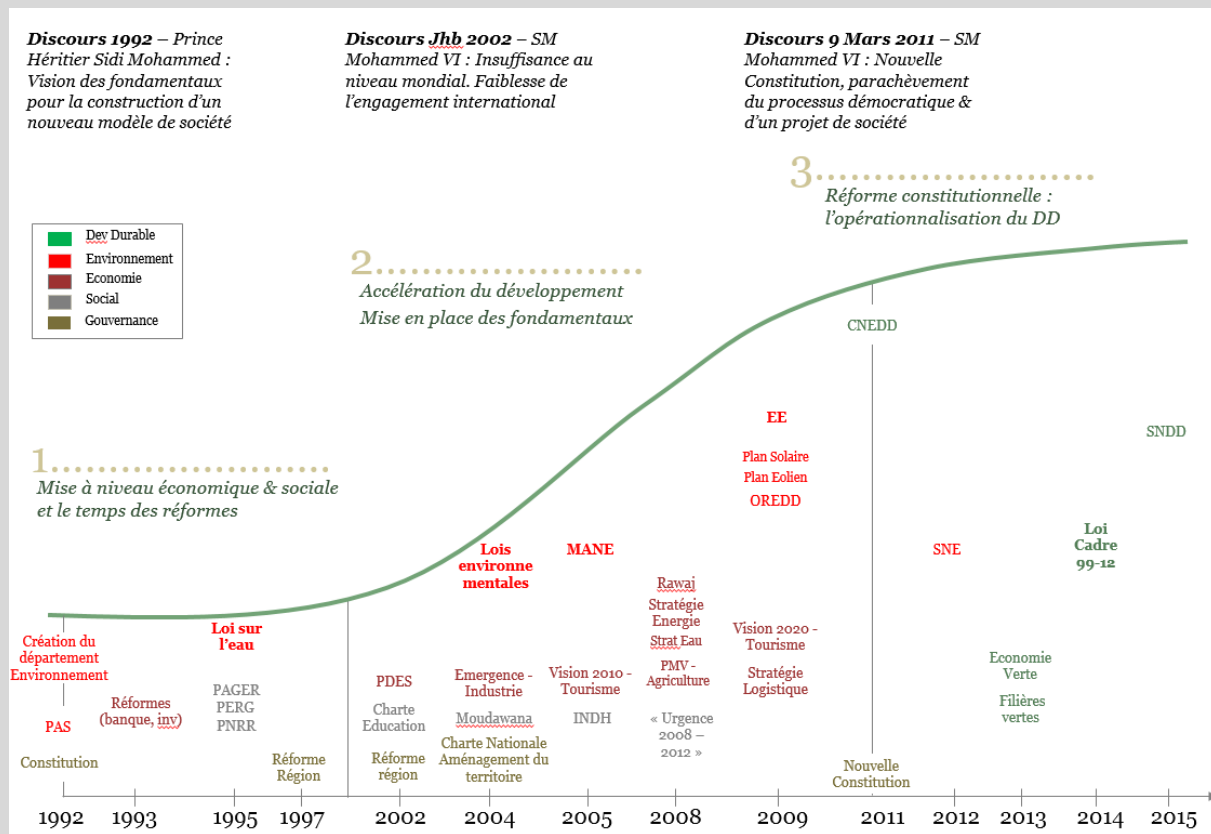
INTRODUCTION



I. The NSDS, Royal determination and social project

The Kingdom of Morocco is determined to confront the challenges of the 21st century by turning sustainable development into a truly social project and development model under the enlightened guidance of His Majesty the King Mohammed VI. This commitment was already perceivable in 1992 when His Majesty, then Crown Prince, at the Rio Conference spoke of His “Vision of the fundamentals for the establishment of a new social model”.

Since that time, this commitment to the fundamental principles of sustainable development has led to successive reforms designed to build solid foundations for sustainable development, improve the social conditions and accelerate the rhythm of environmental achievements via both preventive and corrective measures. **The development of Morocco’s action over a span of 20 years with regard to the building of a social project based on sustainable development can be summarized in the three major phases as follows:**



- Speech 1992 - Crown Prince Sidi Mohammed : Vision of fundamentals for the construction of a new social model
- Speech Jhb 2002 – His Majesty Mohammed VI : Insufficiency of world model Weakness of international commitment
- Speech of 9 March 2011 – His Majesty Mohammed VI – New Constitution, completion of democratic process and social project
- 3 Constitutional reform : operationalization of SD
- 2 Acceleration of development
- Institution of fundamentals

SD
Environment
Economy
Social
Governance
 CNEDO
EE
Solar Plan
Wind Plan
CREDO
SNDO
Environmental laws MANE
SNE Framework Law 99-12
Rawaj
Energy strategy
Water strategy
PMV - Agriculture
Vision 2020-Tourism
INDH
PDES
Education charter
Reform
Emergence-Industry
Moudwana
National Charter
Land Planning
PMV – Agriculture
- Urgency 2008'2012
Vision 2000 ' Tourism
Linguistic Strategy
New Constitution
Green Economy
Green domains
SNE Framework law 99-12

Phase I: Economic and social upgrading (1992 – 2000)

Derived from its Structural Adjustment Program (PAS) carried out jointly with the International Monetary Fund (IMF – 1981-1994) Morocco initiated an economic liberalization policy and reinforced certain key industrial domains for exports strategic for the trade balance while aiming at the tertiarization of its economy. At the same time the major share of public investment focused on social projects designed to break the isolation of rural areas: such as the PERG (Global Rural Electrification Program), the PNRR (National Rural Roads Program) and the PAGER (Joint Drinking Water Supply Program for Rural Populations). This first phase has also been marked by substantial reforms in the financial and monetary sector, as well as the signing of the first free trade agreement with the European Union in 1995 indicative of the opening up of the economy to markets abroad.

Phase II: Establishment of fundamental levers and development acceleration (2000 – 2011)

This revolves around the acceleration of institutional and legal reforms dealing with the social sector and reform of the family code. Also, the implementation of the *Initiative Nationale pour le Développement Humain/National Human Development Initiative* established a genuine social engineering approach within a participative process. From an economic standpoint, the sectoral strategies propose better visibility and enable more accurately targeted investments. The openness policy is also being accelerated by the entry into force of the free trade agreement with the United States (2004), the greater Arab zone (2005), Turkey (2006) and the Agadir accords (2007).

The environmental pillar is strengthened further in conjunction with the adoption of the initial major environmental laws such as Law 11-03 pursuant to the protection and development of environmental issues Law 12-03 pursuant to environmental impact studies, Law 13-03 pursuant to air pollution and other environmental issues.

Phase III: Constitutional reform and operationalization of sustainable development (ac. 2011)

The year 2011 was a turning point in the bringing into fruition of the social project. The sectoral approaches show certain limits, in particular in conjunction with integration of cross-cutting issues defining sustainability. The principal dates as follows measure the **state of progress of the institutionalization of sustainable development in Morocco**.

7 February 2011 saw the adoption of the operationalization process of the **National Charter on Environmental and Sustainable Development**. It establishes the overall principles of sustainable development.

- 9 March 2011, His Majesty the King Mohammed VI delivered a **Speech** calling upon the Moroccan Nation to work toward **anew constitutional text**. This text, developed by a wide and concerted effort and adopted by majority universal vote initiated a new era in the completion of the establishment of the rule of law and Moroccan social project.
- 18 June 2011, **New Moroccan Constitution** devoted to sustainable development and strengthening of governance.
- **2011**, The Consultative Commission submitted **its report on advanced regionalization**. It deals with « *Integrated and sustainable development from an economic, social, cultural and agro-environmental standpoint* » via the **development of the potentialities and resources inherent to each region**. This is a « *resolute option for the renovation and modernization of State structures and for the*

consolidation of integration of sustainable development », declared His Majesty the King Mohammed VI.

- Finally, in March 2014, the **Framework Law n°99-12 enacting the National Charter on the Environment and Sustainable Development** was published. This Law gives the Government a time period of 1 year for the adoption of the **National Sustainable Development Strategy**.

Development of the NSDS in Morocco is the result of a resolute commitment to bringing into fruition sustainable development. A national strategy for sustainable development is indicative of the support given to all players in the Nation, public and private, their sustainability efforts, each in its own field of action focusing on the strategic options and indicators constituting a wide-ranging consensus. The end purpose is to make readable and coherent the international commitments of a country with national, cross-cutting or sectoral policies.

The devising of a NSDS differs depending on the country. Each one must determine, contingent upon its culture, political history and environmental characteristics, the best approach with regard to the preparation and implementation of its NSDS. The sustainable strategy of Morocco should therefore be conceived on the basis of the policies put in place by the Kingdom and favor convergence, the complimentary nature and coherency between the various planning frameworks and processes.

The NSDS, an instrument of convergence and operationalization of the policies applied

Since the days of independence, Morocco has instituted comprehensive planning for more than 40 years in economic and social development providing it clear-cut assets for determining its future.

The variety of projects initially launched and designed to confront urgent matters (economic, social, environmental and institutional) must today be consolidated around a social project as desired by His Majesty King Mohammed VI and supported by the active players in the Moroccan nation. The determined sectoral policies currently in place do indeed contribute to the development of Morocco in different degrees of sustainability. These have been developed in cooperation with the various stakeholders.

They constitute good guides for the concerned ministerial departments and relevant sectors. However, they are neither harmonized nor coordinated according to a common thread that would place Morocco in a dynamic of human development and environmental protection likely to help it confront the challenges of the century.

On top of that, the governmental governance of sustainable development, for historical reasons in Morocco, like in many other countries, is widely led by the administrative authorities in charge of the environment. The whole stakes of the NSDS consist, one hand, of sustainably strengthening coherency, and on the other hand, extending sustainable development so that a vision of development is penetrated by the concept of sustainability and sharing.

In addition, during the shaping phase, the specific objectives that this strategy must adhere to have been formulated. The NSDS must consist of the following:

- An **operational** strategy based on reality in-the-field and programs under implementation;
- A strategy making it possible to improve the **synergy** between the various governmental actions, civil society and economic actors;

- A strategy that is not a different prospective compared to the strategic choices already put in place seeking to integrate a variety of sustainability factors in the policies devised.



II. Coherence of the National Sustainable Development is based on 4 principles

A national sustainable development strategy must meet a certain number of leading principles by the government to ensure coherence in its design. This refers to the following principles applied in devising the said strategy:

Principle 1: International compliance

The Kingdom of Morocco has signed and ratified the main International and regional Conventions linked to the environment and sustainable development. The National Sustainable Development Strategy is in line with good international practices and expands on the minimum challenges on which the Kingdom has complied with regard to sustainable development, i.e. the fight against climate change, the fight against desertification and biodiversity protection, etc.

Principle 2: Compliance with the principles of Framework Law 99-12 enacting the National Charter on the Environment and Sustainable Development

The operational measures stated in the National sustainable development strategy are aligned on the principles established by Framework Law 99-12 as follows:

- *Principle of integration*
- *Principle of territoriality*
- *Principle of solidarity*
- *Principle of precaution*
- *Principle of prevention*
- *Principle of responsibility*
- *Principle of participation*

Principle 3: Commitment of relevant stakeholders

The national sustainable development strategy above all constitutes a continuous process requiring the relevant players to modify their attitudes with regard to conventional development. Therefore, it specifies the objectives for 2015-2020 and identifies the operational measures to which the stakeholders are committed. The great majority of the said measures have already been identified or even initiated by the governmental authorities. The NSDS shall therefore keep close watch on the follow-up and application thereof. Other measures are new and also contribute to providing answers to sustainability issues not taken into consideration. Once adopted by the Government, this strategy is a commitment by everyone in total compliance with the provisions of framework Law 99-12.

Principle 4: Operational strategy

The strategy strives to be operational by basing itself on on-going strategies, plans and programs. In no way is this strategy founded on departures from the development methods instituted by the Kingdom. It is based on concrete and operational measures.

III. The Strategy aims at implementing a green and inclusive economy in Morocco by 2020.

To reach the inter-generational objective of sustainable development, it is requisite to secure a certain number of fundamentals ensuring a sustainable trajectory.

The diagnosis revealed that the ingredients of sustainability exist in the majority of policies but that the application thereof remains insufficient. Hence it appears to be necessary to define a global strategy setting the direction of all governmental policies.

The said direction is as follows:

« Implementation of a green and inclusive economy in Morocco by 2020 ».

Morocco offers indisputable conditions making it possible to ensure implementation as evidenced by its energy policy, its expertise in water management, its social policy supported by the National Human Development Initiative, but needs to generalize the sustainable approach concurrently on a variety of projects. Governance of development must be revised to strengthen the capacities of the relevant players along with improvement of the legislative framework and effective application and control of the laws. The relevant players must integrate more greatly the socio-environmental components of their strategic road maps.

The vision proposed is the end result of an in-depth diagnosis, and rests on the integration of the 4 fundamental pillars of sustainable development particularly from an economic, social and cultural standpoint.

The economic pillar without doubt is an engine of this vision because without a healthy and well-performing economy no sustainable development is possible. The sectors benefiting from their strategies and determined policies by the State come in support of the economic development of the country. The elements hampering competitiveness identified during the diagnosis phase must be cast aside by systematic striving for inter-sectoral convergence, as well as better interaction of socio-economic considerations. Further, a clear-cut environmentally based economy is possible via the implementation of a circular system or green industrialization.

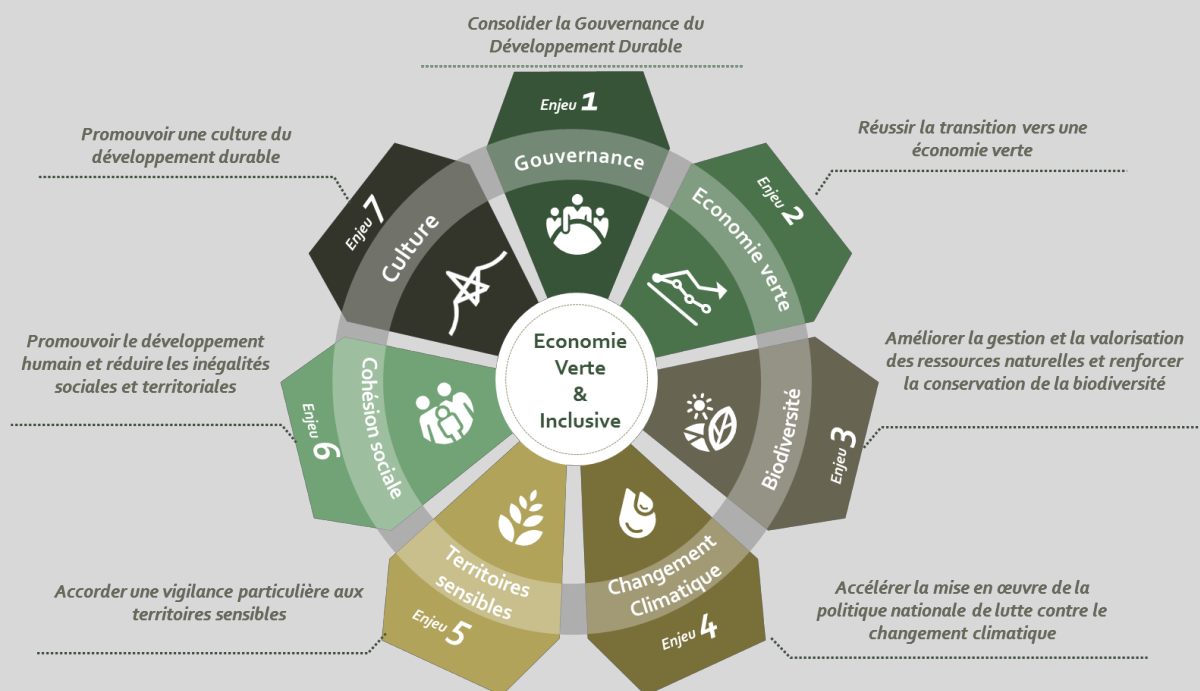
Therefore, the social pillar has to be strengthened, in particular with regard to policies in connection with health which, in spite of the improvement in terms of indicators, remain well below the objectives targeted hampering human development. Access by all to free high quality education also constitutes a challenge to be confronted to rule out increasing discrepancies. The fight against poverty (and principle of territorial solidarity in particular) must unquestionably be implemented because the most deprived populations are often responsible for the protection of available resources. Rural populations in our isolated mountainous regions are the guarantors of water or forest reserves and remote populations in oases areas contribute to the struggle against desertification. However, in both instances they are often well below the national average of all socio-economic indicators. A more equal redistribution taking into account the notion of payment for systemic eco-systems constitutes a feasible alternative.

The environmental pillar appears to be sidelined on development issues in the diagnosis. The environmental actions are essentially curative meeting the needs of contingencies.

Environmental issues are not yet considered as part of sustainable development. This strategy aims at strengthening the consideration of environmental harm in governmental policies devised to decouple economic growth from pressure on resources, and also to create sustainable green jobs in professions linked to the environment.

Taking into account the cultural pillar makes it possible to define a strategy founded on the specific nature of Morocco Focusing on specific sensitive spaces (Oases, Coastline, Mountainous areas), the integration of craftsmanship as a component of green Morocco along with the promotion and development of culture, the strategy lends close attention to the operability of this pillar.

To bring into fruition this vision, 7 major stakes have been identified. Each one is then divided into strategic focuses that are main fields of action with objectives to reach along with the measures and actions to deploy. Therefore, this is a strategic reference document which should be able to consolidate all public policies joining together to achieve sustainable development. The entire process henceforth lies in the implementation of this strategy, in particular the identification of projects in line with the objectives set. This summary deals with the stakes and major strategic focuses. The objectives and measures at a higher level of detail are nonetheless available in the appendix.



Consolidate Governance of sustainable development

Stake 1

Promote culture of sustainable development

Governance

Stake 7

Culture

Stake 2

Green economy

Green and Inclusive economy

Promote human development and alleviate social and territorial inequalities

Successfully transition to green economy

Improve and develop natural resources and strengthen conservation of biodiversity

Give special importance to sensitive territories

Social management

Stake 6

Pay special attention to sensitive territories

Sensitive territories

Stake 5

Climate change

Stake 4

Accelerate implementation of the national policy in the fight against climate change



INTRODUCTION TO THE 7 STAKES OF THE STRATEGY



I. Stake 1: Consolidate sustainable development governance

The concept of governance is not clearly defined in a simple and homogeneous way by the various government and non-government players. However, it can be observed the two presents and management involving consultation to facilitate decision-making. Sustainable development governance is made difficult by the fact that, to ensure joint management of natural resources, regulatory mechanisms must be established to propel decision-making at different levels. It must govern the relevant levels and institute legal and economic instruments enabling effective implementation of a sustainable development policy.

If national governance of sustainable development in Morocco has been strengthened by its implantation on the constitution, the result of the high level political determination of **HIS MAJESTY THE KING MOHAMMED VI**, the analysis of the sectoral strategies put in place during the diagnosis phase, has made it possible to identify a certain number of dysfunctions or blockages. They come as follows:

- Institutional: absence of planning, coordination, convergence in the strategy implementation, lengthy nature of procedures, overlapping of competencies, difficulty in application of texts at the local level
- Regulatory: sectors not covered by the law, outdated regulations, unaccomplished reform projects, absence of applicative texts, etc.
- Financial: Insufficient funding, inadequacy of credit use, underwritings, lack of transparency.

Deficiencies in planning for the inclusion of sustainable development, as well as the absence of coordination between administrations, each one tending to treat sustainable development according to the particular nature of their sector, constitute hindrances to the implementation of sustainable development. The inclusive vision of the green economy as a vector of sustainable development requires letting go of the complexness and the multiplication of projects and types of behavior detrimental to saving on resources or to equality.

To ensure the implementation of good governance, 4 strategic focuses have been identified:

Strategic focus 1: Turning the exemplarity of the State into a lever for implementation of sustainable development

The State must set the example and implement its own institutions of the approach it promotes and recommends to all economic and social actors. The exemplarity approach is an undertaking with objectives dealing with sustainable public procurement, the eco responsibility of the State and its social responsibility. Therefore, the first focus of the National Sustainable Development Strategy relates to the implementation of an exemplary approach within the public arena with regard to sustainable development.

Strategic focus 2: Strengthen the institutional framework of sustainable development and the role played by the relevant actors

The diagnosis made it possible to identify several institutional accomplishments such as the new constitutions specifying sustainable development as the right of all citizens and the Framework Law constituting a national charter on the environment turning sustainable development into an operational reality via regulatory channels.

Further, several ministerial administrations, agencies and funds today agree on sustainable development – each one developing a road map of its own making. However, the absence of an

institutional framework clearly stating the role and prerogatives of each actor brings into play a degree of efficiency.

The State is the first body in charge of the actual implementation of a sustainable development policy. It is therefore paramount for it to be organized in such a way as to promote the said implementation. For this reason, clear-cut governance is necessary. It is also of prime importance to ensure the appropriation of the orientations of the NSDS at all territorial levels (regional, provincial and communal). In Morocco, the relevant stakeholders have seen their role reinforced by consultation mechanisms and must be developed in order to move toward co-production. The role of the private sector must be expanded and come into being via the implementation of social and environmental investment approaches and the development of socially responsible investment (ISR). The role of the associative fabric must also be strengthened.

Strategic focus 3: Strengthen the legal framework and control mechanisms

Good governance of sustainable development cannot be achieved without a “sustainability oversight” forcing the means of control of administrations on regulation control by establishing at all territorial levels appropriate sanctions.

If the legislative arsenal is relatively complete, the monitoring and control process of application of the various laws will have to be reinforced to ensure strict application. On top of that, certain key laws relevant to environmental protection must be perfected, strengthened or created.

Strategic focus 4: Strengthening of economic and financial instruments and implementation of an environmental taxation policy

The success of implementation of a sustainable development policy is closely linked to the ability of mobilization of the requisite resources. The conventional funding mechanisms generally enable the funding of development programs. Difficulties appear when arbitration in support of programs and projects integrating extra costs linked to sustainability are necessary. The development of new instruments such as socially responsible investments, “mezzanine” financings and efficient environmental taxation constitutes a first step making it possible to mobilize new proceeds or to direct national savings toward new forms of funding.

Turning taxation into a tool of environmental policy is a complex drill because it does not necessarily or spontaneously square with the traditional objective normally assigned to taxation, i.e. the collection of resources. In contrast to a so-called contributive taxation, environmental taxation also has the aim of directing behavioral patterns as a tool of arbitration. Indeed, economic agents can pay the tax or reduce or modify the behavior targeted thereby.

IV. Stake 2: Successful transition toward a green economy

In two years' time, the notion of a "green economy" broke its links with the world of environmental economy and joined the general flow of political discourse. Recent interest in this type of concept without doubt was fostered by the all-around disappointment with regard to the predominating economic paradigm, the feeling of weariness and the multitude of simultaneous crises and market dysfunctions characteristic of the first decades of the new millennium; in particular, the economic and financial crisis of 2008.

However, at the same time the existence of an alternative, and new economic paradigm with material wealth would not necessarily occur simultaneously or go hand in hand with an increase in environmental risk, scarcity of resources and social discrepancies, would come to the fore with ever-mounting persistence.

An increasing number of facts also suggest that the transition toward a green economy is warranted from an economic and social point of view. Newly developed and solidly based arguments should lead governments and the private sector to redouble efforts leading to commit to this economic transformation. For governments, this would mean the establishment of rules of the game more favorable to ecological products, in other words, progressively letting go of subsidies, reform of their policies, adoption of new incentive-building measures, strengthening of market infrastructures and economic mechanisms, re-directing public investment and "greenifying" government contracts. For the public sector, this would call for an understanding and measurement of the true opportunity represented by the transition toward a green economy in a variety of sectors and to react to the policy reforms and price signals by increasing the levels of funding and investment.

Food security is a problem rising to an increasingly great extent and the determined agriculture policies applied by the government are clearly indicative of the governmental clear-sightedness in this regard. On the other hand, the risks in connection with water have grown with the deficit hovering around 5 Bn m3 by 2030 constituting a non negligible and serious threat that has to be confronted. Over the past two decades, substantial amounts of capital have been invested in real estate, fossil fuel and financial assets, but relatively low amounts in energy efficiency, public transport, sustainable agriculture, ecosystem and biodiversity protection and soil preservation. Hence, it is necessary for medium and long term equilibrium to break with this trend.

The green economy concept does not replace sustainable development, but it is becoming increasingly recognized that reaching sustainable development is almost entirely contingent on a good economic approach. Decades of new wealth creation with the "brown economy" model have never really managed to do away social marginalisation and depletion of resources and we are still far from reaching the Millennium Development Goals. Sustainable development remains a long term and vital objective, but only in conjunction with "greening" of the economy.

This section speaks of the principal productive sectors within which the pools of value creation and jobs are important. Also necessary is a strong potential for mitigation of pressure on resources. Adoption of the measures identified should make possible a true decoupling between strong economic growth and the pressure exerted on natural resources and the environment.

Strategic focus 5: Reconcile modernization of the agriculture sector and sustainable development requirements

The world context hit by the alarming situation of food security, climate change, and agricultural product price rises, the responsibility of producers and the fight against poverty is indicative of the strategic nature of the agricultural sector. In full awareness of these stakes over the past few decades, Morocco has always attached to the agricultural sector special strategic attention.

The agricultural sector continues to occupy a front running situation among the principal socio-economic indicators:

- **Value added in the agricultural sector**, multiplies by 2.5 over a span of 10 years reached 114Bn MAD in 2011 contributing to GDP by 15.5%.
- **Employment level**: with four million jobs, the agricultural sector is one of the main activities at the national level (43% of all households at the national level). In rural areas, agriculture accounts for the employment of 80% of the working population.

It is with this in mind that the *Plan Maroc Vert* (PMV)/Green Morocco Plan was developed. This new strategy focuses around a global approach covering all players in accordance with their own objectives. It is based on two major pillars: modern agriculture (pillar I) and solidarity (pillar II), mobilizing large amounts of investment... The NSDS is largely geared to a determined policy applied to the agricultural sector, i.e. this must be accomplished by strengthening the integration of the key parameters of sustainability, better management and positive use of the waste generated, better soil management and strengthening of adaptation to climate change.

Strategic focus 6: Ensure the conservation and rational management of water resources

"Fishing right" signifies the obligation to proceed thereto in responsible fashion in order to ensure the rational conservation and management of bio-aquatic resources".

Morocco is blessed with extensive fishing assets affording it a position of fishery power. For a long while, this sector has benefited from substantial public (ports) and private outlays, fishing fleets, (processing industry). The marine biological diversity is extensive in terms of the number of species (more than 7,830) and in stocks, allowing the Kingdom to gain a position as the top fish exporter in Africa and leading sardine producer in the world.

Overfishing of the most sought-after species leads one to fear that the productive capacity of their stocks could slacken over time. Many fish species are threatened with extinction by 2050. This means that fishing must be included in the principles of sustainable development to preserve fishing resources, quality and the health of the seas and oceans according to the Halieutis sectoral strategy.

At this initial juncture, this means sector governance must be strengthened via improving knowledge and strengthening of the legislative framework. It is also necessary to keep close watch on the reconstitution of stocks of the species fished and developing sector integration. The strengthening of social protection and regulating the informal sector is pivotal if the objectives of sustainable development are to meet with success in this sector.

Strategic focus 7: Better use of forests in order to ensure sustainable management

At a time when the international community wishes to transition toward a green economy, the forest and related products increasingly appear to play a central role in the establishment of a sustainable future in which consumption and production would be closely connected within a given cycle. Also necessary is to find good balance between the conservation and use of forests.

The viability of the forestry sector in social and environmental benefits related to forests must be achieved prior to large scale adaptation of sustainable forest management practices.

Morocco's forestry spaces stretching over 9 million ha, made fragile and subject to the pressure exerted thereupon, must be protected in order to be able to meet the principal expectations and needs of Moroccan society in a sensitive international context. The forest is an environment under pressure and insufficiently exploited.

The renewable supply of forest is estimated at 3,25 Mn tons per year. Demand therefore exceeds 3 times the renewable supply in wood-energy at the national level which would cause an annual loss in forest areas of 30,000 ha.

The reduction in grazing land surface areas and the increase in cattle led to high pressure due to overgrazing. The current load is estimated at 4 times the grassland production capacity of forests. Each year, the renewable supply of Moroccan forest diminishes.

However, this sector is highly strategic if sustainable development is to occur with extension potential.

The measures proposed for operationalization of focus 3 « Better use of forests to ensure sustainable management » is organized around two major challenges:

- Challenge 1: Structure and work with the Aromatic and Medicinal Plant (PA%) sector;
- Challenge 2: Structure, supervise and work with the wood sector.

Strategic focus 8: Place Industrial acceleration on a path moving toward the green economy

Since independence, Morocco has engaged large investments for the development of the country and providing it with basic industrial infrastructures. The industrial sector accounts for 15% of GDP. For a long period dominated by agro-industrial industries, textiles and leather, the industrial sector has diversified rapidly thanks to a strategic vision based on well-targeted investments allowing the rise of new sectors. The possibility of investing in green sectors genuinely exists and the competitive edge Morocco could develop in these sectors would place it in a position of regional or even continental leader.

At this juncture, the green sectors (FV) identified by the government and spoken about in the report of the Social and Environmental Council are as follows:

- FV1: Renewable energy sectors (CSP, PV, and wind)
- FV2: Energy efficiency in the building sector
- FV3: Liquid waste sanitation and purification sector
- FV4: Waste management and utilization sector

To these sectors, we propose adding the following:

- FV 5: Sector for guaranteeing management and utilization of the forestry potential
- FV 6: Aromatic and medicinal plant sectors which impact the management and use of biodiversity that can contribute to the application of the Nagoya protocol and gain from the implementation thereof, in particular for rural populations.

Strategic focus 9: Accelerate the implementation of policies on efficiency and energy transition

For Morocco, a developing nation, deprived of own fossil energy resources (dependent on imports by 96%), the energy issue is critical because the cost thereof affects national competitiveness and eats into the balance of payments. The energy bill represents up to 11% of GDP (2011) and 52.6% of export...

To sustainably operate hand in hand with sustainability in the socio-economic development of the country, Morocco has defined an integrated New Energy Strategy dealing with different aspects of energy efficiency and the gradual arrival of renewables slated to represent 42% of the installed electrical power by 2020.

The energy strategy has also made energy efficiency a priority which has to be brought into fruition in the various productive sectors. Energy savings and improvement in energy efficiency can be achieved by changing behaviors and improving technologies and materials. The first objective is to foster awareness of the population and decision-makers in this area, as well as a reflection on the life styles and usages. With regard to the second improvement focus, this can be developed in priority in the fields of transport, building and industries.

Strategic focus 10: Availability of a sustainable mining sector

The mining sector has always constituted a key component of the national economy, in particular with regard to phosphates. The favorable ecological context for a long while has enabled the development of mining activities in a variety of the Kingdom's regions.

This sector today is confronted with many challenges, in particular the need to discover new mining deposits, the optimization of value added of the mineral substances mined and sustainable development. This refers to reconcile mine utilization and reduction of the ecological footprint of these activities. To these endogenous challenges are added those in connection of globalization of the economy, of competition, competitiveness and instability on the raw materials market.

Given these considerations the Ministry of Energy, Mines, Water and the Environment has adopted a national strategy encompassing all the activities located upstream and downstream of the mine.

The **main projects initiated to deal with the modernization of the legislative and regulatory framework, upgrading** of the national mining industry with the aim of freeing up the mining permits not carried out in optimal manner, giving a new push to production of the geological mapping and improvement of accessibility, the

establishment of measures conducive to investment in mining research, a high risk and capitalized activity, the professionalism of mining promotion and development of the training possibilities in the areas of geology and mining trades.

In the mining industry, environmental protection and sustainable development feature among the priority objectives. All projects occur in an integrated approach respecting environmental standards and targeting the reduction of water and energy consumption, and greenhouse emissions. The Quality approach, the commitments regarding waste management, rational natural resource management and the integration of the environmental component starting the design phase of mining projects all constitute factors indicative of the adherence of the mine to all processes ensuring sustainable development and longevity.

Strategic focus 11: Promotion of sustainable craftsmanship

Moroccan craftsmanship is the inheritor of a very long history. The guardian of traditions as it reflects the ancestral cultural wealth of the country. As a result, it has become one of the characteristic elements of the cultural and community value in Morocco's urban and rural areas.

Today, one has to admit that the craftsmanship sector in Morocco is not using its full potential. It suffers from organizational discrepancies and weak institutional representation. No legal definition has been instituted to guide the profession which has caused a decline in the social conditions of craftsmen entailing degradation year after year. Indeed, the informal side of this activity in the various sectors does not make it possible to well manage the entire craftsmanship sector in particular with regard to its social, economic and environmental aspects. The difficulties encountered are basically linked to the fact that Moroccan craftsmanship is characterized by the wide variety in size, volumes of output, the geographical spread and training level.

To ensure fully mastery over environmental problems in Morocco, the craftsmanship sector must integrate the priorities of sustainable development. The purpose is to support the growth of this industry while limiting the environmental damage resulting therefrom.

Tanneries, one of the principal activities of craftsmanship in Morocco, have a strong negative impact on the environment due to their organic charges poured into the effluents and toxic waste resulting from non traditional tonnages, and owing to the widespread generation of toxicity of solid waste materials (organic and toxic). They also have an effect on health due to the toxicity of the chemicals used, in particular in the case of industrial tanneries making use of chrome. The impacts resulting from this activity primarily affect water, air, soil and human health.

Strategic focus 12: Promote sustainable mobility

The transport sector is **a sector with a significant potential** for contribution to the green economy. Sustainable mobility is defined as a transport policy seeking to reconcile accessibility, economic progress and reduction of the environmental impact of the different types of transport. With regard to goods, the key lies in the optimization of the existing networks and improvement of the exchange platforms enabling efficient transfers between the different kinds of transport. For private parties, it must be adapted to each mobility need by offering multimodal solutions.

Transport represents **34% of energy consumption**. Such consumption rose from 3558 Ktep in 2004 to 5325 Ktep in 2011, i.e. growth of 49.66 % across the entire period (average annual growth rate of 5.9 %). The rise in transport needs is expected to come in confirmation of this trend. The **implementation of lean means** of transport constitutes a fundamental level making it possible to cut down on consumption and lower Morocco's energy bill.

These transport development initiatives also offer an opportunity to promote sustainable transport among tour operators and industrialists while creating jobs in connection with energy efficiency and need to be continued and rationalized.

Strategic focus 13: Reconcile tourism development environmental protection

Due to its transversal nature and many trickle down effects, the tourism industry over the past ten years has become of capital importance in Morocco's economy (leading contributor to the balance of payment, second contributor to GDP and second ranking job creator). The purpose of Vision 2020 is to promote sustainable tourism that accelerates economic development of the Kingdom without degradation to the natural and cultural assets focusing around six new tourist destinations added to the traditional areas (Marrakech and Agadir).

Given the importance of this sector in Morocco and its potential contribution to rural and urban development and the potential negative fallout on the environment, it is crucial to reach the objectives of Vision 2020 while protecting and safeguarding the environment and natural resources.

The different tourism development strategies such as « Vision 2010 », then « Vision 2020 » put in place by Morocco have taken into consideration the sustainability aspect. Preventive actions have been envisaged at several levels in the life cycle of tourism products from investment (*via measured included in the specifications*) *right up to the operational phase (technical and financial assistance for natural resource preservation)* and the promotional stage. The said measures join together regulatory systems, obligatory standards and allied technical and financial mechanisms.

Bringing the tourism strategy into fruition means that it must be placed in a strategic framework newly conceived and updated in order to take account of the challenges and stakes included therein and based on the major focuses as follows:

- A land planning policy for the tourism industry, guarantor of the distribution of the gains afforded by tourism and the socio-economic development of all regions;
- An institutional plan and governance structure capable of contributing the dynamic and leadership necessary for territorial tourism development;
- Sustainable development, a challenge and opportunity allowing a differentiation for Moroccan tourism when dealing with the “nature” aspect.

Strategic focus 14: Promotion of integrated waste management to implement a circular economy

Economic development leads to an increase in volume of the toxicity of the waste produce. Morocco is not spared from this phenomenon. Fully aware of the threat posed by poor waste management to the environment, public health and the country’s image, Morocco has put in place an array of measures designed to make up for its belatedness in rational waste management.

Better waste management enabled the transformation of this problem into full-fledged opportunities. Waste usage leads to new uses and recycling of any other action designed to obtain from waste materials reusable or energy producing materials from waste. Two types of valorisation are predominant: re-use of materials (backfill) and energy-based re-use (compost, biogas, etc.), the world market of which is estimated at 20 Bn USD in 2050 with a growth margin of 30% as of 2014.

Integrated Industrial Platforms (P2I) represent one of the principal tools for implementation of the Kingdom’s industrial strategy. Such situations constitute an occasion to develop a “circular economy” approach making it possible to promote synergy within a community of actors (local authorities, partners, suppliers, enterprises, etc.) to limit the environmental impacts (for example via the use of waste materials as resources), as well as the economic costs. It also makes it possible strengthening the cohesion among the full array of stakeholders (competitiveness, dialogue) and the attractiveness of a given territory.

As opposed to the current so-called linear economy, the circular economy attempts to avoid depletion of its resources and makes it possible to control discharged and waste materials via recycling and re-use.

Strategic focus 15: Aligning urban planning and the principle of sustainable development

In Morocco, the annual rate of urban growth moved from 29 % to currently 60 %, and from 1994, the number of cities has increased threefold (314 centers). The urban

population will make up 2/3 of the total in 2020. This is indicative of the crucial stake involved with urban policies.

Furthermore, in Morocco the urban situation is characterized by widespread dysfunctions discernable in urban morphology, its social organization, its economic deficiencies and its governance methods. Here, we are speaking about the urban crisis: living conditions in cities have been slipping (complicated traffic and transport, insufficient logistic infrastructures, land availability non adapted to needs and land and real estate speculation, disorganization of cities according to opportunities, the appearance of “new towns” without providing functions enabling integration into the respective urban areas, etc.

Often the current policies dwell on repairing the on-going situation (cities without shantytowns program, city upgrading program) without treating the city as a paragon of sustainability. They call for better design, coordination and the completion of programs. As opposed to previous ecology based ideas, cities were considered as the “foes” of environmental protection, today they are deemed to constitute a means allowing for rationalization of access to resources, space and well-being, provided their development is kept under effective control and their design is rational and well thought out.

According to the experts, the **urban growth phenomenon** can constitute an advantage in so far as it enables economies of scale and more efficient service provision. They say that the consumption of resources per inhabitant in highly populated areas is less than that in sparsely populated zones due to the economies of scale in water distribution, housing, waste management and recycling, as well as energy consumption and transport. In addition, cities are at the crossroads of the four pillars of sustainable development and are the home of an increasing number of young people needing protection from the risks of social destabilization, often the seat of violence.

Also, Morocco’s urban development strategy must be directed toward outright consideration of sustainability objectives so as to take up the challenges regarding social cohesion, urban growth and pollution control.

With regard to the environment, the implementation of **ecological building practices** can occur at two stages. One is in conjunction with the edification of new building or renovation and refurbishment of existing structures. Sustainable construction in a manner of building creating, restoring, renovation or re-doing a living space with an eye to saving non renewable resources and to generate as little as possible pollution and waste, as well as to plan the future use of the building as economically as possible in terms of resource consumption (energy consumption, organization of the flow of water, waste, etc).

The building arrangements must be adapted to the environment and get the most possible out of it. To do so, the building operations must occur taking into account

climatic parameters of the place of construction (sunlight, protection from prevailing wind, best adapted greenery species), topography and conservation of landscapes.

Therefore, sustainable development can be construed as an entry key to working out the city of tomorrow because it begs questions on our ways of living: habitat, transport, organization, space management, etc. On top of that, it constitutes an ethical principle looking toward change and a practical concept dwelling on action. In this way, it would make it possible to reconcile life in the city and well-being, social cohesion and environmental protection.



V. Stake 3: Improving natural resource management and development and strengthening biodiversity conservation

The initial impact of demographic growth consists of the accentuation of pressure on water, soil, vegetation and animal resources. In spite of the reduction and growth, the said sources of pressure have not diminished. Cyclical drought has worsened the deficit in resources and accelerated the degradation process.

Morocco, a country of bioclimatic and ecological transition, has fragile resources threatened by rapid degradation in the event of over use. Its soils are vulnerable and widely exposed to erosion. Forest coverage is rapidly declining, steppe spaces are threatened by desertification, coasts are eroded or over occupied, resources dwindling and certain precious biotopes are constantly declining and being irretrievably lost. Natural disasters threaten the territory while long term planning to ward them off and emergency safeguarding plans are rarely implemented.

Taken together, all these impacts can be questioned on future resource availability (water, fish) on one hand and conditions of hygiene and environmental soundness, on the other hand.

The outlook for the future of the environment appears therefore to be little sustainable: resources are being depleted, along with environmental degradation of the living space, hygienic condition and life quality. All of this is leading to high degradation of the environment to which the community and individuals are subjects at high cost without the said cost not having the lightest curative effect.

Only a development option integrating the environmental component in all the related phases, in the long term, can contribute to settling some the problems mentioned. Proper consideration can, in addition to limiting degradations, generate other actions and participate in the economic and social development of the country.

Thus, the third stake in the national sustainable development strategy aims at improving the management and use of natural resource and strengthens conservation of biodiversity. In providing implementation, 4 strategic focuses have been identified:

Strategic focus 16: Securitize the needs and strengthen water resource integrated management

The national hydrological context is characterized by the mounting scarcity of water due to climate change, irrational use, and demographic growth. Indeed, in Morocco national water resources are among the lowest in the world. This potential is evaluated at the equivalent of 700 m³/p.c./year and this amount of water could drop to 520 m³ by 2020. In addition, water resources are unequally spread out across the territory and the needs of the various water use sectors are constantly on the rise.

The reduction in the ecological footprint of activities using water is in connection with better resource management and improvement of water quality and sanitation.

Along these lines water usage and purification rationalization programs have been developed by the relevant sector stakeholders. Nevertheless, coordination of their actions still needs improvement if a truly integrated water management system is to be put in place.

The National Water Strategy (SNE) was devised in order to reform the water sector through the development of alternative systems, rational management of demand, the increase in production and better handling of environmental factors. However, the problem of water pricing and payment of management and investment has to be grappled with in this sector.

Strategic focus 17: Improve knowledge of the pressures exerted on soils

The soil fulfills noble and vital functions for human societies and represents the key component of all terrestrial ecosystems. It ensures the vital biological, physical and socio-economic functions for natural vegetation and crops, regulates the water regime, filters and purifies water, is the principal seat of biochemical cycles, is the genetic reservoir, biodiversity, as well as cultural and historical patrimony.

In addition to the fact that Moroccan soil resources are not renewable at the scale of a human generation, they are subject to a certain number of degradation processes due to over use, non rational exploitation and reduction in green coverage. This degradation in soil quality is partially the cause of the drop in agricultural yield, silting of dams and the degradation of natural environments. Therefore, the protection of soils affects the reduction in the ecological footprint of activities and the preservation of food security.

For this, proper knowledge of the environment is necessary. However, a surface area of only 22 million ha, i.e. 31 % of the national territory is actually prospected. This low level of knowledge constitutes a major constraint to the implementation of large scale national programs. Moreover, the unbridled use of agricultural lands for the development of urban areas produces ever-growing pressure on available soils.

By way of response, programs, plans and strategies directly related to soil protection have been put in place and are in the process of implementation.

In terms of legal and regulatory response the Draft Law pursuant to soil protection is currently being finalized.

Strategic focus 18: Protect biodiversity and strengthen conservation policies

Morocco is the home of biodiversity in flora and fauna of ecosystems and ranks 2nd in the Mediterranean. This biodiversity, however, is subject to pressure with 600 animal species under threat. These threats are diverse primarily caused by demographic pressure and urban development, non adapted agriculture practices, deforestation, over grazing, pollution, over fishing, the development of transport infrastructures, mass tourism, fires, poaching, and invasive species. Climate change also contributes to degradation of biodiversity and accentuates its ecological footprint. Indeed, the drop in rainfall (-4% between 2000 and 2009) and more frequent and longer periods of drought subject ecosystems to permanent stress and reductions in productivity.

Marine biological diversity is rich in species (more than 7830 species) and stocks enabling the Kingdom to occupy the position of Africa's leading fish exporter and top producer of sardines in the world. Over fishing still exerts substantial pressure and with it brings a reduction in the quantities produced and threat to fish resources.

Due to this situation Morocco has adopted solutions designed to preserve biodiversity and reduce the threats with which it is currently faced. In the framework of the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CDB), Morocco set up the National Biodiversity Committee as a body for coordination and mutual cooperation between the relevant departments and institutions. In addition, a National Strategy and Action Plan on Biodiversity was adopted to meet national requirements of conservation and rational and the sustainable utilization of biodiversity. **Updating of the action plan has now become necessary in order to integrate new factors.** Updating of the national strategy is currently on going with a 2011-2020 program in place to be included in the Aichi objectives constituting the new "Strategic Plan for Biodiversity».

Biodiversity management brings into play a multitude of actors: ministerial departments, as well as governmental, semi governmental and private establishments. This means it is necessary to think about the need to put in place a central coordination structure that permanently and rationally oversees the multi-disciplinary resources, the safeguarding and preservation of natural resources.

Morocco had adopted strategy for the development of a network of protected marine areas (AMPP). The AMP-Fish network can contribute to the preservation of resource, the refurbishment of marine ecosystems and the sustainability of small scale fishing. Three pilot AMPs extending over 750 km² have been defined in the framework of this strategy: Alboran, Massa, and Mogador. The extent of these ecosystems requires the establishment of a national strategy for the development of protected marine areas. This strategy should be based on the following:

- Better knowledge of the resources present in these spaces;
- Protection of marine areas;
- Reconciliation between conservation and development of marine areas;
- Monitor and assess the status of marine areas.



VI. Stake 4: Accelerate implementation of the national policy concerning the fight against climate change

Even though the Kingdom of Morocco is a low emitter of greenhouse gases (GES), because of its geographical position it is subject to high vulnerability to climate change (desertification, floods, scarcity of water resources, etc). This vulnerability is made worse by the progression of the desertification, as well as the reduction in water resource reduction. With agriculture widely dominated by non irrigated areas it is therefore dependent on rainfall. The increase in needs of the local populations and industries the rise in immigration for sub-Saharan regions are severely hit by climate change. The said instances of vulnerability will grow while climate change in the long run will risk becoming a threat even to food security.

To confront this situation Morocco is determined to put in place actions for adaptation and mitigation in the framework of an integrated, participative and responsible approach. This political determination is promoted by HIS MAJESTY THE KING, MOHAMMED VI perfectly corresponds to the international effort which led, according to the principle of joint but differentiated responsibility, put in place since 2015 in the form of new international agreement for the fight against climate change adopted to COP21 the implementation frameworks of which are spelled out in COP22 scheduled for Marrakech in November 2016.

The national policy on the fight against climate change constitutes an operational framework for the medium and long term development of a strategy making it possible to proactively and ambitiously meet the challenges of climate change. It constitutes a basis for coordination of the measures and initiative undertaken to fight against climate change and act a structure-building political instrument dynamic, flexible and participative for the establishment of the fundamentals of green growth resilient with respect to climate change.

Even though convinced of the importance of the fight against climate change the Kingdom is well aware of its limits. Firstly there is the financial side as the projects to be carried out require support from the international community via the acceleration of implementation of a Green Fund for the Climate with an equitable approach between adaptation and mitigation projects. Secondly, there is the technological side as the implementation of the adaptation and mitigation strategies require the utilization and technical prowess of specific well-proven technologies.

Hence, the fourth stake of the national sustainable development strategy aims and improving the approach to climate change. Three focuses have been identified to do so:

Strategic focus 19: Improve Climate governance

The diagnosis made it possible to identify a certain number of weak points regarding the management of issues in connection with climate change. First there is the issue of governance constituting the basis of the implementation of a coherent and joint effort which must be reinforced. It must be so to make possible respect of international agreements and also to be in a position to fully benefit of the opportunities in connection with funding climate change issues. At the international level the role of Morocco must be strengthened and the ambition of playing a leading role is necessary given the growing vulnerability of the entire African Continent. It is with this awareness that Morocco has proposed organizing COP22 in Marrakech in November 2016

Appropriation at the territorial level is necessary to ensure efficient implementation of the Territorial Plans for the fight against Climate warming (PTRC). The implementation of these plans is necessary to lend greater visibility of the needs required to strengthen resilience in front

of the various instances of vulnerability in connection with the territorial specificities and to identify the actions to undertake in addition to the needs in terms of strengthening the related capacities (financial, human and technological).

One could conclude that Morocco could improve its positioning and visibility in order to benefit from the opportunities in connection with financing the climate issue via the preparation of concrete, bankable projects, the mitigation of greenhouse gases and adaptation to the harmful effects expected due to Climate Change.

Strategic focus 20: Place the territories in a framework of the fight against climate heating

In compliance with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Morocco developed an Initial National Communication in 2001, its Second National Communication in 2009 and Third National Communication in early 2016. In these communications, inventories of the projects for adaptation and mitigation were devised to identify funding sources.

In addition, several national plans have already been set up by the country in connection with the fight against climate change. In this context international negotiations were undertaken on the post Kyoto situation. It appears important for Morocco to set forth the measures it has undertaken in a determined fashion for mitigation and the measures already put in place for adaptation.

Therefore a National Plan for the fight against climatic heating (PNRC) was developed to list the governmental actions as well as for combating climate change. Further, Morocco at the COP21 in Paris presented its determined contribution at the national level making its ambition to limit greenhouse gas emissions to 13% which could be raised to 32% if sufficient international funding is secured.

The fight against climate change requires joint and responsible action at all levels of governance, as well as efforts contributed by all citizens with regard to changes in life styles.

Strategic focus 21: Seizing climate change funding opportunities

« Climate funding » is one of the efforts deployed at the world level to confront the challenge of climate change. This will be a catalyst of the efforts carried out in developing countries to strengthen their capacity for resilience with regard to climate change, limit greenhouse gas emissions and secure the transition to sustainable development with regard to carbon.

In the framework of fund raising, the industrialized countries have set the objective of mobilizing 100 billion USD by 2020 to keep in place mitigation and adaptation activities in developing countries. There is a wide variety of funds mobilized: funding from public, private, bilateral and multilateral sources. « Climate funding » fosters inflows from the private sector. The donation and loans from the most vulnerable developing countries, such as the least advanced, developing small island nations and African countries.

Access to funding for climate change projects remains the weak point of the Moroccan programs. Morocco has to put in place plans coherent with precise and bankable climate change projects in order to be in a position to benefit from new forms of financing, in particular “climate funding”.

Therefore Morocco has to confront the huge challenges in connection with funding the fight against climate change:

- Access to new and innovative sources of financing the fight against climate change

- Promotion of synergy between funding of development and funding climate issues
- Use and contribution of the limited funds from government sources to act as a catalyst and direct the much more substantial private funds.



VII. Stake 5: Grant special vigilance to sensitive territories

Morocco is a country with wide-ranging territorial diversity and has to confront the very different challenges the stakes of which converge toward the preservation of resources, improvement of the attractiveness of each territory and the search for competitiveness thanks to the comparative advantages to be developed.

The National Sustainable Development Strategy proposes the strengthening of actions fostering attention to the most sensitive territories. Three types of territory enclosing highly different characteristics have been retained and require coordination of efforts designed to ensure sustainable development.

The coastline encompasses 54% of the population, 80% of industries and 50% of tourist infrastructures undergo too many sources of pressure pushing even further risks (urban development, pollution)

The oases and desert areas representing more than 40% of the territory are poor, insufficiently fitted out with infrastructures and are struck with a high degree of fragility. The oases and argan groves are the last hindrances to the progression of desertification. The maintaining of biosphere reserves is therefore indispensable for preserving the ecological balance in the remainder of the Kingdom.

The mountainous areas are territories of contrast because they concentrate the greater share of resources in water, forest and biodiversity of the Kingdom while the population is hit by extensive poverty given that all social indicators fall below the national average.

The fifth stake of the national sustainable development strategy aims to improve coordination of action within specific territories. Three strategic focuses have been identified:

Strategic focus 22: Improve sustainable management of the coastline

Morocco's coastline stretches over 3500 kms of coastal area very rich in biodiversity and fish and landscape resources. The coastline constitutes a hypersensitive zone entailing multiple economic and social stakes. However it is subject to several sources of pressure including uncontrolled urban development, industry, the over use of dune sand, etc.

The Moroccan coastline until recently has been regulated by old fragmentary laws applied without coordination between the institutions and not providing sufficient protection of this environment. Law n° 81-12 pursuant to coastal areas was adopted on 15 October 2015. It foresees the devising of a National Coastal Area Plan and regional plans aiming at the protection, development and conservation of the coastline, as well as the national and regional level. These plans should make possible the establishment of global lines of protection and development of Morocco's coastline while respecting the ecological balance and integrating sectoral policies (industry tourism, urban development, infrastructures...)

Also, this national plan should make it possible to establish action plans aiming at development of the coastal areas while planning investment programs to be carried out. From a regional standpoint they should clearly identify the non constructible areas, the places of waste water discharge, the seaside spaces reserved for motor-driven nautical vehicles and spaces reserved for camping cars.

Strategic focus 23: Preservation and development of Oases and desert areas

For a long while considered as havens of peace, the oases today more than ever before are confronted with challenges that risk upsetting their equilibrium. These spaces whose economy is basically dependent on proceeds from agriculture, tourism and craftsmanship have to grapple with challenges brought on by a fickle climate and rampant urban development

The principal pillar of the oases economy, agriculture is facing multiple constraints in particular those attributable to «Bayoud» scourge, the lack of care after and before harvesting, the pastoral nature of the areas, the long stretch of drought, as well as the irrational use of water and land resources.

The development of national and international tourist activity in oases areas could also ensure economic growth in the region, environmental preservation and the creation of direct and indirect jobs. However, rapid and non sustainable development of tourism activity could risk the oases areas to lose their natural, civilizational and cultural character.

In opposition to the oases areas the desert zones a little varied plant cover and the specific characteristics of the land do not make it possible to foresee many agricultural domains of activity.

To ensure sustainable development of these fragile territories, it is indispensable to strengthen programs for the protection of these areas to provide economic development programs for agriculture, tourism and craftsmanship.

Strategic focus 24: Strengthen the management policies of mountainous areas

In Morocco, the mountainous areas stretch over 26% of the national territory (more than 187 000 Km²). They are the home of nearly 7,548.000 inhabitants representing almost 30 % of the population, registering a per capita density of 40 inhab. /Km².

Even though the mountainous areas dispose of several development opportunities (due to the extensive surface area and biological diversity), they suffer from many sources of imbalance, i.e.:

- A disequilibrium between the level of development of the mountainous areas and the remainder of the country;
- A disequilibrium between the subsistence of the populations and available resources;
- Disequilibrium between consumption of natural resources and conservation efforts, and resource preservation.

The strengthening of programs for the conservation of natural resources which are the source of income for the populations of mountainous areas, makes it possible to reach the objectives of the four pillars of sustainable development.

VIII. Stake 6: Promote human development and reduce social and territorial inequalities

Morocco has reported noteworthy improvement in the social situation and reached and even surpassed certain MDGs. The rate of poverty (MDG 1) fell from 15% in 2001 to 6% in 2011; and rate of unemployment from 14% in 1999 to 9% in 2012. The literacy rate of Moroccans between 15 to 24 years of age (MDG 2) estimated at 58% in 1994, reached 85% in 2012. The infant and young child mortality rate (0 - 4 years of age) fell to 47 per thousand in 1999-2003 to 30‰ in 2007-2011 and infant mortality (0 - year of age) from 40‰ to 29‰ across the period (MDG 4). The maternal mortality rate (MDG 5) over a period of ten years came to 227 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births (1995-2003) to 112 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2009. However, it is necessary to strengthen the actions undertaken to make up for certain degrees of belatedness in three MDG areas: MDG 2 (education—in particular the literacy rate of young people), MDG 3 (promotion of equality between genders and the independence of females) and MDG 5 (improving maternal health). In addition, the results obtained at the level of MDGs are applicable to the entire population and are average at the national level. However, these averages conceal the discrepancies often occurring between rural and urban areas, between regions and between social categories or genders.

The success encountered by Morocco in the reduction of poverty comes up against inequality of income and the accentuation of discrepancies within the population. The issue of poverty in Morocco is now a question of reduction in economic and social inequalities. The spatial discrepancies are found not only between urban and rural areas but also exist between regions.

Well aware of the various hurdles on the path to sustainable and equitable development between its regions, Morocco has initiated several initiatives to improve the well being of its most underprivileged populations. The National Human Development Initiative (INDH) is one of the most successful. In six years of operation over 22,000 projects have been begun to the benefit of 5 million people with an investment of 14 billion MAD. The second phase has been launched with a budget of 21 billion MAD

Several sectoral structure-building plans enter into this spirit of the INDH. Pillar II of the Green Morocco Plan (PMV) has the direct purpose of production and aims indirectly at the farm income of 3 million economically vulnerable rural dwellers.

Even though the implementation of public health programs has allowed the global improvement of health in Morocco wide inequalities remain between rural and urban areas and between males and females.

For over more than ten years Morocco has devoted preponderance to education. The efforts undertaken have made it possible to improve the net improvement in school attendance and the rate of completion of primary education. However, several issues in connection with education await efficient management.

Indeed, equality and quality are the two major stakes involved with education. Improvement of the rate of retention of pupils and students along with the reduction in the rate of second chances will allow the rate of complementarity and transition in all environments, for both genders and the schooling level.

The sixth stake of the national sustainable development strategy aims at promoting human development and the reduction of social and territorial inequalities. Three strategic focuses have been identified:

Strategic focus 25: Capitalize on the accomplishment of the INDH to fight against poverty

The fight against poverty is a central objective of sustainable and human development. Morocco has made great strides in this field, in particular by the existence of INDH.

The National Human Development Initiative (INDH) launched in September 2005 was the expression of the Royal Desire to make human development the end purpose and factor underpinning the new growth profile. The INDH aims at poverty reduction, precariousness and social exclusion via support provided to income generating activities, the development of capacities, the improvement of conditions of access to services and basic infrastructures (education, health, religious practice, roads and sanitation, environmental protection, etc.), as well as support to highly vulnerable persons. More globally the interest shown in social sectors also led to an increase in the budgets related thereto.

The outcome of the 1st phase of INDH 2005-2010 shows encouraging results with more than 5.2 million beneficiaries, as well as the completion of 22,000 projects in several areas of activity. The budgetary envelope in place amounts to approximately 14.1 Bn MAD including 8.4 Bn MAD of the contribution by INDH. This initiative has allowed the creation of 3700 income-generating activities and more than 40,000 stable jobs over the same period.

The second phase was launched on 4 June 2011 for 2011/2015 and includes several programs:

- Program for the fight against poverty in rural areas
- Program for the fight against social exclusion
- Program for the fight against precariousness
- Transversal program (2.8 Bn MAD) aimed at fostering income generation (AGR)
- Territorial upgrading program
- Environmental and Social Management Plan

The programs for the fight against poverty would do better if directed toward the four pillars for sustainable development.

Strategic focus 26: Renforcer les politiques de santé and la veille sanitaire

Health is a preliminary condition, result and indicator of the three parts of sustainable development: the Economy, Environment and Social aspects. Indeed, given the interaction in the health sector with social development policies and reduction of inequalities and job creation and the connections between health and the environment, it is important to place the challenges existing in this sector into a wider framework of sustainable development. This is designed to guarantee the « *right to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature* » according to the terms of article 1 of the 1992 Rio Declaration and by way of reference to the constitution of Morocco. Improvement of health contributes to the achievement of sustainable development while health itself is one of the principal beneficiaries of the investments provided in the field of sustainable development.

Even though the implementation of public health programs has enabled global improvement of health in Morocco, substantial inequalities remain between rural and urban areas and between

males and females. These factors are illustrative of one of the main issues about health in Morocco, i.e. the socio-economic inequalities in the distribution of resources lead to wide inequalities in mortality among these groups. The least educated and less wealthy, as well as those suffering from a precarious professional status generally are less healthy

Several major stakes are added to the issues of social and geographic inequalities in access to healthcare: in spite of the drop in rates the problems of maternal and neonatal mortality remain and several illnesses are emergent or re-emergent.

Furthermore, the situation of life styles (sedentary life, bad nutritional habits and degradation of environmental quality (air, soils, etc.) lead to an increase in respiratory and chronic diseases such as a certain deficiencies, etc.

Strengthening the prevention, security and sanitary control constitutes a prime focus for better knowledge and monitoring of the state of health of the population, the illnesses effect, as well as the connections between health and the environment.

Strategic focus 27: Improve the deficit in education

For the fight against poverty and promotion of human development education is an indispensable lever for preparation of the future of upcoming generations. At the Rio+20 summit the States renewed their commitment to «universal access to quality learning at all levels as a prime condition of *“sustainable development, the elimination of poverty, and gender equality, the independence of women and human development”* ».

The attainment of quantitative objectives has sometimes occurred at a cost to quality of the system. The trend aimed at growing the teaching staff for elementary education has had an effect of the quality of supervision and the pupil/teacher ratio. Therefore, the public education system remains affected by a relatively high repetition rate and very low internal effectiveness (deficient quality of programs, pedagogical practices and learning) compounded by the persistence of inequality between girls and boys. To curb this scourge the public authorities attempted to develop pre-school education; the drop out rate has an effect of the rate of completion of the study cycles attained, by the pupils.

The informal education programs attempt to make up for these insufficiencies but the number of beneficiaries is small in number and the rate of insertion into formal and vocational education is very limited.

Efforts have also been deployed to improve the availability of higher education and to make more professional all types of training: henceforth 63% of accredited training systems are professional. The presence of professionals in training supervision exists but they deserve greater development and institutionalization.



IX. Stake 7: Promote the culture of sustainable development

Reaching the objectives put forth and defined by the national sustainable development strategy will be possible only if the attendant measures are implemented.

Scientific research has always been pivotal in building awareness of the stakes and conditions necessary for achieving sustainable development. Research and Development (R&D) anticipates problems, clarifies the stakes, proposes solutions and provides key material and clarifications irreplaceable to the decisions made by the social and political actors.

The transition toward a green economy necessarily leads to change in the existing trades. The principal sectors of activities are affected by the regulatory reforms and the constant changes taking place in environmental standards. To confront this situation these enterprises need to hire people aware and trained to confront the said changes. The stake therefore involves adapting the content of the training to the environmental requirements and the promotion of sustainable development.

Green trades also represent reconciliation between environmental protection and the fight against joblessness and non official employment. The said green professions in Morocco refer not only to a channel for job creation geared to the highly qualified young people in several areas of specialization but also an opportunity for people living in situations of precariousness and those excluded from the labor market.

Even though this strategy focuses on priority actions to ensure the transition toward a new development model without creating any rupture, it still remains that sustainable development is a lengthy and inter generational process. The results will be closely looked at via the monitoring indicators but the actual transformation will occur in a generation via the training of children and youth to the principles of eco citizenship. The said principles will be the foundation of a genuine culture of sustainable development.

Strategic focus 28: Strengthening eco citizenship through educational programs focusing on awareness-building and communication

The strengthening of eco citizenship constitutes one of the main priorities of the National Sustainable Development Strategy. Indeed the NSDS has the aim to change behavioral patterns and modify the practices and organizations to improve competitiveness in a sustainable perspective preserving resources and improving the well-being of citizens.

Good citizenship is a social boon linking together the person and the State enabling the person to benefit from his/her rights and to see to his/her civic and political duties. Good citizenship is also practiced with regard to the environment and nature. The citizen has duties toward the planet and environment in which he/she lives.

These duties are indispensable as they constitute a guarantee of preservation of the Earth's resources. Therefore for each citizen this means it is necessary to act daily as a player aware of environmental preservation by accomplishing eco gestures in daily life: The eco citizen sorts out the garbage, atomizes energy, protects nature and builds awareness among his/her entourage on the practices to be respected, and consumes responsibly. He/she tries to change mentalities as well as related behavioral patterns.

The awareness of all the actors concerned is therefore requisite to guarantee the success of a genuine and long lasting transformation. Of course such a transformation needs time and can

occur only if permanent and sustained efforts are deployed. Reaching this transformation in no way be judged at its true worth at the end of this first national sustainable development strategy (2015-2020) but it offers an opportunity to build a solid basis in a spirit of inter generational solidarity.

Education of sustainable development therefore becomes a priority: it is a wager on procuring a future responsible generation. Implication in the process of achieving sustainable development and the behavioral changes will emerge from good understanding of the environmental protection, social equality, economic efficiency and good governance.

Strategic focus 29: Making innovation, research and development a lever of transition to bring into fruition sustainable development

Scientific research has always been a key element in building awareness of the stakes and conditions necessary for sustainable development. Research and development (R&D) make it possible to foresee problems, clarify the stakes and propose solutions. It provided key materials and unfaltering clarification to the decisions made by social and political actors.

Research on sustainable development looks at several topical issues, disciplines and geographical spaces. Because of its specific nature Morocco must take a new look at its research projects dealing with issues adapted to the national context. Therefore it is necessary to develop R&D disciplines while taking advantages of any technology transfer opportunities by other partner countries.

Sometimes deemed to be responsible for degradation of the planet and the creation of new risks, technology is also perceived as the top supplier of solutions to the problems inherent to sustainable development. The advances made by research in physical science and engineering as well as in human science make it possible to surpass the apparent opposition of these points of view. The structure of R&D must be directed to research project applied to actual environmental issues in Morocco (waste, atmospheric pollution, water issues and desertification).

Along these lines, the national vision for development of Scientific Research by 2025 aims at governance and performance of the system, the diversification of funding, scientific yield of structures and research activities, the improvement of scientific infrastructures and international cooperation.

Even though the priority subjects of research up to now have affected environmental protection programs and the green economy (recycling of water, waste, water and energy efficiency, clean production mechanisms) few have been implemented in these areas.

Morocco has not yet exploited the potential contributions of Moroccan researchers or of the country's competencies abroad. The public policies of mobilization of skills have been characterized by several insufficiencies limiting the impact in terms of attractiveness. These skills can be utilized to contribute to the transfer of new technologies and socio-economic development of the country provided provision is made of the federating structures and allied competencies based on a renewed mobilizing discourse.

Strategic focus 30: Improvement of training on green-based trades

The transition toward a green necessarily sparks changes in existing trades. The principal activity sectors are affected by regulatory standard and constant changes in environmental standards. To confront this situation, enterprises need to recruit people aware and trained to grapple therewith.

This stake therefore means adapting training to the requirements of tomorrow.

Strategic focus 31: Promoting of culture as a lever of change to a sustainable society.

Sustainable development implies change in behavior and production also leading to compatibility with respect of cultural diversity. Culture has become since the Johannesburg Summit in 2002, the fourth pillar of sustainable development alongside the social, economic and environmental pillars. The sustainable programs must reconcile environmental protection, economic development, social cohesion and cultural diversity.

This fourth pillar creates solid bridges with the three other dimensions of sustainable development, while remaining complimentary between each other.

Promoting culture as a lever of change toward a more sustainable society means lending culture a central role in the definition of a new society project. It indeed enables sharing a sense and vision of the future.

Attractiveness factor: the influence of territorial identity, and element in the construction of a citizenship community and its ability to “live together”, culture is a fundamental factor in territorial sustainable development. Furthermore, sustainable development of our societies cannot be envisaged without taking into account the issues of cultural diversity and particularly to make sure this can be preserved and transmitted to future generations.

The project for a transition toward a green economy should integrate the cultural specificities and traditional knowledge to guarantee global success.

The development focuses of the NSDS are not limited to the promotion of Moroccan cultural aspect because they also aim at the development of an inclusive and tolerant society.



CONCLUSION

A national sustainable development strategy above all is a continuous process contingent on stakes jointly accepted along with reachable objectives. It is a new way of apprehending development joining together the contributions of each stakeholder thanks to new frameworks for the transmission of information and strengthening of participation of all participants. To ensure reaching the objectives, a progressive trajectory must be put in place to allow efficient and true implementation of the projects identified.

The majority of the projects identified in this strategy are ones already planned or in process of implementation. They need to be strengthened and made long-lasting. To do so and given their impact with regard to the promotion of sustainable development, they must be subjected to monitoring through the implementation of this strategy.

Once the strategy is adopted, the Government Council in compliance with the provisions of framework law 99-12, the commitment must be made permanent via 2 structure-building pacts:

- The pact on exemplarity of the State which sets the commitments made for the promotion of sustainable development. These commitments are set forth in Stake 1, Focus 1.
- The pact on the transition toward a green economy sets forth the commitments in the different sectors to ensure the “greening” of the economy. These commitments are set forth in Stake 2.

To ensure the implementation of this strategy, the Government must have available monitoring and assessment mechanisms to direct the reaching of results and adjusting the actions undertaken, if necessary.

To optimize the monitoring and validation of the strategic options in the National Sustainable Development Strategy, it is paramount to constitute a crosswise team making up the Monitoring Committee for Implementation of the NSDS (COPII-NSDS).

Further, the implementation of the National Sustainable Development Strategy also requires the creation of monitoring sub-committees for following the progress made by the various projects. A monitoring sub-committee is based on technical commissions specialized in the key topical issues of the NSDS.

These bodies will base their activities on a control panel bringing together all the monitoring indicators of the NSDS.

The NSDS is made up of several components all of which are equally important. Ideally, each one must be evaluated. Implementation of the NSDS is a continuous and gradual process; therefore, there is a need to organize assessments at periodic intervals.

Monitoring of the implementation of NSDS aims at the monitoring and assessment mechanisms via the use of sustainable development indicators and the succession of “learning-action” cycles designed to ensure continuous improvement of the development projects aimed by the NSDS.

The half year assessment scheduled for 2017 should shed light on the:

- State of progress of the commitments entered into in the framework of the NSDS;
 - Inventory of the new commitments that will update the convergence pact;
 - Preparation of a new emergence pact with proposals for new focuses
 - Rate of accomplishment of the monitoring indicators.
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