



**Copenhagen Anniversary Conference**  
**“20 years of the OSCE Copenhagen Document : status and future perspectives”**

**Copenhagen, 10-11 June 2010**

**Statement of the Delegation of Morocco**

**Excellencies**

I would like first of all to thank the OSCE Kazakh Presidency and the government of Danmark for the the invitation of the OSCE Mediterranean and Asian Partners to this important event commemorating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the OSCE Copenhagen Document, wich constitutes an important reference of the OSCE committments on human rights and fundamental freedom, democracy and the rule of law.

The Kingdom of Morocco is committed to undertaking several reforms in many fields. In this regard, I would like to underline the following :

- Morocco's transitional justice, launched over the last decade, led to structural projects to overhaul the judiciary and promote human rights.
- Emergence of a community of human right activists centred around the Advisory Council on Human Rights (CCDH), which has led the truth and reconciliation commission to address past Human Rights violations.
- The extensive regionalisation process announced recently by His Majesty the King Mohammed VI and the set up of an Advisory Committee on Regionalization aims to give more power to local authorities, more competences to promote the potential of the regions, and encourage people's participation in regional development.
- Gender issues are relevant in the vast fields of reforms undertaken by Morocco. In this regard, the Moroccan women's rights have achieved the most significant gains on the last years: a revised nationality code adopted in 2007 eased women's ability to pass citizenship to their children, the country lifted its reservations to The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 2008, and the Moudawana enacted in 2004 is now considered one of the most progressive legal texts in the Arab world. The participation of women in political life is illustrated by the election of more than 3,400 women during the June 2009 local elections.

The first EU-Morocco Summit, held in Granada, supports the Kingdom's efforts to strengthen the State of Law and the major structural reforms launched by HM the King. The European Union commended Morocco's efforts to protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms, and to consolidate the Rule of Law and democracy.

In a joint statement adopted in Granada closing the 1<sup>ST</sup> EU-Morocco Summit, the EU welcomes the publication of the report of the Consultative Council of Human Rights in December 2009 on monitoring the implementation of the recommendations of the Equity and Reconciliation Commission (IER). The implementation of all the recommendations will allow Morocco to consolidate its achievements and progress in consolidating the respect and promotion of human rights.

Aware of the need to better articulate its security policy with its environment and its geographical entourage, Morocco has multiplied its efforts for cooperation to achieve concrete results in particular with its European neighbours (advanced status granted to Morocco by European Union), and spare no efforts for the construction of the Maghreb and considers "the revitalization of the Arab Maghreb Union as strategic choice which meet the Maghreb peoples' expectations of unity, complementarity, development and economic integration."

In the other hand, Morocco believes that the OSCE with its comprehensive, indivisible security approach provides a framework of complementarity and added value compared to other institutions involved in the same topics like NATO, European Union, the "5 +5 Forum" and the Union for the Mediterranean.

In this regards, Morocco reiterates its willingness to reinforce its relations with the OSCE and take this opportunity to reiterate some of its recommendations presented during the Ambassadorial Corfou meeting relating to the third dimension:

- immigration, as an urgent issue which calls for enhanced co-operation, should be tackled from its human, economic and security stand points based on non-discrimination.

- Morocco expresses its appreciation of the work of the three Special Representatives of the OSCE Chairmanship for the fight against all forms of intolerance and discrimination, respectively, against Muslims, Jews and Christians, and stresses the importance to provide the three representatives with necessary means to carry out their mandate.

- Morocco would like to reiterate its support for the implementation of the "2007 Cordoba Chairman-In-Office's Declaration on Intolerance and discrimination against Muslims" and recall some of its important recommendations:

- Intolerance and discrimination against Muslims should be regarded with utmost concern; acts based on such intolerance and discrimination should be condemned without reservation, and the commitment of OSCE participating States to combat intolerance and discrimination against Muslims should be reiterated..

- Legislation and law enforcement are essential tools to combat crimes and violent manifestations of intolerance and discrimination, including against Muslims.

- Political and community representatives can play a relevant role in the fight against intolerance and discrimination against Muslims, among others, through a constructive

public discourse to diffuse tensions within societies, while respecting freedom of expression.

-Morocco Welcomes the various measures undertaken by the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) to promote Tolerance and non discrimination, including the TANDIS system (Database on discrimination) and underlines, however, the lack of statistical data provided by the participating states. For example only 2 countries have provided ODIHR with statistics relating to Discrimination against Muslims on 2008, bearing in mind that Lack of detailed reporting on hate crime incidents also makes it impossible to have an accurate picture of official responses to anti-Muslim incidents by the police and courts.

- Morocco commends the efforts of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities and those of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, to improve the situation of minorities.

-Morocco attaches a great importance to the cooperation with the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and expresses its appreciation of the efforts of this important institution on issues related to the promotion of human rights and fundamental freedom, democracy and the rule of law.

-Morocco supports all the initiatives for the promotion of tolerance, inter-religious dialogue and the fight against all forms of discrimination, and reiterates the importance of the reinforcement of cooperation between the OSCE and the Alliance of Civilizations.

Needless to say that the issue of human rights and their impact on the Mediterranean and European security is linked with the situation of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. In this regard, Morocco reiterates its condemnation of the Israeli expansion of settlements, the expropriation of land, the demolition of houses, the confiscation and destruction of property, aiming to change the physical character and demographic composition of the occupied territories, including East Jerusalem. Morocco denounces the policy of illegal Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories and condemns the Israeli policy of denaturalization of the Arab character of Al Quds.

Morocco takes finally this opportunity to reiterate its support for granting OSCE partnership status to the Palestinian National Authority, and underlines that a positive response to the Palestinian request will be perceived as strong signal of the willingness of the OSCE to reinforce the Mediterranean partnership, and will be a step for the expansion of Confidence Building Measures in the Mediterranean region.