

**Kingdom of Morocco**

The Ministry Delegate to the Minister of Foreign Affairs  
and International Cooperation in Charge of  
Moroccan Living Abroad and Migration Affairs



**المملكة المغربية**

الوزارة المنتدبة لدى وزير الشؤون الخارجية  
والتعاون الدولي المكلفة بالمغاربة  
المقيمين بالخارج وشؤون الهجرة

# Morocco's Migration Policies and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration



**Global Compact**  
FOR **Migration**

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**Avec l'appui :**



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## **Morocco's Migration Policies and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration**



"While some see a challenge in migration, the Kingdom sees an opportunity. An opportunity that offers Morocco the occasion to confirm once again its African dimension, of which it is proud. Our country hosts indeed a growing number of Sub-Saharan migrants, thanks to a humanist and strong-willed policy.

Receiving these persons coming from sister countries with their religion, culture, family traditions and life rhythms has been natural on this African soil.

At national scale, this deliberate policy is in line with the international commitments that our country has made. It has enabled us to organize, in particular, two regularization campaigns for irregular migrants and to implement numerous programmes aimed, among others, at fostering the integration of migrants and asylum seekers and of their families.

Standing firm against alarmist talks considering immigration as a destructive phenomenon, the Kingdom of Morocco has adopted a proactive and unique approach that upholds the idea that Morocco's identity has been nurtured by successive migration flows.

Whether at regional, international, national or local level, the Kingdom of Morocco pursues a comprehensive humanist approach, based on the respect for fundamental rights and migrants' dignity.

This is the essence of the message that We have committed to convey in the African Agenda on Migration that We have presented during the 30th

Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the African Union of January 2018.

Elaborated based on an inclusive and participatory approach, this Agenda reflects the ideas, proposals and opinions from a high-level experts' panel, amongst whom civil society actors and researchers. Through this Agenda, We have committed to deconstruct prejudices and stereotypes forged around migration.

A similar commitment and a similar will shall guide Morocco's action for the upcoming deadlines, including the 11th session of the Global Forum on Migration and

Development that will be held from 5 to 7 December, and the International Conference on the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, scheduled on 10 and 11 December."

Extract from the message of His Majesty the King Mohammed VI to the participants of the 3rd International Conference on the Dialogue of Cultures and Religions, Fes, 10-12 September 2018

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# Introduction

## Overall context and objectives

### The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration is a historic opportunity

For the first time in history, the nations of the world have come together to improve cooperation on international migration. The Global Compact is based on the general agreement that migration is an essential dimension of human history and that it is a source of prosperity, innovation and sustainable development. It recognizes that no country or region can address the challenges and opportunities of migration alone. It also emphasizes that, in order for migration to take place in a safe, orderly and regular manner, the adverse drivers of migration must be tackled together and that additional pathways for regular migration must be opened for people to fulfill their legitimate aspirations to freedom of movement, while recognizing the demographic, economic, so-

cial and environmental changes that societies are undergoing.

The Global Compact is the product of an unprecedented consultation process that has been inclusive and transparent. It has cut across countries and regions, gathered civil society organizations and human rights institutions. It has been the topic of numerous fora. The Global Forum on Migration and Development that Morocco co-presides with Germany since 2017 and until the end of the year has made it a central theme of its discussions for the past two years. Every region has committed to come up with a common position to be presented for discussion and many countries have organized internal consultations to define their own position. In Morocco, national consultations were held in September 2017 with civil society and diaspora representatives, scholars and researchers, representatives of the private sector and public institutions. These national consultations have enabled Morocco to come with a consolidated contribution to the Global Compact, the “Recommendations of the Kingdom of Morocco on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migrations”.



## Morocco held national consultations on the Global Compact in September 2017

Morocco has for a long time been advocating for the conclusion of such a global cooperative framework. In His Speech to the participants to the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Human Rights Forum on 27 November 2014 in Marrakech, His Majesty the King Mohammed VI – May God Assist Him, invited “the international community to resume discussions to come up with an international and regional migration governance framework, in line with the High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development initiated by the former United Nations Secretary General, Mr. Kofi Annan”.

## The Global Compact is an agreement to cooperate

This Global Compact, however, is yet only, and as coined by the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General on International Migration, Ms. Louise Arbour, “a framework for the future”. It is “an agreement by

Member States to cooperate with a long-term vision on how to better harness the benefits of human mobility and how to mitigate its challenges”, that needs to be translated into action and concrete partnerships by governments, regional and international institutions. In this context, the Global Compact invites “all Member States to develop, as soon as practicable, ambitious national responses for the implementation of the Global Compact”.

The present document represents a first attempt by Morocco to craft such a national response. Its purpose is to take stock of progress made by Morocco in the implementation of its national migration strategies against the objectives and commitments of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, identify key challenges and propose a course of action for the years to come.

## Morocco, country of emigration

### The Moroccan diaspora is the 10th largest in the world

From a few thousand migrants at the beginning of the twentieth century, emigration from Morocco has increased at an accelerated pace throughout the century to reach around 5 million migrants today or about 15% of the national population. Mainly concentrated in Western Europe (82%), and in particular in France, Spain, Italy, and, increasingly, Germany, Moroccan emigration has also increased in the United States and Arab countries, especially in the Gulf.

While migration initially took place as part of bilateral labour agreements with European countries, it was soon widened by family reunification schemes and by more spontaneous migration decisions, originally regular, and gradually more irregular and more difficult, with the tightening of border controls with Europe.

Moroccan emigrants are predominantly young, and increasingly feminized and educated. About 50% of the emigrant population

has acquired citizenship of the country of residence, and 40% are born there. The majority of emigrants of the first and second generation that represent altogether 62% of the migrant population have, however, a lower degree of education and thus are more economically fragile.

As a consequence of the 2008 economic crisis and of the deterioration of the social climate in Western Europe, Moroccans living abroad are facing a set of challenging issues in the countries of residence, ranging from unemployment, poverty, school failure, risks of extremism, racism and discrimination.

In general, Moroccans living abroad have kept strong cultural and social ties with the regions and communities of origin. These ties could however become weaker amongst third and fourth generation migrants. The economic contribution of Moroccans living abroad to the national economy remains important, since Moroccan diaspora remittances constitute about 7% of the GDP.

### The SNMRE is the Delegate Ministry's strategy for Moroccans Living Abroad

The 2011 Constitution states in Art 16 that “the Kingdom of Morocco works for the protection of the rights and legitimate interests of the Moroccan citizens resident abroad (...). It is committed to the maintenance and to the development of their human ties, notably cultural, with the Kingdom, and the preservation of their national identity. It sees to the reinforcement of their contribution to the development of their homeland”. Congruent with these constitutional provisions, the Delegate Ministry in charge of Moroccans Living Abroad and Migration Affairs has developed a National Strategy for Moroccans Living Abroad with three main objectives: i) preserving their Moroccan identity; ii) protecting their rights; and iii) reinforcing their contribution to the country’s development. This strategy is implemented by the Delegate Ministry through a number of programmes and projects, in coordination with relevant ministerial departments.

## Morocco, country of immigration

Over the past decades, Morocco has also gradually evolved from a country of emigration and transit

to a country of immigration, in particular from Sub-Saharan Africa. The reasons for this change can be attributed to different factors: the strengthening of European border controls to deter irregular migration has rendered access to Europe more difficult for migrants, forcing them to spend more time in transit in Morocco or to decide to abandon their migration project and to stay in Morocco; Moroccan political stability and economic growth has made Morocco a more attractive country of destination; and the deepening of relationships between Morocco and Sub-saharian Africa has increased regional mobility, in particular for students.

Immigration to Morocco is expected to increase over the next decades as a consequence of economic and demographic changes in Africa, and with the foreseen continuation of the current stringent migration policies in Europe. The reintegration of Morocco in the African Union and the possible membership of Morocco to ECOWAS could also have an impact on migration trends to Morocco. The African Union has adopted in January 2018 the protocol relating to free movement

of persons, right of residence and right of establishment, which has been signed by 32 countries so far. Moreover, if Morocco is to integrate ECOWAS, it will have to adopt the visa-free regime that ECOWAS countries have put in place.

### **Morocco adopted a National Immigration and Asylum Strategy in December 2014**

The evolution of Morocco from an emigration country to an immigration country has led Morocco to embark on a major overhaul of its immigration policy. Faced with a significant increase of migrants on its soil, particularly from Sub-Saharan countries, and alarmed by their difficult living conditions and vulnerability, Morocco took the decision to develop, at the invitation of His Majesty the King, a comprehensive policy on immigration and asylum based on a humanistic approach and consistent with the Kingdom's international commitments that was adopted by the Government Council on 18 December 2014.

This National Immigration and Asylum Strategy is an inter-mi-

nisterial endeavour that pursues four strategic objectives: i) managing migration flows in a manner consistent with human rights; ii) facilitating the integration of legal immigrants; iii) implementing an appropriate institutional framework; and iv) upgrading the regulatory framework. The Strategy is implemented through a number of programmes by the relevant ministerial departments and the Delegate Ministry. The Ministry is in charge of steering the overall implementation of the Strategy and of coordinating and following up on programme implementation through four dedicated programme committees.

The past year has seen Morocco rise again as a main transit point for irregular entry into Europe. With 30,000 illegal border crossings detected during the first six months of 2018, the "Western Mediterranean Route" is, according to Frontex, the 2<sup>nd</sup> most important entry point after the "Eastern Mediterranean Route" through Turkey, and surpassing by 50% the "Central Mediterranean Route" that was once Europe's main irregular gateway. 20% of border crossing attempts were the fact of Moroccan nationals. This

## The “Western Mediterranean Route” is the 2<sup>nd</sup> main entry point for irregular migration into Europe

recent evolution places new challenges for Morocco in the management of its migration policies.

### Structure of the document

The document provides a brief overview of progress achieved by the Kingdom of Morocco against each of the 23 objectives and commitments of the Global Compact, often referring, to the best extent possible, to the range of actions proposed by the Compact and considered to be relevant policy instruments and best practices for each objective. This overview is meant to provide elements of a qualitative baseline against which further progress will be compared. The document also identifies a set of key challenges faced by Morocco in reaching the Compact’s objectives and proposes a course of action to be implemented to bring Morocco closer to fulfill the Global Compact’s commitments.

The Document was prepared by the Delegate Ministry in charge of Moroccans Living Abroad and Migration Affairs. It is based on an analysis that the Ministry has performed on the state of implementation of the National Strategy for Moroccans Living Abroad and of the National Immigration and Asylum Strategy, enriched by the consultations that the Delegate Ministry has on a regular basis with relevant line ministries.

The document is meant to initiate debate and discussion for Morocco to come up with a four-year detailed action plan. It is expected that this discussion will enrich the context analysis and baseline information, provide additional information on key challenges and complement or amend the proposed action points. It was prepared with the call made by the United Nations Deputy Secretary General, Ms. Amina Mohammed, in mind “to use the time between now and the conference in Marrakech to generate ideas that will “breathe life” into the Compact”.

Morocco's achievements and  
challenges against the objectives  
and commitments of the Global  
Compact for Safe, Orderly and  
Regular Migration

## # 1 Collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies

*"We commit to strengthen the global evidence base in international migration by improving and investing in the collection, analysis and dissemination of accurate, reliable and comparable data, disaggregated by sex, age, migration status and other characteristics relevant in national contexts, while upholding the right to privacy under international human rights law and protecting personal data. We further commit to ensure this data fosters research, guides coherent and evidence-based policy-making and well-informed public discourse, and allows for effective monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of commitments over time."*

### Achievements and challenges

Migration is a phenomenon that Morocco has been experiencing for several decades. From a few thousands at the beginning of the twentieth century, emigration has increased at an accelerated pace after the second half of the century to reach around 5 million migrants today. It is therefore not surprising that research on Morocco's migration trends, patterns, trajectories, motivations and effects on origin and host countries is particularly rich and well established.

### Research on migration issues in Morocco is rich and well-established

Initially the fact of universities and research centres in the European countries that hosted important Moroccan immigrant populations, it rapidly gained momentum in Moroccan universities and research institutions, in particular over the past thirty years. Morocco is now host to a number of internationally reputed scholars, and to a growing number of research centres, such as the "Centre d'Etudes sur les Mouvements Migratoires Maghrébins" (CE3M) in Oujda, the "Association d'Etudes et de Recherche sur les Migrations" (AMERM), or the Agadir

based “Observatoire Régional des Migrations, Espaces et Sociétés (ORMES). International partnerships have been established with a number of international universities and research foundations such as the Konrad Adenauer and Heinrich Böll foundations, the French Institut de Recherchesur le Développement (IRD) that supported the creation of the mixed international research unit MOVIDA, or the Swiss Foundation on Population, Migrations and Environment (PME).

Moreover, international migration issues are now being taught in an increasing number of universities and other higher education institutions (such as the “Ecole Nationale Supérieure de l’Administration” (ENSA), the “Ecole Royale des Officiers de Gendarmerie”, or the “Institut Supérieur de la Magistrature”), as part of initial and in-service training. Overall,

**More than 35 higher education institutions have included migration in their Master programmes**

more than 35 higher education institutions have included inter-

national migration in their Master programmes or have established dedicated Masters to international migration issues. Migration issues are also increasingly dealt with by the country’s statistics office, the Haut Commissariat au Plan (HCP) as well as by the Institut Royal des Etudes Stratégiques (IRES).

A number of publications were produced recently that contributed to enrich the understanding of the effect of the Moroccan diaspora on development and of the recent evolution of Morocco as a country of immigration. These include, but are not limited to, the OECD “Talent Abroad, a Review of Moroccan Emigrants” (2017) that aims at better assessing the economic potential of migrants, the OECD “Interactions between public policies, migration and development in Morocco” (2017) that focuses on analysing the impact of emigration on Morocco’s sustainable development, or the International University of Rabat “les migrants subsahariens au Maroc – enjeux d’une migration de résidence” (2016), that provides an analysis of the socio-economic profile and the integration status of Sub-saharian migrants in Morocco.



## More efforts and better coordination are needed to collect and share detailed information on migration in Morocco

The above notwithstanding, precise and detailed statistics on migration stocks and flows are still lacking and are not being collected on a systematic basis. Moreover, data collected by different institutions is often not comparable or compatible as different definitions and standards are applied. With regard to immigration, data collection on irregular migration is complex and institutional cooperation on information sharing is not yet in place. Public institutions do not have systems and processes to collect information on migrants' access and utilization of basic services. Information is also scarce on migration trends and patterns in the main cities of the Kingdom, preventing local authorities from crafting targeted responses. Finally, while there is a wealth of studies on migration to Europe, very little information is available on South-South migration.

This is in this context that a number of initiatives were recently launched. This includes, in par-

ticular, the endorsement by the African Union at its 31<sup>st</sup> summit in Nouakchott in July 2018 of the Moroccan proposal to establish an African Union Observatory for Migration and Development in Rabat, for which discussions are currently underway. This includes also the launch by the HCP of a National Survey on International Migration that will collect detailed and disaggregated data on international migration in Morocco and provide an in-depth analysis of the trends, patterns, causes and effects of migration on development. This survey, undertaken within the framework of the MED-HIMS project financed by the EU, will utilize standardized methodologies and provide data that is comparable and compatible with other MED-HIMS partner countries. Support is also currently underway to help public institutions to monitor migrants' access and utilization of basic services. Finally, a feasibility study will be launched shortly on the establishment of a national observatory on migration as foreseen in the EU budget support project signed with Morocco in December 2017.

## Planned measures and recommended actions

- > Accelerate the establishment of the National Observatory for Migration(*planned*)
- > Accelerate the establishment of the African Union Observatory for Migration and Development in Rabat(*planned*)
- > Conduct the National Survey on International Migration (HCP) and integrate migration issues in HCP data collection systems(*planned*)
- > Undertake migration profiles of the Kingdom's main cities
- > Adapt public institutions data collection systems and processes to monitor migrants' access and utilization of basic services
- > Improve information flow and collaboration between ministerial departments and public institutions on migration
- > Provide additional support to Moroccan research institutes and universities on international migration research
- > Conduct thematic studies on Moroccans living abroad and migrants in Morocco, with a particular emphasis on employability and contribution to development
- > Conduct periodic surveys and pilot innovative solutions for data and information collection using social media and information technologies
- > Strengthen ministerial capacities to undertake studies on international migration

## #2 Minimize the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin

*“We commit to create conducive political, economic, social and environmental conditions for people to lead peaceful, productive and sustainable lives in their own country and to fulfil their personal aspirations, while ensuring that desperation and deteriorating environments do not compel them to seek a livelihood elsewhere through irregular migration. We further commit to ensure timely and full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as to build upon and invest in the implementation of other existing frameworks, in order to enhance the overall impact of the Global Compact to facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration.”*

### Achievements and challenges

**Major reforms were implemented by Morocco over the past 15 years that have gained Morocco international praise**

A new Constitution was adopted in 2011 that enshrined the primacy of international human rights over national law and provided for their protection and respect, further contributing to build a State governed by the rule of law. The new Constitution also institutionalized the role of civil society organizations and of independent institutions in the elaboration and the monitoring of public policies,

strengthened Parliament's powers and broadened the scope of government's authority and the prerogatives of its head.

In addition, a comprehensive reform of the country's territorial administration was adopted by the Parliament in 2015 that gives increased powers and responsibilities to the regional level, in accordance with the “advanced regionalization”. The reform strengthens financial resources and broadens competencies of the Kingdom's 12 new regions in particular with regard to economic development and management of local affairs. Further reforms were also implemented to foster the independence of the Judiciary, and a new Organic Law on the Higher Council of the Judiciary was promulgated and a National

Justice Sector Reform Charter adopted. A new sustainable development strategy was also adopted in June 2017.

With regard to economic policies, the liberalization of the economy and the privatization of State-owned enterprises that were initiated in the 80's and the 90's were furthered and extended to cover a growing number of economic sectors. The updating of the legal and institutional economic frameworks was fast-tracked. Major investments were also made to steer the territorial structuring of the economy, with a particular emphasis on the country's social and economic infrastructure that led to the implementation of large-scale regional development projects, such as ports, highways, railway systems, water and energy resource development, etc.

**These reforms have enabled Morocco to make great strides towards achieving the MDGs that were all but a few reached in 2015**

Extreme poverty is almost eradicated, absolute poverty was low-

red from 9,1% in 2007 to 4,2% in 2011, though it remains high at 8,9% in rural areas. Social inequalities were reduced and the Gini index fell down from 0.407 to 0.388 during the same period. Access to primary education is almost universal and the universal literacy of the 15-24 years population is in the process of being attained, in particular among girls, where gender parity has been achieved at all education levels. Infant and child mortality rates were decreased by 60% to reach 27‰ in 2015. HIV/AIDS prevalence remains low, indigenous malaria has been eradicated and tuberculosis levels lowered to 82 cases per 100,000 in 2014. Access to potable water and to electricity has increased at a steady pace and liquid sanitation is nearly universal in urban areas. Female participation in policy-making has improved and women make up 21% of the Parliament (though only 4% are elected outside the reserved quota list).

## Inequality, youth unemployment, public administration performance and accountability and the efficiency of social programmes are utmost priorities

Morocco continues, however, to be faced with a number of challenges that it will have to address to secure the gains made and progress towards inclusive sustainable development, in line with the objective of the Sustainable Development Agenda of “leaving no one behind”. Youth unemployment, in particular, remains high (29,3% against 10,5% total), especially in urban areas where it reaches 45,2% and among those with advanced university degrees, which is of particular concern in the context of an aging population. As highlighted by His Majesty the King in his Speech on the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Revolution of the King and the People on 20 August 2018, many young graduates are considering leaving and many Moroccan students abroad are discouraged to return due to the lack of employment prospects. Public administration

performance and accountability and the efficiency of social programmes are two other key areas where major improvements are needed. Finally, Morocco is also particularly vulnerable to climate change, especially with regard to desertification and availability of water resources.

## Planned measures and recommended actions

- > Elaborate a comprehensive development strategy dedicated to Youth with a focus on Youth employment, education, training and entrepreneurship(*planned*)
- > Revamp Morocco’s national social development programmes to avoid scattering and duplication of assistance and reduce management costs to further reduce social inequalities, as per the King’s 29 July 2018 speech, and foster social cohesion(*planned*)
- > Pursue public administration reform to achieve greater coordination, consistency of sectoral policies, efficiency, transparency and accountability, and enact the de-concentration of services(*planned*)
- > Continue to implement the “advanced regionalization” process

for regions to play a more active role in economic development planning(*planned*)

> Continue to support emerging sectors producing exportable added value and purveyors of quality employment, foster economic growth with a pro-poor content(*planned*)

> Implement the Water National Plan (PNE) that lays out the ac-

tions to be pursued by all actors 2030 for a more coherent, integrated and sustainable management of water resources to adapt to climate change(*planned*)

### #3 Provide accurate and timely information at all stages of migration

*“We commit to strengthen our efforts to provide, make available and disseminate accurate, timely, accessible and transparent information on migration-related aspects for and between States, communities and migrants at all stages of migration. We further commit to use this information to develop migration policies that provide a high degree of predictability and certainty for all actors involved.”*

#### Achievements and challenges

##### Information is available but scattered

The provision and dissemination of accurate, accessible and transparent information on migration in Morocco is an area where significant improvements can be made to ensure that it is done in a more comprehensive and systematic manner. Information is available through a number of channels, but is scattered and is often difficult to access and to understand, in particular for general public and foreign migrants.

Several national websites contain information on migration-related issues: the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the websites of Moroccan consular missions contain information related to visa requirements and applica-

tion formalities and customs procedures; the Ministry of Labour and Professional Insertion has set-up a dedicated web application (TAECHIR) for employers seeking to employ foreign workers; the public employment agency ANAPEC has developed a GSM application for migrants providing information and advice on training and job-seeking opportunities, as well as on the services it provides to migrants; and the website of the Delegate Ministry in charge of Moroccans Living Abroad and Migration Affairs – that is currently being overhauled – links up the visitor to the websites where information is available.

**The “Maisons des Marocains du Monde et des Affaires de la Migration” provide advice and orientation to migrants at local level**

At territorial level, information and advisory of Moroccans living abroad and of migrants on migration-related issues are the responsibility of dedicated information offices, the “Maisons des Marocains du Monde et des Affaires de la Migration” that the Delegate Ministry in charge of Moroccans Living Abroad and Migration Affairs is in the process of establishing. Three such offices have opened so far in Beni Mellal, Tiznit and Nador, and two more are planned. These offices are meant to provide an interface between Moroccans living abroad and migrants in Morocco and the Moroccan public administration. A similar pilot initiative had been launched a few years ago in local municipalities of the Souss-Massa and of the Draa-Tafilalet regions with support from the French-Moroccan NGO “Migration & Développement”. 11 migrants reception and orientation desks had been opened in local municipalities to mobilize Moroccans living abroad for local development and provide information and advice to retired Moroccan emigrants on their rights in Morocco.

With regard to immigrants’ information, the Delegate Ministry

has published a comprehensive guidebook for foreigners residing in Morocco “Guide pratique pour faciliter votre intégration au Maroc”. In addition, in order to disseminate practical information to a wider public and in a more easy-reading format, the Ministry has elaborated, in cooperation with GIZ and UNHCR, a set of information brochures for migrants, asylum seekers and for refugees that it plans to turn into an interactive website and a mobile application. A communication plan on Morocco’s National Immigration and Asylum Strategy has also been prepared and is currently being reviewed.

### **Better use needs to be made of digital and social media to disseminate information to migrants**

Guidebooks and other communication products have also been developed in partnership with IOM to inform migrants on options and support programmes for voluntary return and reintegration, and a web platform and mobile application “Bosla” is currently under development as part of a regional initiative to pro-



vide migrants with online information on services provided by public institutions, civil society or international organizations. Awareness-raising events and pre-return training are also provided for migrants to be sensitized on return opportunities and prepare their reintegration.

### Planned measures and recommended actions

- > Launch and publicize a centralized website for Moroccans living abroad, migrants residing in Morocco and prospective migrants to provide comprehensive and accessible information on migration-related issues(*planned*)
- > Disseminate information through public information campaigns and social media in Morocco to promote safe, orderly and regular migration and highlight the risks associated with irregular migration
- > Cooperate with countries of origin to provide pre-departure orientation and awareness-raising events on regular migration options and the risks of irregular migration
- > Disseminate information brochures to migrants, asylum seekers and refugees through a

network of municipalities, civil society organizations, migrants' information offices (Maisons des Marocains du Monde) and social assistance offices, invest in social media to disseminate information and messages(*planned*)

- > Train the personnel of migrants' information offices (Maisons des Marocains du Monde) on the rights and duties of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees, on the rights and needs of Moroccan returnees, and on counseling skills

## #4 Ensure that all migrants have proof of legal identity and adequate documentation

*“We commit to fulfil the right of all individuals to a legal identity by providing all our nationals with proof of nationality and relevant documentation, allowing national and local authorities to ascertain a migrant’s legal identity upon entry, during stay, and for return, as well as to ensure effective migration procedures, efficient service provision, and improved public safety. We commit further to ensure, through appropriate measures, that migrants are issued adequate documentation and civil registry documents, such as birth, marriage and death certificates, at all stages of migration, as a means to empower migrants to effectively exercise their human rights.”*

### Achievements and challenges

#### Digitalization and simplification of procedures to facilitate access to legal documents

According to the Law n°37-99 of 2002 on civil status, “all Moroccans are subjected to registration to the civil status registry. The same applies to foreigners residing in Morocco with regard to the registration of births and deaths on the Moroccan territory”. In order to reach out to non-registered children, a national campaign was launched in 04 September 2017 as well as in 15 July 2018. In addition to Moroc-

can children residing in Morocco, this campaign targeted Moroccan children living abroad and foreign children in Morocco, including migrant and refugee children.

Efforts were made to improve access to civil registry documents. Digitalization of the civil registry is underway since 2005. Moreover, copies of civil registry documents can now be requested electronically via a dedicated web platform “watiqa.ma”. The platform processes and transmits electronic requests to the municipalities currently covered by the system. This is likely to greatly facilitate access of Moroccans living abroad to various legal documents. Moreover, Moroccans living abroad can now be delivered national identity cards by

consular services. The homologation of various foreign administrative documents has also been simplified through the adoption of the Apostille system by Morocco following the ratification of the 1961 The Hague Convention in 2016. Documents can now be legalized in all the prefectures of the Kingdom, while they could only be processed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs previously.

Morocco was also the first country on the African continent to adopt a biometric passport in 2009. The Moroccan biometric passport is in line with the most advanced ICAO standards, the Extended Access Control (EAC) security feature, and is the first passport outside of the European Union to integrate this EAC norm. A web-based platform “passeport.ma” has been launched to inform Moroccan citizens on passport application procedures, fill in application forms and follow-up on applications. The passport application system is linked to the centralized ID card database to further simplify and streamline procedures.

**23,096 migrants were regularized in 2014 and 28,400 have requested regularization in 2017**

Moreover, Morocco has made significant efforts to enable undocumented migrants to access residence permits. Confronted with an increasing number of irregular and undocumented migrants on its soil, Morocco took the decision in 2014 to give them the opportunity to be regularized through an exceptional regularization campaign that was replicated again in 2017. 23,096 persons were regularized during the first regularization campaign and 28,400 requests were submitted in 2017 that are currently being processed. Migrants for which a positive decision is issued are granted one-year residence permits. To provide greater stability for regularized migrants willing to stay in Morocco, decision was taken at the King's request in 2017 for migrants to be issued three-years permits upon expiration of their previous residence card.

Progress was also made to reduce statelessness and ease the conditions for foreigners to acquire Moroccan citizenship. A draft law

was submitted to the Parliament in November 2017 to amend Art 10 of the Moroccan Nationality Code and give the right for foreigners married to a Moroccan woman to acquire Moroccan citizenship by marriage as is currently the case for women marrying Moroccan men. Discussions are also underway with the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Labor on the ratification of the 1954 and 1961 international conventions on statelessness to ensure they do not conflict with national laws.

## Planned measures and recommended actions

- Better target foreign children (migrant and refugee) in the national campaigns for civil status registration
- Extend coverage of “watiqa.ma” web platform to all Moroccan municipalities (planned)
- Process the regularization requests of undocumented migrants and issue residence permits(*planned*)
- Ensure ratification of the 1954 and 1961 international conventions on statelessness(*planned*)
- Ensure that the draft law to amend Art 10 of the Nationality Code is discussed and voted in Parliament(*planned*)

## #5 Enhance availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration

*“We commit to adapt options and pathways for regular migration in a manner that facilitates labour mobility and decent work reflecting demographic and labour market realities, optimizes education opportunities, upholds the right to family life, and responds to the needs of migrants in a situation of vulnerability, with a view to expanding and diversifying availability of pathways for safe, orderly and regular migration.”*

### Achievements and challenges

**68 countries are exempted from entry visas and 3 establishment agreements were signed with Algeria, Tunisia and Senegal**

Morocco has signed conventions on freedom of movement, residence and establishment with three countries, Algeria, Tunisia and Senegal. According to these agreements, foreign nationals can travel freely to Morocco and are exempted from the procedures that normally apply for the recruitment of foreign workers. Morocco has also officially applied for membership to ECOWAS, which implies that it would have to adopt the visa-free regime that ECOWAS countries have put in place. Moreover, since its rein-

tegration into the African Union, Morocco has played an active part in the discussion of the protocol of the African Union relating to free movement of persons, right of residence and right of establishment that was adopted in January 2018 and signed by 32 countries so far. Currently, 68 countries are also exempted from visas to enter Morocco, including nine from the African Union.

**11 labor mobility agreements were signed by Morocco since 1960**

With regard to pathways for regular migration of Moroccans, Morocco has signed, in addition to the establishment agreements mentioned above, labor mobility agreements with 11 countries since 1960, including Germany, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Spain, Italy, Libya, Qatar, Iraq, Jordan and the UAE. If the first labor

mobility agreements that were signed between 1960 and 2000 dealt mainly with addressing skills gaps in the labor markets of destination countries, the agreements that were signed more recently, in particular with France, Spain and Italy focus more on concerted migration management.

In France, this included a young professionals' exchange programme that was signed in 2001, that however yielded limited results, and a seasonal migration programme in the field of agriculture that was launched the same year and that gathered momentum over the years. The most successful and dynamic labor mobility agreements were however signed with Spain, including the 2001 bilateral agreement that targeted qualified young Moroccans in the field of agriculture, restaurants, retailing and other services, and the 2006-2008 AENEAS/CARTAYA seasonal migration programme in agriculture that enabled up to 12,000 women be gainfully employed in 2008. 7,000 women were to be recruited in Spain this year. With regard to Italy, the agreement included exchange of information on available skills and labor market needs, support

to skill matching through the involvement of intermediation institutions, and training support. Generally, the success of these labor mobility agreements has rested on the involvement of the Moroccan employment agency ANAPEC in the selection of candidates and on the inclusion of the issue of the return in the agreements.

These agreements notwithstanding, professional mobility has strongly decreased with the economic crisis in Europe and the reduction of migration opportunities, in particular in Spain that represented the majority of labor mobility in the years 2000.

### **Morocco plans to expand its academic mobility programme to reach 14,000 students in 2020**

With regard to pathways for regular migration to Morocco, recruitment of foreign nationals in Morocco requires prior clearance by the national employment agency ANAPEC that no Moroccan candidate is better suited for the position to be filled. Moreover, contract approval must be sought from the Ministry of Labor. Procedures were simplified and shortened through

the adoption in 2017 of an online application system “Taechir” that reduced Ministry of Labor contract approval delays to 10 days. In addition, senior management positions and rare profiles as well as regularized migrants and refugees are exempted from ANAPEC’s clearance. Decision was taken in 2017 to align the validity of residence permits to the duration of the contract that is held by the foreigner. French nationals, in particular, can be granted residence permits valid for a ten-years period. Family reunification is a recognized right that is only conditional upon migrants’ income and children age.

Morocco is currently expanding its academic mobility programme, in particular with Sub-Saharan Africa. The current number of foreign students studying in the public higher education system is 11,700, including 8,225 scholarships. It is planned to reach 14,000 students in 2020, including 9,800 scholarships.

The two exceptional regularization campaigns that Morocco implemented in 2014 and in 2017 also constituted for irregular migrants important pathways for safe, regular and orderly migration. Decided on humanitarian grounds and to

protect them from vulnerability, trafficking and abuse, these regularization campaigns enabled 23,000 migrants to be regularized in 2014, while 28,000 more candidates are awaiting decision on their regularization requests. Regularized migrants – and refugees, can seek employment and training on equal terms as Moroccan nationals.

## Planned measures and recommended actions

- > Sign the Protocol of the African Union relating to free movement of persons, right of residence and right of establishment (planned)
- > Ensure that labor mobility agreements provide adequate safeguards against exploitation and abuse and that they contain sufficient provisions on fair recruitment, coverage of wage protection measures and workplace standards
- > Ensure sufficient publicity for labor mobility agreements and involvement of different stakeholders, including labor unions
- > Perform labor market study to identify potential gaps in labor that could be addressed through employment of foreign workers
- > Pursue efforts on Morocco’s academic mobility programme

## #6 Facilitate fair and ethical recruitment and safeguard conditions that ensure decent work

*“We commit to review existing recruitment mechanisms to guarantee that they are fair and ethical, and to protect all migrant workers against all forms of exploitation and abuse in order to guarantee decent work and maximize the socioeconomic contributions of migrants in both their countries of origin and destination.”*

### Achievements and challenges

Morocco is party to the 1990 International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families since 1993. In addition, Morocco also adopted in August 2016 the law authorizing the ratification of the 1975 Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) ILO Convention n°143 on the protection of migrants in abusive conditions and the promotion of equality and opportunity of treatment of migrant workers. With regard to the 1962 ILO Convention n°118 concerning Equality of Treatment of Nationals and Non-Nationals in Social Security, the Ministry of Labor is currently conducting an impact and comparative analysis to advise on the opportunity of adoption.

The informal sector in Morocco remains important and a key source of employment, in parti-

cular for migrants and refugees. The strategy of the Ministry of Labor and of the Delegate Ministry in charge of Migration Affairs is hence to provide opportunities for migrants and refugees to be lawfully employed and to formalize their activity, and thus to benefit from the same labor rights and conditions as Moroccan citizen. In this context, a number of measures have been taken:

Regularized migrants and refugees can access job-search services of the public employment office ANAPEC, online – through a dedicated mobile application “Welcome ANAPEC”, or in 11 agencies of the country where the procedure was introduced and the personnel trained. They are also included in ANAPEC’s employment assistance programmes Idmaj, Tahfiz and Taehil. Moreover, regularized migrants and refugees are exempted from the national preference procedure



for their work permits, and the private sector is currently being sensitized on the possibility to employ migrants and refugees as well on the management of cultural diversity in enterprises to promote formal employment opportunities for migrants.

### **Foreigners in Morocco can benefit from the “Self-employed” status and can create cooperatives**

In order to assist migrants and refugees to formalize their activity, the Ministry of Labor has lifted the nationality condition to benefit from the “Self-employed” status and to create cooperatives. In addition, support is being provided by the Ministry of Labor and the Delegate Ministry in charge of Migration Affairs and their national and international partners to accompany migrants and refugees in the setting-up of micro-businesses and cooperatives. Deprived regularized migrants and refugees should also be entitled shortly to minimum social protection coverage similar to the regime that poor Moroccans benefit from.

A law was also approved by Parliament in August 2016 regulating labor and employment conditions of domestic workers. The law provides that minors between 16 and 18 years can only be employed as domestic workers on the basis of written contracts, and this for a transitory period of five years after which their employment will be prohibited. Finally, migrants and refugees can join labor unions and a revision of the Labor Code is being considered to enable them to be able to hold executive positions in these unions.

The protection of labor rights of Moroccans abroad is provided for and regulated by the labor mobility agreements that Morocco has signed with 11 countries. Moreover, it is also taken into consideration whenever ANAPEC international is involved in the intermediation between employers abroad and Moroccan prospective workers. Finally, Moroccans Living Abroad can access legal support provided by Moroccan consulates for their work-related legal proceedings they may be facing abroad.

## Planned measures and recommended actions

- Ensure ratification of the ILO Convention n°118 concerning Equality of Treatment of Nationals and Non-Nationals in Social Security (*planned*)
- Extend access of migrants and refugees to job-search services in all ANAPEC agencies countrywide and continue to support training and capacity building of ANAPEC agencies in the provision of job-search and employment assistance services to migrants and refugees (*planned*)
- Continue to sensitize the private sector on the possibility to recruit migrants and refugees and on the management of cultural diversity in enterprises (*planned*)
- Roll out a sensitization campaign for migrants and refugees on their labour rights, employment and registration procedures, access to insurance and social benefits and redress mechanisms
- Mobilize micro-credit institutions on the inclusion of migrants and refugees in their programmes to foster and strengthen migrants and refugees formal business creation opportunities (*planned*)
- Amend Labour Code to allow migrants and refugees to hold executive positions in labour unions (*planned*)

## #7 Address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration

*“We commit to respond to the needs of migrants who face situations of vulnerability, which may arise from the circumstances in which they travel or the conditions they face in countries of origin, transit and destination, by assisting them and protecting their human rights, in accordance with our obligations under international law. We further commit to uphold the best interests of the child at all times, as a primary consideration in situations where children are concerned, and to apply a gender-responsive approach in addressing vulnerabilities, including in responses to mixed movements.”*

### Achievements and challenges

#### **Migrants in Morocco have access to free social assistance services irrespective of their administrative status**

Migrants and refugees in Morocco are entitled, irrespective of their administrative situation, to a full range of social assistance services, including the ones provided by the Solidarity, Family and Social Development Ministry, and in particular to the services of the National Mutual Aid that manages programmes for disadvantaged women and women victims of violence, as well as child protection services and services for the disabled.

To facilitate migrants' integration in the social assistance programmes of the National Mutual Aid, newly graduated social assistants are being trained on migration issues, including international refugee law, migration law and the National Immigration and Asylum Strategy by UNHCR and IOM, in coordination with the Delegate Ministry in charge of Migration Affairs. In 2017-2018, more than 2,500 migrants and refugees benefitted from programmes run by the National Mutual Aid.

#### **Additional assistance is provided by local associations supported by the Delegate Ministry, UNHCR, IOM, UNICEF and Caritas**

Additional social assistance programmes are managed by local

civil society organizations, often with funding from the Delegate Ministry in charge of Migration Affairs on the basis of calls for proposals, and by international actors such as UNHCR, that provides financial assistance to vulnerable families (around 2,000 beneficiaries), IOM, that works mainly through local implementing partners, or Caritas. Local NGO coordination groups are being established with UNHCR support in different regions of Morocco (Oujda, Tangiers, Fes-Meknes, Casablanca) to foster synergy and cooperation with public authorities on social assistance for migrants and refugees. Special attention is given in these local coordination groups to the needs of migrant women victims of gender-based violence and human trafficking, their identification and referral, and to the reinforcement of local response capacities. In addition, IOM has elaborated a set of guidelines on the identification and referral of vulnerable migrants, including victims of trafficking in persons and unaccompanied and separated migrant children, as well as on emergency shelter and psychosocial support for vulnerable migrants.

It is estimated that 10% of migrants are unaccompanied or separated children. In this context, their protection has increasingly become the focus of public authorities in recent years. Two programmes were launched in 2018 in cooperation with UNICEF and IOM to ensure that public authorities uphold the principle of the best interest of the child at all stages of migration, that they have capacities to provide adequate responses and services to unaccompanied or separated migrant children, and that migrant children can access quality health, education and shelter services. The IOM programme includes an international cooperation component to prevent irregular migration and trafficking and foster research and information sharing.

With regard to access to justice, foreigners in Morocco are entitled to free legal aid and interpretation services. In addition, a EU-funded project implemented by the Belgian Cooperation ENABEL is currently being rolled out to strengthen legal clinics and provide better legal assistance to migrants and refugees.

As highlighted above, the two exceptional regularization campaigns of irregular migrants that Morocco conducted in 2014 and in 2017 were aimed at alleviating their vulnerability and marginalization and at protecting them from trafficking and abuse. Their one-year residence permit can be renewed and the duration of renewal has been extended to three years. Henceforth, regularized migrants are not at risk of falling back into an irregular status provided that they follow procedures for renewal.

### **Social assistance programmes are run by Moroccan consular services**

With regard to Moroccans living abroad, more than 90% of them reside in European countries and thus generally benefit from quality social protection and assistance. Some support to vulnerable Moroccan families living abroad is however provided through Morocco's consular social services in cooperation with the Delegate Ministry in charge of Moroccans Living Abroad and Migration Affairs, in particular in the field of education, higher education and

vocational training, for which learning support and scholarship opportunities are provided. In addition, in situations of great vulnerability as well as in crisis situations, the Delegate Ministry may take charge of the repatriation of families (660 repatriation and voluntary returns) as well as the repatriation of remains of Moroccans living abroad not covered by insurance schemes (500 repatriations in 2016). Finally, the Delegate Ministry also follows up on the living conditions of the retired and the elderly abroad.

### **Planned measures and recommended actions**

- > Improve the Delegate Ministry's humanitarian assistance system for vulnerable migrants through the signature of bilateral conventions with local civil society organizations to ensure predictable funding and continuous assistance on the ground as well as funding for emergency assistance(*planned*)
- > Integrate migration issues in national social assistance plans(*planned*)
- > Continue building public authorities' capacities, with particular focus on the Solidarity, Family

and Social Development Ministry and on the National Mutual Aid on the provision of social assistance to migrants and refugees, in particular for cases related to women at risk, unaccompanied or separated children, victims of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, victims of trafficking and persons with disabilities

- Ensure effective early identification, referral and assistance of unaccompanied and separated migrant children

- Strengthen the emergency shelter system to cater for the needs of migrant women victims of violence and trafficking and unac-

companied and separated migrant children

- Sensitize migrants on their rights to access to justice, as well as on their opportunities to access free public legal aid, and strengthen the network of legal clinics to provide legal assistance to migrants and refugees

- Mobilize civil society organizations that work with migrants to sensitize, inform and accompany migrants on the renewal of residence permits to avoid them falling back into irregular status

## #8 Save lives and establish coordinated international efforts on missing migrants

*"We commit to cooperate internationally to save lives and prevent migrant deaths and injuries through individual or joint search and rescue operations, standardized collection and exchange of relevant information, assuming collective responsibility to preserve the lives of all migrants, in accordance with international law. We further commit to identify those who have died or gone missing, and to facilitate communication with affected families."*

### Achievements and challenges

#### Allowing migrants to stay and integrate is a way to save lives

The imperative of saving lives and improving living conditions of migrants was a major objective of the Kingdom of Morocco when it elaborated and approved its new National Immigration and Asylum Strategy in 2014. Confronted with a growing number of irregular migrants on its soil and alarmed by their vulnerability and dire living conditions, Morocco offered to regularize and integrate them in the Moroccan society by granting them access to basic social services and formal employment. In this sense, the Moroccan immigration policy has undoubtedly contributed to reduce risks and

save lives for migrants on their journey.

Despite these commendable efforts, pressure on migration routes has remained high, in particular in the past year that saw the closure of the Central Mediterranean route and the diversion of migration flows towards the Western Mediterranean route, with Morocco as a main exit point. In spite of the tight border control that Morocco and its European neighbors enforce, migrants continue to try crossing, often in dangerous and risky conditions.

To better coordinate and implement search and rescue operations for persons in distress or disappeared at sea, Morocco has developed a national search and rescue (SAR) plan that encompasses national and international cooperation. The plan is implemented by the Marine Fishery

Department under the supervision of a National Coordination Commission for Maritime Search and Rescue presided by the Head of Government. Coordination with other departments, including the Royal Marine, the Gendarmerie, the Royal Air Force and the Civil Protection Department is ensured through a dedicated technical committee. Search and Rescue operations are handled by the Royal Marine in coordination with the Marine Search and Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC).

### **Morocco hosts the North and West African Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC)**

Moreover, Morocco hosts the North and West African Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) established in 2011 in accordance with the dispositions of the 2000 IMO regional conference on SAR in Florence. The Centre is meant to improve coordination with countries on the West African Coast, including Morocco, Mauritania, Senegal, Gambia, Guinea Bissau and Cape Verde and link-up with the other sub-regional centers established

all around the African continent. Morocco also closely coordinates with Spain on the detection, search and rescue of persons in distress at sea, in particular migrants.

### **Planned measures and recommended actions**

- > Intensify cooperation with African and European countries on missing migrants at sea
- > Increase cooperation with African countries to better secure land migration routes



## #9 Strengthen the transnational response to smuggling of migrants

*“We commit to intensify joint efforts to prevent and counter smuggling of migrants by strengthening capacities and international cooperation to prevent, investigate, prosecute and penalize the smuggling of migrants in order to end the impunity of smuggling networks. We further commit to ensure that migrants shall not become liable to criminal prosecution for the fact of having been the object of smuggling, notwithstanding potential prosecution for other violations of national law. We also commit to identify smuggled migrants to protect their human rights, taking into consideration the special needs of women and children, and assisting in particular those migrants subject to smuggling under aggravating circumstances, in accordance with international law.”*

### Achievements and challenges

As mentioned above, pressure on migration routes heading to or transiting via Morocco has remained high and has increased over the past year, in particular as a result of the closure of the central Mediterranean route to Europe via Libya.

### 13,000 security officers mobilized on the Mediterranean coast to prevent irregular crossings

Morocco places considerable efforts to deter irregular migration and combat smuggling networks. It has considerably reinforced the surveillance of borders and in-

vested in modern technology, such as electronic face recognition systems, high-quality cameras to detect irregular border crossings and specialized devices for detection of falsified documents. The Ministry of Interior has also invested heavily in the strengthening of its human capacities. More than 13,000 security officers are mobilized for the surveillance of Mediterranean coasts. In addition, the Ministry coordinates closely with countries of destination, and in particular with Spain, as well as with countries of origin.

These efforts have borne fruits. Irregular crossing attempts have been reduced by 93% between 2004 and 2015. In the first six months of 2018, 68,000 attempts

were blocked and 122 smuggling networks dismantled. Victims of smuggling networks are provided assistance and directed towards health facilities, when necessary, or other social and humanitarian actors, including the ones supported by the Ministry in charge of Migration Affairs.

### **68,000 irregular crossing attempts blocked and 122 smuggling networks dismantled by 2018**

Morocco collaborates closely with UNODC on the implementation of the Global Action against Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants (GLO. ACT). In addition, Morocco will also be part of a UNODC regional project aimed at strengthening transnational efforts to dismantle criminal networks involved in trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants. This three years project will in particular reinforce expertise and skills of security services in identification and apprehension of suspected persons at border crossings, improve data collection and information sharing on transnational criminal networks and build the capacity

of the Judiciary on trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants.

### **Planned measures and recommended actions**

- > Examine the possible ratification and implementation of the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC)
- > Further build the capacities of security personnel on the identification and dismantling of smuggling networks and improve data collection and information sharing on transnational criminal networks

## #10 Prevent, combat and eradicate trafficking in persons in the context of international migration

*“We commit to take legislative or other measures to prevent, combat and eradicate trafficking in persons in the context of international migration by strengthening capacities and international cooperation to investigate, prosecute and penalize trafficking in persons, discouraging demand that fosters exploitation leading to trafficking, and ending impunity of trafficking networks. We further commit to enhance the identification and protection of, and assistance to migrants who have become victims of trafficking, paying particular attention to women and children.”*

### Achievements and challenges

#### A law on human trafficking was adopted by the Moroccan Parliament in August 2016

The law introduces for the first time in Moroccan legislation a definition of trafficking in persons, in accordance with the Supplementary Protocol to the 2000 United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime to Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, to which Morocco is party. The law provides penal sanctions for perpetrators as well as amendments to the Rules for Criminal Procedures

to prioritize the identification of victims and access to protection, and health, psychosocial and free legal aid services. A regulatory text was also adopted in July 2018 on the establishment of a “National Coordination Commission to Prevent and Combat Trafficking in Persons”, as per art 7 of the law.

#### Since the adoption of the law, 21 cases were treated by courts on prostitution, forced labour, and forced begging

Since the adoption of the law, the services of the Ministry of Interior, including the Royal Gendarmerie and the National Security, have reinforced their actions to combat trafficking in persons. Guidelines were sent to the Royal Prosecutors and General Prosecutors of 1<sup>st</sup>

Instance and Appeal Courts on the implementation of the law. Issues of trafficking in persons have also been included in the initial and continuous training of the country's security services and cooperation with international partners such as UNHCR, IOM and UNODC is underway. UNWOMEN supports the General Prosecutors' Office to improve victims' access to judicial services, strengthen institutional coordination and build the capacities of prosecution personnel.

As mentioned above, Morocco works closely with UNODC for the implementation of the Global Action against Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants (GLO.ACT) and the J/TIP programme. In this context, workshops are being organized to enrich the national thinking on the elaboration of national plans and strategies to combat trafficking in persons, as well as regional conferences to foster regional cooperation, exchange of information and good practices. Training is also being provided on the identification and referral of victims of trafficking in persons for public institutions, lawyers and civil society organizations

and a network of judges in charge of human trafficking cases in the country's court of appeal has been set up to share information and expertise. The J/TIP programme focuses in particular on strengthening civil society organizations' capacities to identify victims and respond to their needs.

Assistance to victims of trafficking in persons is also provided by IOM and UNHCR. IOM works through the Moroccan NGO "Fondation Orient-Occident" to improve access to protection and assistance to victims of human trafficking, including emergency shelter, material assistance and psychosocial support, legal assistance, sensitization and prevention campaigns as well as social recovery and integration support for victims. IOM has also developed guidelines for the identification, referral, assistance and sheltering of victims and established a working group to discuss and improve procedures for the provision of assistance and protection. For its part, UNHCR provides financial assistance to asylum seekers and refugees victims of trafficking in persons and follows-up on their health and legal assistance needs.

## Planned measures and recommended actions

- > Establishing the National Coordination Commission to Prevent and Combat Trafficking in Persons and set up a National Referral Mechanism for the Victims of Trafficking in Persons (*planned*)
- > Support local civil society organizations involved in assistance to victims of trafficking in persons
- > Continue strengthening the capacities of security services, the judiciary and national social assistance personnel on all matters related to trafficking in persons (identification, referral, assistance)
- > Improve regional cooperation on the identification, apprehension and dismantling of human trafficking and migrant smuggling networks

## #11 Manage borders in an integrated, secure and coordinated manner

*“We commit to manage our national borders in a coordinated manner, promoting bilateral and regional cooperation, ensuring security for States, communities and migrants, and facilitating safe and regular cross-border movements of people while preventing irregular migration. We further commit to implement border management policies that respect national sovereignty, the rule of law, obligations under international law, human rights of all migrants, regardless of their migration status, and are non-discriminatory, gender-responsive and child-sensitive.”*

### Achievements and challenges

Morocco places great importance to strengthening regional and international cooperation on border management, in particular with regard to combating smuggling networks and trafficking in persons, as shown above.

Regular meetings are held with concerned countries of the European Union, Morocco's strategic partner on migration issues, and in particular with Spain, with whom Morocco shares a maritime border. A joint migration group was created with Spain in 2004, joint commissariats were established and a network of liaison officers activated to improve information sharing, including on pre-reporting of traveling persons. Exchange of expertise and joint training are also organized regularly. The Spanish-Moroccan collaboration is regularly quoted as

a best practice for regional collaboration on border management issues.

At national level, national and local authorities have adopted a participatory approach with concerned ministerial departments, including the Ministry of Health and the National Mutual Aid for the provision of health and social assistance to the victims of smuggling and trafficking networks.

### Planned measures and recommended actions

- > Maintain regional cooperation with European Union countries and in particular Spain
- > Intensify regional cooperation with countries of origin and transit
- > Enhance focus of integrated border management on the protection of vulnerable migrants, including unaccompanied children, GBV victims and victims of smuggling and trafficking networks.

## #12 Strengthen certainty and predictability in migration procedures for appropriate screening, assessment and referral

*“We commit to increase legal certainty and predictability of migration procedures by developing and strengthening effective and human rights-based mechanisms for the adequate and timely screening and individual assessment of all migrants for the purpose of identifying and facilitating access to the appropriate referral procedures, in accordance with international law.”*

### Achievements and challenges

As mentioned above (see #3), availability of information on migration-related issues in Morocco can be improved. Information is available through a number of channels, in particular with regard to entry and visa requirements, but it is scattered and often difficult to access. This, however, has no implication on the certainty and predictability of migration procedures in Morocco.

### Human rights training is provided to security forces as part of initial and continuous education

The Ministry of Interior attaches importance to the training of national security forces, including the Royal Gendarmerie and the

National Security, in matters related to human rights, international refugee law, migration and asylum, trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, that have been integrated in their initial and continuous training programmes. The Ministry of Interior also cooperates with international actors, such as UNHCR, IOM, UNODC or UNICEF on the provision of training and the elaboration of guidelines for the identification, referral and assistance of vulnerable persons, in particular at borders and places of first arrival.

With regard to the identification and referral of unaccompanied or separated migrant children, a programme was launched by UNICEF in 2018 to strengthen the capacities of institutional actors to uphold the best interest of the child and offer a complete and coordinated response to their

needs. The project includes support to the setting-up of a standards and procedures manual for the identification and referral of unaccompanied or separated migrant minors, and training for border personnel.

additional guarantees on certainty and predictability of migration procedures

> Continue providing training on specialized human rights for government officials, including border officials and security services

## **Planned measures and recommended actions**

> Ensure that information on migration procedures is transparent and easily accessible to provide



## #13 Use migration detention only as a measure of last resort and work towards alternatives

*"We commit to ensure that any detention in the context of international migration follows due process, is non-arbitrary, based on law, necessity, proportionality and individual assessments, is carried out by authorized officials, and for the shortest possible period of time, irrespective of whether detention occurs at the moment of entry, in transit, or proceedings of return, and regardless of the type of place where the detention occurs. We further commit to prioritize non-custodial alternatives to detention that are in line with international law, and to take a human rights-based approach to any detention of migrants, using detention as a measure of last resort only."*

Morocco does not practice the detention of irregular migrants at entry, transit, upon apprehension or in the proceedings of return.

## #14 Enhance consular protection, assistance and cooperation throughout the migration cycle

*“We commit to strengthen consular protection of and assistance to our nationals abroad, as well as consular cooperation between States in order to better safeguard the rights and interests of all migrants at all times, and to build upon the functions of consular missions to enhance interactions between migrants and State authorities of countries of origin, transit and destination, in accordance with international law.”*

### Achievements and challenges

Morocco has a network of diplomatic and consular representations in 89 countries. The consulates provide protection and assistance to Moroccans abroad, as per Art 16 of the Constitution “the Kingdom of Morocco works for the protection of the rights and legitimate interests of the Moroccan citizens resident abroad, within respect for international law and for the laws in force in the host countries. It is committed to the maintenance and to the development of their human ties, notably cultural, with the Kingdom (...) and to the strengthening of ties of amity and of cooperation between the governments and the societies of the countries where they reside, and of which they are citizens”.

### More than 1,000 Moroccans living abroad benefitted from legal assistance from consular services present in 89 countries

In order to strengthen the capacity of consular services to provide legal protection to Moroccans abroad, the Delegate Ministry in charge of Moroccans Living Abroad and Migration Affairs has put in place a legal assistance mechanism through which consular offices can access financial resources to conclude legal assistance contracts with lawyers in the countries of residence. This mechanism has benefitted more than 1,000 Moroccans living abroad in 2016, essentially on matters related to protection against abusive deportation and withdrawal of documentation, compensation for workplace and

traffic accidents, divorce and distribution of property for mixed marriages, and liquidation of the succession of Moroccans living abroad in the countries of residence.

### **Supporting the education of children from vulnerable families abroad is a priority**

Moreover, Morocco plays great emphasis on the living conditions of Moroccans abroad, in particular in the wake of the economic crisis that hit European countries after 2008 and that has taken its heavy toll on Moroccan migrants, especially in Spain that witnessed unemployment levels up to 50%. These countries saw school failure of Moroccan children increasing, leading to delinquency problems and risks of extremism. Moreover, some European countries have reduced social protection benefits for migrants (Spain) or gone back on acquired rights (Netherlands). To respond to these challenges, social services within Moroccan consulates have been reinforced and social assistance programmes developed by the Delegate Ministry in charge of Moroccans Living

Abroad and Migration Affairs. These programmes place particular focus on supporting the education of children from vulnerable families. They are often implemented in partnership with diaspora associations on the basis of calls of proposals. They include, among others, learning support for vulnerable students experiencing school difficulties, financial support for school enrolment in Arabic and African countries, scholarships for vocational training and university scholarships for students from vulnerable families, and support to school integration of return children from crisis countries.

In situations of great vulnerability as well as in crisis situations, the Delegate Ministry may take charge, in cooperation with consular services, of the repatriation of families, as well as the repatriation of remains. The above notwithstanding, more efforts shall be placed to improve the capacity of Morocco's consular offices to inform, guide and advise Moroccans abroad, in particular with regard to social assistance needs.

## Planned measures and recommended actions

- > Sensitize consular services and reinforce their capacities on the provision of information, guidance and advice to Moroccans abroad, in particular in matters related to their legal assistance and socio-economic needs
- > Appoint social counsellors in consulates in countries where Moroccans may be facing socio-economic difficulties, to provide guidance and coordinate assistance
- > Establish helplines and use information technologies and social media to provide information, services and assistance to Moroccans registered in consulates abroad
- > Ensure that consular services can provide information and advice to Moroccans abroad, through a variety of means, on local laws and customs, interaction with authorities, financial inclusion, schooling, health, social services, business establishment, etc.
- > Develop protocols and mechanisms for the accompaniment and reintegration of Moroccans in cases of voluntary and emergency return

## #15 Provide access to basic services for migrants

*“We commit to ensure that all migrants, regardless of their migration status, can exercise their human rights through safe access to basic services. We further commit to strengthen migrant-inclusive service delivery systems, notwithstanding that nationals and regular migrants may be entitled to more comprehensive service provision, while ensuring that any differential treatment must be based on law, proportionate, pursue a legitimate aim, in accordance with international human rights law.”*

### Achievements and challenges

In addition to access to justice and social assistance covered under objective #7, access to education and health in Morocco is provided to migrants, asylum seekers and refugees, irrespective of their administrative situation, on equal footing with Moroccan citizens.

#### **Access to education and health is provided to migrants irrespective of their administrative status**

With regard to education, the decision to grant access of migrant children to the Kingdom's public and private schools was one of the first measures taken after it was decided to develop a new comprehensive policy on immigration and asylum. A circular was issued by the Ministry of Edu-

cation in October 2013 to grant access to education to all children from the Sahel and Sub-Saharan Africa. This circular followed the adoption of a previous ministerial note in December 2012 that targeted Syrian children. Migrant children were integrated in national outreach and education support programmes, such as community mobilization campaigns for the enrolment of out-of-school children and the “one-million schoolbags” programme. Dedicated radio and TV ads were also broadcasted to encourage parents to register their children.

To foster successful integration of migrant children in schools, the Delegate Ministry in charge of Migration Affairs, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, works in partnership with a number of civil society organizations on the basis of calls for proposals to provide support classes and

pre-school opportunities for migrant and refugee children. In addition, children that have missed out classes and cannot attend regular schooling are offered non-formal education opportunities to be able to join back formal education or be directed towards vocational training. A number of national and international partners, including Caritas and UNHCR, contribute to the sensitization and outreach of migrant and refugee families and accompany them in the administrative procedures to enrol their children. UNHCR also supports vulnerable refugee families for the enrolment of their children in schools through school kits, scholarships and monthly financial support for pre-school enrolment.

A new school integration mechanism is currently under validation in the Ministry of Education. The mechanism provides harmonized and simplified procedures for the orientation and enrolment of children, and places emphasis on adapting pedagogic tools to take into consideration the needs of migrant and refugee children, on providing pedagogic support and accompaniment of children in schools to facilitate

their integration, and on building capacities of teachers on tools, methods and approaches adapted to migrant and refugee children needs. Moreover, sensitization of teachers on issues of tolerance and cultural diversity will also be generalized.

### **Migrants have free access to preventive and curative care in primary health care centres and to emergency care in hospitals**

Access of migrants and refugees to health is a preoccupation of Moroccan authorities that stretches back more than fifteen years. Several circulars were issued in 2003 to give migrants and refugees free access, irrespective of their administrative situation, to preventive and curative care delivered as part of communicable disease control programmes. In 2008, migrants and refugees were granted free access to all health services provided in primary health care facilities. Furthermore, the 2011 Rules of Procedures of hospitals stated that “non-Moroccan patients, diseased or wounded, are admitted in hospitals, irrespective of their

administrative situation under the same conditions as Moroccan patients". A national strategic plan on health and migration 2017-2021 has been elaborated and is awaiting validation from the Ministry of Health. Moreover, deprived regularized migrants and refugees should also be entitled shortly to a medical insurance scheme similar to the regime that poor Moroccans benefit from.

Outreach campaigns are organized to include migrants and refugees in the Ministry of Health national tuberculosis, parasitic, HIV/AIDS and sexually transmissible disease programmes, and pregnant women are eligible to the entire range of pre-natal and post-natal care. In addition, a number of national and international partners, including Caritas and UNHCR, support the sensitization of migrants and refugees on health issues and their referral towards public health facilities. Moreover, UNHCR provides direct financial support to refugees affected with chronic and serious diseases. For its part, IOM is working with the National School of Public Health on a training module on mental health needs of migrants and on the integration of migration and

health issues in the curriculum of public health professionals trained in the National School of Public Health. Greater training and sensitization of the health personnel is however needed on dealing with migrants and refugees (in terms of rights as well as in terms of healthcare and psychosocial care) and on their integration into the national health management system.

## Planned measures and recommended actions

- > Conduct a study on the education needs of migrants and refugees to establish a baseline and define indicators for monitoring and evaluation of public policies
- > Include migration issues in education personnel training programmes, and conduct awareness and sensitization initiatives for education administration personnel (*planned*)
- > Ensure that disaggregated information on migrants is available in the Ministry of Education information collection and statistics systems
- > Provide remedial classes as an alternative to support classes in selected schools

- > Strengthen the capacities of the national health system in terms of medical and psychosocial care of migrants and refugees
- > Operationalize the migrants' medical assistance programme(*planned*)
- > Ensure that the Ministry of Health data collection system allows for the collection of disaggregated information on migrants and refugees health needs and care
- > Include migration issues in the public health personnel training curriculum of the National School of Public Health(*planned*)
- > Operationalize the national strategic plan on health and migration 2017-2021 at the regional and local level(*planned*)



## #16 Empower migrants and societies to realize full inclusion and social cohesion

*“We commit to foster inclusive and cohesive societies by empowering migrants to become active members of society and promoting the reciprocal engagement of receiving communities and migrants in the exercise of their rights and obligations towards each other, including observance of national laws and respect for customs of the country of destination. We further commit to strengthen the welfare of all members of societies by minimizing disparities, avoiding polarization and increasing public confidence in policies and institutions related to migration, in line with the acknowledgement that fully integrated migrants are better positioned to contribute to prosperity.”*

### Achievements and challenges

#### Despite efforts, socialization between Moroccans and migrants is limited

A recent study by the International University of Rabat has shown that migrants' socialization remains principally centred around the community of origin. 84% of interviewed Sub-Saharan migrants declared socializing with persons from the country of origin or from other Sub-Saharan countries (67%). 50% declared not to have social ties with Moroccan nationals. Migrants and refugees participation to leisure and sport activities is limited. On the Moroccan population side,

racist incidents are uncommon. However, racial prejudices are widespread and frustration is palatable in social media.

Morocco places emphasis on fostering social cohesion between migrants, refugees and the Moroccan population. The National Immigration and Asylum Strategy is aimed at “ensuring better integration of immigrants and better management of migration flows within the framework of a coherent, comprehensive, humanist and responsible policy”. Granting migrants and refugees access to basic services is an essential step in this regard. However, integration goes beyond mere coexistence and involves greater social and cultural interactions. Morocco tries to address this issue through a number of measures.

## Cultural activities and sports are important tools to foster social cohesion

Sensitization of the general public on migration, cultural diversity and living-together is pursued in schools, as well as in higher education establishments through the Moroccan International Cooperation Agency that manages Morocco's foreign students programmes, to foster social cohesion and migrants' integration. It is also addressed through cultural events such as theatre plays, concerts and exhibitions sponsored by the Delegate Ministry in charge of Migration Affairs, such as during the migration week. A number of cultural festivals are also supported by the Ministry throughout the year or organized by civil society organizations such as the "Fondation Orient-Occident", to contribute to a better mutual understanding. Particular focus is placed on youth and on neighborhoods where migrants live. Migrants and refugees are integrated in the holiday camps organized by the Ministry of Youth and Sports and a number of sporting events and tournaments are organized throughout the year to foster social cohesion and living

together among the youth. Migrants' integration in the Moroccan society also depends on their ability to be economically active and interact with Moroccans in the work place. The participation of regularized migrants and refugees to the economy and their inclusion in the formal labor market are fostered through support to vocational training and access to the job-search services and employment assistance programmes run by Morocco's National Employment Agency (ANAPEC), as well as through a number of initiatives supported by international partners such as UNHCR and GIZ.

## Morocco supports migrants' integration through the labour market

Migrants and refugees can freely access vocational training services of the National Mutual Aid, irrespective of their administrative situation, and regularized migrants and refugees are eligible to the services of the National Office of Vocational Training and Promotion of Employment (OFPPT). A quota is also reserved for them in the vocational training and apprenticeship training programmes run by the Ministry of Handicrafts and Social Solidarity Economy.

## Enterprises are being sensitized on the management of cultural diversities

Regularized migrants and refugees have access to the formal labor market and are exempted from the national preference procedure that applies to other foreigners. To foster their professional insertion, regularized migrants and refugees can access job-search services of the public employment office ANAPEC, online – through a dedicated mobile application “Welcome ANAPEC”, or in 11 agencies of the country where the procedure was introduced and the personnel trained. They are also included in ANAPEC’s employment assistance programme *sldmaj* and *Tahfiz*, through which employers are exempt from certain social security contributions and taxes for the recruitment of employees, or *Taehil*, that sponsors the vocational training of job-seekers against their recruitment in enterprises. In addition, the private sector is currently being sensitized on the possibility to employ migrants and refugees as well on the management of cultural diversity in enterprises. Finally, regularized migrants and refugees are also supported in the setting-

up of individual businesses, small businesses and cooperatives.

## Planned measures and recommended actions

- > Foster sensitization on issues of immigration, cultural diversity, social cohesion and living together in schools(*planned*)
- > Conduct a study and improve data collection on migrants’ social and cultural integration
- > Fully integrate migration issues in the National Employment Strategy under revision(*planned*)
- > Extend access of migrants and refugees to job-search services in all ANAPEC agencies countrywide and continue to support training and capacity building of ANAPEC agencies in the provision of job-search and employment assistance services to migrants and refugees (*planned*)
- > Continue to sensitize the private sector on the possibility to recruit migrants and refugees and on the management of cultural diversity in enterprises(*planned*)
- > Mobilize micro-credit institutions on the inclusion of migrants and refugees in their programmes to foster and strengthen migrants and refugees formal business creation opportunities(*planned*)

## #17 Eliminate all forms of discrimination and promote evidence-based public discourse to shape perceptions of migrations

*"We commit to eliminate all forms of discrimination, condemn and counter expressions, acts and manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, violence, xenophobia and related intolerance against all migrants in conformity with international human rights law. We further commit to promote an open and evidence-based public discourse on migration and migrants in partnership with all parts of society, that generates a more realistic, humane and constructive perception in this regard. We also commit to protect freedom of expression in accordance with international law, recognizing that an open and free debate contributes to a comprehensive understanding of all aspects of migration."*

### Achievements and challenges

Immigration to Morocco is a recent phenomenon that remains concentrated in major urban centres, and in particular in popular neighborhoods where many have settled. Racist incidents are uncommon, though some cases of discrimination on the workplace or in housing have been reported. Nevertheless, racial prejudices are widespread and frustration is palatable on social media.

### Incitement to discrimination and hatred is sanctioned in Morocco's Penal Code

The Moroccan 2011 Constitution emphasizes, in its preamble, that the Kingdom's unity and identity is

a product of diverse cultural heritages: "its unity is forged by the convergence of Arab-Islamist, Berber and Saharan-Hassanic components, nourished and enriched by its African, Andalusian, Hebraic and Mediterranean influences". It further insists on "the attachment of the Moroccan people to the values of openness, of moderation, of tolerance and of dialog for mutual understanding between all the cultures and civilizations of the world", before committing to "ban and combat all discrimination whenever it encounters it, for reason of sex, of color, of beliefs, of culture, of social or regional origin, of language, of handicap or whatever personal circumstance that may be".

The Moroccan Penal Code further sanctions in its article 431 "discrimination based on national or

social origin, color, sex, family situation, health, handicap, political opinion, race, ethnicity or religion in the provision of goods, and services, on the workplace, or in the exercise of an economic activity". The Penal Code was amended through the law 73.15 adopted in August 2016 that condemns, inter alia, incitement to discrimination and hatred. A draft amendment law was also submitted to the Parliament in June 2016 to further detail the definition of discrimination. The draft law is currently under study. Finally, the Press Law 88.13 adopted by the Parliament in July 2016 also sanctions incitement to discrimination and hatred in printed press or electronic media.

### **The Moroccan media is being sensitized on migration issues for objective and responsible reporting**

The role of the media is particularly important to ensure that the public opinion is provided with fair, objective and impartial information on migration issues, and that it contributes to combat discrimination, racism and intolerance, as per the preamble of the Constitution and other legal provisions. In this context, the Dele-

gate Ministry in charge of Migration Affairs supports the efforts of the Higher Institute of Information and Communication that has recently created a Master programme on "Migration and Media", and works with IOM and UNHCR to sensitize and train students of the Higher Institute on migration and asylum issues. Moreover, training was also provided by UNHCR to Arab-speaking and French-speaking media on international refugee law and asylum issues in Morocco.

The Delegate Ministry in charge of Migration Affairs is also currently developing, in partnership with Expertise France under an EU funded intervention, a communication plan that includes communication to the wider public on the human dimension of migration and asylum to inform public perceptions on the merits of Morocco's national immigration and asylum strategy. The communication plan places emphasis on the role of the media that shall be further trained and sensitized on migration and asylum issues and encouraged (through open competitions, for example) to promote the merits of safe, orderly and regular migration in Morocco.

### **Migration remains a sensitive issue for public opinion that needs to be addressed carefully**

A number of fora, conferences and public events on migration and asylum are also organized each year by the Delegate Ministry in charge of Migration Affairs, or by civil society organizations and international partners to communicate and sensitize the public opinion on migration and asylum issues. This includes, for example, the organization of the “Migrants’ Week” and the “Refugee Week” that are organized with support from GIZ and UNHCR, or the Annual Migration Forum. This includes also the number of cultural events, concerts, festivals and theatre plays that are organized throughout the country each year. Moreover, special efforts were placed over the past years to sensitize and train local representatives on migration issues, in partnership with GIZ as part of the RECOMIG programme.

With regard to the prevention of racism and xenophobia, a project is currently being implemented by the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) with EU funding, to strengthen Morocco’s public policies, instruments and mechanisms in this regard. The project will, in particular, support the strengthening of institutional cooperation and the improvement of complaint and redress mechanisms,

with particular focus on the National Human Rights Commission (CNDH), build the capacities of Morocco’s public administrations and civil society organizations to prevent and address racism and xenophobia against migrants, and support sensitization and awareness-raising of the media and the general public.

## Planned measures and recommended actions

- > Further train, sensitize and engage media in reporting on migration and asylum in an objective and quality manner to contribute to foster a culture of respect for diversity, social cohesion and living together
- > Sensitize migrants and communities on their opportunities to denounce acts of discrimination and incitement to racial hatred and support civil society organizations and legal clinics in their access to redress mechanisms
- > Strengthen awareness raising efforts towards general public on the merits of the national immigration and asylum strategy and the positive contribution of migration for development
- > Support public administrations and mandated institutions in the prevention of racism and xenophobia

## #18 Invest in skills development and facilitate mutual recognition of skills, qualifications and competences

*“We commit to invest in innovative solutions that facilitate mutual recognition of skills, qualifications and competences of migrant workers at all skill levels, and promote demand-driven skills development to optimize the employability of migrants in formal labour markets in countries of destination and in countries of origin upon return, as well as to ensure decent work in labour migration.”*

### Achievements and challenges

Morocco places great importance in the mobility of competences, both with regard to Moroccan students willing to study abroad and with regard to foreign students wishing to pursue their education in Morocco, for whom Morocco is currently expanding its academic mobility programme. Higher education registration procedures for foreigners are the same as for Moroccan students. Quotas are reserved for students benefitting from scholarships from the Moroccan International Cooperation Agency (AMCI).

The formal recognition of foreign diplomas and certificates follows an individual screening procedure performed by a dedicated equivalence commission under the authority of the Ministry of Education. The equivalence commission studies the curriculum followed as well as the candidate's performance and assiduity according to his/her field of study. Four sectorial equivalence

commissions are established under the supervision of a Higher Equivalence Commission that meets three times a year.

Migrant workers in Morocco have often travelled without their degree or diploma certificates. Others may have accrued experience and acquired skills but face difficulties in asserting them, thus hampering their access to the labor market. In order to alleviate these difficulties and improve the employability of migrant workers, ANAPEC is currently piloting, in collaboration with GIZ, a competency evaluation mechanism. This mechanism will concern initially the construction industry as well as hospitality and aesthetics/hairstyling services.

### Planned measures and recommended actions

- > Further facilitate mutual recognition of skills, qualifications and competences
- > Develop a formal competency evaluation mechanism for migrants without certificates to improve their employability

## #19 Create conditions for migrants and diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development in all countries

*"We commit to empower migrants and diasporas to catalyse their development contributions, and to harness the benefits of migration as a source of sustainable development, reaffirming that migration is a multidimensional reality of major relevance for the sustainable development of countries of origin, transit and destination."*

### Achievements and challenges

#### The Moroccan diaspora is the 10th biggest in the world

The Moroccan diaspora is, according to the 2017 OECD report "Talents abroad: a Review of Moroccan Emigrants", the 10<sup>th</sup> biggest diaspora in the world. It is therefore not surprising that the role that Moroccans living abroad play and could play in the future in Morocco's sustainable development has granted them a specific place in Morocco's public policies. Art 16 of the 2011 Constitution emphasizes in particular that "the Kingdom of Morocco (...) sees to the reinforcement of [Moroccan citizen resident abroad] contribution to the development of their homeland".

A number of institutions were created to elaborate, coordinate and follow-up on public policies for Moroccans living abroad. This includes:

- > The Hassan II Foundation for Moroccans Living Abroad, created in 1990 to work at preserving ties between Moroccans living abroad and their homeland and to help them overcome the difficulties they face in their countries of residence
- > The Council of the Moroccan Community Living Abroad (CCME), created in 2007 to oversee the implementation of public policies related to Moroccans living abroad and to provide advice to "reinforce their contribution to the country's development"
- > The Delegate Ministry in charge of Moroccans Living Abroad and Migration Affairs, created in 1992 and expanded in 2013 to cover



migration affairs, whose role is to prepare and implement governmental policy related to Moroccans living abroad in coordination with relevant ministerial departments and public institutions.

**Remittances make up 7% of the GDP and contribute to reduce poverty by 1.2 percentage points**

Remittances represent a direct important contribution to Morocco's development. They currently make up 7% of the GDP and have shown great stability and resilience over the years. It is estimated that remittances contribute to reduce poverty by 1.2 percentage points, and vulnerability by 0.7. Yet, the future evolution of remittance volumes is a point of concern, in particular within the context of economic crises and with the emergence of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> generations of migrants that may have weaker ties with the local communities from which their forefathers originated. Current forecasts for the period 2012-2030 show that remittances could mark a break compared to the trends of 2000-2007. A

concerted strategy is needed to respond to this challenge, including through the development of productive investment opportunities for Moroccans living abroad.

**80% of Moroccan diaspora investments are for housing**

In order to encourage Moroccans living abroad to invest in productive sectors, the Delegate Ministry has put in place a cell within the Ministry dedicated to guide, assist and accompany migrants in their investment projects. The Ministry also tries to keep potential investors abreast of the legal framework, economic trends, business climate, and major economic opportunities via its website. A number of initiatives are also supported by international partners, including IOM, GIZ, the EU and the Swiss Cooperation, to accompany Moroccans living abroad willing to carry innovative projects in Morocco. A web-based cartography of these initiatives has been performed by the Delegate Ministry in cooperation with Expertise France.

## **“MDM-Invest” is a mechanism aimed at fostering diaspora productive investment**

Financial support for investment can also be accessed through the “MDM-Invest” mechanism, which subsidizes investments for up to 10% for a contribution on own funds of 25% minimum and a bank credit of up to 65%. The mechanism is managed by the Central Guarantee Fund and is eligible for five economic sectors: industry and industrial services, education, hospitality services and health. Other initiatives include the 13<sup>th</sup> region platform of exchange between Morocco-based and Moroccan investors living abroad that was established in July 2017, or the AFD-supported “Maghrib Entrepreneurs” initiative that was aimed at sensitizing the diaspora in France on business opportunities in Morocco and at accompanying business ventures.

## **The web-based platform “Maghribcom” has been recast to better match supply and demand of competencies and skills**

Moroccans living abroad represent also a valuable wealth of knowledge that Morocco can benefit from for sustainable development. Many Moroccans abroad hold higher education degrees and are qualified specialists, in particular in the education and health sectors, and are interested and willing, if a conducive environment is created, to contribute their skills to local development. The Delegate Ministry has mapped more than 5,400 such talents to be mobilized for Morocco’s development through knowledge transfer. The approach of the Ministry to mobilize migrants’ skills is to promote the constitution of thematic and geographic networks of qualified Moroccan specialists (women journalists, women entrepreneurs, lawyers, doctors, artists, etc.), with whom the Ministry will work to strengthen partnerships inside and outside Morocco.

The participation of Moroccans living abroad to the country’s policy setting is also provided for in Art 18 of the 2011 Constitution: “the public powers work to assure a participation as extensive as possible to Moroccans resident abroad in the consultative institu-

tions and institutions of good governance created by the Constitution of by the law". Furthermore, according to Art 17, "Moroccans resident abroad enjoy full rights of citizenship, including the right to be electors and eligible". Nevertheless, Morocco has not yet put in place procedures for out-of-country voting, though Moroccans living abroad participated to the 2011 constitutional referendum, and despite discussions that took place on voting modalities.

More efforts are also needed to better mainstream migration in the national sectoral development strategies. This effort has been undertaken in the elaboration of the 2015-2025 National Employment Strategy that strives to integrate the various forms of migration in the different axes of the strategy. References were also made in the 2015-2030 to the education needs of immigrants and of Moroccan living abroad. However, a more concerted, strategic and forward-looking integration of migration into development planning is needed.

## Planned measures and recommended actions

- > Improve banking offers to foster investment from Moroccans living abroad
- > Sustain the thematic and geographic networks of diaspora talents through dedicated support and build a data base and a comprehensive mapping of competencies and skills
- > Foster participation of Moroccans living abroad to the country's political life and ensure representation in consultative institutions
- > Ensure that issues related to Moroccans living abroad are appropriately mainstreamed into national strategic plans, to better harness their potential for development and integrate their specific needs based on prospective analysis

## #20 Promote faster, safer and cheaper transfer of remittances and foster financial inclusion of migrants

*“We commit to promote faster, safer and cheaper remittances by further developing existing conducive policy and regulatory environments that enable competition, regulation and innovation on the remittance market and by providing gender-responsive programmes and instruments that enhance the financial inclusion of migrants and their families. We further commit to optimize the transformative impact of remittances on the well-being of migrant workers and their families, as well as on sustainable development of countries, while respecting that remittances constitute an important source of private capital, and cannot be equated to other international financial flows, such as foreign direct investment, official development assistance, or other public sources of financing for development.”*

### Achievements and challenges

Although it has gone down in the past ten years, the transaction cost of remittances to Morocco remains high and ranges from 5.5% to 7%. This represents 2.5 to 4 percentage points higher than the SDG 10.c “by 2030, reduce to less than 3% the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5%”.

While exchange costs are regulated by the Moroccan “Office des Changes”, transaction costs are determined by banking institutions in accordance with their client policy and the agreements concluded with other banking

institutions and money transfer operators in the countries of residence. Costs vary depending on amounts transferred, transaction modalities and speed. Transaction costs for transfers operated via the banking system are generally reasonable and show a decreasing trend due to increased competition between actors. Costs charged by money transfer operators, however, remain prohibitive and are significantly higher than in other parts of the world. Lack of transparency of the market and difficult comparability of different modalities are explanatory factors for these high costs. This is also affecting open competition, as consumers tend to revert to traditional operators in the absence of

easily accessible information on operators, modalities and costs.

Cash-to-cash transfers represented, according to Bank Al-Maghrib, close to 25% of total transfers in 2013 (against 19% in 2010). They are used mainly for small transfers required for exceptional or one time-events such as religious celebrations, schooling fees or emergencies. They are also used in areas where access to banking institutions is difficult and when beneficiaries do not hold bank accounts. In this context, the creation of the postal bank “Barid Al-Maghrib” that uses the large network of the country’s post offices has greatly contributed to expand banking coverage that exceeds 70% today.

## Planned measures and recommended actions

- > Encourage banking institutions to develop migrant client-oriented policies to attract financial transfers, such as by lowering transaction costs for certain amounts transferred, offering to open dual banking accounts in the country of residence and in Morocco and other banking and credit facilities
- > Establish bilateral working groups with public institutions

and private banking operators in Morocco and in countries of residence to agree on conditions and modalities to lower transaction costs

- > Increase transparency and access to information for consumers to be able to compare operators and costs, such as through the development of a web platform to provide guidance and practical information on financial transactions

## #21 Cooperate in facilitating safe and dignified return and readmission, as well as sustainable reintegration

*"We commit to facilitate and cooperate for safe and dignified return and to guarantee due process, individual assessment and effective remedy, by upholding the prohibition of collective expulsion and of returning migrants when there is a real and foreseeable risk of death, torture, and other cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment or punishment, or other irreparable harm, in accordance with our obligations under international human rights law. We further commit to ensure that our nationals are duly received and readmitted, in full respect for the human right to return to one's own country and the obligation of States to readmit their own nationals. We also commit to create conducive conditions for personal safety, economic empowerment, inclusion and social cohesion in communities, in order to ensure that reintegration of migrants upon return to their countries of origin is sustainable."*

### Achievements and challenges

Morocco has signed readmission agreements and memoranda of understanding with a number of European countries, including France, Germany, Spain and Italy. Discussions have also taken place with the EU since 2003, but have not been concluded yet. The Mobility Partnership Agreement that Morocco signed with the European Union and nine Member States in June 2013, calls for negotiations to be resumed "in order to conclude a balanced readmission agreement, with provisions relating to third country nationals".

A number of European countries

manage voluntary return and reintegration programmes of Moroccans living abroad, including France, Belgium, Germany, Spain, Italy, the Netherlands and Sweden. Programmes vary in terms of beneficiaries (vulnerable migrants, unemployed, unaccompanied minors), as well as in terms of benefits received, reintegration measures proposed and local implementation mechanisms. Some programmes are run in cooperation with IOM, others are implemented in partnership with local NGOs, such as the "Fondation Orient-Occident", or directly managed, such as the French return and reintegration programme managed by the French

Office for Immigration and Integration (OFII). Reintegration programmes are rather recent (most were concluded after 2011-2012) and include social reinsertion, job placement, vocational training and micro-enterprise support. Results are uneven and cooperation with public authorities and contextualization of interventions could be reinforced.

### **11,000 migrants benefitted from voluntary return and reintegration programmes since 2005**

For its part, Morocco also manages a return and reintegration programme that it implements in partnership with IOM on the basis of a memorandum of understanding signed in 2007. The programme focuses on vulnerable people, including people with health problems, victims of trafficking of persons, pregnant women, single-headed households, elderly people, and unaccompanied minors. The cost of air transport is borne by the Ministry of Interior while reintegration programmes are funded by international donors and implemented by IOM. The AVRR programme

consists in pre-departure assistance, direct financial assistance and post-return reintegration assistance. Since 2005, more than 11,000 persons were assisted in their voluntary repatriation. 84% of returnees originate from ECOWAS, including Guinea-Conakry, Senegal and the Ivory Coast. Candidates will also soon benefit from pre-departure vocational training to prepare for their reintegration in their country of origin, with financial support from the EU.

The reintegration of Moroccans residing abroad upon return to Morocco is fostered through the intervention of a web of actors, including public institutions, civil society and international organizations. Their role is to ensure that returning Moroccans can benefit from the portability of social entitlements and are assisted in accessing these rights (in particular through the network of the “Maisons des Marocains du Monde et des Affaires de la Migration”). They also ensure that returning Moroccans are informed about their rights, obligations and opportunities upon return, including their right to social and economic services. To this purpose, a prac-

tical guidebook has been developed to facilitate the reintegration of returning Moroccans and is pending approval. In addition, and as mentioned above, Moroccans abroad in situations of great vulnerability and in countries in crisis can be repatriated and are assisted in their reintegration upon return. A decree has been issued to better plan, coordinate and implement collective repatriation operations in crisis situations.

## Planned measures and recommended actions

- > Finalize discussions with the EU on the conclusion of a balanced readmission agreement
- > Ensure greater coordination of current readmission programmes with national and local authorities to facilitate reintegration of Moroccan returnees, including access to basic social services as well as employment and vocational training services and adequate micro-enterprise support.
- > Ensure that reintegration programmes are tailored to the Moroccan context and that they provide sufficient means for returnees' successful reintegration
- > Finalize and disseminate brochure on return and reinstallation in Morocco for returning Moroccans, including for Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) candidates
- > Ensure sufficient pre-departure training, including life-skills, cultural values and vocational training to support successful reintegration of migrants returning from Morocco



## #22 Establish mechanisms for the portability of social security entitlements and earned benefits

*“We commit to assist migrant workers at all skill levels to have access to social protection in countries of destination and profit from the portability of applicable social security entitlements and earned benefits in their countries of origin or when they decide to take up work in another country.”*

### Achievements and challenges

#### Morocco has signed bilateral social security conventions with 17 countries

These conventions provide for the continuation and transferability of social benefits (including health, pension, family benefits) after departure from the country of residence, as well as administrative coordination between the residence country and Morocco. While these conventions generally function efficiently and provide valuable coverage for returning Moroccans, Moroccans living abroad face a number of important difficulties.

#### Major emigration countries are not covered by social security conventions

Only 12 of the 17 bilateral conventions that Morocco has signed are operational, and a number of countries with large Moroccan emigrant population are not covered by bilateral conventions (such as the USA, the UK or Gulf countries), or have not yet ratified signed conventions (Italy). In addition, there are a number of countries where Moroccans are present and where social benefits are limited. Moreover, bilateral conventions do not cover all types of Moroccan emigrants. This is often the case for independent and seasonal workers, for example. Conventions are also often ill-adapted to the needs and evolving habits of Moroccan living abroad, which includes greater practice of circular or regional mobility and temporary sojourns, and they only function in one of the two contracting countries.

In countries with operational bilateral conventions, lack of informa-

tion of Moroccans living abroad on their rights and obligations leads often to non-activation or incorrect use of portable benefits, while poor communication with and coordination between institutional actors can translate in non-optimal application of procedures and difficult follow-up on numbers of beneficiaries and needs. In this regard the role of the Maisons des Marocains du Monde et des Affaires de la Migration in informing returning Moroccans about their rights, and in accompanying them in the required procedures is essential.

## Planned measures and recommended actions

- > Improve communication and information of Moroccans living abroad on portability of social benefits, including entitlements, functioning, rights and obligations
- > Revise existing bilateral conventions to include non-covered types of populations (such as independent or seasonal workers), ensure adequate benefit's package and provide greater security of rights
- > Conclude new bilateral conventions with countries with in-

creased Moroccan emigration

- > Improve coordination between institutional partners and greater follow-up of bilateral conventions' beneficiary populations
- > Design alternative solutions to bilateral conventions in countries where social security benefits are limited

## #23 Strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration

*“We commit to support each other in the realization of the objectives and commitments laid out in this Global Compact through enhanced international cooperation, a revitalized global partnership, and in the spirit of solidarity reaffirming the centrality of a comprehensive and integrated approach to facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration, and recognizing that we are all countries of origin, transit and destination. We further commit to take joint action in addressing the challenges faced in particular by African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States, and middle-income countries. We also commit to promote the mutually reinforcing nature between the Global Compact and existing international legal and policy frameworks, by aligning the implementation of this Global Compact with such frameworks, particularly the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and their recognition that migration and sustainable development are multidimensional and interdependent.”*

### Achievements and challenges

Morocco is a longstanding partner in international cooperation on migration and has for long supported the elaboration of coherent, concerted and comprehensive answers to the issues and challenges of international migration. It participated, between 2003 and 2005, to the creation, with Switzerland, Sweden and Brazil, of the Global Commission on International Migration, and has played since 2006 an important role in implementing the “Rabat Process” that constituted

an important step towards regional and interregional cooperation for the management of migration issues.

Morocco was also a vocal advocate during the second meeting of the High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development at the United Nations in October 2013 of an African Alliance for migration and development to promote a common African vision on migration, and of the integration of migration issues into the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Morocco was also the first Mediterranean country to

sign a Mobility Partnership Agreement with the European Union in June 2013, and has been an active member of the 5 + 5 Dialogue on migration issues.

### **Morocco designated as the African Union leader on migration**

Since 2017, Morocco co-presides with Germany the Global Forum on Migration and Development. It hosted two thematic workshops on migration and climate change (May 2017) as well as on migration and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (April 2018). His Majesty the King was also designated the African Union Leader on migration issues and invited to elaborate an African Agenda on Migration that He presented at the occasion of the 30<sup>th</sup> African Union Summit in Addis Ababa. In the proposed Agenda, the King calls for the nomination of an African Union Special Envoy for Migration and for the creation of an African Observatory on Migration based in Morocco, a recommendation that was approved in the subsequent 31<sup>st</sup> AU Summit in Nouakchott. It is in this context that Morocco has offered to host the Interministerial

Conference on the signature of a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migrations in Marrakech, 11-12 December 2018.

With regard to the implementation of its national migration policies, Morocco works with the support of a number of international partners that provide funding and assistance on a number of issues. The European Union is Morocco's main financial partner of the Kingdom on migration issues. It has signed with Morocco a budgetary support programme of Euro 28 million supported by a complementary assistance programme of Euro 7 million to improve the governance of Morocco's migration policies. The complementary assistance programme is implemented by various partners including GIZ, Expertise France, ENABEL and AECID that have been involved for years alongside Moroccan public authorities to build the capacities of their central and local institutions. Morocco also works closely with IOM and UNHCR on the reinforcement of institutional capacities on migration, as well as with UNODC and UNICEF on more sectoral issues. Finally, Morocco is also a beneficiary country of a number of pro-

jects of the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa for a total amount of EURO 16.5 million.

### **Planned measures and recommended actions**

- > Accelerate the setting-up of the African Observatory on Migration
- > Support the creation of the position of the AU Special Envoy for Migration
- > Increase South-South cooperation on issues related to migration and development, protection of migrants' rights and South-South mobility

# Conclusion

## Morocco's key progresses and challenges towards Global Compact objectives

### Maximizing migration opportunities while mitigating challenges

Consistent with the overall objective of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, Morocco's migration policies are essentially geared towards harnessing the development potential of Moroccans living abroad as well as of immigrants residing in Morocco, while mitigating the adverse effects of migration on migrants and on host communities. They are implemented in coordination and cooperation with Morocco's African and European neighbors to ensure that migration to and from Morocco takes place in a safe, orderly and regular manner, and that risks of exploitation, abuse and trafficking in persons are mitigated to the best extent possible.

### Better, more reliable and transparent information on migration in Morocco

Efforts have been made to strengthen research and knowledge on migration in Morocco (objective 1), and to disseminate accessible and practical information for migrants, public service providers and local associations (objective 3) on migrants' rights and opportunities. Moreover, the capacities of border management authorities are being strengthened on migration issues, international human rights law and international refugee law, to strengthen certainty and predictability in migration procedures and adequate individual screening and referencing of vulnerable migrants (objective 12). Further work needs however to be done to strengthen evidence-based knowledge on migration in Morocco in order to inform policy-making and provide greater and more transparent access to migration-related information to all stakeholders, including Moroccans living abroad, migrants in Morocco, line ministries, local authorities, civil society organizations, researchers and international institutions. A

number of quantitative studies are planned to ensure availability of reliable and comparable data, and public institutions data collection systems and processes will be adapted to monitor migrants' access and utilization of public services. Morocco will also accelerate the establishment of the African Union Observatory for Migration and Development in Rabat. The upcoming launch of a new website of the Delegate Ministry in charge of Moroccans Living Abroad and Migration Affairs will be the occasion of providing more comprehensive and accessible information on migration related issues. More efforts will also be placed in ensuring that Moroccans living abroad and migrants in Morocco are provided accessible and practical information on their rights and obligations, in particular through the use of social media.

Reducing migration-related vulnerabilities was the main objective of Morocco's National Immigration and Asylum Strategy and a key component of the National Strategy for Moroccans Living Abroad. Illegal migrants in Morocco were given the opportunity to regularize their situation

through two exceptional regularization campaigns in less than three years (objective 4). In addition, all migrants have also been granted access to humanitarian and social assistance on equal footing as Moroccan citizens, irrespective of their administrative situation (objective 7), and opportunities to be employed on the formal labor market to reduce risks of exploitation and abuse (objective 6). Social assistance is also provided to vulnerable Moroccans living abroad. Strong measures are also taken to fight against smuggling of migrants (objective 9) and a legal framework was recently adopted by Morocco to combat trafficking in persons (objective 10). Morocco also collaborates with Spanish authorities to save lives of migrants at sea (objective 8). Finally, Morocco supports African Union efforts to promote greater freedom of movement within the continent, and plans to expand its own academic mobility programme (objective 5). Morocco has not, however, signed so far the Protocol of the African Union relating to free movement of persons, right of residence and right of establishment. Further efforts are also needed to improve the Delegate Ministry's humanitarian

assistance mechanism for greater reactivity and improved coverage. The institutional framework to coordinate efforts to prevent and combat trafficking in persons needs to be operationalized. Moreover, more focus needs to be placed on unaccompanied and separated migrant children, on women victims of violence

### **More effective assistance to vulnerable migrants in Morocco, including women and children**

and abuse, and on access to justice. Finally, access of migrants to the formal labor market needs to be furthered through enhanced access to job-search and employment assistance services, access to micro-finance and better sensitization of the private sector.

### **Fostering migrants' integration through access to basic services, labour and participation to the socio-cultural life**

As mentioned above, fostering the integration of migrants and harnessing their development potential are key objectives of Mo-

rocco's National Immigration and Asylum Strategy and of the National Strategy for Moroccans Living Abroad. In Morocco, the approach used has been to grant migrants access to basic services, and in particular to education and health, irrespective of their administrative situation (objective 15).

### **Mobilizing Moroccan diaspora for development through transfer of knowledge, support to productive investments and civic engagement**

Moreover, in order to foster full inclusion and social cohesion, migrants are encouraged to participate to community life through a number of social, cultural and sport initiatives. Regular migrants and refugees are also entitled to vocational training and are supported to integrate the labor market and to contribute to the national economy (objective 16). Pilot projects are underway to ensure recognition of competencies and skills when diploma equivalence is not possible (objective 18). Initiatives are also being rolled out to promote a culture of diversity and of tolerance, fight against ra-



cism and discrimination and ensure that public discourse on migration is based on evidence and respects the legal framework (objective 17). Further emphasis needs to be placed on social accompaniment of migrants towards vocational training and access to the labor market, and in ensuring that all migrants can access basic services without discrimination or complex admission procedures. Moreover, community life participation and socio-cultural intermingling need to be fostered and all stakeholders shall be sensitized to a culture of diversity, tolerance and mutual respect. With regard to Moroccans living abroad, the Delegate Ministry encourages, through a variety of means, productive investments and transfer of knowledge, in particular through the establishment of regional and professional networks and the roll-out of a web-based skills matching platform (objective 19). Remittances represent 7% of the GDP and are thus an important contribution to Morocco's development. Despite efforts (objective 20), the cost of remittances has remained high at 5.5 to 7%.

## Following-up and reporting on delivering against commitments

The present document is the product of an analysis conducted by the Delegate Ministry in charge of Moroccans Living Abroad and Migration Affairs on progress achieved by Morocco towards Global Compact objectives. It is based on a review of the various policies, measures and initiatives taken in the implementation the National Strategy for Moroccans Living Abroad and of the National Immigration and Asylum Strategy. The document identifies a number of challenges and shortcomings and highlights the measures that the Delegate Ministry and other ministerial departments are planning to implement in the coming years to overcome these identified challenges. Moreover, the document proposes a set of key additional recommendations to be implemented to bring Morocco closer to fulfill the Global Compact's objectives.

As provided in the Global Compact, Morocco will have to report on progress made in implementing the Global Compact at regio-

nal level and to the International Migration Review Forum – at global level, in 2020 and 2022 respectively. To this purpose, Morocco will need to develop a monitoring and reporting framework coupled with a plan of action that will highlight the actions Morocco plans to take in order to implement the Global Compact.

The present document is meant to start the discussion with all ministerial departments and other relevant stakeholders that public authorities may wish to consult with on the elaboration

of a Global Compact National Implementation Plan. This would constitute a initial step towards implementation of the Global Compact, and in particular of the call to all Member States “to develop, as soon as practicable, ambitious national responses for the implementation of the Global Compact, and to conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national level, such as through the voluntary elaboration and use of a national implementation plan”.

المملكة المغربية  
Kingdom of Morocco



الوزارة المنتدبة لدى وزير الشؤون الخارجية  
والتعاون الدولي المكلفة بالمغاربة  
المقيمين بالخارج وشؤون الهجرة

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