

„Rabat Declaration“ September, 12, 2013

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Morocco, Saad Dine El Otmani and the Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany Dr. Guido Westerwelle emphasize the exceptional quality and depth of the longstanding relations between Morocco and Germany.

The Ministers note with satisfaction the status of intense bilateral cooperation, cooperation on regional and global issues and partnership in all relevant fields based on joint interest and common values.

The German side welcomes the important role Morocco has been playing for the stability, security and sustainable development of the North African region.

The German side commends the political, social, economic and institutional reforms and initiatives undertaken by His Majesty the King Mohammed VI. .

1. The Ministers express their commitment to further deepen Moroccan-German relations as well as to intensify cooperation on regional and global issues,
2. They have come to the understanding to launch bi-annual consultations on bilateral, regional and global issues led by the Ministers or their Deputies of our respective foreign ministries, held alternating in Rabat and Berlin and prepared on senior official level.

Bilateral relations

3. The mutual wish of the Ministers to deepen bilateral relations is based on their will to enhance the political dialogue, economic, cultural and people to people relations, strengthen democracy, rule of law and good governance, as well as to further market economy, fight against poverty and illiteracy and to achieve sustainable development.
4. The German side confirms that it stands ready to offer expertise and to reinforce partnership projects on political, social economic and institutional reforms on democracy and civil society, human rights and good governance.
5. In this context, cooperation between our civil societies and Non-Governmental Organizations will be strengthened. The Ministers recognize the valuable role of German political foundations, including through offering expertise on constitutional reform and strengthening local administration within the context of the Enlarged Regionalization enshrined in the new Constitution.
6. Germany renews its support to the ongoing negotiations carried out by the United Nations in order to achieve a peaceful, sustainable and mutually agreed-upon political solution for the conflict of the Western Sahara. Both sides note that the UN Security Council has described the Moroccan efforts to move the process forward towards resolution as serious and credible
7. The Ministers concur that the respective foreign ministries will identify areas of cooperation and elaborate projects to support the democratic reform process in Morocco with the goal of project implementation in 2014.

8. Parliamentary contacts are very important in the strengthening of bilateral relations. The Ministers welcome the visit of the speaker of the German Parliament in February 2013. The Ministers are convinced that the creation of a joint parliamentary forum would contribute substantially to bringing the peoples closer, deepening mutual understanding and leading to a convergence of views with regard to issues of mutual interest.

9. The Ministers underline the importance of the existing cooperation mechanisms such as the Intergovernmental Negotiations on Bilateral Development Cooperation and the Joint Bilateral Economic Commission to further contribute to harnessing potential in the areas of trade and investment in the fields of renewable energy, tourism, agribusiness, electronics, mechanical industry, medical equipment, automotive and aerospace industries.

10. The Ministers renew their commitment to further cooperate in the field of energy, considered one essential element in the bilateral relations. Recalling the Moroccan-German Energy Partnership established in 2012, they reaffirm their commitment to cooperate in this field, in particular renewable energies, the development of relevant technologies and electrical interconnections in order to promote electricity exchange between Morocco and Germany as well as with other European countries.

10a. The German side expresses its support for the integration of Moroccan and European electricity and gas markets and grids.

10b. Both sides concur to continue developing the necessary legal and financial framework necessary to enable interested European Member States and Morocco to develop joint projects exporting electricity from renewable sources to Europe through existing interconnections between Morocco and Spain"

11. The Ministers take note, with great satisfaction, of the excellent bilateral cooperation in the field of higher education and scientific exchange and jointly decided to explore ways and means to further intensify their cooperation, in particular through strengthening German language training in Morocco. They encourage further university cooperation in the field of applied sciences, i.e. renewable energy. With regard to vocational education and training, the Ministers encourage stakeholders, in particular the private sector, to explore new forms of cooperation, to exchange best practices and to share experiences on curricula development and training.

12. The Moroccan side expresses its wish that the German side would facilitate the procedures for the mobility and stay of the Moroccan students during their schooling and consider the possibility of reducing fees in German universities.

13. Both sides concur to explore ways and means of cooperation between the diplomatic academies of the foreign ministries.

14. The Ministers acknowledge the excellent bilateral cultural cooperation based on a solid network of partners, e.g. the Goethe-Institute, the German Academic Exchange Service DAAD and the German Archaeological Institute. Germany welcomes the intention of Morocco to open a cultural institute in Germany and invites the Moroccan Minister of Culture to Berlin to discuss this issue and other matters concerning the cultural relations. Germany is actively supporting Morocco in its efforts to protect the rich cultural heritage, e.g. the synagogues in Fes and Essaouira or the Djemaa El Fna in Marrakesh. One of the most

important ways to promote intercultural dialogue is through expanding people-to-people contacts.

15. The Ministers also concur that further improvement of the investment climate by opening of markets and creating secure and stable investment conditions would be beneficial to economic and business relations. An enhanced presence of German companies could contribute to improved vocational training and job-creation in Morocco.

Regional and global affairs

16. The “Advanced Status” underlines the intensity of the cooperation between Morocco and the European Union. It represents the recognition by the European Union of the efforts and progress achieved by Morocco. Morocco and Germany concur that the Moroccan reform process should continue to be supported by all relevant instruments of the European Union in order to reach the objectives set forth by Morocco-EU partnership; a common area of shared values as well as a common economic space. In this context, Morocco and Germany underline the importance of the opening of negotiations on a “Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement” in Rabat on 22 April 2013.

17. The Ministers welcome the successful dialogue on migration, mobility and security between the EU and Morocco. They deem the Joint Declaration on a Mobility Partnership is an important achievement for the collaboration of the EU and Morocco in the field of migration and sends a strong signal to the region. As a participating Member State in the Mobility Partnership, Germany intends to realize, jointly with Morocco, projects in the areas of mobility, international protection, and migration and development.

18. Morocco and Germany welcome their excellent cooperation in the framework of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and the Anna Lindh Foundation. They reiterate their commitment to the Euro-Mediterranean partnership, particularly through the implementation of the UfM projects and the Mediterranean Solar Plan.

19. The Ministers jointly stress the importance to strengthen regional cooperation and to actively contribute to peaceful solutions of conflicts in the region. They underline the necessity to reinforce political cooperation and economic integration between the members of the Union of the Arab Maghreb. They consider that the socio-economic development through using the untapped potential of increased intraregional trade would be very beneficial for the entire region.

20. They underscore the need for enhanced cooperation and coordination among them, as well as among the countries of the region in order to achieve security and stability and fight against terrorism.

21. Germany commends the role played by Morocco in regional and international organizations, including the Arab League, to contribute to the search of peaceful solutions in Syria. Both countries are providing humanitarian assistance to alleviate suffering of victims from conflicts in the region.

22. Both ministers jointly decide to explore ways and means of strengthened cooperation in the United Nations and to build upon the mutual experience of successful cooperation during the non-permanent membership of Morocco and Germany in the United Nations Security Council. In this context, Germany welcomes the important role played by Morocco at the

United Nations' Security Council as well as regional institutions, notably in Mali, in order to face the heightened risks of instability and insecurity in the Sahel region and beyond. For its part, building on its 2011-2012 Membership in the United Nations Security Council and its participation, among others, in MINUSMA and EUTM Mali, Germany remains committed to the stabilization of this region.

In conclusion

23. The Ministers confirm that the regular consultations of Ministers or their Deputies will be attended by senior officials from ministries contributing to bilateral cooperation. This will include government representatives of existing bilateral cooperation formats like development cooperation, the Energy Partnership and the Mixed Economic Commission.

24. They express their conviction that this consultative mechanism of Ministers or their Deputies will enhance visibility of the Moroccan-German partnership and strengthen coherence between the various areas of bilateral cooperation.

25. Finally, the Ministers underline their mutual wish to hold consultations in the near future.