

Happy 26th
Anniversary to
His Majesty
KING MOHAMMED VI



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A TRIBUTE TO HIS MAJESTY KING MOHAMMED VI: 26 years of nation building and continental vision



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Publisher's Note

The 26th Anniversary of Throne Day is more than a national celebration — it is a profound milestone that reflects a reign of vision, stability, and transformation.

This special edition of The New Africa Magazine honors His Majesty King Mohammed VI, a sovereign whose leadership continues to redefine governance across Africa. His model — grounded in strategic reform, moral clarity, and human-centered development — has inspired admiration far beyond Morocco's borders.

From his championing of youth and women to his bold commitment to South-South cooperation and inclusive diplomacy, His Majesty leads not merely by title but through purpose and legacy.

This edition is not just a look back at accomplishments — it is a mirror of the leadership Africa needs and a map of what African governance can become when rooted in integrity, continuity, and collective upliftment.

Let this be our tribute to a reign that serves not only Morocco, but the entire continent — with dignity and vision.

DR. GIFT CHIDIMMA
NNAMOKO ORAIRU
PUBLISHER, THE NEW AFRICA MAGAZINE



From the Editor-in-Chief

Leadership is the heart of Africa's story — and in His Majesty King Mohammed VI, we find a leader whose heartbeat resonates across borders.

On the occasion of the 26th Anniversary of Throne Day, this edition of The New Africa Magazine pays tribute to a monarch whose steady hand has anchored Morocco's transformation while offering Africa a renewed vision of governance. His Majesty's leadership is sovereign in principle, yet deeply human in practice — guided by calm reform, strategic foresight, and social responsibility.

In this issue, we explore a reign that balances modernity and tradition, diplomacy and domestic reform. The King's approach has made Morocco a continental reference point for stability and innovation in governance.

This is more than a commemorative edition — it is a celebration of impact, of leadership that does not seek the spotlight but builds lasting systems of progress behind it.

We welcome readers to reflect critically and celebrate deeply.



Lanem Law Kuma
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



Africa's Moment of Leadership — Rooted in Legacy, Driven by Humanity

Every era produces leaders — but only a few shape history with enduring vision, transformative values, and profound humanity. His Majesty King Mohammed VI is one of those few.

As we mark the 26th Anniversary of Throne Day, this edition is dedicated to a sovereign whose leadership transcends title. His Majesty is not just a Head of State — he is the architect of a governance model that embodies trust, dignity, strategic reform, and inclusive development. His rule centers on Morocco's people — on youth, women, the marginalized — and it redefines what African leadership looks like in the 21st century.

As a Moroccan, an African, and a global journalist, I am deeply honored to have led the vision and curation of this special edition. It is both a professional privilege and a personal milestone — a tribute built on conviction, collaboration, and clarity of purpose.

I want to express my deepest gratitude to all contributors who worked passionately behind the scenes — editors, writers, researchers, designers — all of you who helped bring this edition to life. Your commitment ensured that this tribute would not only inform, but inspire future generations of leaders.

This is more than a publication. It is a legacy in print. A reflection of leadership that is anchored in compassion, courage, and the quiet power of lasting transformation.



To those who rise,

To those who lead,

And to those who believe in Africa's potential —
this edition is yours.

KARIMA RHANEM
GLOBAL SENIOR MANAGING EDITOR,
THE NEW AFRICA MAGAZINE

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“

Building the kind of country we yearn for - one that is committed to progress and dignity - is possible only with the participation of all Moroccans - men and women alike - in the development process”

— Throne Day Speech July 30, 2022



King Mohammed VI of Morocco: The Leadership Model of Trust, Stability, and Long-Term Vision

Special Feature by Karima Rhanem,
Senior Managing Editor

As dawn rises over Rabat, Morocco's capital stirs to life under the calm yet purposeful presence of a monarch whose leadership has quietly redefined not only the destiny of his own nation — but increasingly, the very role of monarchy in the 21st century.

Since his accession to the throne in 1999, His Majesty King Mohammed VI has steadily shaped a distinctive model of governance — deeply Moroccan in its cultural identity, proudly African in its

belonging, and confidently global in its outreach. In a world marked by volatility, fragmentation, and shifting alliances, Morocco's trajectory under his reign has become something rare: a story of stability without stagnation, of reform without rupture, of quiet strength without isolation.

To Moroccans, the monarchy is not a ceremonial relic. It is a moral compass and a unifying presence — one that evolves in rhythm with the aspirations of its people. His Majesty has never led from a distance. He has led by being present: present in times of celebration, and more importantly, in times of need. From

discreet visits to underprivileged communities, to personal oversight of earthquake response and pandemic coordination, his gestures often speak louder than words — a leadership that reassures without noise, and governs without spectacle.

But this proximity to the people has always been accompanied by strategic clarity. Morocco under King Mohammed VI has made visible progress despite the absence of oil or gas wealth — proving that national strength lies in vision, not in volatility. His leadership is guided by principles of cohesion, social justice, and institutional resilience.

“

Our action to defend the Moroccanness of the Sahara is based on a holistic approach that combines not only political and diplomatic action, but also efforts to promote economic, social and human development in the region.

— Speech to the Nation on the occasion of the 47th anniversary of the glorious Green March. November 6, 2022

Significantly, two pillars have become essential to his reform agenda: the place of women and the role of youth.

The 2004 reform of Morocco's Family Code (Moudawana) was a landmark in the region — expanding women's rights within a framework respectful of Moroccan identity. Today, the King has opened a new chapter: launching a historic revision of the Family Code to further adapt it to Morocco's evolving society, affirming that the dignity and rights of women remain inseparable from the nation's progress.

Equally, the King has consistently



HM King Mohammed VI chairs a Council of Ministers at the Royal Palace in Rabat, December 4, 2024. PHOTO/MAP

placed youth at the heart of his development vision — not only as beneficiaries of reforms, but as actors of transformation. In his speeches, he often reminds the nation that Morocco's real wealth lies in its young generations, their creativity, and their role in shaping the country's future.

In times of crisis — whether during the COVID-19 pandemic or the devastating Al Haouz earthquake of 2023 — the monarch's leadership has been both personal and institutional. Trust is not claimed — it is earned, in each decision, each act of proximity, and each policy designed to leave no one behind.

Internationally, King Mohammed VI has positioned Morocco not as

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It is so good to be back home, after having been away for too long! It is a good day when you can show your affection for your beloved home! Africa is my continent, and my home. I am home at last and happily reunited with you. I have missed you all.

— Speech to the 28th African Union Summit, January 31, 2017 (Morocco's Return to AU)

a power in competition, but as a nation of coherence — one whose diplomacy mirrors its internal values. His Atlantic Africa vision — linking Africa to the world through a southern oceanic corridor — is not only a geopolitical strategy. It is a philosophy of connected futures.

And at the heart of it all: a sovereign who has made leadership not a posture — but a long-term, deeply human, and forward-looking responsibility.



HM King Mohammed VI, Commander of the Faithful, presides over the 4th Ramadan lecture at the Royal Palace in Casablanca. March 28, 2024. PHOTO/MAP

LEADERSHIP MODEL & VISION

The African Monarch of the 21st Century: HM King Mohammed VI, Architect of Unity, Stability, and African Renaissance



HM King Mohammed VI delivers a speech at the 28th African Union Summit. January 31, 2017 – Addis Ababa. PHOTO/MAP

"In an era where leadership is sometimes defined by visibility and power dynamics, Morocco under HM King Mohammed VI offers a different narrative — one of calm strength, strategic patience, and a monarchy that grows in harmony with its people. His reign stands as one of Africa's most compelling examples of trust-building, resilience, and principled leadership."

A Leadership Model Rooted in Calm Strength

Since his accession to the throne in 1999, His Majesty King Mohammed VI has embodied not only the custodian of a centuries-old

monarchy, but also one of Africa's most respected and stabilizing figures — a leader whose style bridges tradition and modernity, and whose reign offers a living model of how leadership can evolve while remaining deeply anchored in cultural identity and national continuity.

In a world where power often performs itself loudly, King Mohammed VI offers something different: **leadership by presence, not performance**; by trust, not turbulence. His is a model defined not just by what it achieves, but by how it governs — with strategic

patience, moral clarity, and a deep responsiveness to his people.

The Monarchy That Evolves With Its People

To understand Morocco today — a country that has remained remarkably stable amid waves of regional turmoil — one must understand how its monarchy functions under King Mohammed VI. This is not a static or ceremonial institution. It is a system that listens, absorbs, and adjusts — a monarchy that evolves with the nation it serves.



HM King Mohammed VI at the 28th African Union Summit, emphasizing Morocco's active and united role in regional integration. January 31, 2017 – Addis Ababa. PHOTO/MAP

“
Seriousness must remain our guiding beacon, in life as in work, and it should prevail in all sectors. Seriousness in political, administrative and judicial affairs by serving the citizen, selecting qualified people, making sure the best interests of the nation and the citizens are prioritized, and rising above narrow considerations.”

— Throne Day Speech,
 July 29, 2023

From the earliest days of his reign, His Majesty King Mohammed VI made it clear that leadership, for him, would mean presence. Not presence in the ceremonial sense — but in the everyday sense of being attentive, responsive, and close to his people. He shaped a vision of monarchy that is both accessible and grounded — one that speaks not only through tradition, but through empathy, presence, and a deep connection

to the people. Moroccans often describe his leadership as calm, steady, and profoundly real — a style that doesn't seek spectacle, but shows itself when it matters most: in moments of challenge, of hardship, of national need. For many, he is not only the King — he is a reassuring figure of unity, whose words are carefully chosen, but whose actions speak consistently and powerfully.

More than twenty five years into his reign, this approach has forged something rare and deeply valuable: trust. Not loyalty by obligation, but trust earned over time — built on the conviction that the King stands both as the guardian of Morocco's unity and as the steady architect of its transformation. It is this careful balance — change rooted in continuity, reform anchored in identity — that many today see as the heart of what is often described as “the Moroccan exception.”

Leadership in Crisis: From Pandemic to Earthquake

The true measure of leadership often emerges in moments of crisis. And in 2020, as the world faced the unprecedented shock of COVID-19, Morocco offered a striking example of resilience, unity, and institutional

calm. Under the guidance of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, the country acted swiftly and decisively — not only to protect its own citizens, but with a spirit of solidarity that echoed beyond its borders. The King personally chaired the early response strategy, mobilizing resources and reinforcing hospitals. Emergency social funds were created. Lockdowns came with support, not abandonment. And perhaps most importantly, the crisis was not politicized — it was absorbed by a state system that remained steady, compassionate, and focused. In doing so, Morocco's response became more than a national effort — it reflected a leadership framework rooted in responsibility, cohesion, and a quiet sense of African solidarity.

Morocco's response did not stop at its own borders. True to his vision of African solidarity and shared destiny, HM King Mohammed VI extended Morocco's hand to several African nations at the height of the pandemic. In an unprecedented gesture of continental cooperation, medical aid — including protective equipment, masks, and sanitary products manufactured in Morocco — was sent to over 20 African countries. It was not just a diplomatic act; it was a statement of principle. That in moments of global uncertainty, Africa could rely on Africa. And that leadership, in its highest form, is not only about protecting your own — but standing with your neighbours when it matters most.

Then in 2023, tragedy struck again. A devastating earthquake shook the Al Haouz region, leaving deep scars across mountain communities and testing the nation's collective resilience. Once more, HM King Mohammed VI responded in a way that reflected the essence of his leadership — composed,

compassionate, and action-oriented. In the days following the disaster, the King visited the injured at the Mohammed VI University Hospital in Marrakech, offering words of comfort and — in a symbolic gesture of solidarity — personally donating blood. It was a moment that resonated across the country: a monarch not leading from a distance, but standing with his people in their pain. Beyond the emotion of the moment, the response was swift and structured — military teams were mobilized, emergency funds created, and a long-term reconstruction plan set in motion. No theatrics. No distraction. Just presence, coordination, and a clear sense of responsibility.

These moments crystallized the essence of his leadership style: **acting not to be seen, but to reassure**. Not to command attention, but to sustain national unity when everything else trembles.

Strategic Sovereignty: The Moroccan Sahara and the Diplomacy of Legitimacy

Few issues have shaped Morocco's foreign policy and national vision more deeply than its southern provinces — the Moroccan Sahara. Long regarded as the Kingdom's foremost national cause, it has been at the heart of Morocco's diplomatic and strategic priorities. Under the leadership of HM King Mohammed VI, however, Morocco's approach has evolved — moving beyond traditional postures of defense to embrace a forward-looking strategy rooted in development, diplomacy, and international credibility.

At the heart of the King's vision lies a simple but powerful conviction: sovereignty is not



HM King Mohammed VI chairs a working session on national water policy at the Royal Palace in Rabat. January 16, 2024 – Rabat. PHOTO/MAP

declared — it is demonstrated. Legitimacy, in his eyes, is not built through slogans or speeches, but through concrete progress — through roads that connect, ports that open horizons, investments that create futures, and stability that speaks for itself. This is why, today, the Moroccan Sahara — from Laâyoune to Dakhla — is no longer a space frozen in dispute, but a region alive with ambition. Morocco did not wait for permission to act, nor for international approval to move forward. It led by example — turning its southern provinces into a living proof of what autonomy within sovereignty can truly achieve.

International support followed not through pressure, but through persuasion. In December 2020, the United States formally recognized Morocco's sovereignty over the Sahara — not as a symbolic gesture, but as a strategic endorsement of a model rooted in autonomy under sovereignty. Since then, momentum has grown steadily. As of April 2025, more than 100 countries have expressed support for Morocco's autonomy initiative, including 18 European Union

member states, as well as regional powers like Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Israel. Notably, over 30 countries have established consulates in Laâyoune and Dakhla, signaling tangible diplomatic backing for Morocco's position. This is sovereignty not proclaimed through rhetoric, but earned through sustained diplomacy, development, and a commitment to regional stability.

At the same time, King Mohammed VI's diplomacy has never strayed from the principles of **international law and multilateral legitimacy**. His tone — measured, legal, and respectful — has helped reposition Morocco not as a disruptor, but as a builder of global consensus.

Africa, the Atlantic, and Global Positioning

King Mohammed VI's leadership is Moroccan in essence, but **African in identity and ambition**. Since Morocco's return to the African Union in 2017, the King has led with a doctrine of respectful engagement — one that rejects dominance and embraces partnership. His



HM King Mohammed VI opens the first session of the 4th legislative year of the 11th Parliament. October 11, 2024 – Rabat. PHOTO/MAP

speeches in Addis Ababa and Dakar emphasized the dignity of African nations, the need for African solutions, and the potential of **South-South cooperation based on equality, not dependence.**

Nowhere is this clearer than in the **Atlantic African vision.** While others focus solely on continental corridors, Morocco is shaping

an oceanic strategy: positioning itself as a connector between West Africa, the Sahel, Latin America, and Europe — through the Atlantic. This is not just maritime policy. It is a philosophy: that Africa's future is not landlocked — it is open, sovereign, and interconnected.

From Nigeria to Senegal, from Côte d'Ivoire to Rwanda, Morocco

under King Mohammed VI is not imposing itself — it is **inviting partnership.** This influence, grounded in shared history, cultural ties, and mutual development, reflects a rare style of diplomacy: one that leads **not by force, but by example.**

The Why Behind the Model

What explains the durability of this leadership model?

Why has Morocco not only endured, but progressed — even without the oil wealth of its neighbors?

Because the leadership of King Mohammed VI is not built on spectacle. It is built on **institutional resilience, strategic humility, and moral coherence.** Because every initiative — be it in renewable energy, education, health, or foreign policy — is part of a **long-term architecture.** And because his monarchy never positions itself as above the people, but as **part of their trajectory.**

In an era where governance often collapses into improvisation or populism, Morocco offers something rare: **a model of quiet strength, anchored by vision, humility, and national coherence.** That model — shaped by a monarch who seldom speaks, but always acts with intention — has made Morocco more than a stable country. It has made it a strategic state.

A state others trust.

A state that listens before it leads.

A state that embodies, through its sovereign, the possibility of **modern power with moral depth.**



King Mohammed VI and the President of the Republic of Congo, Denis Sassou N'Guesso, launch, in the port of Yoro in Brazzaville, the construction of a disembarkation point, a project that enshrines the Royal Vision of a South-South cooperation based on the exchange of knowledge, skills and resources - PHOTO/MAP

DIPLOMACY & AFRICA

Atlantic Africa Rising: HM King Mohammed VI's Strategic Diplomacy for a Continent in Motion

"With Africa at the heart of his foreign policy, HM King Mohammed VI has redefined Morocco's diplomacy — through dignity. His Atlantic vision connects continents, cultures, and futures, placing Africa at the center of global dialogue."

Leadership That Builds Bridges, Not Walls

In today's fragmented world, diplomacy is often measured in power games and alliances built on transactional interests. But the foreign policy of His Majesty King Mohammed VI has charted another path — one grounded in respect,

stability, and long-term partnership.

For Morocco, under his reign, diplomacy is neither loud nor aggressive. It is deliberate, patient, anchored in trust. Nowhere is this more visible than in Africa, where King Mohammed VI's vision of Morocco's place on the continent is reshaping geopolitical thinking — from Rabat to Dakar, from Lagos to the Atlantic shores.

A Philosophy of Africa First

When Morocco returned to the African Union in 2017, after decades of absence, it did so not to

reclaim lost ground, but to affirm a new doctrine: Africa is Morocco's natural home. Not in words, but in action.

HM King Mohammed VI's diplomacy in Africa has always reflected a clear philosophy: Morocco's return to its African family was never about seeking dominance or influence for its own sake — but about renewing ties built over centuries of history, culture, and solidarity. His approach has consistently favored partnership over patronage, respect over rivalry, and shared solutions over imposed models. From the outset, the King



HM King Mohammed VI lays the foundation stone for a medical center and launches Phase II of mobile medical units, Hay Hassani (Lissasfa). March 26, 2024 – Casablanca - PHOTO/MAP

made Morocco's position clear: the Kingdom is not in Africa to compete with global powers — it is here to cooperate, to stand alongside African nations, and to contribute to Africa's own leadership in shaping its future.

The Atlantic Vision: Seeing Africa's Future Beyond Its Borders

One of the most forward-thinking dimensions of King Mohammed VI's diplomacy lies in his strategic understanding of geography. While many have concentrated on land borders, trade zones, and domestic integration, the King has consistently urged a broader view — one that looks westward, toward the Atlantic. This is more than a maritime policy; it is a worldview. At the heart of his vision is a simple but transformative idea: Africa is not confined, nor should it

see itself as insular. The Atlantic is not a boundary — it is a gateway. A space of connection, linking Africa to the Americas, to Europe, and across its own shores.

This is how Morocco began to shape what many now call the **Atlantic Africa doctrine** — a policy that links energy, logistics, food security, and connectivity from Morocco's coastlines down to West Africa, including Sahelian countries traditionally seen as landlocked.

This vision changes the map — but more importantly, it changes mindsets.

Diplomacy of Presence, Not Absence

A key strength of King Mohammed VI's African diplomacy has been his personal engagement. Few heads of state in the region have made as many state visits to African countries in recent years as

the Moroccan monarch.

These visits are never ceremonial alone. They create trust. They open direct channels between leaders. They bring agreements rooted in tangible projects, from agriculture to renewable energy, from banking to education.

But more deeply, they carry a signal: Morocco is present. It does not view Africa as a diplomatic file — it sees Africa as a shared future.

The Ethics of Sovereignty and Respect

Throughout his diplomatic engagements, King Mohammed VI has always insisted on respecting the sovereignty of African states.

Unlike some international actors whose presence in Africa comes with conditions or political demands, Morocco's approach under the King has remained anchored in a principle of mutual respect. It offers

cooperation — not interference.

This is part of the ethical framework that distinguishes Moroccan diplomacy in Africa: fostering solidarity without creating dependency.

South-South Cooperation: A Leadership of Sharing

King Mohammed VI's model has also been about **transferring know-how**. Rather than competing with African states, Morocco has proposed to share its expertise — in fields like renewable energy, financial regulation, religious education, agriculture, and infrastructure development.

This is the spirit of South-South cooperation that the King has consistently promoted: Africa must not wait for solutions from outside. Africa can and should rely on its own talents, experiences, and solidarity.

This leadership by sharing — not by dominating — has won Morocco the trust of many African partners.

Diplomacy of Peace and Stability

The King's diplomacy in Africa is not limited to economics. It is also about creating spaces of peace and dialogue.

Morocco has played a discreet but critical role in mediating tensions within African regions — from Libya to Mali to Guinea. Often, Morocco's role has been that of a calm listener, a neutral space, or a trusted advisor.

What makes Morocco effective in this field is not its military power or size — it is its **credibility**. A credibility built over time, based on discretion, seriousness, and consistency.



HM King Mohammed VI chairs a Council of Ministers focused on the 2024 Finance Bill, military affairs, international conventions, and senior appointments. October 19, 2023 – Rabat. PHOTO/MAP

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Morocco's return to the African Union is not a tactical decision, nor is it motivated by passing considerations. It is a rational decision, taken after careful thought. When we announced our return, we were not asking for anyone's permission to exercise our legitimate right.
— Speech to the Nation on the occasion of the 41st anniversary of the Green March. November 6, 2016

Morocco's Global Rise through Africa

What is remarkable in King Mohammed VI's diplomatic approach is that he does not see Africa as separate from Morocco's global ambitions. Quite the contrary — Africa is the foundation of Morocco's international strategy.

By becoming a trusted African player, Morocco has amplified its

voice in global arenas — from the UN to the EU, from Gulf states to China and the US.

Its Atlantic vision has also opened new corridors for dialogue between Africa and Latin America — a rarely explored connection that Morocco is now uniquely positioned to animate.

Africa at the Heart of Morocco's Global Diplomacy

Under King Mohammed VI, Morocco has not pursued diplomacy for diplomacy's sake.

It has crafted a foreign policy model rooted in clarity: stability inside the nation enables credibility outside. Respecting African partners generates influence more durable than any speech. And positioning Africa — especially Atlantic Africa — at the center of strategic thinking is not just wise geopolitics. It is visionary leadership.

Morocco's rise is not a story of resources or size. It is the story of a leadership model guided by respect, trust, and long-term vision — all embodied in the patient, discreet, and determined diplomacy of His Majesty King Mohammed VI.

PEACEBUILDING & CRISIS MANAGEMENT

The Monarch as Peacemaker: HM King Mohammed VI and the Culture of Dialogue in Africa



HM King Mohammed VI signs the Declaration "Toward a Renewed and Rooted Partnership" with the United Arab Emirates. December 4, 2023 – Abu Dhabi. PHOTO/MAP

"In an increasingly fragmented world, HM King Mohammed VI leads with a rare gift: the ability to create space for dialogue, to transform silence into strength, and to position Morocco as a sanctuary for peace and consensus."

A Quiet Force for Dialogue in a Volatile Region

In a world increasingly defined by divisions — between nations, communities, and ideologies — the ability to mediate, listen, and bring parties together is a rare form of leadership. It is precisely this quiet capacity for dialogue that

defines one of the most powerful dimensions of His Majesty King Mohammed VI's leadership: his role as a discreet yet decisive actor for peace.

While other leaders position themselves through strong rhetoric or public diplomacy, King Mohammed VI has cultivated a very different path — one that favors **stability over spectacle, trust over tension, and long-term reconciliation over short-term headlines.**

This is not passive leadership. It is a deliberate strategy that has made Morocco under his reign a

sought-after diplomatic partner, a trusted mediator, and a sanctuary for dialogue in times of crisis.

The Ethic of Stability

From the earliest years of his reign, King Mohammed VI has been clear: Morocco's stability is not a static state — it is a responsibility, and it must be actively maintained through balance, reform, and foresight.

This principle, first applied at home, has extended to Morocco's regional and continental engagements. Whether in the



HM King Mohammed VI is welcomed by President Alassane Ouattara upon arrival in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, during a state visit. PHOTO/MAP

Sahel, Libya, West Africa, or the Middle East, the Kingdom has consistently positioned itself not as a player in competition — but as a **platform for consensus**.

It is not power politics that have given Morocco this role. It is credibility — a credibility forged by consistency, by respect for sovereignty, and by a foreign policy that resists the temptations of interference or ideological agendas.

A Sovereign That Absorbs Crisis

Morocco's internal crisis management under King Mohammed VI offers a compelling case study for other states facing fragility.

From the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic to the 2023 Al Haouz earthquake, Morocco responded with a model of governance rooted in royal oversight, institutional readiness, and public solidarity.

“*I very much hope that the resolution on promoting interreligious and intercultural dialogue and tolerance in countering hate speech, which was submitted by the Kingdom of Morocco and adopted unanimously on 25 July 2023 by the United Nations General Assembly, will help achieve a qualitative leap in the efforts aimed at curbing extremism and tackling hate speech.*”

— **Speech to 15th OIC Summit Conference - May 4, 2024**

But what stood out most was the **tone set by the monarch himself**: calm, composed, protective — never reactionary,

never divisive.

In crisis, the King does not use rhetoric to assign blame. He uses quiet authority to organize response.

This style has had a long-lasting impact on Morocco's diplomatic image. Countries — particularly across Africa — have begun to look at Morocco not only as a political actor, but as a **model of resilient governance** in times of strain.

Facilitating African Dialogue: A Trusted Platform

Morocco's reputation as a neutral facilitator has grown organically, often behind closed doors.

The Kingdom has quietly hosted and supported peace dialogues between conflicting parties — notably in Libya, where Moroccan diplomacy offered a space free from foreign pressures. The Bouznika and Skhirat meetings did not



On June 10, 2018, HM King Mohammed VI receives former President Muhammadu Buhari of Nigeria, accompanied by HRH Crown Prince Moulay El Hassan and HRH Prince Moulay Rachid — a moment of strengthened diplomatic and strategic partnership between Morocco and Nigeria. PHOTO/MAP

aim for spotlight, but for results. And they delivered: agreements that pushed forward a fragile but essential political process.

In Mali, Guinea, and other West African contexts, Morocco has also emerged as a soft anchor — engaging without imposing, understanding without judging, always ready to offer a safe diplomatic space.

This role is not self-declared. It is granted — by the trust Morocco has earned.

The Spiritual Dimension of Peace

A defining aspect of King Mohammed VI's peace diplomacy is the integration of **spiritual and cultural dimensions**. As Commander of the Faithful, the King holds a religious legitimacy that transcends borders, particularly in Africa, where spiritual connections and Sufi traditions link countries beyond politics.

By promoting a moderate, inclusive Islam — through

institutions like the Mohammed VI Institute for the Training of Imams or the Mohammed VI Foundation for African Ulemas — Morocco has offered more than political dialogue. It has provided **cultural and spiritual resilience** against radical ideologies that often fuel conflict.

In this way, the Kingdom's peace strategy is not only about negotiating ceasefires. It is about **fortifying the ethical fabric** of societies before violence can take root.

A Sovereign That Chooses Dialogue Over Drama

While others respond to diplomatic provocations with escalation, Morocco under King Mohammed VI has consistently chosen institutional patience and clarity.

Whether in difficult bilateral tensions — such as those with Spain or Germany in recent years — or complex regional realignments, Morocco's tone has **remained firm, legalistic,**

and principled, but never inflammatory.

It is this discipline that has allowed the Kingdom to turn tension into opportunity — reaffirming its positions, safeguarding its sovereignty, and deepening strategic alliances without alienating global partners.

Why This Matters for Africa

In a continent where many states are still searching for models of governance that blend legitimacy with performance, King Mohammed VI's approach offers a compelling alternative: **leadership rooted in cultural identity, but guided by modern principles;** diplomacy grounded in humility, but delivering strategic results.

Africa does not lack ideas. It often lacks spaces to turn ideas into consensus. Morocco — under its monarch — is offering such spaces: not through declarations, but through continuity. Not through institutional engineering, but through **leadership that leads by calming, not commanding.**

Peace by Design, Not by Luck

Peace does not happen by default. It is a consequence of leadership choices — choices that favor inclusion over domination, process over impulse, and vision over vanity.

His Majesty King Mohammed VI has, over the course of two decades, built such a model — one that positions Morocco as not only a stable nation, but as a **strategic stabilizer** for Africa and its diplomatic ecosystem.

It is this kind of leadership — discreet, moral, enduring — that will define Africa's renaissance not in theory, but in practice.



President Emmanuel Macron and Madame Brigitte Macron arrive in Rabat for a state visit at the invitation of HM King Mohammed VI. October 28, 2024 – Rabat. PHOTO/MAP

SOVEREIGNTY DIPLOMACY

From Vision to Reality: HM King Mohammed VI's Sovereignty Diplomacy for the Moroccan Sahara

Few causes carry as much national weight and collective conviction as the Moroccan Sahara. Yet under HM King Mohammed VI, the path to sovereignty has taken a new shape — moving from words to action, from claims to concrete progress. Legitimacy today is built through development on the ground, credibility on the international stage, and a diplomacy anchored in law, respect, and strategic patience.

A Cause Rooted in National Unity and Legitimacy, Not just Nationalism

In Morocco, there is no issue more deeply woven into the national conscience than the Moroccan Sahara. But what distinguishes His Majesty King Mohammed VI's approach is that it has never relied on populist rhetoric or sudden escalations. It is a vision grounded in legitimacy, law, and strategic foresight.

For the King, sovereignty is not something to be shouted — it is something to be built. And over two decades, Morocco has shifted the global conversation from disputes and to a **new paradigm**: one where

sovereignty is not claimed by force, but demonstrated by development, credibility, and international partnership.

The Leadership Model Behind the Cause

From the outset, King Mohammed VI understood that the Moroccan Sahara would not be defended solely through diplomacy or declarations. It had to be **anchored in facts on the ground** — in infrastructure, investment, and stability that spoke louder than



any press release.

Rather than argue over maps, Morocco under his leadership **redrew the narrative**: turning Laâyoune and Dakhla into growing urban and economic hubs; transforming peripheral provinces into spaces of opportunity; and placing the region not at the

margins, but at the center of Morocco's continental vision.

This was sovereignty by demonstration — not in opposition to international law, but in concert with it.

The Autonomy Plan: Credibility Earned, Not Imposed

The King's proposal of an autonomy plan for the Sahara was never meant as a short-term tactic. It was a **long-term diplomatic doctrine**. Structured, realistic, and grounded in principles of self-administration under Moroccan sovereignty, the plan gradually reshaped how the world perceived the dispute.

It did not seek to erase opposing voices. It offered a **third way**: a solution that maintained territorial integrity while respecting local governance — a principle increasingly accepted in international diplomacy.

Over time, the world began to take note. One by one, countries — from Africa, the Arab world, Latin America, and beyond — expressed

support for the Moroccan initiative. Not because it was imposed on them, but because it **stood as the only viable, peaceful solution** aligned with UN parameters.

Then came a defining moment on the international stage: in 2020, the United States officially recognized Morocco's sovereignty over the Sahara. It was more than a diplomatic breakthrough — it was a recognition of Morocco's long-standing commitment, strategic patience, and steady pursuit of legitimacy through action rather than confrontation.

Strategic Patience in a Volatile Arena

Unlike many regional disputes that spiral into cycles of escalation, Morocco's approach under King Mohammed VI has remained consistent: avoid provocation, prioritize legality, and invest in credibility.

Even when faced with challenges — be it political posturing or hostile campaigns — Morocco has avoided the trap of reactive diplomacy. The King's model is one of **institutional maturity**: let results speak for themselves, and allow international law to be the framework, not the obstacle.

This restraint has become one of Morocco's most powerful diplomatic tools. It has gained the Kingdom a reputation for being calm, consistent, and committed to negotiated outcomes.

Sovereignty with Development at Its Core

What gives weight to Morocco's sovereignty is not just political argumentation — it's the lived experience of the people in the southern provinces. Under the



The United States has reaffirmed its recognition of Morocco's sovereignty over the Moroccan Sahara, reiterating a position first declared by President Donald Trump in 2020 during a call with HM King Mohammed VI. PHOTO/MAP

King’s leadership, Morocco has invested heavily in these regions — not as an afterthought, but as a strategic choice. Health, education, connectivity, renewable energy — these are not decorations. They are the building blocks of territorial legitimacy.

In doing so, the King has ensured that sovereignty is not just a matter of maps, but of dignity. It is not just what Morocco believes — it is what the people on the ground experience.

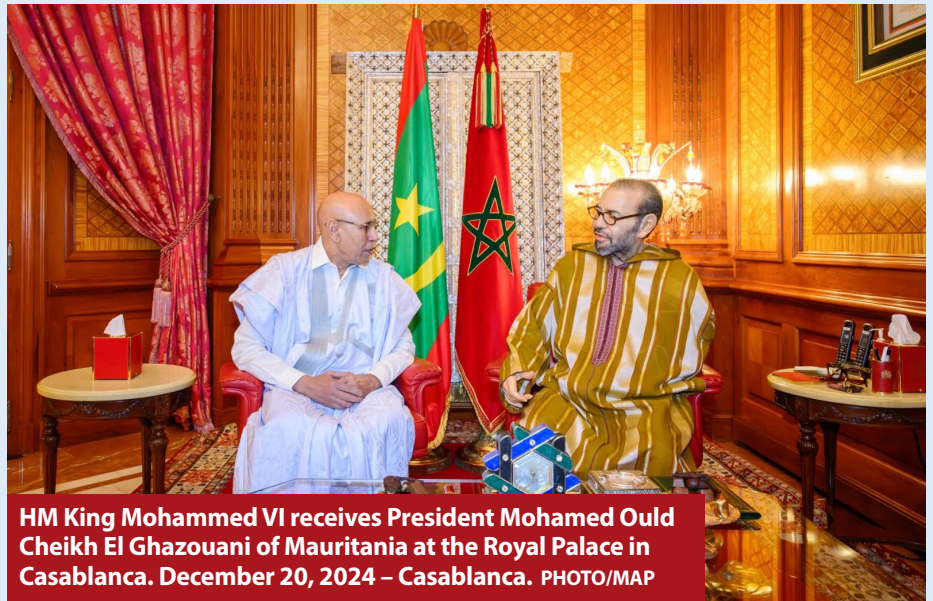
The 2021 general elections further underscored this commitment. The southern provinces recorded the highest voter turnout in the country, with regions like Laâyoune-Sakia El Hamra and Dakhla-Oued Ed Dahab witnessing participation rates of 66.94% and 58.30%, respectively. This robust engagement reflects the inhabitants’ dedication to democratic processes and their active role in shaping the region’s future

A Diplomatic Shift in Global Forums

Thanks to the long-term consistency of this leadership model, Morocco’s diplomatic discourse on the Sahara is no longer isolated. It is integrated into its **entire foreign policy posture**.

Today, the Sahara is not a “Moroccan file” in global capitals. It is part of how Morocco defines its regional role — as a partner that delivers, a nation that keeps its word, and a sovereign that respects international norms while asserting its rightful claims.

In multilateral forums, Morocco speaks the language of law, not slogans. The King’s approach has positioned Morocco as a leader in responsible diplomacy — not only regarding the Sahara, but across a wide spectrum of global challenges.



HM King Mohammed VI receives President Mohamed Ould Cheikh El Ghazouani of Mauritania at the Royal Palace in Casablanca. December 20, 2024 – Casablanca. PHOTO/MAP

“
Thanks to the dedication of our diplomatic service, we have managed to strengthen Morocco’s position, increase international support for our territorial integrity, and face up to the maneuvers of our adversaries – the obvious as well as the concealed ones.
 — **Speech to the Nation on the occasion of the 48th anniversary of the glorious Green March. November 6, 2023**

A Cause That Unites the Nation

Internally, one of the most enduring effects of the King’s diplomacy is the sense of national unity it has fostered. Across political lines, social divides, and generational gaps, the Moroccan Sahara is a unifier.

And part of that unity stems from how the King has led the

cause: without exploiting it, without politicizing it, but by turning it into a **national mission that requires patience, not polarization**.

The Diplomacy of Sovereignty, Redefined

The story of Morocco’s diplomacy in the Moroccan Sahara is not just a case of geopolitical strategy. It is a case study in leadership: how to defend one’s core interests with integrity, how to balance firmness with flexibility, and how to advance national causes without retreating from international frameworks.

Under His Majesty King Mohammed VI, the Moroccan Sahara has become more than a file. It has become a **platform for innovation, for diplomacy, for regional influence, and for national cohesion**.

And in the process, the King has offered the world a rare example of how sovereignty can be asserted — not through confrontation, but through **consistency, development, and strategic peace**.

ECONOMIC DIPLOMACY

Connecting Africa: HM King Mohammed VI's Economic Diplomacy and the Moroccan Gateway



Signing of bi-lateral agreements between Rwanda and Morocco | Kigali, 18 October 2016
King Mohammed VI of Morocco State Visit (Day2) | Kigali, 19 October 2016

"Without oil or gas wealth, Morocco has risen through vision and strategic clarity. HM King Mohammed VI's economic diplomacy has transformed the Kingdom into Africa's gateway — a connector of markets, minds, and futures."

Growth Without Oil, Influence Without Imposition

In a region often defined by resource dependency and foreign-led development, Morocco stands

as an exception. Without oil reserves or gas pipelines to power its economy, the Kingdom has emerged under His Majesty King Mohammed VI as one of Africa's most dynamic and interconnected economies — not by chance, but by design.

At the heart of this transformation is a model of economic diplomacy rooted in **long-term strategy, continental solidarity, and quiet ambition**. Morocco is not only integrating with Africa — it

is **helping to shape what that integration looks like**, from infrastructure to finance, from energy to education.

The Philosophy of Economic Diplomacy

Unlike models that see economic power as a tool for influence or dependency, King Mohammed VI's approach is built on a different logic: **partnership as stability**, and **inclusion as sustainability**.



On June 10, 2018, HM King Mohammed VI hosts former President Muhammadu Buhari of Nigeria for a high-level audience at the Royal Palace in Rabat, alongside HRH Crown Prince Moulay El Hassan and HRH Prince Moulay Rachid — deepening strategic ties between Morocco and Nigeria. PHOTO/MAP

The Moroccan sovereign has consistently framed the country’s economic outreach in Africa not as an extension of influence, but as an extension of shared responsibility. It is economic alignment — based on mutual gain, respect for sovereignty, and co-investment in the continent’s future.

Where other powers offer capital, Morocco offers collaboration. Where others bring contracts, Morocco brings continuity.

A Gateway, Not a Wall

The metaphor that best defines Morocco under King Mohammed VI is not that of a fortress or a superpower — but of a gateway.

Through the development of logistics platforms, financial institutions, and regulatory frameworks, Morocco has positioned itself as an entry point

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In keeping with its commitment to regional integration in Africa, Morocco has been consistently working with its African partners to implement transformative projects that can considerably improve the quality of life of millions of Africans.

— Message to Participants at Fourth Africa Investment Forum - November 8, 2023

for investment into Africa — and an exit point for African value into global markets.

This gateway model is not only economic — it is **political and cultural**. It offers African

countries a platform that is African in identity, but global in standards. It enables Morocco to act as a **connector, not a competitor**.

Economic Diplomacy by Credibility

One of the most distinguishing features of Morocco’s economic rise is that it has been **gradual, stable, and credible**.

Under King Mohammed VI, the Kingdom has earned the trust of partners not through sudden leaps, but through institutional reforms, sound macroeconomic policies, and targeted development investments. Its banking system, for example, has expanded into dozens of African countries not through acquisitions, but through partnerships and joint ventures.

This credibility has opened doors in Europe, the Gulf, and Asia



On March 15, 2013, HM King Mohammed VI delivers a speech at a state dinner in Dakar hosted by President Macky Sall of Senegal — reaffirming the deep-rooted historical, cultural, and strategic bonds between Morocco and Senegal. PHOTO/MAP

— not only for Morocco, but for African cooperation anchored in Rabat.

Beyond Numbers: Diplomacy with a Social Backbone

What sets King Mohammed VI's economic diplomacy apart is not just what it builds — but **how it builds**. There is a moral dimension to the King's economic vision that reflects his leadership style across all domains: that growth without inclusion is a mirage.

In African markets, Morocco has often accompanied investment with training programs, educational cooperation, and regulatory support — recognizing that **strong economies require strong people**.

Whether it's agricultural partnerships, energy connectivity, or digital integration, the emphasis is always the same: shared prosperity must come with shared capacity.

Morocco in the Continental Imagination

Morocco is increasingly viewed by its African peers as

a reference point for strategic economic self-determination — not through isolation, but through empowered agency. Rather than relying on extractive industries, the country has made deliberate investments in renewable energy, finance, manufacturing, and technology. It has shaped a model of transformation rooted not in overnight success, but in steady reform, long-term vision, and trust in its own capabilities. Today, Morocco's economic journey is drawing interest not only from African leaders, but from global observers seeking to understand how a nation can evolve — with stability, with dignity, and without compromising its partnerships.

Atlantic Integration: The Next Horizon

The King's economic vision has always extended beyond Morocco's borders — and even beyond continental logic. His Atlantic strategy, linking Morocco to West Africa, Latin America, and Europe via a southern oceanic corridor, redefines how Africa might connect to the world in the decades ahead.

This is **economic diplomacy**

through geography — not the geography of maps, but the geography of opportunity.

By building partnerships along the Atlantic axis, Morocco is not only creating trade routes. It is **reimagining Africa's role in global economic systems**.

A Human-Scale Economy

In the end, what defines King Mohammed VI's approach is not just connectivity. It is coherence. The external mirrors the internal.

The same logic that governs Morocco's economic relations with its African partners — of equity, long-term planning, and social benefit — also governs how the country approaches its own national development.

It's an economy with a conscience. One that understands that **wealth must translate into dignity** — and that the real measure of success is not GDP, but **how many people feel included in their nation's future**.

The Monarch of Meaningful Growth

Economic diplomacy is often the domain of statistics, contracts, and investments. But under His Majesty King Mohammed VI, it has become something more profound: a **philosophy of shared destiny**, practiced through infrastructure, finance, and development — but grounded in ethics, listening, and long-term vision.

Morocco may not have natural oil reserves. But it has strategic clarity. And in today's Africa — that clarity, when paired with credibility and continuity — is more powerful than any resource.



On November 28, 2022, HM King Mohammed VI inaugurates the new Rabat Bus Station — a major infrastructure project that modernizes intercity transport and strengthens the urban image of Morocco’s capital. PHOTO/MAP

HUMAN CAPITAL & SOCIAL JUSTICE

Human First: HM King Mohammed VI’s New Model of Development for Morocco and Africa

"For HM King Mohammed VI, true power lies not in resources, but in people. His leadership model puts dignity, inclusion, and human capital at the heart of Morocco’s transformation — setting a new standard for governance in Africa."

Leadership that Begins with People, Not Numbers

In an era where development is often measured by macroeconomic growth or foreign investments, His Majesty King Mohammed VI has consistently reminded Morocco — and increasingly Africa — that true progress begins elsewhere.

It begins with people.

From the earliest days of his reign, the King’s leadership model has placed the human being — their dignity, their well-being, their future — at the center of governance. This is not rhetoric. It is a strategic philosophy that has shaped how Morocco reforms itself, how it manages its economy, and how it engages with Africa.

More than roads, ports, or grand infrastructure, the story of Morocco under King Mohammed VI is first and foremost **the story of a human contract**: a leadership grounded in social justice,

inclusion, and the conviction that no real sovereignty exists without human dignity.

Reform Without Rupture: Listening Before Acting

A defining characteristic of the King’s development model is its measured pace. Change in Morocco is neither imposed overnight nor delayed indefinitely. It is calibrated — respecting social realities, protecting stability, but never abandoning reform.

This approach reflects a leadership principle rare in our



On December 20, 2022, HM King Mohammed VI hosts the Moroccan national football team and their families at the Royal Palace after their historic semi-final qualification in the 2022 FIFA World Cup — celebrating national unity and the spirit of excellence. PHOTO/MAP

times: listening before acting.

When Moroccans raised concerns about inequality, the King responded with targeted social programs, notably the National Initiative for Human Development (INDH), focusing on poverty alleviation, youth empowerment, and access to services.

When regional disparities were voiced, his response was not political promises, but territorial investment — from remote mountainous regions to southern provinces, ensuring that no Moroccan feels abandoned.

A Model Built for Inclusion, Not Exclusivity

King Mohammed VI's development philosophy is anchored in a simple but powerful truth: Morocco's strength is not in the prosperity of its elite, but

in the inclusion of its citizens — urban or rural, male or female, rich or poor.

This is why reforms under his reign have touched some of the most sensitive areas: family law, social protection, education, healthcare, and now, the ambition to generalize social security coverage for all Moroccans.

His vision is not charity. It is **rights-based development** — ensuring that the Moroccan social model evolves towards fairness, protection, and opportunity for all.

Africa as a Community of Shared Futures

Crucially, this human-first model is not confined within Morocco's borders. It is the same philosophy that governs the King's African diplomacy.

When Morocco engages with

African partners, it does not only bring investment — it brings its social development experience: how to build sustainable agricultural projects that empower local farmers, how to expand vocational training for youth, how to create energy systems that benefit communities, not just industries.

Africa, in the King's vision, is not a battleground for influence. It is a **community of shared futures** — where development must translate into dignity for African citizens, wherever they live.

Education as the Foundation of Stability

One of the pillars of King Mohammed VI's human development model is education — not as an isolated sector, but as the key to unlocking resilience,



On March 30, 2019, HM King Mohammed VI welcomes Pope Francis at the Royal Palace in Rabat — a landmark moment of interfaith dialogue and mutual respect, attended by HRH Crown Prince Moulay El Hassan, Princess Lalla Khadija, HRH Prince Moulay Rachid, and Princess Lalla Meryem. PHOTO/MAP

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The development model we aspire to is one that places the citizen at its core, ensuring dignity, equality, and social justice.

— Throne Day Speech, July 29, 2023

adaptability, and social mobility.

In Morocco, education reforms under his leadership have aimed at modernizing curricula, improving access, and linking schooling to economic needs.

In Africa, Morocco’s role has been equally significant: offering scholarships, creating regional training centers, and sharing expertise in sectors critical to Africa’s future — from agriculture to renewable energy, from health to religious moderation.

This is how Morocco under the King has positioned itself not just as a source of investment, but as a **source of knowledge**.

Managing Fragility Through Social Strength

Perhaps the clearest demonstration of King Mohammed VI’s human-centered leadership came during moments of national crisis.

When COVID-19 swept the world, Morocco’s response was rapid and organized — but also deeply social: creating special funds to support workers, facilitating access to vaccines, and maintaining national cohesion.

When the earthquake of Al Haouz devastated remote villages, the King’s response again prioritized the human element: not only rebuilding infrastructure, but rebuilding lives, respecting cultural identities, and ensuring long-term reconstruction rooted in dignity.

These crises revealed the essence of his leadership: governance that absorbs shock not just through state capacity — but through **social solidarity**.

The Future: Human Capital as Strategic Sovereignty

Looking ahead, King Mohammed VI’s greatest legacy in addition to physical structures, but in **human structures**: an educated generation, a resilient workforce, and a citizenry that feels included in their country’s destiny.

This is a leadership model that challenges the old paradigms of development — proving that a state does not need oil or gas to succeed, but must have **vision, trust, and commitment to its people**.

In Africa, where demographic growth is both a challenge and an opportunity, Morocco’s example under the King offers a roadmap: sovereignty is not just about defending borders — it is about defending the potential of every citizen.

A Leadership of Humanity and Vision

The story of Morocco under His Majesty King Mohammed VI is not simply a story of growth or diplomacy. It is a story of leadership rooted in human values — of governance that respects identity while embracing change.

In a time when the world looks for models that combine tradition with progress, sovereignty with inclusion, and stability with innovation, the Moroccan experience stands out.

It reminds us — and Africa — that the true wealth of a nation is not found beneath its soil, but within its people.

And it is there, in the quiet dignity of this leadership model, that Morocco’s most enduring power resides.

WOMEN & YOUTH LEADERSHIP

Empowering Generations: HM King Mohammed VI's Commitment to Women and Youth in Morocco and Africa Gateway



HM King Mohammed VI with Moroccan women parliamentarians in front of the Parliament building in Rabat, following the opening of a legislative session — highlighting women's growing role in national political leadership. PHOTO/MAP

"More than a reformer of systems, HM King Mohammed VI is a builder of futures. His unwavering commitment to the empowerment of women and youth is shaping not only Morocco's destiny — but Africa's generational rise."

A Leadership Model Built on Human Potential

In the vision of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, development is not simply about infrastructure, investments, or economic growth. It is first and foremost about people — about unlocking human potential and ensuring that the

future of a nation is shaped by its entire society, not just by its institutions.

From the earliest days of his reign, the King has made this philosophy clear: Morocco's strength will come from the inclusion of all its citizens — especially its women and youth.

This is not simply a modern idea. It is a leadership principle deeply anchored in the King's governance model — where progress means creating the conditions for every Moroccan, regardless of gender or age, to participate fully in shaping their country's future.

Women's Rights as a Reflection of National Dignity

Perhaps one of the earliest and boldest moments of this vision was the 2004 reform of Morocco's Family Code — the Moudawana. In a region where reforms on gender equality are often controversial or superficial, King Mohammed VI introduced changes that were both culturally sensitive and profoundly progressive.

By expanding women's rights in matters of marriage, divorce, child custody, and legal protection, the King sent a clear message: the place of Moroccan women is not confined

to tradition — it belongs equally to citizenship, dignity, and the right to choose.

For His Majesty King Mohammed VI, reform has never been a moment frozen in time — it is a continuous dialogue between tradition and progress, between Morocco’s identity and its future. In 2004, the groundbreaking reform of the Family Code became a milestone in advancing women’s rights in Morocco, setting a new standard across the region. But two decades later, the King made it clear: societies evolve, and the law must evolve with them.

In his 2022 Throne Day speech, His Majesty called for a new revision of the Family Code — not only to correct gaps, but to reflect the realities, challenges, and aspirations of Moroccan families today. True to his leadership style, the process that followed was deeply inclusive and carefully structured. A Royal Commission was appointed, including government institutions, constitutional bodies and religious scholars (Oulemas). Consultations took place across the country throughout 2023 and 2024 — gathering experiences, listening to diverse perspectives, and ensuring that the reform would be rooted in both legal expertise and social consensus.

As Morocco enters 2025, the draft of the new Family Code is in its ultimate stages — a historic step shaped not only by law, but by dialogue, inclusion, and respect for Morocco’s social fabric. For HM King Mohammed VI, this reform is not just about updating legislation. It is about reaffirming a fundamental belief: that the dignity of Moroccan women is essential to the dignity of the nation itself — and that a country can only move forward when all of its citizens move forward together.



On December 20, 2022, HM King Mohammed VI receives a commemorative jersey from the captain of the Moroccan national football team during a royal audience — honoring their unprecedented World Cup journey and celebrating their families’ vital role. PHOTO/MAP

“
The question here is not about giving women unwarranted privileges; rather, it is about giving them their legal and legitimate rights. Today, in Morocco, women cannot be deprived of their rights.
— Speech to the Nation on the occasion of the Throne Day. July 30, 2022

Youth at the Heart of Morocco’s Ambition

Alongside his commitment to women’s rights, King Mohammed VI has placed unprecedented emphasis on the role of youth in Morocco’s development model.

To him, young people are not a problem to be managed — they are a promise to be fulfilled.

Time and again, in official speeches, the King has directly addressed Moroccan youth — encouraging them to dream bigger, to innovate, to create, and above all,

to take ownership of their future.

Under his reign, Morocco has invested heavily in education reform, vocational training, startup ecosystems, and entrepreneurship programs — not as isolated projects, but as part of a national strategy to turn demographic growth into economic and creative energy.

For the King, investing in youth is not a luxury. It is a matter of strategic sovereignty. A country that does not trust its young generations prepares its own fragility. A country that empowers them secures its resilience.

A Governance Style that Prepares Future Generations

What sets King Mohammed VI’s leadership apart is that both women and youth are not treated as separate categories — but as essential actors of Morocco’s social contract.

His speeches often return to the same core idea: the real wealth of Morocco lies not beneath its soil, but in the energy, creativity, and courage of its people.

The New Development Model launched under his reign places human capital at its very center

— from early childhood education to university reform, from health coverage to social protection for vulnerable families.

This is not charity. This is structural transformation — building the conditions for generations to rise with dignity.

A Vision that Speaks Beyond Morocco

Significantly, the King's commitment to women and youth extends beyond Morocco's borders. In Africa, Morocco's partnerships have consistently integrated capacity-building, skills transfer, and social investment.

When Morocco engages with African partners, it brings not only infrastructure and trade — but expertise in education, vocational training, women's entrepreneurship, and youth employment strategies.

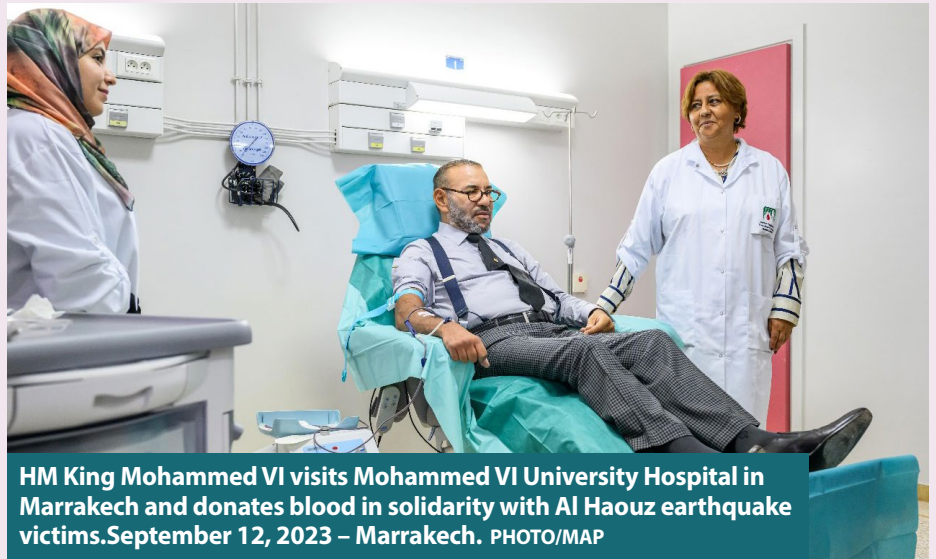
King Mohammed VI's leadership offers a subtle but powerful message to Africa: that sovereignty is not only about borders or diplomacy. It is also about preparing your people — especially your women and your youth — to stand tall in the world.

Africa's Future Cannot Be Built Without Women and Youth

In a continent where 60% of the population is under 25, and where women play indispensable roles in family, community, and economy, the leadership model of King Mohammed VI offers a vital lesson: true development is never technical. It is human.

Morocco's experience under his reign shows that reforms do not need to be imposed in conflict with tradition. They can emerge from within — through balance, respect, and the patient building of trust.

Empowering women does not



HM King Mohammed VI visits Mohammed VI University Hospital in Marrakech and donates blood in solidarity with Al Haouz earthquake victims. September 12, 2023 – Marrakech. PHOTO/MAP



HM King Mohammed VI inaugurates a Community Health Center in Dar Bouazza, part of the Mohammed V Foundation's social initiatives. April 10, 2023 – Casablanca. PHOTO/MAP

mean erasing identity. Including youth does not mean forgetting wisdom.

It means building a future that belongs to all.

Leadership Rooted in People

As Morocco looks to the future — and as Africa continues to shape its place in a changing world — the leadership of HM King Mohammed VI stands as a reminder that the real strength of leadership is not measured by what is built, but by who is empowered.

It lives in people.

In the women who nurture

families, lead businesses, and participate fully in every aspect of society.

In the new generations who question, create, innovate, and carry their country forward with confidence.

This is not just policy — it is leadership at its most human, its most enduring.

And it is through them — Morocco's women and Morocco's youth — that the vision of HM King Mohammed VI will continue to live, evolve, and shape not only the future of his country, but Africa's story in the 21st century.



King Mohammed VI's Leadership: A Legislative Renaissance for Women's Rights in Morocco

By Souad Batal, Lawyer

The reign of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, may God preserve him, has ushered in a golden age of reform—a time when Morocco's global standing has been elevated through visionary governance, legislative clarity, and a determined pursuit of social justice. From the East to the West, Morocco is now perceived not only as a stable nation, but as a model of progress and constitutional reform. At the heart of this renaissance is a deliberate and strategic effort by the King to strengthen the rule of law and promote the rights and freedoms of all Moroccans—especially women.

When the King delivered his historic speech on March 9, 2011, he did more than announce constitutional reforms; he signaled a profound transformation—a clear break from the past toward a modern Morocco grounded in dignity, equality, and openness. His speeches, far from ceremonial, have served as compass points for national legislation.

One of the most significant moments in this



His Majesty's leadership continued to shape Morocco's legal framework with the adoption of the 2011 Constitution. In the wake of the "February 20" movement and rising demands for change across the region, the King once again placed himself at the helm of reform. The new Constitution marked a legal and symbolic breakthrough. Article 19 enshrined the principles of equality and parity between men and women and affirmed Morocco's commitment to international treaties, including those protecting women from violence and discrimination. This was not just a gesture; it was a constitutional imperative backed by institutional reforms and legal mechanisms, such as the creation of the Authority for Gender Equality and the Fight Against All Forms of Discrimination.

The advancement of women under the leadership of King Mohammed VI has not been limited to the family or legal codes. The Sovereign has consistently championed the participation of women in all spheres of national life. In his speech on April 30, 2004, the King made a decisive call for women to be integrated into the religious sphere—an unprecedented move in the Arab and Muslim world. His Majesty ensured that women were admitted into religious councils and encouraged their role in religious education and spiritual leadership.

Likewise, the King has prioritized women's access to justice through wide-ranging judicial reforms. His vision has included not only more women in the judiciary but greater legal protections and broader access to legal recourse, particularly for victims of domestic violence. Politically,

“*One of the most significant moments in this process came in 2004 with the reform of the Family Code, or Mudawana. For decades, Moroccan women had lived under a legal system that viewed them as dependents*”

women have become more visible and influential thanks to the quota system introduced under His Majesty's direction, which helped lift female representation in Parliament and municipal councils to historic highs.

These reforms, while monumental, are part of a broader national priority: the protection and promotion of Moroccan women's rights. His Majesty's leadership has placed the issue at the forefront of the national agenda, affirming the dignity of women as a measure of the nation's progress. Moroccan women today stand proud of the roles they now occupy—whether in the courtroom, the parliament, the boardroom, or on the athletic field. Their achievements are not isolated victories but the result of sustained leadership committed to justice and equity.

As Morocco now undertakes a new round of reforms to revisit the Family Code, there is a sense of continuity and trust. Once again, His Majesty has instructed that the law be updated to reflect the needs and realities of Moroccan families today. This review is not simply legal housekeeping—it is a reaffirmation of a royal vision that has guided Morocco through one of the most progressive transformations in the Arab world.

The reign of King Mohammed VI is a roadmap for how enlightened leadership, rooted in legitimacy, religion, and international law, can forge a future where rights are protected, dignity is upheld, and progress is shared by all.

process came in 2004 with the reform of the Family Code, or Mudawana. For decades, Moroccan women had lived under a legal system that viewed them as dependents. But under the personal direction of His Majesty, a new Family Code was adopted by Parliament that recognized the full legal agency of women within the family and society. The reformed Mudawana raised the legal marriage age to 18 for both sexes, limited polygamy by requiring the consent of the first wife and judicial approval, and—most importantly—acknowledged women as equal partners in the household. For the first time, women could initiate divorce, claim guardianship of their children, and marry without male guardianship.

These changes did not occur in a vacuum. They were supported and legitimized by Islamic principles of *ijtihad*—jurisprudential reasoning—and framed within international human rights standards. This legislative milestone created a foundation for further reforms and served as a turning point in how Moroccan society viewed gender equality.



King Mohammed VI Appoints Members of Judiciary Supreme Council. April 2017

Justice and Vision: The Role of Women Judges in Morocco under the Leadership of His Majesty King Mohammed VI

By Jamila Sedqi

Moroccan justice has undergone a remarkable evolution over the past quarter-century—an evolution marked not only by deep institutional reforms but also by the growing empowerment of women within the judiciary.

This transformation is the result of the visionary leadership of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, may God assist him, who, since his enthronement, has consistently promoted the status of Moroccan women—notably through his message addressed on September 27, 2018, to the participants of the 2nd edition of the annual summit of the initiative "Women in Africa," in which he emphasized:

"No country, no society, no economy, nor any enterprise can meet today's challenges or realize its full potential if

women are sidelined." End of quote.

The reform of the Family Code (Mudawana) in 2004 remains one of the most significant milestones of this journey.

As magistrates, we were entrusted with the concrete application and interpretation of these innovative texts.

This Code enshrined the principle of shared responsibility within the family, raised the legal age of marriage to 18 for women, and imposed stricter regulations on polygamy.

It was a reform that not only changed the law but also the way justice is administered.

Two decades later, and under Royal instruction in 2023, Morocco is preparing to embark on a new phase of family law reform—a comprehensive and balanced revision focused on strengthening equality, dignity, and legal security.



The new project, resulting from a broad process of national consultation, aims to enhance legal safeguards, clarify procedures related to divorce and child custody, and place the best interest of the child at the heart of all judicial decisions.

This project is the fruit of a constant national will, led by His Majesty King

Mohammed VI, who has made justice a pillar of our democracy.

Moroccan magistrates, and women magistrates in particular, are determined to meet the challenge, to overcome obstacles in order to fulfill their missions with efficiency and integrity—not limited to family law alone.

In recent years, they have been at the heart of implementing major reforms, notably:

The 2011 Constitution, which enshrines the independence of the judiciary as a fundamental principle and makes the judge the guarantor of rights and freedoms.

Law 103-13 on combating violence against women, enacted in 2018, which criminalizes gender-based violence and gives judges a central role in protecting victims.

The reform of the Code of Criminal Procedure, which strengthens fair trial guarantees and the rights of the defense.

The creation of institutions such as the Superior Council of the Judiciary and the Presidency of the Public Prosecutor's Office, which have reinforced the autonomy, transparency, and accountability of magistrates.

Women magistrates, through their dynamic contributions and potential, have solidified their position as magistrates and have been at the core of these dynamics—in courts, reform commissions, judicial councils, and international institutions and organizations such as the African Union and UNESCO.

Their skills and commitment have contributed to building a more modern and fair justice system.

Today, women represent nearly 27% of magistrates in Morocco. They serve in all jurisdictions—commercial, administrative, criminal, and appellate—and occupy positions of responsibility within the public prosecutor's offices. Their contributions are acknowledged, their professionalism praised, and their role has become indispensable in delivering accessible and dignified justice.

As part of this positive dynamic, it is worth noting that the Kingdom of



Morocco, under the wise leadership of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, may God assist him, is working tirelessly to enable brotherly African countries to benefit from the Moroccan experience in legal and judicial fields. This includes contributing to the establishment of an effective and efficient African justice system, activating cooperation programs in training, the development of judicial practice, and the implementation of human rights as a fundamental approach to judicial matters.

In the same spirit, since its creation in 2021, the Forum for Dialogue of African Magistrates has taken the initiative to expand the exchange of experiences, contribute to the development of legal frameworks in African countries, and promote best judicial practices, while creating sustainable communication among magistrates to elevate justice as a central actor in the fight against crime and the realization of justice, in respect of laws and rights.

These roles are part of a judicial diplomacy that highlights Morocco's central role as an active and permanent partner of the African continent and as a pioneer of constructive and sustainable South-South cooperation.

To conclude, we, Moroccan women magistrates, are aware of the trust placed

in us: by citizens, by our institutions, and especially by His Majesty the King, President of the Superior Council of the Judiciary, who has always affirmed the central role of women in the country's development.

It should also be noted that the delegated president of the Superior Council of the Judiciary has dedicated one of the strategic pillars of his strategy (2021–2026) to encouraging women magistrates to access judicial leadership and decision-making positions. This strategy has been realized through several activities, the most recent of which focused on “judicial management, leadership, and soft skills,” held on June 23, 2025—a move by the Superior Council of the Judiciary focused on training and qualification to enable women judges who wish to take on responsibilities within courts to acquire the necessary leadership skills.

This trust, we strive to earn every day through our rigor, our impartiality, and our commitment to the values of the rule of law.

Jamila Sedqi

President of the Forum for Dialogue of African Magistrates.

Judge at the Administrative Tribunal of the African Union.

King Mohammed VI and the Empowerment of Youth: A Vision of Leadership and Transformation

By: Nidal Benali

When His Majesty King Mohammed VI ascended to the throne in 1999, he made youth a strategic priority—not as a temporary concern, but as a central pillar in the nation’s development. From the outset, the King’s vision has been clear: to invest in people first, and especially in the country’s young generations, who represent Morocco’s most vital and renewable resource.

For me, these royal orientations were never simply political speeches. They became a compass for my own journey since I began civic work in 2010. In the city of Asilah—a place known for both its cultural brilliance and its social contradictions—I helped establish the first local youth council in Morocco. The initiative was founded on the belief that young people could contribute directly to public policy, even from the margins. What began as a local effort soon evolved into a national movement, inspired by a monarch who consistently referred to youth as

“the true wealth of the nation.”

This royal vision was powerfully reaffirmed in His Majesty’s speech of August 20, 2018, where he stated:

“I previously stressed, in the State of the Nation address to Parliament, the need to place youth issues at the heart of the new development model, and called for the preparation of an integrated strategy for youth, and for identifying the most effective ways to improve their conditions. We cannot ask a young person to fulfill his role and duty without enabling him with the necessary tools and





opportunities. We must offer him tangible things in education, employment, and health. But above all, we must open the door of trust and hope in the future.”

He continued in the same speech:

“Today, we are entering a new revolution to meet the challenges of building a modern Morocco and giving Moroccans the place they deserve—especially the youth, whom we have always considered the nation’s true wealth.”

This was not just a moral or symbolic call—it was a clear strategy. Youth were no longer seen as a social challenge to manage but as key actors in a new national dynamic. This vision has been reflected in real institutions and reforms: the National Initiative for Human Development, vocational training programs, education reforms, and entrepreneurship support mechanisms.

In the same speech, His Majesty

announced the mobilization of the Hassan II Fund to build and equip modern vocational training centers, adapted to the needs of the evolving economy—reinforcing his commitment to youth integration in the labor market.

But this vision was not limited to 2018. In the speech of August 20, 2012, His Majesty declared:

“Youth is our true wealth and must be regarded as a driver of development, not as an obstacle to it.”

As a young Moroccan, I see in these words a personal message from a leader who believes in the capacities of his people. Whether through my local engagement, international exchanges, or youth diplomacy efforts, I have carried this trust not as a privilege, but as a responsibility. My journey, like that of many others, is a modest continuation of the path drawn by a monarch who chose to empower rather than instruct, who listens and inspires, and who puts his

faith in a generation determined to serve.

What sets His Majesty’s leadership apart is his belief in inclusive transformation—he does not merely call on young people to participate, he provides the conditions for their empowerment, be it through education, international mobility, vocational integration, or civic responsibility.

Today, after 26 years of rule, King Mohammed VI’s approach to youth is recognized as forward-thinking and impactful. It is a model based on vision, opportunity, and confidence. It is a leadership that does not seek followers, but builders.

The Morocco that His Majesty envisions is one that grows through the energy and innovation of its youth. And it is now up to us, the youth of this generation, to rise to the level of this trust—by acting with integrity, building with courage, and serving our country with pride and purpose.



King Mohammed VI Inaugurates University Hospital in Tangier, April 2023

Morocco's Healthcare Revolution: Legacy, Reforms, and the Vision of King Mohammed VI

By Abdellah Ouardirhi, Publication Director of enSanté.ma

In the ever-evolving landscape of Morocco's socio-economic transformation, the healthcare sector stands as both a barometer and a catalyst of national progress. As the Kingdom commemorates the 26th anniversary of the Throne Day, it is timely to reflect on the trajectory of a system that has navigated deep structural challenges, ambitious reforms, and a resolute push toward inclusivity and modernization—largely under the leadership and impetus of His Majesty King Mohammed VI.

From the first post-independence efforts to build a rudimentary

healthcare framework, Morocco's journey in this sector has been complex. The 1970s, under the reign of the late King Hassan II, laid down essential infrastructure. Hospitals were erected, doctors trained, and initial vaccination campaigns launched. But these efforts, while significant, bore the centralized mark of an era still grappling with basic health access and capacity building.

It wasn't until the 1990s that the discourse of reform began to truly take shape. The period brought with it promises of regional equity and health decentralization. Yet, the reality

remained stark: a concentration of healthcare services in urban hubs, a yawning gap in rural access, and a rising tide of chronic illnesses that outpaced the system's preparedness. Hospitals were overburdened, medical personnel overwhelmed, and patients left in long queues or long journeys for care that should have been closer to home.

Then came a pivotal era—2005 to 2012—that marked Morocco's first real leap toward universal health coverage. With the rollout of the Assurance Maladie Obligatoire (AMO) and later RAMED, millions who had been outside the formal healthcare grid were now included. This expansion, while historic, tested



the system's resilience. Public hospitals became congested, resources strained, and the gap between policy and implementation became more evident than ever.

But the game changer—the real inflection point—emerged with the reign of King Mohammed VI. Over the past decade, his leadership has ushered in a paradigm shift in the way health is perceived and prioritized in Morocco. The years from 2013 to 2022 saw unprecedented state investment in hospital infrastructure, the establishment of new university hospitals in under-served regions like Tanger, Oujda, and Agadir, and a bold foray into medical digitalization. The introduction of telemedicine, digital health records, and regional centers of excellence began to modernize a system that had for too long been anchored in analog inefficiency.

King Mohammed VI's vision is not one of mere policy; it is a holistic blueprint for social equity. His healthcare agenda is closely tied to broader reforms in education, digital governance, and economic resilience. The COVID-19 pandemic served as both a stress test and a spotlight for the Moroccan health system. It brought to the forefront the strengths of the King's strategy—the rapid mobilization of emergency hospitals, the agility of vaccine rollouts, and the acceleration

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of digital health tools—while also exposing areas that demanded urgent strengthening.

The post-pandemic era, especially from 2023 onward, has been one of consolidation and integration. The unification of AMO and the assimilation of RAMED beneficiaries

into a single health regime speaks to the King's determination to remove structural duplications and reinforce social cohesion. Legal reforms have enhanced transparency and accountability in both the public and private health sectors, while the reorganization of hospitals into regional hubs promises a more balanced and responsive care system.

Yet challenges remain. Morocco continues to face a shortage of medical professionals, an unequal distribution of healthcare services, and a governance model that is still in transition toward optimal performance. The King's call to bolster digital transformation, invest in medical training, and develop localized care solutions is not just a nod to the future—it is a call to action.

Looking ahead to 2030, with Morocco poised to co-host the FIFA World Cup alongside Spain and Portugal, the stakes are higher. Health infrastructure will not only serve citizens but also the global community. Emergency preparedness, rapid response systems, and international-standard facilities will be essential. But beyond this event, lies a deeper national ambition: to build a health system that is equitable, modern, and resilient.

King Mohammed VI's approach to health reform is emblematic of his broader leadership style—strategic, inclusive, and future-facing. His commitment to healthcare is not confined to budgets or buildings; it is anchored in the belief that the right to health is foundational to the dignity of every Moroccan.

As we mark the 26th Anniversary of Throne Day, Morocco's healthcare story is still being written. It is a story of progress fueled by vision, tempered by realism, and driven by a sovereign who understands that health is not a luxury—it is a cornerstone of development. The path ahead is filled with both promise and responsibility, but one thing is certain: the compass guiding Morocco's health sector remains firmly pointed toward inclusion, equity, and excellence.



HM King Mohammed VI inaugurating Rabat-Agdal Station (© ONCF), High-Speed Train and new LGV route map (© MAP)

How Morocco's High-Speed Train Is Forging a New Path for Africa's Infrastructure Future

By The New Africa Magazine | Rabat, Morocco

From Rabat to Marrakech at full speed, Morocco redefines mobility, sovereignty, and continental leadership. The launch of the Kénitra–Marrakech High-Speed Rail Line (LGV) by HM King Mohammed VI is a bold step that strengthens Morocco's national unity, drives sustainable

growth, and reaffirms the country's role as a continental leader in infrastructure and innovation.

On April 25, 2025, His Majesty King Mohammed VI, presided over the official

launch of the Kénitra–Marrakech High-Speed Rail Line (LGV) at the Rabat-Agdal train station — a bold step that strengthens national unity, drives sustainable growth, and reaffirms Morocco's role as a continental leader in infrastructure and innovation.

This strategic extension, covering



train fleet, the development of metropolitan transport systems in three major agglomerations, and the rise of a Moroccan industrial rail ecosystem. It marks a transformative moment that reflects Morocco's continental ambition and its steadfast commitment to future-proof infrastructure.

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Africa's time is now
— and Morocco is
laying the tracks.
”

A Train for a Nation, a Signal to a Continent

The inauguration at Rabat-Agdal was more than a ceremony. It was a powerful signal of change. Morocco, long committed to blending tradition and modernity, is today racing ahead to redefine mobility in the African century. The LGV line from Tangier to Marrakech, now expanding through new hubs and terminals, is part of a broader vision to shorten distances, reduce inequalities, and reposition Morocco as a leader beyond its borders.

Since the historic launch of Africa's first high-speed train between Tangier and Casablanca in 2018, Morocco's ambition has only deepened. Infrastructure is no longer seen as a domestic concern but as a diplomatic and economic lever woven into its future.

Royal Vision, National Momentum

Beyond laying tracks, Morocco is renewing its soul of mobility. At the heart of the transformation is the acquisition of 168 new trains — an investment of 29 billion dirhams that will revolutionize the national fleet. The fleet renewal includes 18 high-speed trains, 40 intercity trains, 60 rapid suburban trains, and 50 metropolitan commuter trains destined for Casablanca, Rabat, and Marrakech.

Yet this is more than an acquisition. It is the foundation of an industrial ecosystem. A domestic manufacturing plant is on the horizon. Maintenance centers are being planned. Thousands of direct and indirect jobs will emerge, and with more than 40% local integration, Morocco is moving beyond consumption into production. Strategic partnerships with Alstom (France), CAF (Spain), and Hyundai Rotem (South Korea) secure not just machines — but sovereignty over the technologies that will drive the next century.

The Soft Power of Steel

Morocco's high-speed rail is more than an infrastructure marvel; it is a geopolitical message. In a world where fragile infrastructure often curtails Africa's rise, Morocco is building the arteries of resilience. It projects a modern, capable, and sovereign Africa to the world. It demonstrates that African nations can lead, innovate, and inspire. It offers a model where technology meets tradition, and where vision meets execution. Across the continent, policymakers from

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Mobility becomes
not a privilege, but
a right — carried at
320 kilometers per
hour.
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nearly 430 kilometers, embodies the Sovereign's enlightened vision to modernize Morocco's railway offer and promote sustainable, inclusive, and low-carbon mobility. With a total investment of 96 billion dirhams, the project not only extends the LGV network southward but also initiates the renewal of the national

Time Saved, Futures Opened

The new LGV extension reshapes time itself. Tangier to Marrakech in 2 hours 40 minutes. Rabat to Casablanca in just 40 minutes. Rabat to Mohammed V International Airport in 35 minutes, with a future stop at Benslimane Stadium. Even Fès to Marrakech in 3 hours 40 minutes, thanks to smart integration with conventional lines. These are not mere figures. They are a new social contract.

A trader from Marrakech can sign a deal in Rabat and return for dinner with his family. A student from Fès can attend an international conference in Casablanca without uprooting their life. Mobility becomes not a privilege, but a right — carried at 320 kilometers per hour.



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*More opportunities,
more access, and
more dignity —
without leaving
home*
”

Dakar to Libreville are now looking at Morocco not only with admiration, but with ambition.

Three Cities, One Promise

Casablanca, Rabat, Marrakech: three names that carry the pulse of Morocco's future. The LGV extension is intertwined with the creation of new metropolitan rail networks — the Trains Métropolitains de Proximité — that will connect suburbs to city hearts. These networks promise to ease traffic congestion, stimulate real estate development, accelerate access to education and work, and offer

Moroccans a cleaner, faster, and more inclusive daily life. For the ordinary commuter, the impact is immense: more opportunities, more access, and more dignity — without leaving home.

African Ambitions on Track

Morocco's infrastructure dreams do not end at its borders. The LGV is part of a broader continental strategy, aligned with the momentum of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). By linking ports, airports, and now high-speed trains into one coherent system, Morocco is positioning itself as Africa's western gateway — a bridge between continents, a connector of futures. Though national in implementation today, the spirit behind the LGV is African in scale.

Not Without Challenges

No great transformation comes without hurdles. Affordability must be protected so that high-speed mobility

serves all Moroccans, not just the privileged few. Maintenance costs and sustainability standards must be rigorously respected to protect the network's integrity. Rural inclusion must remain a priority to prevent widening gaps. Yet these challenges are not walls. They are opportunities to reaffirm the project's values: inclusion, resilience, and excellence.

A Turning Point in Motion

April 25, 2025, will be remembered as a defining moment. A day when Morocco did not just dream of the future — it built it. No longer on the margins of the global infrastructure revolution, Morocco today stands at the forefront, offering a living proof that Africa's time is now. This is not only about trains. It is about faster dreams, faster connections, and a faster, bolder Africa. As the high-speed train pulled away from Rabat-Agdal, it carried with it the heartbeat of a Kingdom that believes in its future — and builds it, rail by rail, dream by dream.



A King's Vision for Africa: Morocco's Transformative Initiative in the Sahel

By *Mustapha Sarhiri*

In a region long shaped by crisis headlines and often overlooked by global strategies, a new African roadmap is emerging—quietly, steadily, and with unprecedented clarity of vision. At the heart of this approach stands the Kingdom of Morocco, guided by the leadership of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, whose belief in Africa's strength is not rhetorical but consistently translated into policy and action. Through diplomacy, investment, cultural engagement, and solidarity, the Royal Initiative for the Sahel is shaping a future defined not by dependency, but by dignity and co-development.

The Atlantic Path to the Sahel: A Royal Blueprint for Africa's Future

Each year on July 30, Morocco celebrates Throne Day, a moment of profound national reflection that also underscores the continuity of the bond between the King and the Moroccan people. In recent years, this celebration has also become a strategic occasion to reaffirm the Kingdom's enduring commitment to African unity and cooperation.

Nowhere is this commitment more clearly expressed than in the Royal Initiative for the Sahel—an ambitious and multidimensional effort to revitalize a region facing serious structural and security challenges. The philosophy underlying this initiative is direct and decisive: "Africa must trust Africa." It is not merely a slogan, but a doctrine of African-led solidarity, pragmatic sovereignty, and shared development.

The Sahel: Between Challenge

and Opportunity

Extending across the southern flank of the Sahara, the Sahel region comprises some of the most geopolitically sensitive and socioeconomically fragile states in Africa. Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, and Chad confront a convergence of crises: terrorism, institutional instability, food insecurity, water scarcity, and mass displacement.

Yet the Sahel is not solely a zone of vulnerability. It is also rich in cultural heritage, demographic vitality, and geographic centrality—connecting North Africa to sub-Saharan Africa and linking the Atlantic Ocean with the Gulf of Guinea.

The Kingdom of Morocco, under the enlightened leadership of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, approaches the Sahel not as a zone to be stabilized from the outside, but as a region to be revitalized from within. The Royal



In Marrakech, meeting of foreign ministers of Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Chad during the Ministerial Coordination Meeting, organized on December 2023 at the invitation of Morocco's Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates, Nasser Bourita

Initiative reflects a distinctly African perspective: grounded in mutual respect, built on trust, and focused on sovereignty and self-determination.

Diplomacy of Engagement and Strategic Vision

Since Morocco's return to the African Union in 2017, the Kingdom has reaffirmed its role as a committed and responsible actor in African diplomacy. Under the High Guidance of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, Morocco has pursued a forward-looking and inclusive foreign policy, grounded in mutual respect, co-development, and African solidarity.

To date, the Kingdom has concluded over 1,000 cooperation agreements with African partner countries, encompassing sectors such as healthcare, education, food security, infrastructure, and religious training.

In the Sahel, Morocco's diplomatic presence has been significantly strengthened through the establishment and active operation of embassies in Bamako, Niamey,

and Ouagadougou. These diplomatic missions serve not only as institutional representations, but as dynamic platforms for dialogue, coordination, and support—facilitating initiatives that respond to the real needs of the populations concerned.

A defining moment in this continental engagement came with the Royal Speech delivered on November 6, 2023, during the commemoration of the Green March. His Majesty King Mohammed VI announced the launch of an "Atlantic Initiative for the Sahel," aimed at providing the landlocked countries of the region with strategic access to the Atlantic Ocean via Moroccan ports such as Dakhla, Agadir, and Casablanca. His Majesty declared:

"The Sahelian countries have the right to access the Atlantic. This is not a geographical luxury—it is a geopolitical necessity."

This visionary initiative, widely welcomed by the States of the Alliance of Sahel States (AES), seeks to create a fully integrated economic and logistical corridor that will facilitate regional trade, enhance energy and

food security, and foster long-term development.

In a joint communiqué, the leaders of Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger described the Royal Initiative as a "historic step toward the economic sovereignty of the Sahel," and highlighted Morocco's approach as a model of fraternal cooperation based on mutual confidence and shared purpose.

Through this multidimensional diplomacy—simultaneously institutional, territorial, and symbolic—Morocco continues to assert a presence that is neither intrusive nor paternalistic, but rather anchored in strategic clarity, regional ownership, and African unity. This approach, guided by the far-sighted leadership of His Majesty the King, has earned Morocco growing recognition as a trusted and constructive partner across the continent.

Investing in Futures: A Model of Economic Co-Development

At the heart of the Royal Initiative lies a core belief: sustainable peace and stability in the Sahel cannot be achieved without inclusive, locally



grounded economic development. Morocco has positioned itself not only as an investor, but as a connector of markets and enabler of opportunity.

As Africa's leading investor in West Africa and second across the continent after South Africa, the Kingdom has advanced a coherent strategy aimed at creating economic ecosystems that benefit both national and regional partners.

In the banking sector, Moroccan institutions such as Attijariwafa Bank, Banque Populaire, and BMCE Bank of Africa have established dozens of branches in the Sahel, supporting rural credit, women-led businesses, and financial inclusion. In Mali, a collaboration between Banque Populaire and women's cooperatives in the shea butter sector has supported over 6,000 smallholders.

The agricultural sector is similarly strengthened by the involvement of OCP Africa, which has reached over 300,000 farmers in Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger through tailored fertilization programs and technical support. According to a joint OCP-FAO study in 2023, this collaboration has led to yield

increases of up to 25% for key food crops.

In the energy field, the Moroccan Agency for Sustainable Energy (MASEN) has installed solar microgrids in off-grid communities in Niger and Chad, providing access to electricity for schools, clinics, and small-scale irrigation.

Perhaps the most transformative undertaking remains the Nigeria-Morocco Gas Pipeline, a 5,600-kilometer megaproject traversing 13 countries. It is expected to supply natural gas to over 50 million people while fostering industrialization and energy security in the Sahel and beyond.

Spiritual Engagement: Morocco's Soft Power of Peace

Recognizing the spiritual dimensions of conflict and cohesion in the Sahel, Morocco has deployed an approach rooted in the Kingdom's historical religious legitimacy. The promotion of moderate, inclusive Islam—anchored in the Maliki rite and enriched by Sufi traditions—is a key component of the Royal Initiative.

The Mohammed VI Institute for the Training of Imams, based in Rabat, has trained more than 1,500 imams and religious guides from Sahelian countries. These leaders return to their communities equipped not only with theological knowledge but with practical training in peacebuilding, mediation, and community service.

This religious engagement is not an export of doctrine, but a reinforcement of shared heritage. It empowers local actors to resist radicalization and reestablish social cohesion on the basis of values deeply embedded in African Islam.

As Professor Khalid Cherkaoui Semmouni has noted, "Morocco's spiritual influence is not imposed—it is welcomed. It resonates because it is authentic, shared, and rooted in centuries of mutual history."

Humanitarian Solidarity with Sovereignty

Morocco's humanitarian efforts in the Sahel reflect the Kingdom's enduring commitment to principled, respectful assistance. From medical outreach and food distribution to water

access and maternal health, Moroccan interventions are rapid, targeted, and coordinated with national authorities.

In 2021, more than 100 tons of essential supplies were delivered to Niger in response to a government request. Medical campaigns have been jointly organized with Sahelian health professionals, offering vital care in remote and underserved areas.

Water access projects in Chad, implemented by Moroccan engineers and local NGOs, have benefited over 10,000 residents, alleviating resource-related tensions.

What distinguishes Morocco's humanitarian diplomacy is its refusal to instrumentalize aid. There are no conditions, no agendas—only a moral imperative guided by African fraternity and a culture of proximity.

A 2024 UNDP report ranked Morocco among the top three African countries in effective South–South humanitarian cooperation, citing the Kingdom's model as “rapid, culturally aligned, and deeply rooted in trust.”

Toward a Continental Future: From the Sahel to All of Africa

Although focused on the Sahel, the Royal Initiative carries continental implications. It demonstrates that African nations can lead, collaborate, and innovate without relying on external templates. It also shows that unity and stability arise from engagement based on legitimacy, not intervention.

The Kingdom's involvement in political dialogue, institutional support, and capacity-building in Mali, Chad, and Niger reinforces its status as a credible and impartial partner. Moroccan training programs for African diplomats, civil servants, and parliamentarians are shaping the next generation of Pan-African leadership.

Morocco's voice in continental and international fora—from the African Union to the United Nations—is strengthened by this track record of action and consistency.



Infrastructure of Integration: The Atlantic–Sahel Corridor

The proposed Atlantic Corridor is more than an infrastructure project—it is a continental reorientation. Through investments in ports like Dakhla Atlantique, logistics hubs, and multimodal transit systems, Morocco is enabling landlocked African economies to connect directly to global trade.

A 2023 WTO report estimates that such infrastructure could reduce regional trade costs by up to 50%, dramatically improving competitiveness and economic diversification.

The development of this corridor, aligned with the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), underscores the Kingdom's vision for regional integration that is inclusive, African-owned, and future-facing.

Morocco's African Identity: A Power of Belonging

Perhaps the most profound outcome of the Royal Initiative is the renewed perception of Morocco—not as a peripheral actor, but as an integral part of the African fabric. This is not a matter of diplomacy alone; it is the result of lived experience, shared traditions, and mutual recognition.

Whether through an imam trained in Rabat, a mother receiving care from a Moroccan medical team, or a trader accessing credit through a Moroccan bank, the Kingdom's presence in the Sahel is seen as familiar, respectful, and enduring.

As one Burkinabé leader said during a regional forum: “Morocco does not come to teach—it comes to build, together.”

A Legacy of Leadership and Unity

On this Throne Day, as Morocco celebrates the enduring covenant between the Monarch and the Nation, the Royal Initiative for the Sahel stands as a clear expression of visionary African leadership—firm in principle, grounded in action, and committed to collective advancement.

Guided by the High Vision of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, this initiative transcends borders and sectors. It offers a model of diplomacy rooted in dignity, a blueprint for shared growth, and a roadmap for African-led renewal.

In a time of uncertainty and transition across the continent, Morocco has chosen clarity, consistency, and confidence in Africa. And in doing so, it has reaffirmed not only its place in Africa—but Africa's place in its heart.

King Mohammed VI Strengthens Morocco's Historic Ties with the Sahel States Alliance



HM King Mohammed VI receives the Foreign Ministers of Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger (Sahel Alliance) at the Royal Palace in Rabat. April 28, 2025 – Rabat. PHOTO/MAP

In Rabat, His Majesty reaffirms Morocco's steadfast support for the Sahel region's development and strategic integration initiatives.

Rabat, April 28, 2025 – His Majesty King Mohammed VI received the Foreign Ministers of Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger, members of the Alliance of Sahel States (AES), at the Royal Palace in Rabat. This Royal Audience reaffirmed the strong, historic bonds uniting Morocco with the Sahelian nations — ties marked by sincere friendship, mutual respect, active solidarity, and fruitful cooperation.

Rabat, April 28, 2025 – His Majesty King Mohammed VI received in audience, on Monday at the Royal Palace in Rabat, the Foreign Ministers of the three member countries of

the Alliance of Sahel States: Mr. Karamoko Jean Marie Traoré of Burkina Faso, Mr. Abdoulaye Diop of Mali, and Mr. Bakary Yaou Sangaré of Niger.

This Royal Audience took place within the framework of Morocco's strong and lasting relations with the Sahel countries, characterized by sincere friendship, mutual respect, effective solidarity, and sustained cooperation.

During the meeting, the Sahelian Foreign Ministers conveyed to His Majesty the gratitude of their respective Heads of State. They expressed deep appreciation for the Sovereign's continued attention to the Sahel region and His initiatives aimed at fostering the economic and social development of their countries and populations.

The ministers particularly emphasized their full support for the important Royal Initiative facilitating access of the Sahel States to the Atlantic Ocean. They pledged their commitment to accelerating the implementation of this visionary project, seen as a transformative step towards greater regional integration and economic opportunity.

Furthermore, the ministers briefed His Majesty on the institutional and operational progress of the Alliance of Sahel States, created as a framework for enhanced integration and coordination among its three member countries.

This audience once again reflects Morocco's unwavering dedication to African solidarity and cooperation, reinforcing a shared ambition for a resilient and prosperous Africa.



From Crisis to Capacity: How Morocco's Resilience Strategy Sets a Global Standard

By Karima Rhanem, Senior Managing Editor

When a devastating earthquake struck Morocco's Al Haouz region on the evening of September 8, 2023, it resulted in significant loss of life and destruction. According to official reports, nearly 3,000 people perished, over 50,000 homes were destroyed, and remote communities in the Atlas Mountains were severely affected. In response, the Moroccan government launched an immediate and coordinated effort to address the crisis.

On September 20, 2023, the Royal Palace announced a comprehensive five-year reconstruction plan, allocating 120 billion dirhams (approximately \$11.7 billion) to rehabilitate the hardest-hit provinces, including Al Haouz, Chichaoua, Taroudant,

Marrakech, Ouarzazate, and Azilal. This plan aims not only to rebuild homes and infrastructure but also to revitalize the socio-economic fabric of these regions, benefiting an estimated 4.2 million people. The funding sources encompass the national budget, international aid, and a dedicated fund established in response to the earthquake.

Building upon this foundation, and in recognition of the increasing frequency of natural disasters, Morocco unveiled a strategic resilience initiative in May 2025. This plan involves a 7-billion-dirham (\$760 million) investment to establish 36 regional emergency stockpiling centers across the Kingdom. These facilities, covering a total area of 240 hectares, are designed to house essential supplies such as tents, beds, blankets, field hospitals, mobile kitchens, water purification systems, and emergency power generators. The objective is to ensure rapid deployment of resources in the event of future crises,

thereby enhancing the nation's preparedness and response capabilities.

This resilience doctrine emerges at a time when the world is increasingly vulnerable to over-lapping crises. Globally, nations face multiple stressors: economic slowdowns, rising inflation, geopolitical tensions, war, energy shocks, cyber threats, and climate-related disasters. In recent months, power outages in parts of Spain, severe flooding in Asia, and health system strain in numerous countries remind us that no society—however developed—is immune to disruption. The lesson is clear: crisis is no longer the exception; it is the context.

In this environment, Morocco's preparedness stands out. Rather than reacting to each shock in isolation, the Kingdom is integrating resilience into its governance framework. It is institutionalizing coordination across ministries, empowering regional

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Ultimately, resilience is not only about surviving the next earthquake, flood, or economic shock. It is about preserving dignity, strengthening trust, and fostering unity. It is about ensuring that no citizen is left alone or unheard when disaster comes

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governments, and including citizens in national safety nets. The approach is holistic—melding infrastructure with education, health with digital systems, and cultural cohesion with economic renewal.

One of the notable aspects of the Moroccan model is the role of civil society. In the hours and days following the earthquake, local associations, youth groups, cooperatives, professionals, and volunteers mobilized organically. They distributed food, offered psychological support, and even used digital mapping to identify isolated villages. Their agility and compassion reflected a culture of participatory citizenship.

Recognizing this, the government's new resilience strategy formally incorporates civic actors into emergency planning. Local governments are tasked with maintaining updated registries of volunteers, training community leaders in basic emergency protocols, and collaborating with mosques, schools, and cooperatives to form decentralized support networks. This represents a shift from command-and-control to shared responsibility.

Importantly, Morocco does not frame resilience merely as a technocratic objective. It is considered a matter of sovereignty, dignity, and stability. Risk preparedness is treated as a core pillar of national strength. Studies have shown that every dollar spent on disaster risk prevention saves four to seven dollars in post-disaster recovery. Morocco is applying this logic not only in numbers but in spirit.

The reform agenda also takes into account the diverse risks Morocco faces—geological, hydrological, health-related, environmental, and digital. Urban planning is being adapted to reduce exposure to floods and landslides. Schools and hospitals are being assessed for structural resilience. New platforms for early warning systems are being tested. And perhaps most significantly, there is a shift in mindset: from viewing disasters as external events to understanding them as systemic challenges that require equally systemic solutions.

This philosophy is rooted in a balanced governance architecture. The Moroccan model rests on four interdependent pillars: visionary leadership, agile state institutions, empowered regional governments, and mobilized citizens. These are not silos—they are collaborators. When one moves, the others respond.

That vision is visible in every facet of the reconstruction process. Homes are not just being rebuilt—they are being reinforced with seismic safety in mind. Schools are not just reopening—they are integrating psychosocial services for children. Historical heritage in the affected regions is being preserved, affirming the cultural continuity of Amazigh and rural communities. Livelihoods are being restored through grants, microenterprise funding, and new cooperative networks for women and youth.

International partners have acknowledged Morocco's leadership. The European Union pledged €200 million in reconstruction aid, citing transparency and speed. The World Bank extended its cooperation in disaster risk financing and technical

support.

As the world confronts increasingly frequent and complex crises, Morocco's path offers a guiding light. It affirms that resilience is not about GDP size—it is about strategic will. It is not about perfection—it is about preparation. And it is not a one-time fix—it is a living process.

That process now includes expanding climate adaptation plans, investing in green infrastructure, digitizing civil protection protocols, and strengthening local governance capacity. It includes community education, multi-sector collaboration, and scenario-based simulations. It includes storytelling too—reminding every citizen that resilience is not built by experts alone, but by everyday people: the mother who teaches her children how to stay safe, the farmer who reinforces his home with local materials, the young coder who builds an app to locate survivors.

Ultimately, resilience is not only about surviving the next earthquake, flood, or economic shock. It is about preserving dignity, strengthening trust, and fostering unity. It is about ensuring that no citizen is left alone or unheard when disaster comes. And it is about making sure that rebuilding is not just physical—but human, inclusive, and transformative.

Morocco's journey from crisis to capacity is ongoing. The direction is set, the vision is clear, and the foundation is strong. In a time when the world is searching for stability amidst volatility, perhaps the answers lie in the villages of Al Haouz, in the plans drawn in Rabat, and in the hands of the Moroccan people who carry not just aid—but resilience itself.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

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The Moroccan Sahara: Between Sovereignty, Reform, and Global Recognition

By Aicha Duihi

The Moroccan Sahara issue is no longer confined to the rigid categorizations of regional disputes. Today, it increasingly mirrors the international community's and the UN system's ability to support realistic pathways to resolution, away from hollow slogans and outdated rhetoric. It has become a political, human rights, and diplomatic laboratory testing the world's commitment to

realism, responsibility, and fairness toward historical and on-the-ground legitimacy.

For nearly five decades, the file remained hostage to traditional approaches oscillating between UN stagnation and a referendum option that has proven impossible both practically and politically. The decisive shift came with the visionary royal strategy established by His Majesty King Mohammed VI, which restructured the issue through a comprehensive dynamic blending

internal development, international positioning, and responsible human rights advocacy.

The Development Bet: A Solid Ground Reinforcing Legitimacy

One cannot unpack the growing international momentum around the Moroccan Sahara issue without considering the strategic achievements realized by the Kingdom over the past two decades,



David Fischer, the former US ambassador to Morocco, stands before a new US State Department map of Morocco recognizing the internationally-disputed territory of the Western Sahara - Morocco's Southern Provinces (bearing a signature by Fischer) as a part of the North African Kingdom, in the Moroccan capital Rabat on December 12, 2020. (AFP).

which have turned the southern provinces into leading spaces in terms of investment, infrastructure, and citizen participation.

Under the visionary leadership of King Mohammed VI, development efforts were not mere circumstantial responses but part of a strategic will that channeled over \$7 billion into the southern provinces. This included advanced infrastructure, major economic projects, industrial zones, ports, modern road networks, and inclusive social systems targeting youth and women's empowerment and promoting territorial justice.

On the institutional level, the advanced regionalization process enabled the construction of grassroots democracy by expanding the powers of local actors and restoring value to elected representatives and civil society organizations as levers for public affairs governance. This aligns with the spirit of the autonomy initiative, seen not merely as a negotiation proposal but as a



Morocco's historic Green March with 350 000 Moroccans marching for peace to regain Morocco's Southern Provinces.

political vision grounded in practical experience.

This field-based accumulation transformed the southern provinces into more than a subject of the solution: they became its foundation—a strong base through which national reconciliation is reimagined beyond the logic of conflict, within the framework of comprehensive nation-building.

Diplomatic Gains: From Defensive Posture to Strategic Initiative

Morocco's presence on the international stage is no longer reactive to separatist provocations; it has become proactive, anticipatory, and

a driver of solution frameworks. The Kingdom's solid internal foundation has been pivotal to a qualitative shift in its diplomatic positioning, crowned by the 2007 autonomy initiative, a sovereign expression of Morocco's readiness to pursue a settlement through a realistic, consensual, and legitimate approach.

This Moroccan proposal, articulated in the language of political wisdom and institutional consensus, did not remain confined to UN corridors. It garnered increasing support from major international players, notably the United States, which officially recognized Moroccan sovereignty over the Sahara in an unprecedented historic decision. This was followed by similar endorsements from influential European powers like Spain, Germany,



King Mohammed VI Arrives in Laayoune, Morocco's Southern Province, to Launch Socio-economic Projects - February 2016



The Republic of Chad inaugurated on August 14, 2024, a new consulate office in the city of Dakhla, in Morocco's far southern provinces. It is considered among the 30+ consulates that opened both in Dakhla and Laayoune in support of Morocco's Autonomy Plan and sovereignty over the Sahara.

but upon a forward-looking vision established by His Majesty King Mohammed VI. This vision makes state institutions the backbone of national development, not merely administrative covers.

This deep reform effort encompassed the judiciary, mediation bodies, and gradual openness to rights and freedoms, reinforcing Morocco's image as an open, responsible partner capable of engaging positively with its international commitments in harmony with its society's aspirations.

Thus, Morocco has evolved from merely interacting with its environment to becoming a producer of solid internal references, fostering calm transitions, restoring citizen trust in institutions, and granting political and development initiatives renewed legitimacy rooted in local reality.

Human Rights Achievements: From Domestic Recognition to UN Leadership

In the context of the Moroccan Sahara, the human rights dimension was never an afterthought or rhetorical flourish. From the beginning, it has been a core pillar of Morocco's advocacy strategy to build credibility and strengthen the legitimacy of its proposal before the international community.

After the Equity and Reconciliation Commission acknowledged the existence of serious past human rights violations in 2006, Morocco chose not to stop at symbolic recognition. It moved to establish effective local institutions, notably the regional commissions of the National Human Rights Council in Laayoune and Dakhla, which became platforms for vigilance, monitoring, and support—deepening a culture of rights and building local, grounded advocacy.

The UN has acknowledged these transformations through successive reports praising Morocco's "constructive engagement with UN mechanisms" and recognizing tangible progress in rights and

the Netherlands, and more recently, France.

On the ground, this support translated into the opening of over 30 consulates in Laayoune and Dakhla by African, Arab, and Latin American nations—a clear diplomatic signal affirming Morocco's sovereignty and echoing its realistic approach.

These gains are neither circumstantial nor isolated diplomatic victories. They are the result of a strategic accumulation built on trust, coherence, and anticipation. At their core, they signify the fading of the separatist narrative, which has lost both political traction and appeal, in contrast to the rise of realistic, sovereignty-based solutions

promoting national stability and regional peace.

An Inclusive Institutional Fabric: Morocco Embracing Its Own Transformations

These developmental and diplomatic dynamics would not have been possible without a cohesive institutional environment ensuring stability, managing transitions, and articulating Morocco's responses through principled calm, gradual reform, and balanced development and rights approaches.

Morocco has not constructed its domestic project in reactionary terms



Omar Hilale, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco to the United Nations in New York and strong advocate for Morocco's causes in the UN

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After the Equity and Reconciliation Commission acknowledged the existence of serious past human rights violations in 2006, Morocco chose not to stop at symbolic recognition
 ”

development within the southern provinces. Meanwhile, in Tindouf camps, serious violations—including enforced disappearances, arbitrary detention, extrajudicial killings, child soldier recruitment, and denial of basic freedoms—persist without

accountability, as Algeria continues to shirk its legal responsibilities as host country.

Crowning this human rights trajectory, Morocco was elected president of the UN Human Rights Council in a highly symbolic

moment that affirmed international recognition of its efforts and its stature as a credible partner in promoting human rights. This milestone marked Morocco's shift from defending its image to leading the global human rights dialogue.

This rights journey was not based on cosmetic gestures or avoidance but on institutional recognition and commitment, redrawing Morocco's

image as a credible sovereign partner balancing openness and sovereignty with a mature and responsible national consciousness.

The Reign of King Mohammed VI: Compass of Change and Engine of Momentum

It is impossible to decode the deep transformations in the Moroccan Sahara dossier without tracing them back to a meticulous, visionary design led by a unique royal leadership. His Majesty King Mohammed VI has managed this national and regional project not through reaction, but through long-term vision, blending sovereign firmness with rights-based openness and smart, persuasive diplomacy.

Since his ascension, the King has made the Sahara issue a strategic priority, not only to defend territorial legitimacy but to reshape international engagement with the file through an

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Since his ascension, the King has made the Sahara issue a strategic priority, not only to defend territorial legitimacy but to reshape international engagement with the file through an integrated policy uniting sovereign assertiveness, rights presence, and compelling diplomatic outreach

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integrated policy uniting sovereign assertiveness, rights presence, and compelling diplomatic outreach.

Under this leadership, the issue has shifted from a frozen regional dispute to an open process for building stability, development, and international recognition—while upholding Morocco’s constants and territorial unity in full harmony with international law and the spirit of UN partnership that respects sovereignty and prioritizes realistic, field-driven solutions over ideological posturing.

Morocco has set out a clear roadmap, accumulating internal achievements, boosting external credibility, and redirecting international attention from a stagnant past toward a viable future—one where the Moroccan autonomy initiative stands as a serious, realistic, and phased solution that meets the aspirations of the local population and preserves national unity.

Moment of Truth: The UN Faces the Realism Test

Amid this accumulation of on-the-ground facts, development gains, and diplomatic and human rights progress, the UN today stands at a crossroads: either it actively engages in the path of a realistic solution, or it continues to recycle outdated approaches that feed stagnation and render the UN process ineffective.

Morocco no longer seeks rhetorical solidarity but demands courageous political positioning. It has submitted its initiative, built its foundation, launched inclusive development programs, and opened doors to multilateral partnerships—all while upholding sovereignty and exercising rhetorical restraint. Today, Morocco calls on the international community to show political courage and embrace realism, away from double standards and narrow geopolitical calculations.

The Moroccan proposal now enjoys political, legal, and field legitimacy that compels the international community, especially the UN, to

catch up with the solution train and support fairness and realism rather than hiding behind obsolete balance games or outdated maps.

This moment of truth challenges not only the UN’s credibility in dealing with a chronic regional dispute but also its ability to act as a responsible mediator, not a custodian of frozen maps or fossilized positions.

From a Battle for Legitimacy to a Horizon of Possible Resolution

The Moroccan Sahara is no longer merely a border issue. It has become a multifaceted mirror reflecting the depth of Morocco’s transformation—from inside out, from politics to development, from defense to initiative.

It is an institutional battle waged with modern diplomacy and advocacy tools; a rights battle pursued through fairness; and a developmental journey built on facts and projects, not slogans. Morocco has demonstrated, through its unwavering commitment, that the solution is not a technical or isolated act, but a sovereign process grounded in realistic legitimacy expressed by the land, infrastructure, and people.

Today, the southern provinces prove they are not just spaces of belonging but platforms for showcasing Morocco’s model of coexistence, integration, and modernization within unity. Through them, Morocco affirms that victory lies not only in possessing the truth but in mastering the tools to defend it and transforming it into a shared civilizational project.

The Sahara is in its Morocco, and Morocco is in its Sahara.

With every new project, every supportive stance, and every forward step, this reality grows stronger, and the distance narrows between the envisioned solution and the will that forges it.





Morocco's MFA Nasser Bourita speaking at the 5th ministerial meeting of the Atlantic African States Process (AASP)

MR. NASSER BOURITA
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

King Mohammed VI's Atlantic Vision: A Continental Leadership Model in Action

By Gift Chidima Nnamoko
Orairu, Publisher

In an age when infrastructure is often reduced to steel, cement, and figures on a ledger, King Mohammed VI of Morocco has taken a different route—one that speaks less of blueprints and more of belief: belief in continental solidarity, interregional agency, and Morocco's role as a strategic gateway between Africa, the Atlantic, and Europe. At the heart of this doctrine lies a deliberate, sovereign agenda known as the Atlantic Vision, now emerging as a distinct African leadership model.

Unveiled in November 2023, the Atlantic Vision is not a speech or a slogan. It is a strategy in motion, animating Morocco's diplomacy,

economic engagement, and infrastructure planning from the Gulf of Guinea to Tangier. Central to this vision are two flagship initiatives: the Nigeria–Morocco Gas Pipeline and the wider program of Atlantic integration, which collectively exemplify King Mohammed VI's philosophy of “co-development”, diplomacy-led growth, and African self-direction.

The Atlantic Vision: Strategy Over Slogans

In his Green March address of 2023, King Mohammed VI declared Morocco's Atlantic coast not simply as a maritime frontier, but as “a strategic interface” that must serve “the common interests of Africa's Atlantic nations and its hinterlands.” Unlike

conventional regionalism, the Atlantic Vision breaks free from geographic limits. It imagines Africa not in static regions—North, West, Sub-Saharan—but as an interconnected continental body bound by maritime, economic, and diplomatic currents.

At the heart of this vision is leadership by invitation, not imposition. Morocco seeks not to dominate but to connect—to offer platforms, ports, and partnerships. The King's speeches over the last decade, including his 2016 address in Abuja and his 2021 interventions at the African Union, have consistently pushed this principle: a diplomacy of equals, and a development model rooted in shared benefit.

2025



A Model Defined by Strategic Sequencing

King Mohammed VI's leadership model is distinguished by strategic patience and phased trust-building—a deliberate contrast to the abrupt transactionalism often associated with foreign investment on the continent. Nowhere is this more visible than in the evolution of the Nigeria–Morocco Gas Pipeline (NMGP).

Rather than announce a megaproject and seek immediate buy-in, the King's model followed a multi-stage approach:

1. *Political Foundation (2016–2018): Initiated with high-level diplomatic visits, the project began with mutual political affirmations between Rabat and Abuja. These weren't one-offs, but part of a wider re-engagement with sub-Saharan Africa following Morocco's re-entry into the African Union in 2017.*
2. *Technical Grounding (2018–2022): Feasibility studies, route*

assessments, and environmental planning were undertaken in joint technical committees. Morocco's Office National des Hydrocarbures et des Mines (ONHYM) and Nigeria's NNPC built operational parity—an intentional model of co-ownership.

3. *Multilateral Endorsement (2022–Present): By 2022, Morocco and Nigeria had enlisted ECOWAS and secured MoUs with 13 West African countries. The project had become more than a bilateral venture—it was a regional contract of trust, bolstered by Morocco's consistent diplomatic presence across West Africa.*

This sequence reflects the King's belief in “gradualist regionalism”: long-term partnerships, underpinned by shared technical ownership, cultural respect, and policy alignment.

Infrastructure as Geopolitical Soft Power

King Mohammed VI's approach departs radically from the “build now, govern later” playbook seen in many infrastructure projects. In the Atlantic Vision, infrastructure is not the end—but the instrument. It is a means to a larger end: Pan-African agency, resilience, and connectivity.

Take the Nigeria–Morocco Gas Pipeline. While technically projected to deliver 30 billion cubic meters of

gas annually and estimated at US \$25 billion (according to ONHYM, 2022), its deeper function is symbolic. It tells a new story: that an African nation can initiate, anchor, and structure a transcontinental energy project without defaulting to external ownership.

Similarly, Morocco's investment in Atlantic ports—such as the Dakhla Atlantique project (budgeted at ~US \$1.2 billion)—is not about national logistics alone. The port is designed to give landlocked Sahel nations, like Burkina Faso and Mali, access to maritime trade. As part of the Royal Initiative for the Atlantic Sahel, launched in 2023, these investments are paired with policy proposals for customs harmonization, transit infrastructure, and even education exchanges.

The King's model does not stop at bricks and contracts—it includes institutional vision: creating cross-border frameworks that reduce barriers and promote shared regional citizenship.

Diplomatic Continuity and Non-Aligned Agility

Another hallmark of Mohammed VI's leadership is diplomatic continuity. Even during political upheaval or shifting global alignments, Morocco maintains a balanced posture—able to speak to the Sahel, the EU, and the

Arab League without compromising core principles. This has lent credibility to the pipeline project and Morocco's Atlantic initiative.

Notably, in April 2025, Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso expressed public support for the Atlantic Vision in Rabat. Though not direct NMGP beneficiaries, these Sahelian nations view Morocco as a stable, non-hegemonic actor—willing to give them a voice in broader continental architecture.

That trust is earned not just through politics, but through consistent, non-coercive engagement. Unlike donor-led models where infrastructure is tied to conditions, Morocco's Atlantic Vision emphasizes African solutions financed and governed through regional consensus. The King's leadership exemplifies soft power through partnership, not leverage.

An African Model with Global Implications

The Atlantic Vision is more than Morocco's foreign policy. It is a blueprint for African-led, African-owned development, and a rebuttal to narratives that only outside actors can drive large-scale integration.

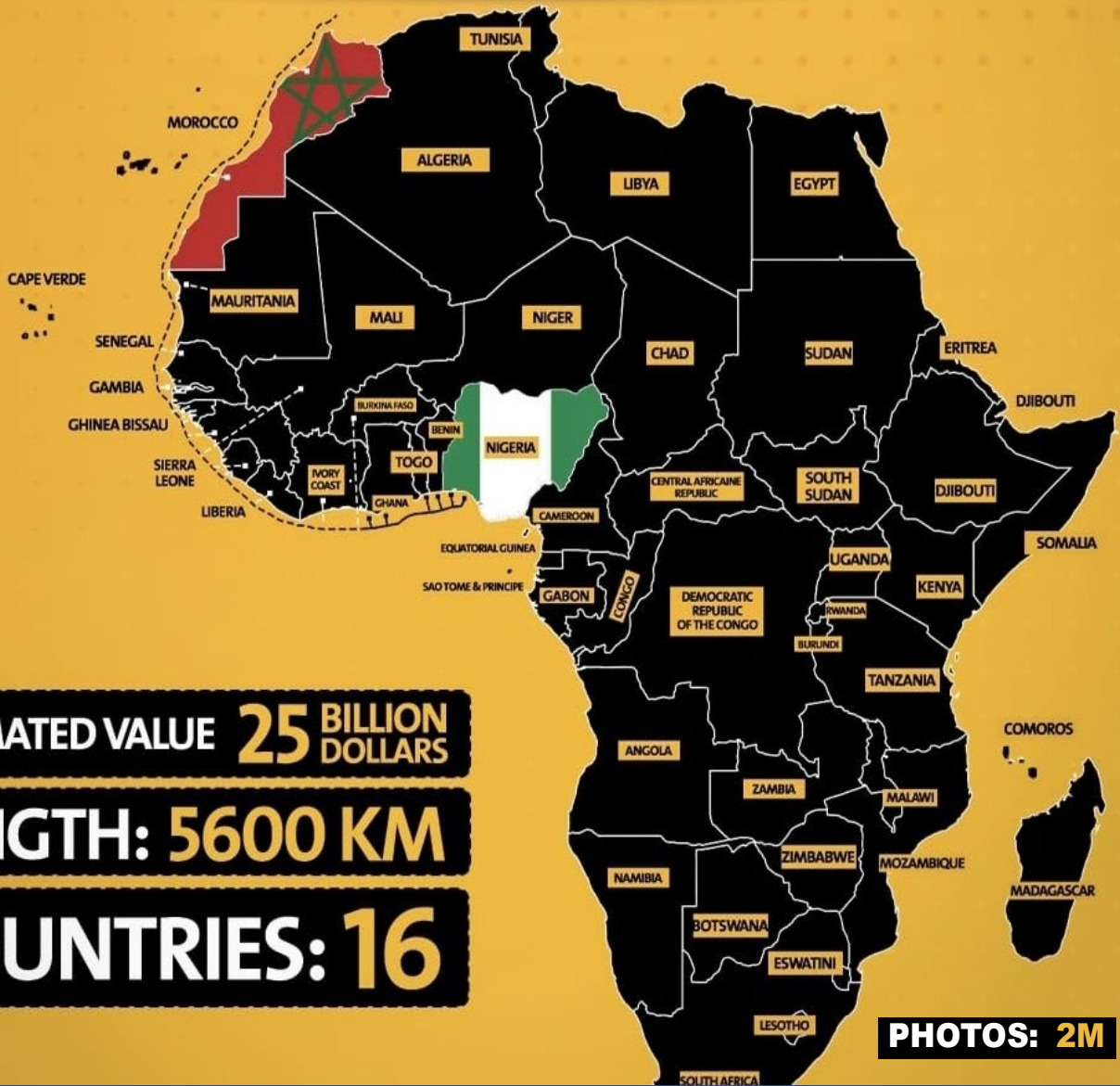
Its foundational tenets—mutual respect, strategic patience, and infrastructure backed by diplomacy—offer a model not just for Africa, but for the Global South. Whether it's gas pipelines or maritime trade corridors, the leadership approach emphasizes shared prosperity over unilateral gains.

This model also builds resilience. As climate challenges, energy demands, and geopolitical tensions grow, Morocco's dual approach—investing in renewable energy (which already comprises 37% of its capacity as of 2024, according to Morocco's Energy Ministry) and regional infrastructure—provides a diversified, durable path.



THE AFRICAN ATLANTIC GAS PIPELINE (MOROCCO-NIGERIA)

A VISION FOR AFRICAN INTEGRATION



Conclusion: A Leadership Legacy Taking Shape

King Mohammed VI's Atlantic Vision is not a document, but a developing legacy. It is embodied in the ports now rising along Morocco's coast, in the multinational committees steering the Nigeria–Morocco pipeline, and in the quiet confidence of smaller nations that

now see in Morocco a partner, not a patron.

At a time when African infrastructure often reflects external interests, the Atlantic Vision restores local agency, proving that continental connectivity can be both ambitious and anchored in African leadership. Its success will be measured not only in kilometers of

pipeline or tons of exported goods—but in the growing ability of African nations to imagine and build their futures on their own terms.

That, more than anything, defines the leadership model of Mohammed VI: strategic, inclusive, and rooted in a long view of sovereignty shared—not surrendered.



"King Mohammed VI awarded Royal Decorations (Ouishams Royaux) to eighteen teachers and senior officials from the Ministry of National Education."

Education Under King Mohammed VI: Two Decades of Reform and a Digital Future

By Dr Smail Kebbjaj

Since his accession in 1999, King Mohammed VI has made education a national cause, treating it not merely as a social policy but as the structural foundation of Morocco's future. His 26-year reign has witnessed a steady and strategic reengineering of the education system—from early childhood to scientific research hubs—anchored by a leadership model that values long-term vision, institution-building, and readiness for a digital century.

The King's approach has combined structural investment with cultural transformation. He has elevated preschool to a national priority, dignified vocational training as an economic equal to university pathways, and reimagined higher education as a driver of innovation and continental influence. These reforms, while shaped by a deep sense of continuity, are increasingly marked by their responsiveness to technology, digital equity, and global competitiveness.

Under his leadership, Morocco has achieved remarkable progress in

educational indicators, with literacy rates rising from 52% in 1999 to over 75% today, while the gender gap in education has been virtually eliminated at the primary level.

From Charter to Strategy: The Architecture of Reform

The foundations were laid in 1999 with the launch of the National Charter for Education and Training, a roadmap that defined the first decade of reform as a national priority. It called for universal primary access, regional equity, and



"King Mohammed VI, Prince Moulay Hassan, and Princess Lalla Khadija during the presentation of the progress report and the executive program in the field of school support." 2017

the professionalization of educators.

But this wasn't just an institutional pivot—it was a royal stance. Throne Speeches throughout the 2000s consistently placed education at the core of Morocco's social contract. The Charter was followed by the Emergency Education Plan (2009–2012), which served as a bridge to the most ambitious reform yet: the Strategic Vision for Reform 2015–2030.

Endorsed and closely followed by the King, the 2015–2030 strategy set Morocco on a path toward a coherent, inclusive, and forward-looking education system, structured around equity of access, quality of instruction, and relevance to the labor market.

Access, Equity, and Multilingual Learning

One of the most tangible successes of this era has been the expansion of preschool education. Previously fragmented, early childhood schooling has been institutionalized, with a roadmap toward universal access by 2027. New training centers have prepared thousands of

early education professionals, and investment has targeted rural and marginalized communities with a renewed emphasis on social equity.

At the primary and secondary levels, reform has touched curriculum, pedagogy, and infrastructure. A defining element has been Morocco's linguistic strategy. While Arabic remains foundational, the King has promoted the early and integrated use of French and, increasingly, English. In recent years, English has been introduced in primary education as early as the third year, and the Ministry of National Education has accelerated teacher training and curricular development to support the shift.

This trilingual model, guided by royal directives, is not a cultural compromise but a strategic asset—positioning Moroccan learners for academic excellence and regional leadership in science, technology, and diplomacy.

Vocational Training and the Right to Work

King Mohammed VI has insisted

“*The Charter was followed by the Emergency Education Plan (2009–2012), which served as a bridge to the most ambitious reform yet: the Strategic Vision for Reform 2015–2030*”

that educational pathways must be diverse, inclusive, and economically relevant. Technical and vocational education has therefore moved from the margins to the mainstream, backed by the launch of over a hundred training institutions across multiple sectors including construction, aeronautics, agriculture, automotive technology, and hospitality.

These institutions are designed in coordination with the private sector and structured around regional labor market needs. The



HM King Mohammed VI with brilliant school age students

Cities of Trades and Skills, part of the national vocational training strategy, exemplify the royal vision of aligning learning with employment and empowering Moroccan youth with purpose and dignity.

Higher Education and Research Innovation

University access has grown dramatically during the King's reign. Enrollment has risen from under 300,000 students in 1999 to more than 1.5 million in 2024. Public universities have expanded their research capacity, introduced new disciplines aligned with digital and green economies, and developed dozens of international partnerships.

Nowhere is this shift more evident than at the Mohammed VI Polytechnic University (UM6P) in Benguerir. Designed as a continental research hub, UM6P houses Africa's most powerful supercomputer and partners with global institutions like MIT, Columbia, EPFL, and Sciences Po. Its programs in climate science, renewable energy, artificial intelligence, and data governance reflect a forward-facing model of

higher education—deeply Moroccan in roots, but decisively global in reach.

The King's commitment to educational excellence is further demonstrated by his establishment of the Mohammed VI Foundation for the Promotion of Social Works of Education and Training, which has provided scholarships and support to over 100,000 students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

The 2013 Speech: A Royal Moment of Reckoning

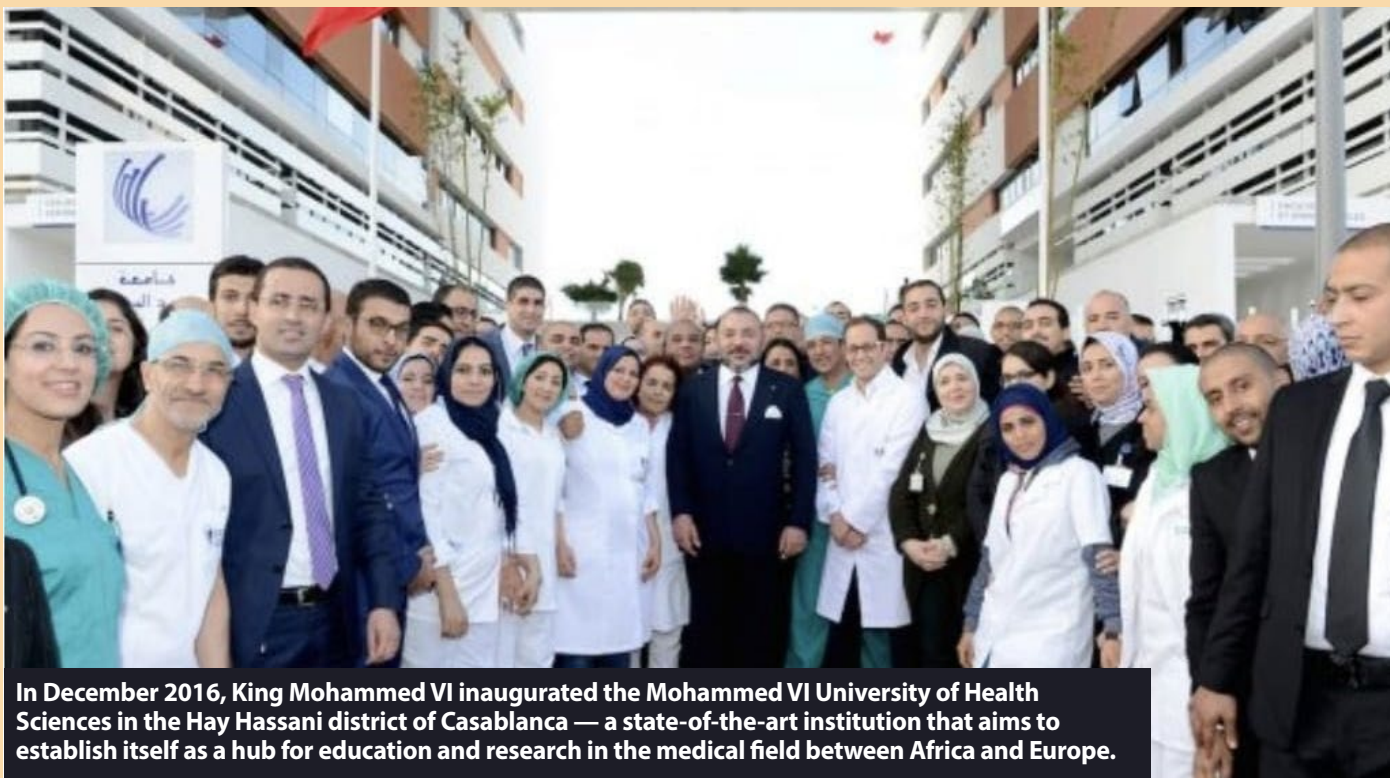
One of the most defining moments in the King's educational leadership came in his speech on August 20, 2013, marking the 60th anniversary of the Revolution of the King and the People. Speaking candidly to the nation, the King stated:

"It is sad to note that the state of education is worse now than it was twenty years ago."

He continued by calling for a national consensus on education reform, one grounded in scientific evidence, inclusive dialogue, and long-term continuity—above

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Enrollment has risen from under 300,000 students in 1999 to more than 1.5 million in 2024. Public universities have expanded their research capacity, introduced new disciplines aligned with digital and green economies, and developed dozens of international partnerships
 ”

political cycles and administrative changes. That speech was not a rupture, but a reassertion of moral responsibility. It gave urgency to the reforms that followed, particularly the empowerment of the High Council for Education, Training and Scientific Research, which was tasked with overseeing the implementation of the 2015–2030 strategy.



In December 2016, King Mohammed VI inaugurated the Mohammed VI University of Health Sciences in the Hay Hassani district of Casablanca — a state-of-the-art institution that aims to establish itself as a hub for education and research in the medical field between Africa and Europe.

Digital Transformation and Artificial Intelligence in Schools

As Morocco enters a new era of technological change, King Mohammed VI has begun embedding digital transformation directly into the DNA of public education. In July 2025, under royal patronage, Morocco hosted its first National Conference on Artificial Intelligence, during which several initiatives were unveiled to digitize teaching and introduce AI-supported learning tools across schools.

The Ministry of National Education is now rolling out digital infrastructure, e-learning platforms, and AI-based teacher training modules. Partnerships with research institutions have developed machine learning models capable of predicting student dropouts with more than 85 percent accuracy—enabling early interventions and new models of personalized learning.

Meanwhile, new institutions like the Al Jazari Institute are being positioned as regional centers of excellence in applied AI, teacher digital literacy, and curriculum development.

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As Morocco enters
a new era of
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directly into the DNA
of public education
”

Recognizing the importance of digital equity, King Mohammed VI has personally overseen the launch of the 'GENIE Program' (Generalization of Information and Communication Technologies in Education), which has equipped over 10,000 schools with digital infrastructure and trained more than 230,000 teachers in ICT skills.

These efforts are not merely about hardware or software—they reflect a deeper royal ambition to future-proof Moroccan learners and reposition the country as a knowledge and

innovation hub in Africa and beyond.

A Moroccan Model of Educational Sovereignty

Across all sectors—from preschool to supercomputers—King Mohammed VI has built a uniquely Moroccan model of educational leadership. It is a model rooted in continuity, reinforced by law, and defined by results. It moves deliberately but decisively, balancing equity with excellence and heritage with innovation.

The King's educational vision extends beyond national borders, as evidenced by his initiative to establish the Mohammed VI Institute for the Training of Imams, Morchidines and Morchidates, which has welcomed religious scholars from over 30 African countries, reinforcing Morocco's role as a center of moderate Islamic education and African leadership.

The reforms launched over the past two decades have created more than a national system—they have built a national consensus, one that sees education not only as a right, but as the shared future of the Moroccan people.



Two Decades and Beyond: The King's 26-Year Commitment to the Moroccan Diaspora

By Ayoub Salem

Since His Majesty King Mohammed VI ascended the throne on July 30, 1999, the well-being of Moroccans living abroad has remained a top national priority. In his first Throne Speech, the King made clear that the concerns of the diaspora would receive special attention. This commitment went far beyond symbolism—it introduced a new royal vision of full and equal citizenship for Moroccans abroad.

The early years of the reign witnessed

a major shift in the state's approach. A turning point came with the Green March speech of 2005, in which the King announced four key strategic measures: enabling the political participation of Moroccans abroad, improving consular services, strengthening cultural and identity ties, and creating an advisory council dedicated to the Moroccan diaspora. By December 2007, the Advisory Council for the Moroccan Community Abroad was officially established by royal decree, following broad consultations led by the Human Rights Council.

A critical leap occurred with the adoption of the 2011 Constitution. It enshrined the rights of Moroccans abroad in several key articles, notably those affirming their political participation, inclusion in governance, and the state's obligation to defend their interests. It also gave constitutional recognition to the Council for the Moroccan Community Abroad. What began as royal attention had now become a legal and institutional commitment.

In the years that followed, the royal focus evolved from institutional development to performance evaluation



problems.

By 2016, amid rising anti-Muslim sentiment in Europe, the King addressed the diaspora with a powerful call to uphold the values of moderate Islam and protect the positive image of Morocco and its people abroad. The 2024 Green March speech further reinforced this commitment, announcing the restructuring of diaspora-related institutions and the future launch of a new body, the Mohammedan Foundation for Moroccans Abroad.

The royal commitment has consistently extended beyond politics to legal protection. It has addressed issues such as the legal status of children from mixed marriages, safeguarding real estate owned by Moroccans abroad, and defending their image in the face of extremist accusations. The King has also taken direct action on urgent social issues. In 2021, he ordered measures to protect unaccompanied Moroccan minors in Europe from exploitation, and during the COVID-19 crisis, facilitated the return of Moroccan families with subsidized travel.

Moroccans abroad have also been recognized as key development partners. Their involvement in the 2021 Commission on the New Development Model is a prime example of their role in shaping national policy. In 2022, the King praised the diaspora for their financial contributions and solidarity efforts during both the pandemic and

the Al Haouz earthquake.

Underlying this royal engagement are three guiding principles. First, the concept of full citizenship, in which the diaspora enjoys the same rights and responsibilities as residents. Second, a policy of direct listening, where concerns heard during royal visits translate into state action. Third, a participatory approach, demonstrated by involving the diaspora in national consultations and decision-making.

Over the past 26 years, the bond between the monarchy and Moroccans abroad has grown stronger. What began as a promise has developed into a constitutional and institutional framework that continues to evolve. In turn, Moroccans abroad have responded with visible affection and loyalty during royal visits, reflecting a relationship based on mutual respect.

Today, as the King's speeches have laid out a clear roadmap, the diaspora rightly expects faster and deeper implementation of reforms. The royal trust shown to Moroccans abroad must be met with policies that guarantee their rights, reflect their contributions, and reinforce their place within the greater Moroccan nation.

By Ayoub Salem

Former President of the Council of Arab Communities in Turkey

President of the Morocco Foundation in Turkey



and accountability. In his 2015 Throne Speech, the King publicly expressed dissatisfaction with the declining quality of consular services, based on direct complaints he received from Moroccan citizens during foreign visits. This shift reflected a more hands-on approach to resolving concrete



Blueprint for a New Morocco: King Mohammed VI's Era of Innovation

By Abdellatif Belmkadem

King Mohammed VI is more than a national leader—he's a visionary. For 26 years, his decisions have redefined Morocco's trajectory. He didn't follow trends; he set them. Where others saw limitations, he identified opportunities. He confronted Morocco's toughest challenges—energy, infrastructure, water, employment—and met them with long-term strategy and decisive action. What sets him apart isn't just what he accomplished, but how he thinks. He doesn't lead by managing the present—he leads by shaping the future.

One of the clearest examples of his foresight is his early commitment to energy reform. Well before the global urgency for clean energy,

King Mohammed VI set Morocco on a renewable path. He launched the Noor solar complex in the desert, developed major wind farms along the Atlantic, and expanded hydroelectric capacity in the mountains. These weren't symbolic gestures—they were bold strategic moves. In 2008, Morocco imported 98% of its energy. Today, that figure has dropped to about 89% and continues to fall. The country now generates over 40% of its electricity from renewables and aims to surpass 50% by 2030. Green hydrogen is also part of the roadmap. These aren't just numbers—they represent foresight, independence, and smart planning. This shift didn't happen because the world demanded it. It happened because the King believed in the vision early—when it was still a risk. That's what innovators do.

But innovation goes beyond energy. It's also about how a country moves, trades, and grows. Under his leadership, Morocco has transformed its physical infrastructure. In 2018, it became the first African country to launch a high-speed train—Al Boraq—linking Tangier to Casablanca in just over two hours. This was a game-changer. And it was only the beginning. In April 2025, the King approved a massive 96 billion dirham (\$10 billion) expansion of the national rail network. By 2040, it will connect 43 cities and reach 87% of the population. Planning decades ahead, with clear goals and timelines, is rare. He also expanded Tanger Med into one of the world's top 25 ports, built new industrial zones, and upgraded roads and digital infrastructure that link Morocco from end to end. These aren't isolated projects—



they're parts of an integrated vision connecting energy, transport, trade, and employment.

Another hallmark of his leadership is how he creates space for others to grow. In recent years, Morocco has developed innovation cities, startup incubators, tech parks, and digital education hubs. Souss-Massa Innovation City is one example, with others in Rabat, Casablanca, and Benguerir. These are more than buildings—they're statements. They tell young Moroccans, "Your ideas matter. This is your space." In these environments, students build robots, startups test software, and researchers develop climate solutions. Morocco is no longer just a consumer of technology—it's becoming a producer. That shift in mindset began at the top. The King has consistently emphasized the importance of education, science, and creativity. He didn't just speak about them—he invested in them. He made innovation a national priority.

Water, one of Morocco's greatest challenges, is another area where the King acted with urgency. Faced with drought and climate stress,

he supported the construction of large-scale desalination plants—like the Casablanca facility, now Africa's largest and the world's second-largest, powered entirely by renewable energy. He also backed projects to transfer water across regions and improve agricultural irrigation. These aren't just technical achievements—they're moral decisions. They reflect a core value: we protect life, we protect the future. That's the principle behind his approach—he asks difficult questions, applies science, and delivers targeted, sustainable solutions.

He also understood a critical truth: innovation can't thrive in outdated systems. So, he modernized them. Under his reign, Morocco introduced the New Investment Charter, streamlining business creation, boosting investor confidence, and supporting small and medium enterprises. It made the economy more agile. Initiatives like the Green Morocco Plan and Generation Green strategy revitalized agriculture and brought rural youth into the national economy. This isn't about bureaucracy—it's about giving

people permission to try, to fail, and to try again. Innovation needs room to breathe. The King made sure it had that space.

What stands out most about King Mohammed VI is how differently he thinks. He isn't modern for appearances. He doesn't chase headlines. He studies, listens, and then takes thoughtful action. He reads not just the present, but the future. He embraces risk, believes in youth, and trusts science. He honors Morocco's history while welcoming new ideas. He respects tradition—but doesn't let it slow progress. That kind of leadership is rare.

Over the past quarter-century, King Mohammed VI has done more than govern. He has reimagined Morocco's systems—energy, infrastructure, education, water, technology, and entrepreneurship. His vision is woven into every part of the nation. But more than the achievements, it's his way of thinking that stands out. He doesn't ask what others are doing. He asks what's possible.

That's why he isn't just Morocco's King. He is its first true innovator.



Moroccan Media Under King Mohammed VI: 26 Years of Progress and Transformation

By Said Mawaj El Tazi

Since his accession to the throne in 1999, His Majesty King Mohammed VI has placed the media sector at the heart of Morocco's national development strategy. Over the past 26 years, the King's leadership has led to a deep transformation of the media landscape—liberalizing it, modernizing it, and positioning it as a key pillar of democracy, civic responsibility, and regional leadership.

From the outset, His Majesty adopted a strategic vision that treats media not as a passive channel but as an active partner in the nation's development process. The media was entrusted with a central role in the transitional justice process, helping

to shape a national discourse anchored in Morocco's identity and open to reform. This vision emphasized that a free and ethical press, firmly rooted in national values, is vital to social cohesion and democratic stability.

A major hallmark of this royal approach has been the reinforcement of press freedom and professional ethics, achieved through a series of legal and institutional reforms. The enactment of the Press and Publication Law, which eliminated custodial sentences for press offenses, was a turning point in protecting journalistic freedom. Simultaneously, the establishment of the National Press Council introduced a self-regulatory framework led by professionals, promoting ethical standards and ensuring accountability within the sector.

The King's messages to the media sector—such as those delivered on November 25, 2002, and July 30, 2004—went beyond calls for reform. They advocated for a contractual relationship with journalists, recognizing them as partners in constructing a democratic Morocco. These messages emphasized the media's role in defending public interest, safeguarding national unity, and elevating public discourse.

One of the key dimensions of this transformation has been the inclusion of gender diversity in media institutions and content. King Mohammed VI's reform agenda has empowered women journalists, encouraged their representation in editorial leadership, and supported inclusive narratives that reflect the role of women in society. Gender equity is



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One of the key dimensions of this transformation has been the inclusion of gender diversity in media institutions and content
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increasingly visible in both public and private media, with growing numbers of women contributing to political, cultural, and investigative journalism. This shift reinforces the values of equality and participation at the core of Morocco’s constitutional framework.

The liberalization of the audiovisual sector marked another pivotal reform. The creation of the High Authority for Audiovisual Communication (HACA) redefined regulatory oversight, converting public media into a service-oriented institution. The transformation of the National Broadcasting and Television Company (SNRT) into a holding structure is aimed at boosting efficiency, consolidating public media assets, and ensuring the delivery of high-quality national content.

Simultaneously, the Moroccan media scene has expanded with the emergence of private radio stations, television networks, and digital platforms. These new voices have enhanced media pluralism, promoted innovation, and allowed the press to be more responsive to the needs of citizens—while still upholding the core values of national unity and social responsibility.

Moroccan media has also become a tool of strategic diplomacy, echoing the Kingdom’s regional and continental leadership. Through South-South cooperation and institutional partnerships, Morocco has shared its media expertise across Africa and the Arab world. Media outlets have

contributed to projecting Morocco’s positions on religious tolerance, human rights, humanitarian issues, and regional peace with clarity and credibility.

The results of this transformation can be seen across five core areas that define Morocco’s media trajectory:

1. Media as a Driver of Transitional Justice and Sustainable Development

Moroccan media accompanied national reconciliation efforts, highlighted human rights reforms, and raised awareness on environmental and energy transitions—becoming an agent of education and civic engagement.

2. A Pluralistic and Ethical Media Framework

This includes the legal protection of press freedom, support for independent journalism, the establishment of the National Press Council for self-regulation, and the modernization of public media. Ethical codes of conduct and professional standards have become foundational across all platforms.

3. Gender Diversity and Inclusion in Media

Women have gained greater visibility and leadership within the media sector. Editorial policies increasingly reflect

inclusive perspectives, and training initiatives have promoted gender-sensitive journalism aligned with Morocco’s constitutional values of equality and equity.

4. Strategic Reform and Digital Modernization

The digital transformation of Moroccan media, guided by royal vision, has accelerated infrastructure development, professional training, and content innovation. New generations of digital journalists are emerging to meet the challenges of the information age.

5. Regional Leadership and Global Presence

Moroccan media is now an influential player on the continental and Arab stages, participating in international forums, establishing cross-border partnerships, and projecting Morocco’s voice on global issues with professionalism and integrity.

Thanks to the bold leadership of King Mohammed VI, Moroccan media today stands as a dynamic, professional, and inclusive sector. It serves as a mirror of national progress, a guardian of democratic values, and a platform for public dialogue. As Morocco prepares to host global events like the 2025 Africa Cup of Nations and the 2030 FIFA World Cup, the country’s media institutions are well-positioned to represent a modern, unified, and forward-looking Morocco—driven by ethics, equality, and strategic vision.



Echoes of Justice: Moroccan Women Judges on the Rise under the Reign of King Mohammed VI

By *Mustapha Sarhiri*

The woman judge entered the judiciary as early as the beginning of the 1960s, in the person of Judge Amina Abderrazek, after the dahir chérifien (royal decree) establishing the judicial statute, promulgated in 1958, enshrined the principle of equality between men and women in accessing the judiciary, under the same conditions and without exclusion from any judicial mission whatsoever.

The Moroccan experience is considered early compared to our regional environment, where the integration of women into the judiciary was delayed by several decades in some countries of the region.

The Moroccan woman entered the judiciary with solid legal training. The Moroccan judge demonstrated insight,

intelligence, professionalism, and seriousness, which enabled her, after years of hard work and fruitful perseverance, to access prestigious judicial functions.

Thus, we find women who have marked the history of the judiciary since 1961. Tribute is paid to the first female magistrate, Amina Abderrazek, who is an important figure in the history of women's rights in Morocco. Her appointment as a judge marked a turning point, opening the way for other women in the legal field.

The first woman judge to be appointed to the Conseil supérieur (currently the Court of Cassation) as Advocate General was Mrs. Amina Benchakroun in 1987. The first woman judge was promoted to the exceptional grade in 1995.

Confidence in the judicial landscape was strengthened with the appointment of women to positions of responsibility starting in the late 1990s. In 1998, Mrs. Leïla El Merini was appointed as



Latifa El Khal

the first president of a court of first instance in Rabat. She was later honored by her appointment as a member of the Constitutional Council — a role also held by Judges Saâdia Belmir and Latifa El Khell, the latter being a member of the Constitutional Court.



Jamila Sedqi



Sadia Belmir

judge is also marked by women who have held international positions, such as Mrs. Saâdia Belmir, member of the United Nations Committee Against Torture for two terms; Mrs. Latifa Toufik, president of the Appeals Board of UNESCO; and Mrs. Jamila Sedqi, the first female judge at the Administrative Court of the African Union.

The record of excellence in Moroccan justice has also shone with honorary distinctions, notably the "Champion of the Fight Against Human Trafficking" award, granted to Mrs. Amina Afroukh in 2017 by the U.S. Department of State, in recognition of her pioneering contributions to the fight against human trafficking.



Mina Sougrati

The Moroccan woman judge also succeeded in integrating the first formation of the Superior Council of Judicial Power, created thanks to a wise decision by His Majesty, as enshrined in the 2011 Constitution. History will proudly remember the esteemed judges who actively contributed to the foundation of this first Council: Mrs. Aïcha Ennasri, Majda Daoudi, and Hajiba El Bekkari. It will also remember the judges who succeeded them in the current mandate: Mrs. Amina El Maliki, Souad Koukkas, and Nezha Messafer.

The appointment of Mrs. Mina Sougrati also played a central role in the evolution of the Moroccan judiciary. A judge at the Administrative Court of Casablanca, she was elected president of the International Association of Women Judges in April 2025 — thus becoming the first Arab

woman to lead the organization.

The progress achieved over the past two decades under the reign of King Mohammed VI is considerable. The Moroccan judiciary has become more inclusive, with women now occupying key roles at both national and international levels.

Since then, women have become more visible in the judiciary. They now represent nearly 27% of judges, with around fifteen women holding positions of responsibility.

Their work embodies a new conception of justice in Morocco — a justice where women are no longer mere observers but full-fledged actors contributing to shaping the legal future of the nation.

Their leadership has broken old barriers and opened the way for a new generation of women magistrates.



Amina Oufroukhi

That same year, Mrs. Assia Oulalou was appointed the first president of a commercial court (Rabat), Mrs. Leïla Benjelloun the first president of a commercial court of appeal, and Mrs. Malika Bennis-Messaoud the first president of the Court of Appeal in Tetouan. Mrs. Malika Benzahir was appointed the first chamber president at the Court of Cassation.

The list of women judges who have held judicial and administrative responsibilities is long and rich in influential names, including those who currently hold such positions with competence and efficiency.

The journey of the Moroccan woman

TESTIMONIES

Testimony on the Occasion of the 26th Anniversary of the Accession of His Majesty King Mohammed VI to the Throne

Statement by DR. NABHIT KAPUR

Permanent Observer to the United Nations for the Pan-African Intergovernmental Agency for Water and Sanitation for Africa
On the occasion of Throne Day in the Kingdom of Morocco

On the occasion of Throne Day, I extend my warmest congratulations to His Majesty King Mohammed VI and to the people of the Kingdom of Morocco. This national celebration is not only a moment of reflection on Morocco's remarkable progress, but also a testament to the visionary leadership of His Majesty — particularly in the field of water governance.

His Majesty's recent address and directives reflect a bold and forward-looking approach to water security — one rooted in equity, sustainability, and strategic planning. From accelerating dam construction and inter-basin transfers, to expanding desalination capacity and promoting advanced irrigation systems, Morocco's model sets a high standard for climate-resilient water management. The ambitious target to meet over half of the country's drinking water needs through renewable-powered desalination by 2030 is a clear example of this transformative vision.

As Permanent Observer to the United Nations for the Pan-African Intergovernmental Agency for Water and Sanitation, I commend His Majesty's leadership in elevating water to the highest level of national and regional priority. Morocco's approach reinforces the understanding that water is not merely a resource — it is a human right, a pillar of development, and a guarantor of dignity.

In line with His Majesty's call for preserving water as a national responsibility and a civic duty, the international community must also act with shared responsibility. Morocco's model offers a replicable path for African nations — one that embraces innovation, community engagement, and multilateral cooperation.

On this special occasion, I reaffirm my commitment to amplifying such leadership at the United Nations and beyond. Together, guided by bold vision and united in purpose, we can ensure that access to water becomes a reality for every African — and a foundation for peace, prosperity, and resilience across the continent.

Water is dignity. Water is justice. Water is Africa's future.





**Statement by
MR. RENSON MULELE
INGONGA, CBS, OGW**

On the auspicious occasion of the 26th anniversary of the Accession of His Majesty King Mohammed VI to the Throne, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to His Majesty and to the people of the Kingdom of Morocco. His Majesty's enduring vision and unwavering leadership continue to inspire unity, progress, and justice across the African continent.

In July 2024, the Kingdom of Morocco graciously hosted the 17th Annual General Meeting and Conference of the Africa Prosecutors Association in the historic city of Marrakech, under the theme "Environmental Crime and the Role of the Judiciary in Combatting It." This landmark event brought together distinguished representatives from across the continent, underscoring Africa's collective commitment to environmental justice and judicial cooperation.

During the conference, I was humbled and honored to be unanimously elected President of the Africa Prosecutors Association, representing the Republic of Kenya for a two-year term. The General Assembly also unanimously elected the King's Prosecutor General and President of the Public Prosecution Office of the Kingdom of Morocco as Secretary-General of the Association, with Morocco designated as the permanent host of our headquarters.

This milestone reflects a renewed chapter for Prosecution Authorities in Africa—strengthened by South-South cooperation and a shared dedication to advancing justice and the rule of law. Under the visionary stewardship of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, the Kingdom of Morocco continues to serve as a beacon of judicial unity, regional collaboration, legal diplomacy, and inclusive

continental progress.

The adoption of the Marrakech Declaration, a key outcome of the conference, reaffirms our united resolve to confront environmental crimes through legislative reform, capacity building, and institutional specialization. These advancements were made possible through the steadfast support of the Public Ministry and other key institutions within the Kingdom of Morocco.

As an Honorary Member of the Forum of Dialogue of African Magistrates, I take this opportunity to commend the Kingdom of Morocco for its strategic and inclusive approach to continental judicial dialogue, as well as its exemplary commitment to South-South cooperation in the justice sector—a model for Africa.

May His Majesty's transformative leadership continue to guide the Kingdom of Morocco in peace, development, and prosperity.

Mr. Renson Mulele Ingonga, CBS, OGW

*Director of Public Prosecutions, Republic of Kenya,
President, Africa Prosecutors Association & President of
Eastern Africa Association of Prosecutors.
Honorary Member of the African Judges Dialogue Forum*

**Statement by
MR. ABUBAKAR
MOHAMMED BABADOKO**

It is with great honour and deep respect that I extend my warmest congratulations to His Majesty King Mohammed VI and the people of the Kingdom of Morocco on the 26th anniversary of His Majesty's accession to the Throne.

In July 2024, I had the privilege of being invited to the 17th Annual Conference of the Africa Prosecutors Association, hosted in the city of Marrakech by the Moroccan Public Ministry. This gathering provided an important platform for strengthening judicial cooperation and reaffirming the continent's shared commitment to combating transnational crimes, including environmental offences.

Morocco, under the visionary leadership of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, has emerged as a key actor in advancing judicial dialogue and South-South cooperation across Africa. As an Honorary Member of the Forum of Dialogue of African Magistrates, I have observed with admiration the Kingdom's consistent efforts to promote unity among African judicial institutions, elevate prosecutorial standards, and reinforce mutual trust and legal exchange across borders.

Beyond the legal sphere, the relationship



between Nigeria and Morocco continues to grow in strategic significance. The Nigeria–Morocco Gas Pipeline project stands as a transformative symbol of economic partnership and regional integration—one that embodies our two nations' shared vision for sustainable development and continental solidarity.

On this historic occasion, I commend His Majesty King Mohammed VI for his steadfast commitment to justice, institutional development, and African unity. May the Kingdom of Morocco continue to thrive in peace, prosperity, and dignity under His Majesty's wise and inspired leadership.

Mr. Abubakar Mohammed Babadoko
*Director of Public Prosecutions of the Federation
Federal Ministry of Justice, Nigeria
Honorary Member, Forum of Dialogue of African
Magistrates*

**Statement by
BY GIFT CHIDIMA NNAMOKO
ORAIRU**

As the Kingdom of Morocco marks the 26th anniversary of the ascension of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, may God assist Him, I wish to pay tribute to a leader whose vision and diplomacy have significantly shaped modern Africa's path toward unity, stability, and shared prosperity.

His Majesty has established himself as one of the continent's most thoughtful and strategic leaders — one who understands that Africa's development must be anchored in cooperation, solidarity, and mutual respect. Over the past two decades, His Majesty has spearheaded a new generation of diplomacy rooted in cultural pride, economic interdependence, and sovereign partnership.

Under His leadership, Morocco has strengthened its position as a continental hub — economically, politically, and symbolically. His championing of South-South cooperation has inspired a growing movement across Africa that recognizes the value of African-led solutions and regional integration. His diplomatic approach is marked by wisdom, patience, and strategic depth, which have led to stronger ties across the continent and beyond.

Notably, His Majesty's firm yet peaceful defense of Morocco's territorial integrity — through diplomatic engagement and international outreach — has earned Morocco increasing global support for its Autonomy Initiative. This reflects a leadership style grounded in legitimacy, long-term vision, and respect for dialogue.

His Majesty's reign serves as a model of how consistent, principled leadership can bring about real change — not just within national borders, but across an entire region.

Gift Chidima Nnamoko Orairu

Founder – The New Africa Group

Publisher – The New Africa Magazine

Federal Republic of Nigeria



**Statement by
GRESENGUET GHISLAIN**

In my capacity as a magistrate and legal professional committed for several decades to the promotion of justice and human rights, I pay tribute to the high vision and commitment of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, on the occasion of the 26th anniversary of His accession to the Throne.

Under His enlightened leadership, Morocco has established itself as a model in terms of judicial reform, the consolidation of the rule of law, and the strengthening of institutions. The impact of this dynamic extends beyond the Kingdom's borders and inspires many African countries.

It is particularly noteworthy that His Majesty gives strategic priority to youth, placing them at the heart of public policies as a true asset for the country and for Africa.

The Sovereign's efforts to promote dialogue and cooperation among African magistrates reflect a sincere desire to build a united, strong Africa founded on justice, peace, and solidarity.

Gresenguet Ghislain

*Magistrate of the Highest Rank, Chargé de Mission, State Legal Officer, and President of the National Committee for Legal Aid
Former Director of Criminal Affairs and Pardons
First Advocate General at the Court of Appeal of Bangui
Deputy Attorney General, Central African Republic
Founding Member of the African Judges Dialogue Forum*





**Statement by
DR. MOHAMED WAHBA**

Vice President Honorary, International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) Chairman, African Regional Working Group & CDTE Working Group, ICID

Marking the Throne Day of the Kingdom of Morocco

Throne Day is an occasion that resonates far beyond Morocco's borders. It offers an opportunity not only to celebrate the nation's progress, but also to reflect on the kind of leadership that shapes long-term resilience in the face of global challenges.

Water scarcity is among the most defining challenges of our time — especially for countries across Africa, where climate variability, population pressures, and food demands place increasing stress on limited water resources. What distinguishes Morocco under the leadership of His Majesty King Mohammed VI is the ability to transform this challenge into a national priority backed by consistent

investment, planning, and innovation.

From the expansion of desalination powered by renewable energy, to the scaling of modern irrigation systems and wastewater reuse,

Morocco has positioned itself as a leader in adaptive water management. These are not isolated technical successes — they are outcomes of a governance model that prioritizes sustainability, equity, and preparedness.

As someone engaged in irrigation development across Africa and globally, I view Morocco's approach as a reference point for integrated water resource management. The initiatives guided by His Majesty not only secure water for Moroccan citizens and farmers, but also strengthen regional knowledge and cooperation. The commitment to capacity building, particularly in rural water use efficiency, aligns closely with the mission of the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage.

On this Throne Day, I extend my respect and admiration to His Majesty King Mohammed VI for his steadfast commitment to water security and agricultural transformation — not only for Morocco, but as a source of learning and inspiration for the entire African continent.

**Statement by
DR. NIZAR CHAARI,**

On the occasion of Throne Day, I extend my most sincere wishes for success, development, and prosperity to His Majesty King Mohammed VI and the people of the brotherly Kingdom of Morocco. I would like to take this opportunity to express my admiration for His Majesty's wisdom, vision, and quiet strength. Since his ascension to the throne, he has continuously elevated Morocco in all fields. As a Tunisian, I was proud to meet His Majesty walking among us in the heart of Tunis several years ago, and as a political leader, I was struck by his humility despite the weight of royalty.

I have had the opportunity to visit numerous African countries. Without a doubt, I can say that thanks to the pan-African vision of His Majesty and the Moroccan people's collective effort to realize it on the ground, we chose Morocco as the launching point for our NGO, Epik Leaders. Morocco, through His Majesty's "startup management" approach, has opened all doors for a better Africa in every domain: education, technology, logistics,

entrepreneurship, and more.

During my travels from Tangier to Dakhla, passing through Rabat, Casablanca, Essaouira, Taroudant, Marrakech, Laayoune, and other cities and regions, I witnessed this renaissance—this determination to build and develop all cities and all sectors simultaneously. I want to express my gratitude to His Majesty because what he has done and continues to do inspires me immensely for my return to my country as a basis for cooperation and co-construction of a brighter future for our peoples and our united and prosperous Africa.

DR. NIZAR CHAARI,

*Founder of Epik Leaders Pan-African NGO and
2024 Tunisian Presidential Candidate*



**Statement by
MR. MADEMBA GUEYE**

On the occasion of the 26th anniversary of the accession of His Majesty King Mohammed VI to the Throne, I wish to express my deep gratitude and admiration for the remarkable leadership demonstrated by His Majesty in strengthening justice, access to law, and inclusive governance across the African continent.

As a magistrate and former Director of Proximity Justice in Senegal, I am particularly inspired by the ongoing commitment of the Kingdom of Morocco—under the enlightened guidance of His Majesty—to ensuring that justice is not only rendered, but truly accessible to all. The efforts deployed by the Kingdom to bring legal services closer to citizens, promote legal awareness, and support institutional reforms reflect a vision that we fully share in Senegal.

I had the honour of engaging with Moroccan institutions through various continental frameworks, notably those supported by the Forum of Dialogue of African Magistrates, of which I am proud to be an honorary member. These platforms allow us, as African justice actors, to pool our experiences and propose coordinated responses to common challenges related to legal inclusion, proximity justice, and public trust in the rule of law.

The leadership of the Kingdom of Morocco in South-South cooperation, particularly in the legal and judicial field, is a testament to His



Majesty's long-term vision for a more integrated, more equitable Africa, centered on justice that serves its citizens. The establishment of access-to-justice mechanisms, the dissemination of legal knowledge, and the generous hosting of regional dialogues perfectly illustrate this commitment.

On this symbolic occasion, I extend my warmest congratulations to His Majesty King Mohammed VI and to the Moroccan people. May the Kingdom continue to prosper in peace and dignity, under the wise and visionary leadership of His Majesty, and may our joint efforts to bring justice closer to the people grow even stronger across the continent.

Mr. Mademba GUEYE

*Former Director of Proximity Justice and Promotion of Access to Law
Ministry of Justice, Republic of Senegal
Magistrate since 1997 – Honorary Member, Forum of Dialogue of African Magistrates*

**Statement by
MS. KARIMA RHANEM**

On the occasion of the 26th anniversary of the accession of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, may God assist Him, to the Throne of His Glorious Ancestors, I express my deepest respect and admiration for the unwavering commitment of His Majesty to the values of peace, unity, and inclusive development.

Since His enthronement, His Majesty has pursued a bold and visionary path, placing human dignity, citizen empowerment, and social justice at the heart of the national agenda. His reformist leadership has not only strengthened Morocco's democratic institutions and socioeconomic foundations, but has also positioned the Kingdom as a reliable and forward-looking partner on the African and global stage.

A cornerstone of His Majesty's reign has been His strategic investment in South-South cooperation, rooted in mutual respect, solidarity, and shared prosperity. This approach has opened new avenues for collaboration among African nations, encouraging dynamic engagement across sectors and involving a wide spectrum of stakeholders — from governments to civil society, youth, women, and local communities.

His Majesty's leadership model in Africa is widely recognized for its pragmatism, long-term vision, and human-centered diplomacy. By placing Africa at the heart of Morocco's foreign policy, His Majesty has redefined cooperation among African states — not as a transactional relationship, but as a genuine partnership grounded in co-development, mutual benefit, and shared sovereignty. His initiatives reflect a deep understanding of the continent's challenges, combined with an unwavering belief in Africa's potential and agency.

By promoting inclusive diplomacy and inter-African dialogue, His Majesty has also expanded the reach of international cooperation beyond formal institutions, empowering non-state actors to play a central role in building bridges, driving innovation, and shaping sustainable development outcomes across the continent.

Under His enlightened leadership, Morocco has become a hub of African solidarity and a model of diplomatic balance — upholding the principles of peace, religious tolerance, and cultural dialogue, while fostering African solutions to African challenges.

May the Almighty preserve His Majesty King Mohammed VI, grant Him long life, good health, and continued success, and bless Him in the person of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Moulay El Hassan, His Royal Highness Prince Moulay Rachid, and all members of the Illustrious Royal Family.

Ms. Karima Rhanem

Global Senior Managing Editor – The New Africa Magazine

*President – International Center for Diplomacy
Expert in Diplomacy and Public Policy
Kingdom of Morocco*



**Statement by
MS. AICHA DUIHI**

As the Moroccan people proudly celebrate the 26th anniversary of the accession of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, may God assist Him, to the Throne of His Glorious Ancestors, I pay tribute to a Sovereign whose visionary and courageous leadership has strengthened the foundations of a united, sovereign, and forward-looking Morocco.

From the outset of His reign, His Majesty has led the Kingdom with clarity of vision and diplomatic wisdom — particularly in defending Morocco's supreme national cause: the Moroccan Sahara. Thanks to His firm and principled diplomacy, the Autonomy Initiative proposed by the Kingdom is now internationally recognized as the only serious, credible, and realistic basis for a lasting solution to the regional dispute.

Under His Majesty's guidance, Morocco has gained broad and growing international support, including recognition from key global actors and the opening of consulates in Laayoune and Dakhla — clear affirmations of the legitimacy of Morocco's sovereignty over its southern provinces.

As a daughter of Laayoune, I have had the privilege of witnessing firsthand the remarkable transformation of the Southern Provinces over the past two decades. Guided by the New Development Model for the Southern Provinces launched by His Majesty, the region has experienced unprecedented progress in infrastructure, education, healthcare, economic opportunity, and participatory governance. This development is not merely material — it restores



dignity and affirms the full citizenship of the local population within the framework of a unified and indivisible Moroccan state.

His Majesty's leadership has redefined diplomacy as an inclusive tool — one that links territorial integrity with human development, peacebuilding, and regional integration. The Moroccan Sahara, once viewed as a zone of contention, is today a strategic gateway to Africa and a symbol of Morocco's stability and commitment to African unity.

May the Almighty preserve His Majesty King Mohammed VI, grant Him long life, strength, and continued success, and bless Him in the person of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Moulay El Hassan, His Royal Highness Prince Moulay Rachid, and all members of the Illustrious Royal Family.

Aicha Duihi

President – International Observatory for Peace, Democracy and Human Rights, Geneva Kingdom of Morocco

**Statement by
COMOANE
PAULO DANIEL**

In 2024, I had the privilege of participating in the Migration Conference organized by the African Magistrates' Forum in the Kingdom of Morocco. The conference focused on key issues related to the protection of individuals from trafficking and other migration-related challenges—an area of increasing importance across the African continent.

This conference was one of several high-level events on justice and judicial themes that I have attended in Morocco. These initiatives clearly reflect the leadership and unwavering commitment of the Moroccan authorities, under the guidance of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, to the promotion of justice, the rule of law, and the protection of human rights not only in Morocco but throughout Africa.

I sincerely thank the African Magistrates' Forum and, in particular, the Moroccan authorities for their kind invitation and generous hospitality. I look forward to continued collaboration in these

important areas.

On this special occasion, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to His Majesty King Mohammed VI on the 26th anniversary of his accession to the Throne, and I wish continued peace, prosperity, and progress to the Kingdom of Morocco under His Majesty's wise leadership.

**COMOANE
Paulo Daniel**

Judge, Supreme Administrative Court of Mozambique (since 2011)

Judge, African Union Administrative Tribunal (since 2019)

Lecturer, Eduardo Mondlane University (Administrative Law, Social Security Law, and Property Law)

Founding member of the Forum for Dialogue of African Magistrates



**Statement by
MR. OGNAN DOGO**

On the occasion of the 26th anniversary of His Majesty King Mohammed VI's accession to the Throne, I join fellow judicial actors from across the African continent in saluting the remarkable vision and leadership of a Sovereign deeply committed to justice, institutional cooperation, and shared progress among African nations.

As a Togolese magistrate serving in the Public Prosecutor's Office for nearly 13 years, and as a member of the Scientific Committee of the Forum for Dialogue of African Magistrates—an association headquartered in the Kingdom of Morocco, which I have had the opportunity to visit during its activities—I have witnessed firsthand Morocco's unwavering dedication, under His Majesty's leadership, to strengthening judicial exchanges between African states.

Morocco has emerged as a continental hub for legal dialogue and a driving force for reform in the service of the rule of law.

Through numerous initiatives and its warm support for African judicial institutions, the Kingdom gives tangible expression to His Majesty's strategic vision: that of a strong, borderless justice system, acting as a pillar of peace, stability, and human development across the continent.



Throughout my professional journey—from Tsévié to Kpalimé, and now in Atakpamé—I have come to fully appreciate how vital South-South judicial cooperation is, especially when supported by partners like Morocco, in strengthening our national justice systems.

On this symbolic day, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to His Majesty King Mohammed VI and to the Moroccan people. May the Kingdom continue to thrive under the wise, unifying, and visionary leadership of its Sovereign.

Mr. Ognan Dogo

First Deputy Prosecutor of the Republic at the High Court of Atakpamé (Togo)

Member of the Scientific Committee of the Forum for Dialogue of African Magistrates

**Statement by
MRS. FATIHA OTMANE**

Tribute on the Occasion of Throne Day –
26 Years of the Reign of His Majesty King
Mohammed VI

On this solemn day marking the 26th
anniversary of the accession to the Throne of His
Majesty King Mohammed VI, may God assist
Him, I wish to express my deep admiration and
unwavering loyalty to our beloved Sovereign.

Since His enthronement in 1999, His Majesty
has led the Kingdom of Morocco with wisdom,
foresight, and an unshakable commitment to
sustainable development, social justice, and the
dignity of His citizens. Under His enlightened
reign, our country has made remarkable strides
in numerous areas: infrastructure, education,
healthcare, human rights, as well as the
Kingdom's international standing and diplomatic
influence.

His Majesty's closeness to His people, attentive
listening, and profound sense of responsibility
make Him a visionary and deeply humane
Monarch. The Moroccan model of stability and
progress—highly respected around the world—
is the result of His tireless efforts and His

determination to unite tradition with modernity.

May God preserve His Majesty King Mohammed
VI, grant Him health, happiness, and longevity,
and guide Him in His noble mission in the
service of Morocco and all Moroccans.

Long live our King, His Royal Highness Crown
Prince Moulay El Hassan, and the entire Royal
Family.

Mrs. Fatiha Otmane

President of BPW Morocco

*President of the Socio-Cultural Committee of the
Arab Businesswomen Council*



**Statement by
AYOUB MAFTAH EL KHEIR**

On this august occasion marking the 26th anniversary of the Accession of His Majesty King Mohammed VI—may God assist Him—to the Throne of His Glorious Ancestors, I wish to express, as a Moroccan entrepreneur and humble servant of this Nation, my deep gratitude and unwavering loyalty to His Majesty the King.

Through the various ventures I have had the honor to found and co-found—such as Siendo Group, Nexara, and enSanté—I have consistently drawn inspiration and purpose from the far-sighted Royal Vision. It is a Vision that places the human being at the center of public policy, upholds health, innovation, and dignity as national priorities, and empowers Moroccan youth to believe in their potential to help build a strong, modern, and prosperous Kingdom.

Among our recent contributions is a publication completed last year, highlighting twenty-five years of reform and innovation in the health sector under the leadership of His Majesty. The work brought together former ministers and high-level contributors who witnessed and supported these transformative projects. It stands as a modest tribute to the immense and tireless Royal efforts to ensure equity and access to quality healthcare for every Moroccan citizen.

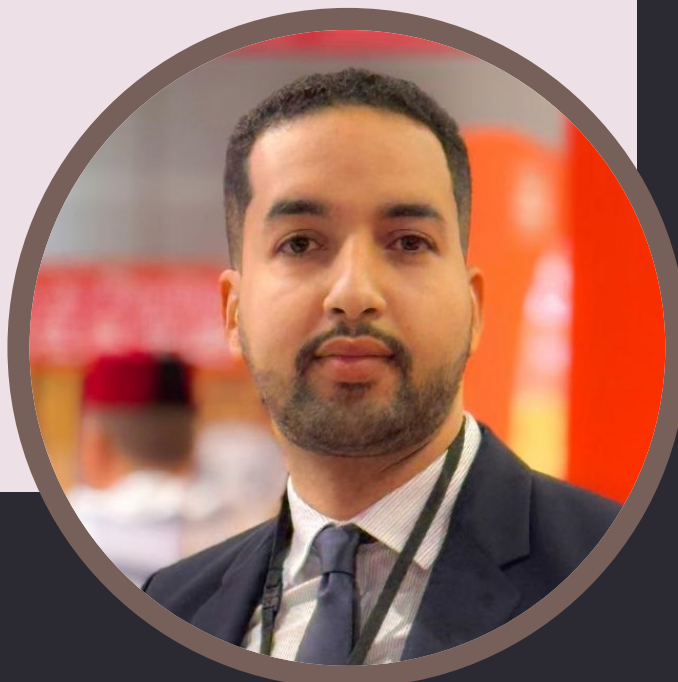
My commitment has also extended to parallel diplomacy, particularly by supporting the training of Moroccan expatriates so they may act as informed ambassadors of the Nation, equipped to defend our first national cause—

the territorial integrity of the Kingdom and the Moroccan Sahara—guided by the High Directives of His Majesty the King.

Today, as a young entrepreneur aware of the weight of responsibility, I renew my pledge of allegiance and sincere commitment to continue serving my country in alignment with the High Royal Directives, and to contribute, in my humble capacity, to the realization of an Africa that is united and in solidarity—as envisioned by His Majesty.

May God preserve our Sovereign, His Majesty King Mohammed VI—may God assist Him—and bless His Royal Highness Crown Prince Moulay El Hassan, as well as all the members of the Illustrious Royal Family. May the Almighty perpetuate peace, progress, and development upon our Kingdom under His wise leadership.

Ayoub Maftah El Kheir
Entrepreneur



**Statement by
LATIFA BELAIDI**

His Majesty King Mohammed VI, may God assist Him, has, since His accession to the Throne, embodied a model of enlightened leadership that has guided Morocco into a new era of reform, progress, and national pride.

From His first speech to the Nation, His Majesty signaled a profound transformation — one rooted in a commitment to democracy, the rule of law, and inclusive development. His vision for Morocco has encompassed not only institutional and political modernization but also a deeply human approach to governance, with the citizen at the center of public policy.

A defining moment of His reign was the adoption of the 2011 Constitution, a historic and peaceful constitutional reform that enshrined democratic values and human rights. Notably, Article 19 of this Constitution affirmed the principle of gender parity, reflecting a clear political will to promote equality between women and men across all sectors of society.

His Majesty also demonstrated strong political courage by opening a national dialogue on family law reform — a step that elevated the status of Moroccan women and gave them a rightful place in public and private life. By appointing women

to key decision-making positions, His Majesty has not only empowered them but also affirmed His trust in their capabilities and leadership — a milestone that many institutions have yet to fully embrace.

Under His reign, Moroccan women have become agents of change and essential contributors to the development of modern Morocco. His Majesty's unwavering support for women's rights has turned long-standing aspirations of the women's movement into tangible realities.

Moroccan women will forever remain indebted to His Majesty for the trust He has placed in them and for His strong belief in their role as full partners in building the inclusive, prosperous, and democratic Morocco of the future.

Latifa Belaidi

Lawyer

President – Forum for Migration and Cultural Exchange



**Statement by
RAPHAEL OBONYO**

I commend the visionary leadership of His Majesty King Mohammed VI and Morocco's dedicated efforts to address youth-related issues. It is highly commendable that young people are placed at the heart of the country's development agenda—recognized as a vital asset not only for Morocco but for the entire African continent. The commitment to identifying and implementing the most effective strategies to enhance their well-being is truly admirable.

Most notably, His Majesty's unwavering focus on youth empowerment, both in Morocco and across Africa, reflects a deep understanding of their critical role in shaping a prosperous future.

Raphael Obonyo
Public Policy Analyst, Kenya



**Statement by
DR. MUSTAPHA SARHIRI**

Anyone who reflects deeply on the spiritual and civilizational project led by His Majesty King Mohammed VI — may God assist and protect Him — cannot help but admire the wisdom, vision, and unwavering sense of responsibility with which His Majesty fulfills His role as Commander of the Faithful.

Under His enlightened leadership, Morocco has emerged as a beacon of spiritual security and religious moderation, in a global context marked by the rise of extremism, ideological fragmentation, and identity crises. The Moroccan Islamic model — firmly anchored in the Maliki school of jurisprudence, Ash'ari theology, and the noble Sufi tradition — stands as a powerful moral and intellectual counterweight to fanaticism. It represents a living embodiment of mercy, peace, justice, and human dignity.

This remarkable achievement is the result of a clear and far-sighted royal vision, translated into strategic reforms and institutions, including:

- The comprehensive restructuring of the religious field
- The founding of the Mohammed VI Institute for the Training of Imams, Murchidines and Murchidates
- The establishment of the Mohammedian League of Scholars
- The empowerment of regional and local religious councils
- The expansion of religious cooperation and educational partnerships across Africa

Through these pioneering initiatives, Morocco has consolidated not only its spiritual resilience, but also its role as a regional and continental leader in religious education and peaceful Islamic discourse. Today, numerous African nations look

to the Kingdom for guidance and partnership in promoting an inclusive, tolerant Islam that upholds coexistence and the values of human brotherhood.

As Commander of the Faithful, His Majesty has consistently upheld not only the principles of the religion, but also the protection of human souls, cultural identities, and the timeless civilizational mission of Islam — a mission rooted in compassion, knowledge, and shared destiny.

May the Almighty preserve His Majesty King Mohammed VI, bless his efforts, and continue to make Morocco — under his wise and serene leadership — a radiant example of spiritual peace, interfaith harmony, and civilizational enlightenment for the region and the world.

Dr. Mustapha Sarhiri

*Doctor in Public Law and Political Science
Adjunct Professor – Researcher in New Economy
and Development*



**Statement by
GAJMOULA BOUSSIF**

The Southern Provinces of the Kingdom of Morocco today stand as a model of sustained progress, occupying a leading position in various national indicators of social and economic development. This remarkable advancement is the direct result of the New Development Model for the Southern Provinces, launched in 2015 by His Majesty King Mohammed VI, may God assist Him.

Built on an innovative, ambitious, and future-focused approach, this royal vision has transformed the Southern Provinces into a dynamic space for integrated and inclusive development. In its early phase, the model prioritized the establishment of core infrastructure and public services. This strategic investment significantly improved social development indicators and laid the groundwork for deeper transformation.

In the subsequent phase, the royal vision expanded to support the socio-economic takeoff of the region, positioning it as a fully integrated platform for exchange with Sub-Saharan Africa and a strategic gateway to both the Atlantic and the Sahel-Saharan zones. Today, the region plays an essential role in connecting Morocco to the rest of the continent — not only geographically, but also economically, diplomatically, and culturally.

Reflecting this momentum, numerous foreign delegations continue to visit the Southern Provinces to explore the rich investment potential and economic opportunities available. These visits signal growing international interest in supporting the development dynamic underway — a dynamic that serves the interests of local populations and enhances Morocco's continental and international positioning.

This developmental success is accompanied by a powerful and sustained diplomatic momentum, launched and led by His Majesty the King. This strategy aims to consolidate Morocco's sovereignty over its Sahara and to reinforce the Autonomy Initiative as the only serious,

credible, and realistic framework for resolving the regional dispute.

The initiative has gained steadily increasing international support, with more than 30 countries openly recognizing the Moroccan Sahara and endorsing the autonomy proposal. Today, a total of 116 countries, representing over 60% of UN member states, have declared their support — a clear affirmation of Morocco's legitimate rights.

This diplomatic shift is also reflected in the growing number of consulates opened by friendly and allied nations in Laayoune and Dakhla — a symbolic and political recognition of Morocco's sovereignty over its Southern Provinces and of the Kingdom's gains in consolidating its national cause.

The international dynamic surrounding the Moroccan Sahara and the Autonomy Initiative is now an irreversible reality — one that sends a clear and firm message to the United Nations and all stakeholders. The time has come for all parties to move beyond outdated positions and engage responsibly with the new political, diplomatic, and operational realities on the ground.

By Gajmoula Boussif

*President – Sahara Observatory for Economic and Social Development
Dakhla-Oued Eddahab Region*



**Statement by
PROFESSOR ISMAIL KEBBAJ**

Since ascending the Throne in 1999, His Majesty King Mohammed VI has championed a bold, investment-driven strategy that has transformed Morocco into a regional hub and a trusted economic gateway to Africa. Guided by a commitment to inclusive modernisation, the Sovereign has overseen sweeping business-climate reforms—most notably the new Investment Charter, streamlined administration, and a National Investment Commission that He chairs personally—making investment a lever for job creation and sustainable growth. The results are tangible: world-class projects such as Tanger Med port, the Kenitra automotive zone, and the Noor solar complex have positioned Morocco at the forefront of automotive, aerospace, renewable energy, digital, and logistics value chains, while targeted “poles of competitiveness” are reducing territorial disparities from the Oriental to Laâyoune-Sakia El Hamra.

Equally striking is the King’s outward-looking economic diplomacy. Morocco is now among the continent’s top investors—especially in West Africa—across banking, telecoms, agriculture, infrastructure, and, increasingly, pharmaceuticals and energy security. Flagship ventures like the Nigeria–Morocco gas pipeline epitomise His Majesty’s vision of deeper regional integration, as does the Kingdom’s forthcoming ECOWAS membership. This investment agenda is rooted in a human-centred philosophy, aligned with the New Development Model, where economic progress



serves social cohesion and shared prosperity. By living the credo “Africa must trust Africa,” His Majesty King Mohammed VI has made Morocco a catalyst for opportunity and a beacon of converging growth for the continent.

Professor Ismail Kebbj
Interim Director – ENCG Casablanca

**Statement by
DR. FATINE OUAHTITA**

Since His accession to the Throne, His Majesty King Mohammed VI has placed Moroccan youth at the heart of His societal vision — as a force for innovation, social transformation, and inclusive growth. His leadership has redefined youth employment not as a sectoral challenge, but as a national priority tied to dignity, opportunity, and long-term stability.

One of the turning points was the 2018 Royal Speech to Parliament, which called for a paradigm shift in employment policy — urging stronger public-private partnerships and a dynamic entrepreneurial ecosystem. This vision materialized through initiatives like Intilaka, a groundbreaking program offering young project holders access to financing, mentorship, and administrative support.

His Majesty also elevated entrepreneurship to an act of citizenship, encouraging young people to shape their future through self-initiative and local development. Across regions, particularly in rural and disadvantaged areas, we now see a new generation of youth — often highly educated — launching projects in sectors such as digital services, green energy, cultural industries, and social agriculture.

Crucially, the Royal approach emphasizes territorial equity, calling for coordination between regional authorities, universities, and economic actors to adapt youth policies to local realities. This territorial model fosters sustainable development, reduces regional disparities, and empowers young people where they are.

More than an economic strategy, His Majesty's vision reflects a deep ethical and humanist commitment: to restore the dignity of youth and place their aspirations at the center of Morocco's future. As an educator, I witness firsthand the impact of this leadership — a growing generation of youth who feel seen, trusted, and ready to act.

His Majesty once said: "Moroccan youth deserve better — they deserve that we believe in them, that we trust them, and that we give them the means to succeed." Today, that belief is becoming a reality.

Dr. Fatine Ouahita

Accredited Associate Professor at ENCG Casablanca university hassan 2

Professor specialised in Communication, Soft Skills, and Personal Development .

*Vice Director in charge of Cooperation, International Relations, and Student exchange
Business Coach.*



**Statement by
DR OSEVWE ENOH SAMPSON**

In honor of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, I pay this special tribute on the occasion the 26th anniversary of your ascension to the throne.

To a visionary leader whose reign has been marked by wisdom, modernization, and deep devotion to the people of Morocco. His Majesty has skillfully balanced tradition and progress, preserving Morocco's rich heritage while steering the nation toward global relevance through social reforms, economic development, and diplomatic strength.

Under your leadership, Morocco has become a beacon of stability and growth in North Africa, a land where culture thrives, infrastructure expands, and the voice of the people are respected. His commitment to education, women's empowerment, and regional cooperation reflects his forward-thinking and inclusive approach to governance.

May His Majesty be blessed with continued strength and wisdom as you continue to lead Morocco into a future of peace, prosperity, and pride. Long live the King.

Dr Osevwe Enoch Sampson

*Executive Lead,
New Africa Global Economic Summit and
Honours*



**Statement by
BADR ZAHER AL AZRAK**

As an expert in business and port law and diplomatic history, and as a professor at Hassan II University of Casablanca, I have had the honor of closely observing — and at times contributing to — the profound economic and social transformation Morocco has undergone under the enlightened leadership of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, may God assist Him, since His accession to the Throne.

This transformation, both ambitious and methodically structured, has been anchored in a core principle: placing the human being at the center of public policy. His Majesty has made youth empowerment, skills development, and strategic infrastructure — particularly in the port sector — central pillars of sovereignty, competitiveness, and international influence.

A hallmark of this royal vision is the strategic prioritization of human capital. His Majesty has consistently affirmed that sustainable development requires the full recognition and nurturing of Moroccan talent, creativity, and potential. This philosophy has led to sweeping reforms in education and vocational training, and landmark programs such as the National Initiative for Human Development (INDH), which has fostered a dynamic ecosystem of inclusion, innovation, and empowerment across the Kingdom.

In parallel, Morocco has witnessed an infrastructure revolution, with modern ports at its core. These ports are no longer viewed as mere transit points but as integrated logistics hubs — drivers of economic growth, national competitiveness, and regional connectivity.

Thanks to His Majesty's long-term strategic vision, Morocco is now home to world-class ports such as Tanger Med, ranked among the

top 20 globally for maritime connectivity. Recognized internationally for its performance and industrial integration, Tanger Med has become a symbol of Morocco's transformation into a strategic trade and logistics actor.

Major upcoming projects like Nador West Med and Dakhla Atlantic Port further illustrate the Kingdom's ambition to reinforce logistical sovereignty, support regional development, and anchor Morocco as a vital link between Africa, Europe, and the global economy.

This dual investment — in human capital and infrastructure — reflects a holistic and forward-looking model of development, guided by His Majesty's vision to elevate Morocco as a rising power that is both anchored in its heritage and resolutely future-oriented. Today, the Kingdom stands as a regional model that harmonizes economic performance, social cohesion, and geostrategic presence..

Badr Zaher Al Azrak

*Professor of Business and Port Law – Hassan II
University of Casablanca
Expert in Diplomatic History*



**Statement by
WUESETER LANEM-KUMA**

***Saluting His Majesty, King Mohammed VI's
Commitment to Morocco's Women and Children***

Looking across our vast and diverse continent, we witness with profound respect and admiration the transformative work championed by His Majesty, King Mohammed VI of Morocco. His unwavering dedication to empowering Morocco's most vulnerable – its indigent women and children – stands as a powerful testament to leadership that places human dignity and social justice at its core.

As fellow Africans, we understand deeply the challenges of poverty, inequality, and the critical need to uplift women and secure the future of our children. Seeing King Mohammed VI translate this understanding into concrete, sustained action is truly inspiring. Initiatives like the National Initiative for Human Development (INDH), driven by His Majesty's vision, demonstrate a model of targeted social investment that resonates far beyond Morocco's borders. The focus on lifting families out of poverty, ensuring access to healthcare, and crucially, providing pathways to education and economic self-sufficiency for women, aligns perfectly with the development aspirations shared across our continent.

We particularly commend His Majesty's clear recognition that investing in women is investing in the future of the nation. The support for women through microfinance, vocational training, and enhanced legal protections isn't just charity; it's smart nation-building. It unlocks the immense potential of half the population, enabling women to become pillars of their families, drivers of local economies, and active participants in shaping Morocco's progress. This resonates deeply with our own experience in Nigeria where multiple social safety nets interventions and empowerment programmes are initiated by the Government of Nigeria to meet the aspirations for indigent women. For the children, we are happy that His Majesty's commitment shines through in the expansion of education, especially in rural areas, and vital programs supporting early childhood development. Knowing that Moroccan children, regardless of their birth circumstances, are being given a fairer chance through improved healthcare and educational access (like the



impactful "Tayssir" program) fills us with hope. It reflects a leadership that understands the foundational importance of nurturing the next generation.

Indeed, witnessing Morocco's strides under King Mohammed VI's leadership, particularly in uplifting women and children from hardship, offers valuable lessons and inspiration for the rest of Africa. The tangible results – women gaining independence, children accessing opportunities, communities strengthening – speak volumes. It is a powerful reminder of what focused, compassionate, and determined leadership can achieve.

On behalf of many Africans who observe and admire your nation's journey, Your Majesty, we, from The Initiative for the Empowerment of Indigent Women and Children, Nigeria, extend our deepest respect and appreciation for your tireless efforts. Your commitment to empowering the indigent women and children of Morocco is not just shaping a brighter future for your kingdom; it lights a beacon of hope and possibility for the entire African continent. May your noble endeavours continue to flourish.

Long Live His Majesty King Mohammed VI!
Alhamdulillah for such impactful leadership.

Wueseter Lanem-Kuma

Founder, The Initiative for the Empowerment of Indigent Women and Children, Nigeria.

