



المملكة المغربية

**Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination
Against Women
(CEDAW)**

Speech of Ms. Aawatif Hayar

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**To the Committee on the elimination of discrimination
against women**

**On the occasion of examining the combined
national report of the fifth and sixth periodic
reports of the Kingdom of Morocco on the CEDAW**

Geneva – June 21 2022

Madam Chairman of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women;
Ladies and Gentlemen expert
members of the Committee;

- First of all, I would like to express to you the honor of the delegation of the Kingdom of Morocco, participating in this interactive dialogue, on the occasion of examining the combined national report of the fifth and sixth periodic reports of the Kingdom of Morocco on the implementation of the requirement of the agreement on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. This is in accordance with our country's firm conviction of the importance of interaction and continued cooperation with the UN human rights bodies, including your esteemed committee.
- I seize this opportunity to express my thanks, on my behalf and on behalf of all the members of the delegation of the Kingdom of Morocco, to you and to all the members of your committee and the rest of the UN mechanisms for their tireless and continuous efforts to strengthen the protection and the promotion of human rights.
- This interactive dialogue comes in an international context marked by a set of economic, social, environmental and health challenges that have a direct impact on women conditions, especially the epidemiological situation that the world has witnessed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- and in this context We would like to salute women in Morocco and all over the world for their determination in confronting the Covid-19 pandemic, and the efforts made by women of the world in general, and Moroccan women in particular, for their presence in the front lines to manage this crisis, each one, from her position and responsibility. I also seize this opportunity to note the role played by your committee in constructing the efforts of various actors and sensitizing them to the importance of involving women in managing public affairs in light of this crisis.
- In this context, Morocco, under the wise leadership of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, May God Assist Him, has managed to deal with the situation imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic, according to an approach that was not limited to confronting the epidemic only, but also aimed to address its social and economic repercussions. This is done through a modern and innovative integrated health and social system, in terms of the techniques and means adopted, which made it possible to provide the means and conditions of medical protection and prevention for all citizens,

free of charge, to confront the Covid-19 virus, and to generalize financial support for vulnerable groups, including women in difficult situations, In the horizon of adapting the unified social registry which will enable a better targeting and provide a database that facilitate access to financial compensation and social services for groups in precarious situation .

- Despite the various negative repercussions of the Covid-19 pandemic, it has enabled the Kingdom to develop a future perspective, aiming at building the components of an inclusive and sustainable competitive economy, based on creativity, digitization and taking into account the aspirations of the various social strata, including women first, as they are essential actors in overall development, in the horizon of achieving prosperity and peace at all levels.

[Madam Chairman, ladies and gentlemen experts;](#)

- This interactive dialogue comes to assess our country's efforts in the execution of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, in an international context characterized by the increasing dynamism of continuing efforts to achieve the seventeen sustainable development goals. The promotion of the status of women is an essential entry point for achieving these goals, as emphasized by the fifth goal related to gender equality, and in a perfect accordance with the principle of “leaving no one behind.”

- From this point of view, it is necessary to emphasize the efforts made by our country in this field. This is reflected in the national report prepared by the Kingdom of Morocco in 2020, within the framework of implementing the requirements of the decision of the United Nations General Assembly 70/1, especially its call for regular monitoring of the progress made in implementing the sustainable development goals. As well as the recommendations of the National Commission for Sustainable Development held in April 2022 on the achievement of the sustainable development goals.

- being Conscious of the importance of enhancing women’s resilience and promoting their conditions, in times of peace and armed conflicts, and managing humanitarian crises, including health, the kingdom has engaged in a thorough responsibility and seriousness into the UN agenda: “Women, Peace, Security” and has worked to harness all efforts and capabilities to achieve the International Security Council’s resolution No. 1325. That was through the launch of the Kingdom’s National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security in March 2022, where Morocco

emphasized on the occasion that women are “agents of change and equal partners in the decision-making process.”

- It is also worth recalling that the Kingdom of Morocco is a founding member of the "United Nations Group of Friends to Eliminate Violence against Women and Girls", which was launched in response to the warning of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, following the alarming increase of violence within families in the world, during the quarantine period, during the Covid-19 pandemic.

- In continuation of the Kingdom’s involvement in the UN system for the protection of rights women, our country deposited on April 22, 2022 documents of accession to the protocol annexed to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, related to individual complaints.

- And in its earnest endeavor to build a state of truth and law, and to consolidate democracy and human rights principles, the kingdom has also been keen on consolidating its practice of the convention in the field of human rights protection through the adherence to the nine basic conventions of the international law of human rights , the lifting its reservations to the provisions of some of them, such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women - subject of this report - or through the interaction with the universal periodic review mechanism. It also comes through the openness to UN mechanisms, including the Working Group on Discrimination against Women in Legislation and Practice, who visited our country in 2012, and the Special Rapporteur on human trafficking, especially women and children, who visited Morocco in 2014.

Ladies and gentleman ,

- In preparing the national report presented to your attention, we adopted a participatory and consultative methodology that included 32 government sectors and national institutions.

The consultations also included both the House of Representatives and the House of Councilors, and more than 76 NGOs, whose proposals were included in the final version of the report.

- We have also respected the standards adopted in the UN guidelines for reporting, either in terms of compiling data, adopting the results of examining the latest report of our country, and including in the current report all the measures and answers to the concerns and observations of your committee. We also made sure to highlight the efforts of our country and the gains achieved at the

level of adopting and implementing public policies, national programs and legislative reforms in the various domains that covers the Convention, addressing some special issues, as well as identifying difficulties and challenges.

▪ As this report sheds light on the important achievements made by the Kingdom in order to achieve gender equality, we must take a stand in recognition, responsibility and awareness of the magnitude of the challenges facing us, some of which were mentioned in your valuable remarks, which requires more efforts in order to overcome them.

▪ Hence, we consider this station and the constructive interaction that it will provide, as an opportunity to value the gains and examine your observations and recommendations aiming - without a doubt –at supporting us, in order to continue improving the status of girls and women.

Ladies and gentlemen

▪ This report covers the efforts of our country over a period of about 14 years, a period during which the Kingdom of Morocco witnessed a human rights dynamic that has affected all areas. Issues of gender equality and the protection of women's rights and the improvement of their conditions have aroused the greatest interest in the public sector, territorial collectivities, international partners, the private sector and civil society. This contributed to the country's initiation of many legislative and institutional reform projects, and the adoption of a set of strategies, plans and programs according to multiple approaches, most notably the rights-based on human rights development approach and investment in human capital, the gender approach, the territorial approach, the results-based management and the good governance.

▪ The Constitution of the Kingdom of Morocco of 2011 has established this demarche, through its preamble, which affirmed the Kingdom's determination to consolidate and strengthen the institutions of a modern state, whose foundations are participation, pluralism, good governance, to lay the foundations of a solidary society. A society in which everyone enjoys security, freedom, dignity, equality, and equal opportunities, social justice, and the foundations for a decent life in a context of the interrelationship between the rights and duties of citizenship as well as the prohibition of all forms of discrimination, whatever its cause, with the assignment of public authorities to develop and activate policies directed to that.

- In the constitution, women have been given a central position as it is stipulated in its 6th chapter that the state should work to provide conditions that enable the generalization of freedom of citizens and equality among them and their participation in political economies and social life as stipulated in chapter 19 by creating a parity commission and combating all forms of discrimination, and other governance bodies whose functions varied between regulation and legalization, protection and promotion of human rights and sustainable development.
- The constitution also enshrined the principle of the transcendence of international conventions ratified by the Kingdom over national legislation and work for adapting the latter ones with the requirements of that ratification. Accordingly, the Kingdom has spared no effort in adopting appropriateness as a strategic choice in legislation and practice. This made it possible to provide the necessary conditions and frameworks for the protection and advancement of women's rights.
- The outputs of these legislative projects resulted in the issuance of many legal texts, the contents of which were divided between the abolition of some requirements that were preventing the actual implementation of the principle of equality and non-discrimination, on one hand and on the other hand, the adoption of new requirements that would empower women and achieve equal opportunities and equality between them and men, in the exercise of rights and their fair and equitable access to these rights.
- In this regard, we can note some legislative reforms, which constituted a milestone in addressing issues of gender equality, combating gender-based discrimination, combating violence and empowering women. We particularly mention here the amendments to the Criminal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure, the promulgation of the Law against violence against women, the Law on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, the Domestic Workers Protection Law, the regulatory laws for territorial collectivities, the electoral laws, the budget regulatory law, and the law related to anonymous joints stock companies for the reform of contracting and public institutions and the Law on the Creation of the Parity Commission and the Combating of All Forms of Discrimination, and other laws.
- The first and second government's equality programs enabled to focus on the transversal inclusion of a gender approach in policies and programs, the adoption of gender budgeting, and steps taken in the political and economic empowerment of women.

Moreover the kingdom through its independent statistical body has been keen to enrich the field of national statistics related to data and gender based analytical research to support public policies especially in the area that constitutes major concerns such as violence against women economic activity gender relations and the effect of the covid pandemic.

Ladies and gentlemen

Connecting to the efforts undertaken by our country to accelerate the actual equality between men and women, especially at the level of political participation in a positive dynamic in which everyone, including constitutional and governmental institutions and parties were involved.

Moroccan women were able to assume the highest positions of responsibility in party structure as a general secretary and president of a national assembly, our country also adapted in 2021 a set of organizational laws to increase women's representation in the Parliament, in the territorial councils and in professional chambers. The revision of the organizational laws related to elections enabled the achievement of a set of results following the general legislative, regional and municipality elections of September 8, 2021, As the number of women reached a quantum leap in the regional councils to reach and 35.60% in prefectural councils compared to 4.5% in 2015.

- The representation of women in the Parliament has also undergone a remarkable evolution, as their number moved from 81 women i.e. 20.5%, in 2016, to 96 women in 2021 i.e 24.3%.

- our country has adopted a set of laws and organizational texts aiming at establishing equality and achieving parity between men and women in assuming senior and responsibility positions in the public service. This was reinforced by the organization of training courses in all fields related to the institutionalization of equality and women leadership in the public service. This led to a noticeable improvement in the representation of women in public administration, which moved during the period between 2012 and 2021 from 38.6% to 42% at the level of the percentage of employment in the public sector, and from 10.38% to 18.52% at the level of senior positions, and from 16.21% to 25.76% at the level of responsibility positions.

In this regard we note that among the outcomes of the social dialogue 2022 is its institution and the unification of the minimum wage system between the agricultural, industrial, trade and sector of services in addition to a 15 days paternity, leave license in the public sector.

The government also has included 6 women ministers with a heavy professional backgrounds, instead of 1 female minister in the year of 2016.

A woman was also elected president of Gulmin ouad noun region and she was also elected president of the association of heads of councils of the regions of the kingdom and 3 women were elected mayors of 3 major cities namely, Rabat, Casablanca and Marrakesh .

Women share constitutional councils including:

The national council for human right, which is global and independent national institution which considers all cases related to the defense and protection of human rights and freedoms and to ensuring their full execution

The supreme council of accounts which is the supreme body for controlling public finances in the kingdom and its independence is guaranteed by the constitution as it exercises the mission of consolidating and protecting the principle and a value of good governance, transparency and accountability for the state and public agency.

The high authority for audio visual communication it undertakes the modification and development of the audiovisual communication sector and it insures the guarantee of freedom of expression and the media and the guarantee of pluralistic and impartial media.

Law 19.20 related to joint stock companies with limited liability established mandatory quota for women on the boards of directors of companies traded in the capital market, and it is targeted that the proportion of women (at least) will reach 30 per cent by 2024 and 40 per cent by 2027.

In the same context law 50.21 in article 27 obligates the necessity of observing the principle of parity between men and women stipulated in chapter 19 of the constitution, when appointing members of the deliberative body of public enterprises .

- Believing in the importance of strategic planning and programming, and in order to activate the contents of the constitutional document that called on public authorities to formulate and prepare policies in order to improve the situation of women and their enjoyment of all rights recognized for all, the Kingdom adopts a new, scientific approach, based on diagnosis through a multidimensional study, which enables the collection and analysis of data through a developed statistical system. Its goal is to crystallize and correct strategies, plans and programs, and its main objective is to activate actual rights and territorial implementation, with the development of specific indicators and the involvement of all actors when preparing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating.

its new scientific approach to formulating effective public policies is derived from the outcomes of the report on the new development model of the Kingdom, which considered to be a guiding map

for the next stage, and which opens up new horizons that will bring about radical changes in the development structure, based on the adoption of equality between women and men on the ground of opportunities.

In the results, it also gives women a broader scope to participate in economic and social development, create wealth and establish businesses capable of providing more job opportunities and developing indicators of activity for women.

- This was translated by a set of measures and commitments of the current government program, most notably “achieving more than 30% of the activity rate of women by the year 2026,” in line with the outputs of the new development model, which set 45% as the percentage of women’s activity that must be reached by the year of 2035, and also promoting equitable and smooth access to decent work, reconciling the private and professional lives of women.
- In accordance with to this path, and with a desire to provide the necessary conditions to win this bet, and to provide a framework that ensures harmony and convergence between the various initiatives and interfering, and establishes tracking, evaluation and mobilization of all stakeholders from government sectors, national institutions, soil groups, the private sector and civil society associations, the Governmental Council approved on the 9th of June 2022 A decree establishing the National Commission for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

- Recalling the concerns of the international community on issues of sustainable development and its goals, the effects of climate fluctuations, drought and the depletion of natural resources on the standard of living of individuals and the impact of national economies and the consequent widening of the cycle of poverty and fragility, deepening social and spatial inequalities, and other social phenomena of which women are the greatest victims, Morocco on the other hand has opened major workshops , the aim of

which is to provide a decent livelihood for all citizens; By supporting the economy and investing in human capital, which are the workshops in which women are among the largest participants and beneficiaries, and we mention here:

- **The National Initiative for Human Development**, which was launched in 2005 and is still ongoing. It is a royal initiative that has contributed greatly to fighting poverty and reducing categorical and spatial inequalities, by targeting groups in a difficult situation, breaking the isolation from the rural world and rehabilitating the human element, and contributing to providing proximity and quality services;

- **Green Morocco Plan 2008-2020**; Financial allocations were allocated to it and which enabled it to mobilize important financial contributions to the private sector, where the total amounts allocated amounted to 104 billion dirhams allocated to the implementation of many national programs that have a direct impact on the population of the rural world, especially women and girls, as it contributed to achieving economic and social independence for women through farming initiatives which aims at inserting them in society.

- **The Rural Development Fund** to raise the income of farmers and improve the livelihood of the rural population, which was strengthened in the period 2016-2022 by allocating an amount of 50 billion dirhams, within which several projects were implemented.

To combat social and territorial inequalities in rural areas, it focused on the construction of roads and pathways, the construction of educational institutions, health centers and clinics, the provision of water and electricity, and programs to support solidarity farming, which targeted fragile areas such as mountains, oases, and drier areas.

Adoption of the national strategy “The Green Generation (2020-2030), which prioritizes the human element, especially women and youth in rural areas.

- **Reforming the justice system**, where the constitutional framework of the Kingdom enshrines the principle of separation of powers and the independence of the judiciary, and launching workshops to reform the justice system in order to provide favorable conditions for a strong and

independent judiciary that can achieve judicial security and protect the rights of individuals and groups and achieve several goals, the most important of which is the creation of the justice system and the promotion of efficiency judicial procedures, simplifying procedures and judicial procedures, and facilitating litigants' access to the courts. Women's issues in terms of rights and access to justice services, and in terms of enhancing the capacities of actors in the justice system with regard to the gender approach and gender equality, have gained an important place in these workshops;

- **Social protection workshop:** This workshop, launched by His Majesty King Mohammed VI, may God blesses and sustains him, enjoys a special follow-up and care of his majesty, this workshop is considered to be a social revolution that will make it possible to overcome the shortcomings of the health coverage system, and provide financial support to improve the living conditions of citizens, maintain their dignity and reduce Poverty and fragility.

- This is done through several axes, the most important of which are:

1. Universal compulsory health coverage, which will enable an additional 22 million targets in 2022, to benefit from basic sickness insurance, which will cover the costs of treatment, drug acquisition, care and hospitalization;
2. Generalization of family allowances for the benefit of about 7 million school-age children;
3. Expanding the base of participation in the retirement system by integrating about 5 million Moroccans from the active population who do not have the right to retirement.
4. Generalizing the benefit of compensation for job loss for every person who has a steady job.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Combating violence against women and girls is one of the main pillars of this agreement, and on this basis, the Kingdom of Morocco has adopted a multidimensional approach, based on prevention, protection, care and restraint, as well as strengthening the legislative framework for the protection of women.

- In an effort to enhance the protection of women from all forms of violence that may be practiced against them, Law No. 103.13 on combating violence against women was approved, which entered into force in September 2018.
- This law constituted a qualitative leap in the field of combating violence against women by defining violence in accordance with international standards and criminalizing all acts that are considered violence against women because of their sex while institutionalizing the sponsorship system through sponsorship cells at the central and decentralized level, and committee mechanisms to coordinate the intervention of all relevant actors Emphasizing the need for public authorities to take all necessary measures and measures to prevent violence against women.
- This law took a wide space in the national public debate at the time of its preparation and during the activation of its requirements, and in interaction with this discussion, at the end of the year 2021, with a group of institutional partners, a study was launched to track the activation of this law, with the aim of reaching conclusions that would anticipate the necessary decisions Related to improving the legal text, or providing the conditions for its optimal activation, in terms of the material, financial or human capabilities necessary for its enforcement.
- **In this context the Kingdom of Morocco is aware of the challenges** associated with combating the phenomenon of violence against women, as it is a complex and multidimensional phenomenon, in which the cultural dimension carries great weight. Through all channels of socialization, with the involvement of **all men, youth and boys.**
- We take this occasion to stress on the importance of the Marrakesh Declaration to Eliminate Violence against Women and Girls, which was signed on March 08, 2020, under the effective presidency of Her Royal Highness Princess Lalla Meryem, which is a distinguished initiative that in 2022 was recognized by UN Women as an international practice A model has succeeded in mobilizing government sectors and national

institutions concerned with combating violence against women for participatory action and preventive interventions to eradicate this phenomenon. In this context, unified standards have been set for the quality of services to support women victims of violence, and the implementation of a land protocol has been developed and followed up To this end, it includes all partners, including civil society. The requirements of the Marrakesh Declaration also included the implementation of participatory initiatives to eliminate child marriage, including combating school wastage as a mainstay of early marriage, which enabled in 2021 to recover about 20,000 girls who had actually dropped out of school and to crystallize an integrated social system to prevent this pest.

- We take this opportunity to note the efforts of Moroccan civil society actors, especially women's associations, and listening centers, which play pioneering roles alongside the state, in accompanying women in listening, directing, and advocating their issues, roles enshrined in the Moroccan constitution through the quotation in the third paragraph of Article 12 , on the contribution of associations interested in issues of public affairs and non-governmental organizations, within the framework of participatory democracy, to the preparation of decisions and projects of elected institutions and public authorities, as well as to their activation and evaluation.

Ladies and Gentlemen

- In the field of education in response to the requirements of the constitution and various international conventions, the strategic vision for education reform 2015-2030, which was formulated by the Supreme Council for Education, Training and Scientific Research, and which culminated in 2019 with the issuance of Framework Law 51.17. The essence of this vision lies in the establishment of a new school, based on quality, equity, equal opportunities and excellence. It also emphasizes the universal schooling of children, in particular girls.

In the context of these efforts, we mention some indicative figures that constitute a positive development for female schooling in the period between 2019 to 2021.

- In primary education (age group 4-5 years), it increased from 54.1% to 70.7% at the national level, and from 39.2% to 64.6% in rural areas.

- As for the primary school, it increased from 99.7% to 100% at the national level.

- As for the secondary preparatory corps, this percentage increased from 89.3% to 92.7% at the national level, while in the rural areas, this percentage moved from 75.8% to 80.1%. In the same vein, the secondary qualification corps recorded a transition from 65.5% to 70.9% at the national level, and from 35.6% to 41.4% in rural areas.

On the other hand, the Kingdom of Morocco has witnessed in recent years a remarkable improvement in the indicators of the health system on several levels. We mention, for example, the expansion of health coverage, as well as the increase in the life expectancy rate and the decline in the maternal mortality rate; The infant mortality rate has decreased, which is included in the Kingdom's report before you.

- However, despite the gains that have been made in the health field and their importance, we are aware of the need to improve the national health system, which is provided by major open workshops such as social protection reform workshops.

Finally,

Ladies and Gentlemen

- Despite these achievements in the field of the scope of the conventions requirement is the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women, we are aware of the need to exert

more effort and work in areas that the Kingdom considers an essential entry point for achieving full participation of women and ensuring their independence. Perhaps the most prominent concern in this context is the area of economic and political empowerment; Continuing efforts to end with impunity in the field of combating violence, developing remedies and access to justice, especially in rural areas, and confronting new patterns of violence such as digital violence, while working to increase the adoption of awareness-raising, sensitization and awareness-raising schemes and programs to counter the cultural weight and societal restraints that perpetuate discrimination.

- What must be emphasized in this context is the distinction of the current political stage of the Kingdom of Morocco with a strong political awareness and a firm conviction of the necessity of activating equality and striving towards parity.

We also renew to you the readiness of the Kingdom of Morocco to pursue a positive and constructive interaction with all the mechanisms of the United Nations human rights system in general, and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in particular, in partnership with all stakeholders, in particular, civil society organizations active in the field and national institutions concerned with the protection of women's rights and its promotion.

- Our country's accession to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women will constitute an opportunity to continue the continuous interaction with your mechanism, and a permanent exercise that will develop the Kingdom's good practices **in protecting women's rights and eliminating of all forms of discrimination against them**.
Distinguished Madam Chairman, and respected ladies and gentlemen, experts, please accept the Kingdom of Morocco's many thanks for your interactive effort and for your kind listening and peace be upon you

