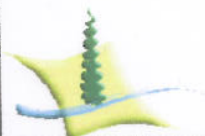


Launch Seminar of the Mediterranean edition of the Handbook on establishing effective Labour Migration Policies
Rabat, 12 & 12 December 2007

DESERTIFICATION, DEVELOPMENT MIGRATION: ANALYSIS AND PERSPECTIVES

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1

General context

- More than **90 %** of the North African and sub-Saharan countries are dryland and desertification is a very active process reducing land productivity and food production.
- In addition to **climate change, over-population, poverty, insufficient education, unemployment and inadequate policies** are the most important driving forces leading to the very high pressure on the limited natural resources, especially water, soil, pastures and forests.
- Shifting agriculture, cultivation of marginal land, and overgrazing lead to **desertification**.
- Potential migrants from sub Saharan Africa estimated to 60 millions.

2

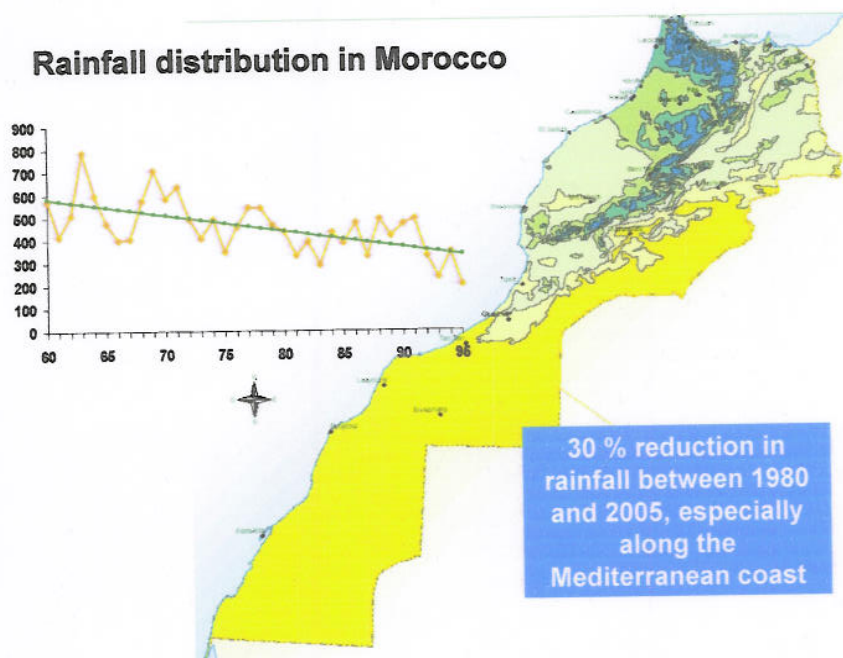
According to the latest report from the United Nations
Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

**Global warming is likely to have a number of adverse
effects on human and natural systems**

- increased frequency and intensity of droughts;
- increased snowmelts;
- rising sea levels;
- Flooding;
- land degradation (desertification);
- declines in food production;
- increased disease;
- more frequent extreme weather;
- loss of biodiversity.

3

Rainfall distribution in Morocco



4

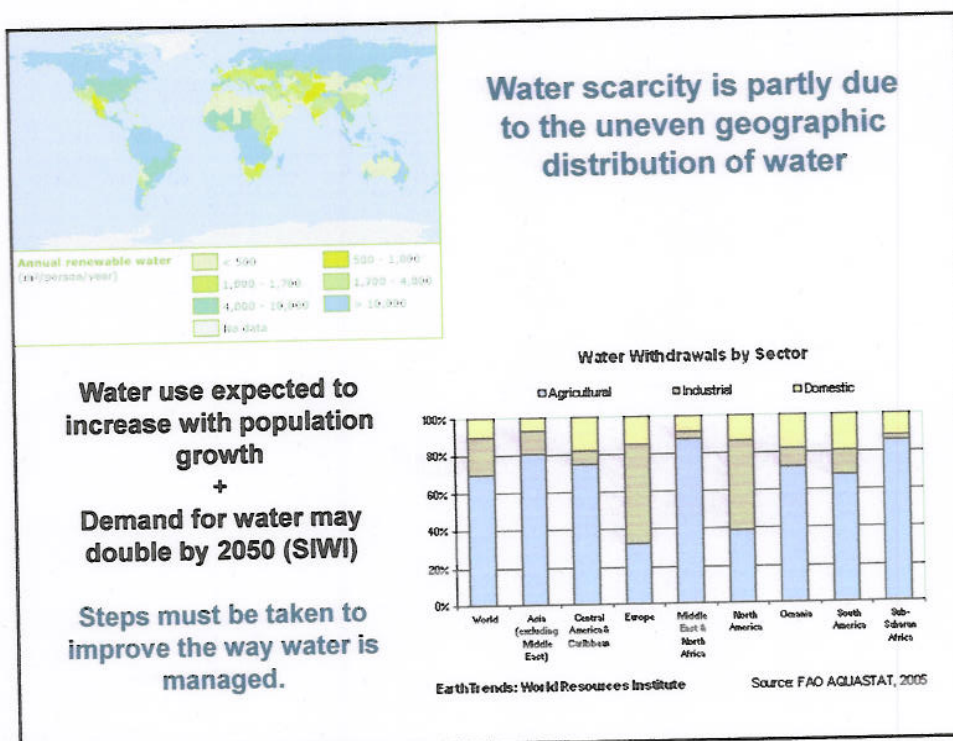
Water scarcity

The annual availability of less than 1000 cubic meters of water per person

Already affects **40 %** of the world population, will be **66 %** by 2025 as a result of :

- Population growth,
- Climate change and
- Water pollution.

5



Water scarcity is a major issue in North Africa

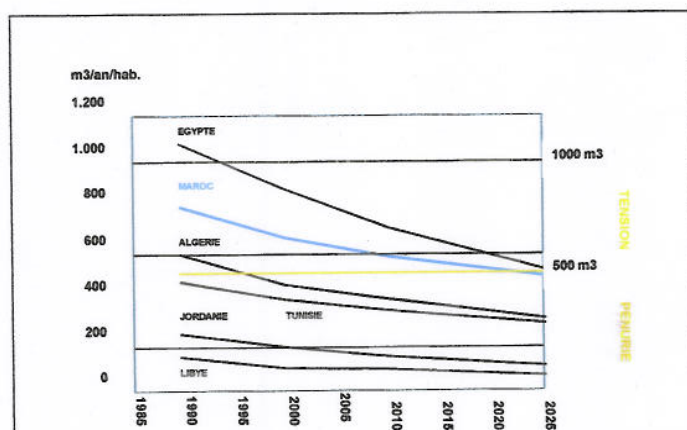
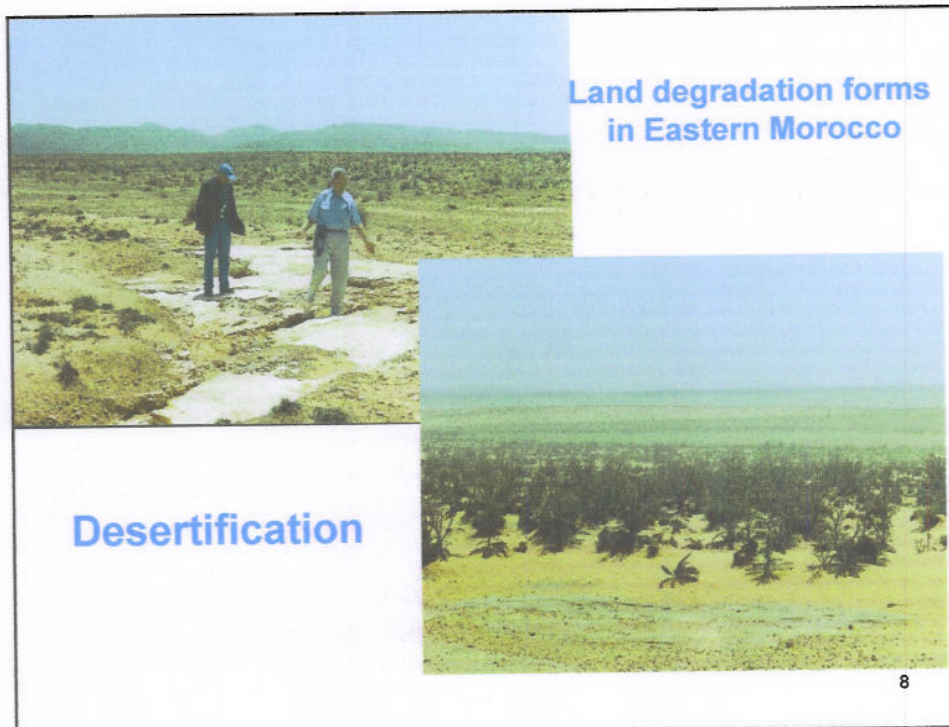


Figure 3 : Évolution des ressources en eau potentiellement mobilisable par habitant

7



8

**Soil under natural
forest cover**



**Effect of
deforestation on
soil quality**

9



**Cultivation on
steep slopes**

**No more soil left
after deforestation
and cultivation**



Adaptation to climate change

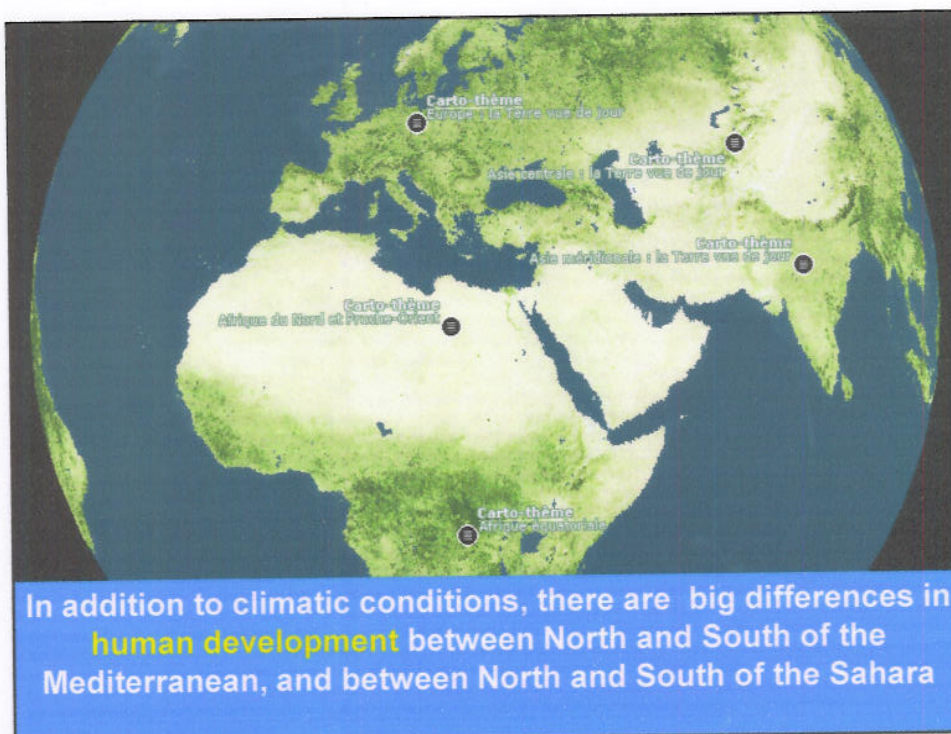
- Adaptive capacity relates closely to a **society's "level of wealth, education, institutional strength, and access to technology"**

	High Adaptive Capacity	Low Adaptive Capacity
Low Exposure	LOW	MODERATE
High Exposure	MODERATE	HIGH

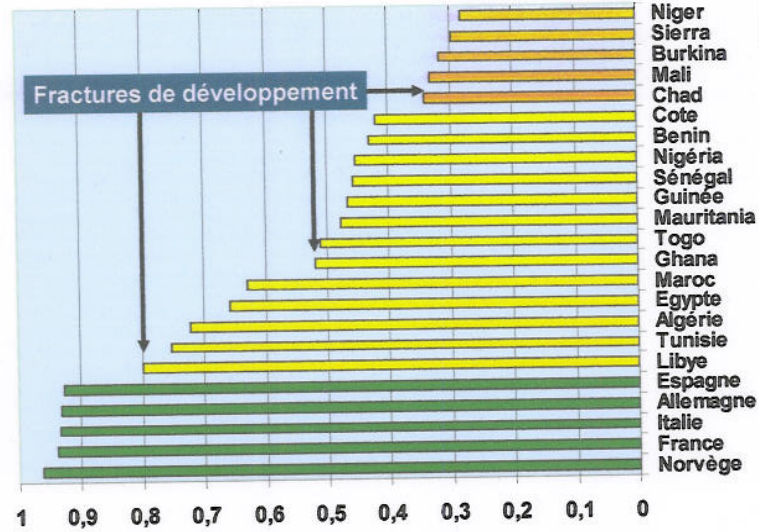
Source: Earth Trends, 2007

The combination of high exposure and low adaptive capacity occurs most commonly in south Mediterranean and sub Saharan countries, making them highly vulnerable to climate change

11

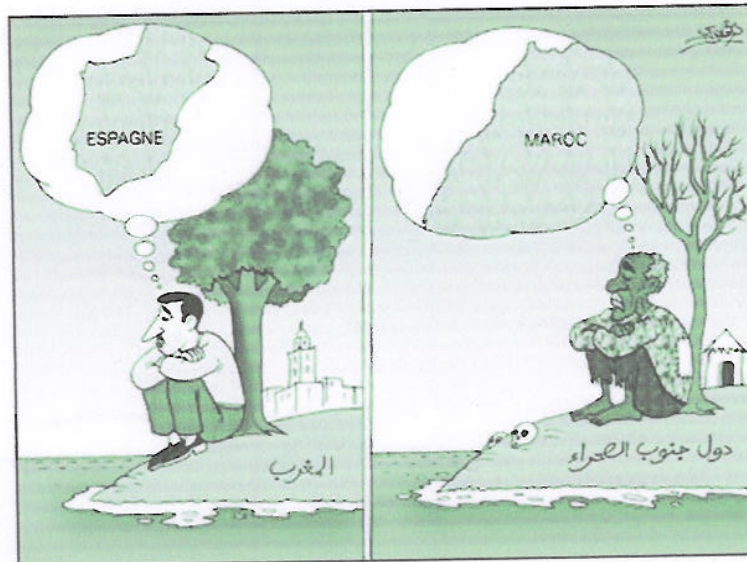


Indice de développement Humain en 2005 (UNDP)



13

Would migration be a solution ???



14

MIGRATION



In the early 60s, thousands of Portuguese illegally arrived in France. They fled poverty, war and repression

EL PAIS



El tripartito
cierra filas sobre
el Estatuto de la
Ciudad de Ceuta y Melilla

Los puntos
de control
se han vuelto
para la zona
de la frontera
libre

Dos oleadas de inmigrantes asaltan la valla de Melilla

Más de 500 inmigrantes se agitan en la ciudad

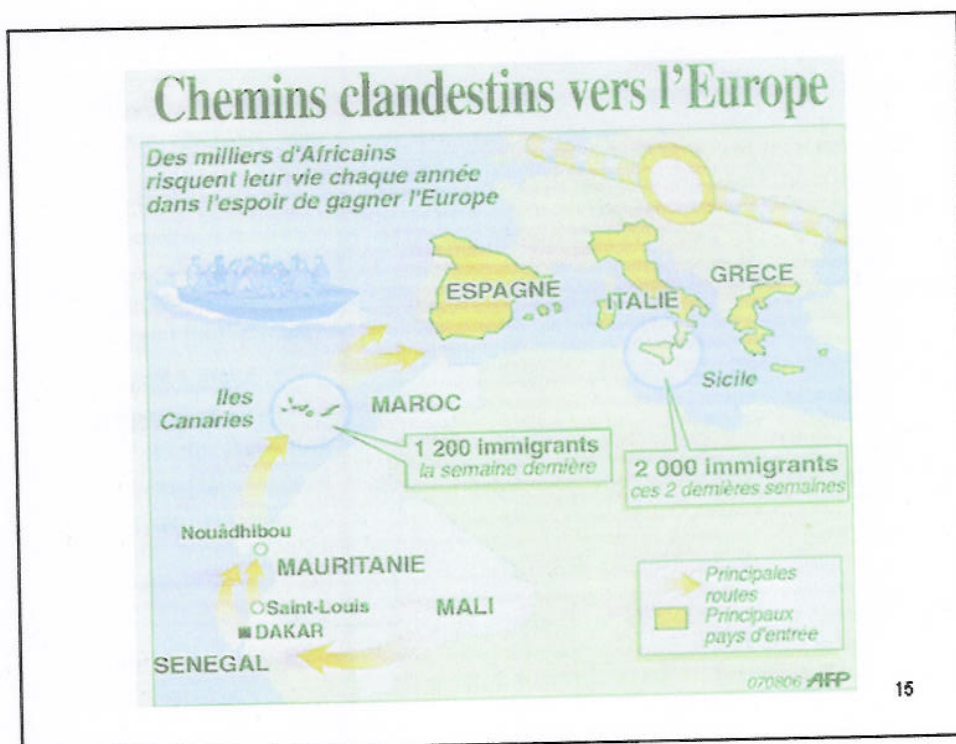
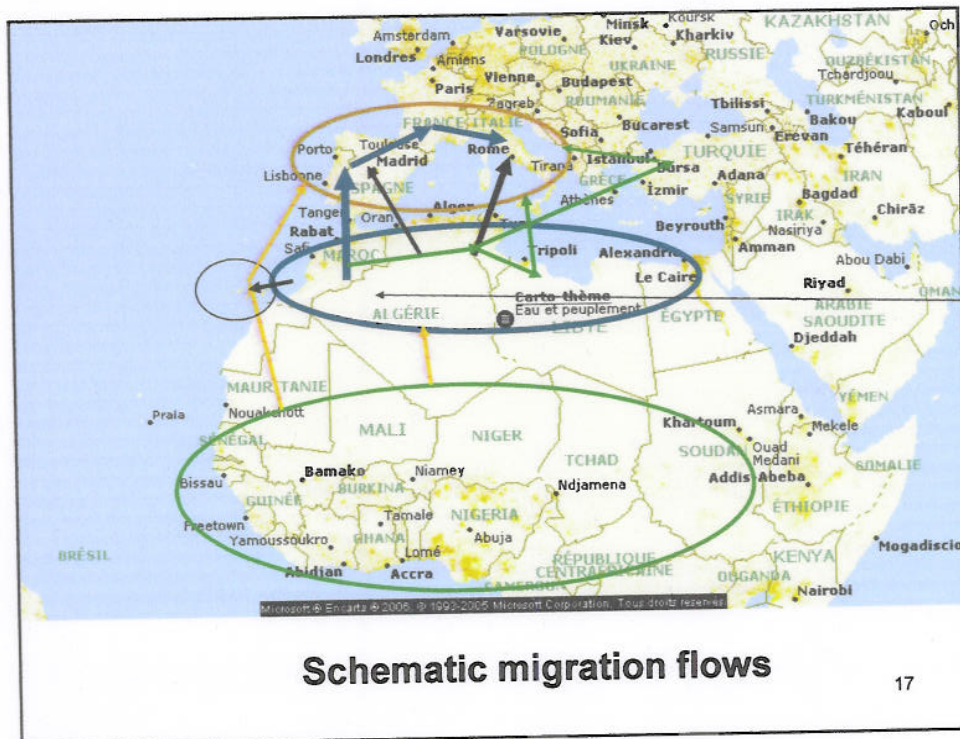
El tripartito
cierra filas sobre
el Estatuto de la
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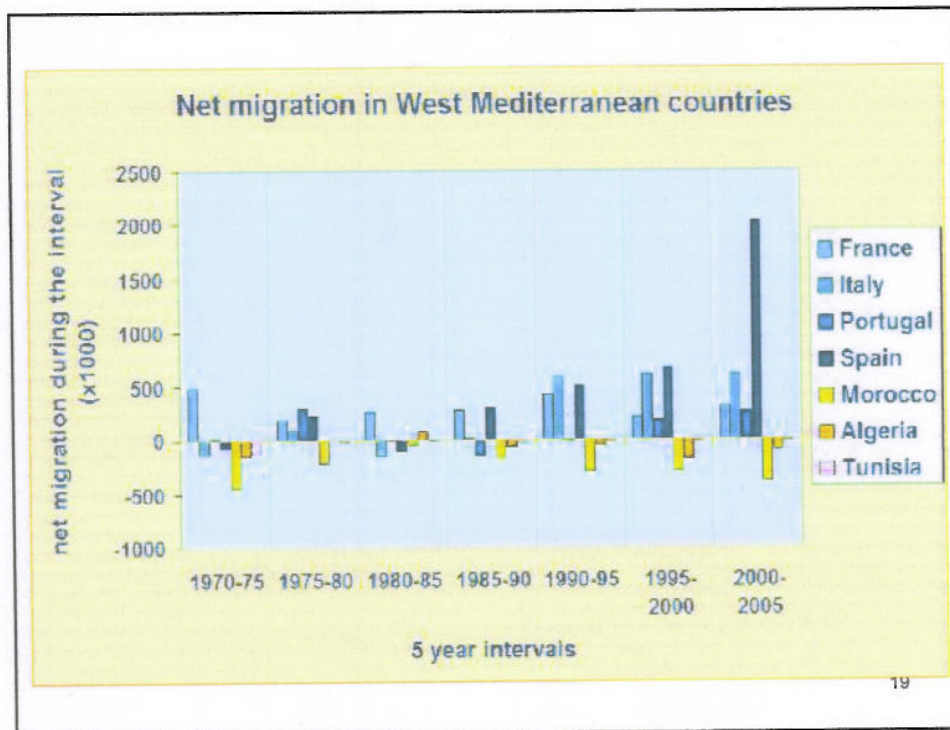
Immigrants flow in Spanish press

ABC, December 5005, in Alicante



Navidad en Alicante. Miles de inmigrantes se agitan en la ciudad de Alicante, en la zona de la frontera libre, esperando a ser repatriados a sus países de origen.





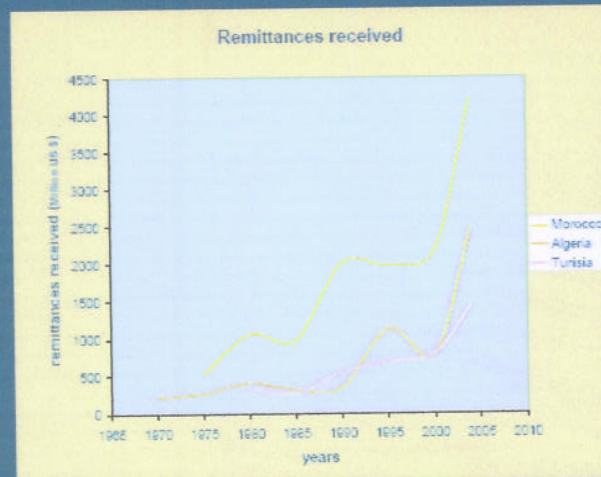
Some Impacts of emigration

Emigration is one of the responses to poverty-Desertification :

- ❑ Improves the income of the family in the source country because of the money transfer (remittances);
- ❑ Reduces pressure on the land.

Reduction of immigration without in site investment will lead to more desertification.

A growing N-S socio-economic gradient



For a long time, the European Union and its member states treated the migration as a pure **security problem**

Asking the south Mediterranean countries to :

- ❑ *stop the illegal emigration and;*
- ❑ *readmit the emigrants who transited through them.*

The establishment of “**readmission centers**” in North African countries was proposed but it would not solve the problem. It will only be a transfer of responsibility.

Immigration should be treated through in a human development view point

- ❑ The European countries need strong North African and sub Saharan partners for evident economic reasons.
- ❑ Regularisation programs, targeting undocumented immigrant workers and implemented by many European countries, solve partially the labour shortage problem;
- ❑ but some european employers continue to engage clandestine immigrants, which prevents them from paying their social security contribution;
- ❑ Selective immigration: a new French idea.

23

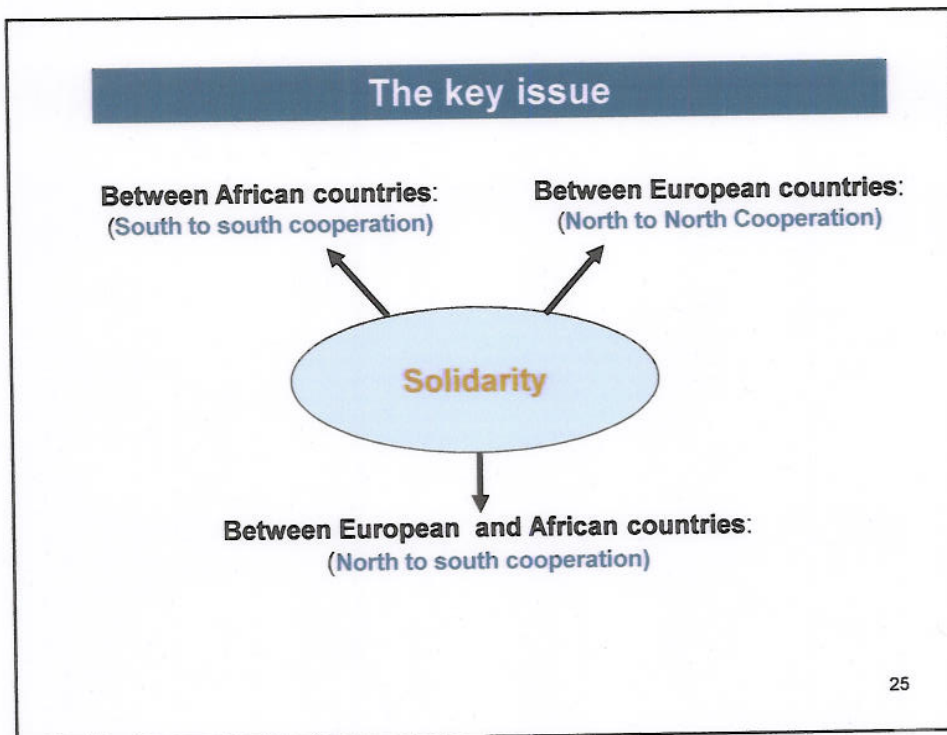
Solidarity is a key issue

Proactive to help in :

- developing production capacities,
- Creating new opportunities for jobs through productive investments;
- increasing income at the local level for all stakeholders;
- alleviate poverty, which reduces land degradation.

This is the best way to improve human development which will certainly allow the potential emigrants to stay home.

24



- Other ideas (1)**
- ❑ The establishment of **better governance** will allow economic growth and would **encourage former emigrants to return back home** and participate to the development of their countries through positive investment partnerships.
 - ❑ Recent development of bilateral (Spain, France, Italy) and multilateral (ex: EC, WB-GEF, MCA, MA) cooperation programs are promising: EU-North Africa-Sub-Sahara Africa **Ministerial Conference in July 2006 in Morocco**.
 - ❑ **Decentralised cooperation and south to south cooperation**, being developed, are good initiatives in direct partnership with the local communities.
- 26

Other ideas (2)

- ❑ The obligations of the UNCCD require more inputs from the developed European countries to reduce the desertification rate by promoting sustainable participatory land management and poverty alleviation in less developed parties.
- ❑ This is the best way to control, positively, south to north migration and to assure environmental security in the Mediterranean region.
- ❑ More cooperation and collaboration between Annexes 1 (Africa) and 4 (South Mediterranean countries).

27

CONCLUSIONS

- ✓ Poverty reduction and migration control is a real challenge for both policy makers and human development international institutions;
- ✓ Better governance is needed in most of the African countries. **Decentralization** is necessary for **local development**;
- ✓ **South to south cooperation** with the help of international organizations is an appropriate way to promote sub-regional solidarity for combating desertification.

28