

Kingdom of Morocco
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
and Cooperation



المملكة المغربية
وزارة الشؤون الخارجية
والاندلس

National Action Plan

for the Alliance of Civilisations

« Together we need to go for the reconquest of reason and the common values that underpin the legitimacy of a convivial environment where the words of dignity, justice and freedom will have to be spoken similarly and combined just as demandingly, regardless of our origins, our cultures or our spirituality»

His Majesty King Mohammed VI, King of Morocco

Preamble

Being a cultural melting pot, Morocco has forged, throughout its long history, a moving identity marked by a rich multicultural inter-mingling fed by the permanent movement of people and ideas and confirmed in its diversity and openness to the world by political, cultural and social governance choices that confer true credibility to its commitment to the principles and values of the Alliance of Civilizations.

The history of Morocco has been that of an uninterrupted cultural, religious and ethnic mixing between Muslims, Christians and Jews, Arabs and Berbers, Peoples of European origin and others of African descent. Its location at the junction of two continents and at the heart of the Mediterranean Basin - this cosmopolitan space where both East and West meet - has especially made it possible for Morocco to be a country of intercultural exchange and synthesis of civilizations.

Moreover, migration flows, which have crossed Morocco and continue to do so, have enriched the tremendous potential of cultural and human interbreeding, making of Morocco a country of openness and tolerance.

The history of migration in Morocco does not date back to the advent of Islam and its propagation all over North Africa. The population movements resulting from the expansion of the Roman, Byzantine, and Greek empires had already offered opportunities for cultural interbreeding and enriched Moroccan cultural and human heritage through various influences and tributaries. Several other episodes, starting from the history of North African Jews, which dates back to the foundation of Carthage by the Phoenicians and the establishment of trading posts along the Mediterranean coast until the massive arrival of the Moors of Spain in the 14th century, tell a lot about Moroccan heritage in terms of cultural interaction and peaceful coexistence.

Today, Morocco's approach to the migration issue is to encourage migrants' integration and the building of a citizenship in the host countries in compliance with the cultural values and the laws in force.

Emigration today, as a factor of cultural enrichment and a vector of appreciable social dynamism, if managed in a comprehensive and concerted way, offers today to our societies an opportunity to rise to the challenge of intercultural relations and to overcome the

communitarian temptation, hazardous for social understanding and harmony and harmful for international peace.

Relying on its longstanding experience, leaning on its core values and driven by its indomitable political will, Morocco is working towards the emergence of Maghreban, Euro-Mediterranean, African and Near-Eastern spaces, where peace and concord prevail, and is constructively acting for the establishment of trustful neighborly relations with these civilization areas.

Having made the strategic choice of coming increasingly closer to the European Union, Morocco perfectly integrated, in its approach, a cultural dimension whose objective is to promote understanding between Moroccan and European citizens. It was as a credible partner that Morocco was granted, in October 2008, an *Advanced Status* within the framework of its partnership with the European Union, thus recognizing not only its political reforms and economic potential, but also its exceptional cultural openness and its active commitment to the values of moderation, respect for the Other and for world conviviality.

While faithful to its Maghreban and African anchorage and yet aware, more than ever, of the necessity to reinvent new horizons for social and human ties across the world, Morocco has backed, ever since the beginning, the Union for the Mediterranean project as a means of consolidating the Barcelona Process, bound, inter alia, to transcend social, cultural, and economic cleavages between both shores of the Mediterranean.

In this regard, Morocco remains convinced that serving the values of the Alliance of Civilizations inevitably goes through the achievement of greater economic equity between societies and regions. Regional areas where prosperity meets poverty and social vulnerability are more exposed to tension, misunderstanding and rejection, which easily breed cultural, racial and religious prejudice.

Translating convictions into deeds, Morocco always played a leading part with regard to regional integration and South-South cooperation.

« *We made you into peoples and nations, that ye may know each other* », says the Holy Quran. The universal dimension of this verse is Morocco's creed as concerns both the management of its own cultural diversity and the conduct of its relations with the outer world. Indeed, Morocco's deep commitment to the fundamentals of its specific and plural identity and the adoption of the precepts of an open and tolerant Islam have, for 14 centuries, guided Morocco in its relations with other peoples, cultures and civilizations.

The role played in this regard by the establishment of the Commandry of the Faithful, which is traditionally exercised by the Moroccan kings, is of great importance as it is the guarantor of the nation's peace and moral prosperity, as well as the sustainability of the citizens' faith in the virtues of a tolerant Islam, moderation and the values of openness and respect for the other people.

In the name of this Moroccan specificity, His Majesty King Mohammed VI, Amir Al Mumineen (Commander of the Faithful), gave a new pace to the consecration of this type of religious practice which represents an Islam respectful of the values and Human rights and open to the positive dynamics of globalization. The reform of the religious field, initiated by His Majesty the King, aims at reaffirming the spirit of moderation, solidarity, respect for the other revealed religions and the fight against extremism of all stripes.

In this context, the human element is at the very heart of the reform, mainly through the teaching of faith that is rigorous concerning the essence of Islam and resolutely open to the developments in the modern world. The pioneering spirit of this reform is perfectly illustrated, for example, by involving women (Murchidats) in supervising the citizens in their religious practices. Such innovative and modernist guidance meets many expectations: fighting illiteracy, further empowering women, promoting the values of citizenship and moderation, bringing people closer to each other, dismantling the discourse of hatred and fighting prejudice, stereotypes and amalgamations.

The reform of the religious field has also invested heavily in training Ulemas (clerics) in other religions and languages to consecrate the Moroccan model of religious practice, based on the values of moderation, tolerance, unity and solidarity.

Morocco, where freedom of religion is guaranteed for all, where the Jewish minority enjoys full rights, continues to assert - through the action of His Majesty King Mohammed VI in his capacity of Chairman of Al-Quds Committee - its commitment and militancy in favor of preserving Jerusalem's identity as a city of peace and a converging place for the three religions.

Interfaith dialogue, as an important component of intercultural dialogue, is thus a constant in Morocco's commitment. The Kingdom was, in 1985, the first Muslim country to host, at the invitation of His Majesty Late Hassan II, Commander of the Faithful, His Holiness Pope John Paul II, who delivered a major speech on that occasion before an attendance of 80,000 people.

The Arab world's only museum dedicated to the Jewish history is located in Casablanca and its curator is a Moroccan Muslim lady. To its many local and international visitors, the Museum of the Moroccan Jewish Heritage is testimony to the peaceful coexistence between Jewish and Muslim communities throughout the history of Morocco and offers a space for the promotion and preservation of the Judeo-Moroccan culture and heritage.

Mindful of promoting human values, Morocco has made of the dissemination of these values one of the fundamental principles of the Education and Training Charter in 1999. Benefiting from a wide consensus, this reference document, developed within the overall reform of the educational system, devotes most of its first part to the "Constant Fundamentals» and to the Moroccan school objectives based on moderation and tolerance. Strengthening foreign language teaching and civic education, easing access to NICT for younger audiences, making further specific efforts for schooling little girls, including in rural areas, overhauling textbooks to fight sexist and cultural stereotypes and integrating the teaching of human rights into school curricula, are examples inter alia, that illustrate the efforts made and the guidelines adopted by Morocco to enable the Moroccan educational system to prepare the youth to evolve as world citizens, impregnated with values such as solidarity and respect for the Other, convinced of gender equality and the virtues of intercultural exchange and respectful of Human Rights.

Morocco's policy in terms of education, culture and human rights, is based on the principles of intercultural dialogue, in compliance with the content of relevant international agreements, including the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights' Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the UNESCO's Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity and the White Paper of the Council of Europe on intercultural dialogue.

Convinced of the role of that the media could play in promoting dialogue and tolerance values, Morocco has started upgrading its audiovisual sector by passing a law on the liberalization of the national audiovisual sector and by creating the National Audiovisual Communication High Authority (HACA), vested in 2002 as an independent regulatory body, one of whose crucial principles being “to make sure the that the pluralistic expression of thoughts and opinions is guaranteed.”

It is also worth recalling that Morocco has participated in launching several international initiatives related to the principles defended by the Alliance of Civilizations, such as the establishment of the Three Cultures and Three Religions of the Mediterranean foundation, in collaboration with Spain and the Autonomous Government of Andalusia. In his speech of 10 March 2009, on the occasion of the 10th Anniversary of the Foundation, His Majesty King Mohammed VI underlined, in particular, that **“Our Foundation has been pioneering in many respects [for] correctly anticipating the emergence of the false debate on the so-called clash of civilizations while sketching, way ahead, the adequate response to the advocates of introverted assertion of one’s identity and spiritual divide”.**

By setting up its National Plan and continuing to adhere to all international initiatives serving the Alliance Of Civilizations' principles, Morocco is being not only faithful to the constancies of its history and to the foundations of its political and cultural choices, but also expressing its determination to contribute to the international community's future efforts to consolidate and promote mutual understanding between the peoples.

The Kingdom of Morocco has resolutely and precociously supported the Alliance of Civilizations. Morocco reckons that this UN initiative is a vector for peace, development and rapprochement between peoples and nations, and believes that it is important that an increasing number of actors of the international community be involved in the Alliance of Civilizations as a global space for governance and cultural diversity.

Morocco's specific interest and firm commitment to this UN initiative are expressed at several levels: Appointment by the UN Secretary General of Mr. Andre Azoulay, Advisor to His Majesty King Mohammed VI, as a member of the High Level Group of the Alliance of Civilizations; Morocco's membership in the Group of Friends of the Alliance and its active participation in the first two forums held in Madrid in January 2008 and in Istanbul in April 2009.

Besides, it is only fair to acknowledge Mr. Andre Azoulay's actions at the head of the Anna Lindh Foundation for dialogue between cultures, established during the Paris Summit for the launch of the Union for the Mediterranean in July 2008 as a Euro-Mediterranean institution dedicated, in cooperation with the Alliance of Civilizations, to the development and deepening of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership's cultural dimension.

To meet the challenge of cultural diversity, which is a source of mutual enrichment, Morocco is convinced of the need to build real intercultural societies whose cohesion and social harmony would fit not in spite of cultural differences, but thanks to the same.

According to this approach, justice and equity in the relations between nations and peoples are crucial to the success of the "Alliance of Civilizations" project. This has to do with the establishment of a relationship in which human dignity and the trajectories of different civilizations are respected and valued.

Finally, the Kingdom of Morocco is convinced that there it is urgent that the wills converge so that the founding principles of the Alliance of Civilizations are considered as guidelines and priorities for a genuine collective action to build a world where should prevail concern for security, the sense of justice and the culture of peace.

National Action Plan

The National Plan for the Alliance of Civilizations is designed as a platform for an inclusive dialogue and a joint action which unite governments, civil actors and international organizations around the values of the Alliance of Civilizations. The objective is to create sustainable dynamics illustrated by concrete results and animated by convinced and efficient protagonists. The plan is meant to be future-oriented and open to the creativity of all. For it will thus reflect both political commitment and citizen mobilization.



Education, Training, Democracy and Human Rights

The Education and Training Charter, a reference document of the national educational system, sets out, among its fundamental principles, many provisions converging with the values of the Alliance of Civilizations. This Charter thus mentions, particularly in Article 2 of the first section dedicated to the fundamental principles, that "Education is committed to developing the spirit of dialogue; it teaches to accept discrepancy and leads to the practice of democracy under the rule of law. »

The Charter establishes the respect by the educational system for its regional components and commits it to ensure "a dynamic interaction between Morocco's cultural heritage and the major universal principles of human rights and the respect for human dignity".

In 2009, the national Department of Education provided, under the 2009-2012 Emergency Program, projects aimed at integrating into the educational system the issue of the promotion of values of peace, respect for the Other, understanding, solidarity and tolerance.

In order to accelerate the implementation of the educational and training reform and following the directives in the royal speech on the occasion of the opening of the autumn parliamentary session on 12 October 2007, an Emergency Program for 2009-2012 was developed by the national Department of Education.

With 4 years of duration (2009-2012) and with the National Charter for Education and Training as a reference, this ambitious and innovative program resumes the Charter's orientations and aims at accelerating the reform of the entire educational system. Its strategic goals take into consideration the integration of the gender approach in the educational policy while putting emphasis on improving the performance of the educational sector through compulsory schooling for all children up to 15 years of age and equal opportunities of access to compulsory education.

Provided with rigorous follow-up and evaluation mechanisms, this Emergency Program set many objectives converging with the principles of the Alliance of Civilizations. Indeed, reviewing educational and training curricula aims, inter alia, at enabling the learners to:

- Respond positively and in total harmony with their identity;
- Master the Arabic and Amazigh languages;
- Integrate the respect for the variety of the regional components of the cultural heritage;
- Open up to the developments in the world, accept the values of universal civilization, be prepared to assimilate human intellectual productions, accept the Other and participate in the cultural exchange worldwide.
- Provide learners with varied educational and training choices that meet their expectations and their current social needs, thus giving them the appropriate knowledge and skills.

In order to achieve these objectives, the Department of National Education, now that it includes the learning and teaching of intercultural skills in its strategic approach to reform the national educational system, has developed and planned several activities and projects such as:

Establishing a plan to integrate international Humanitarian law into the curricula, the teaching methods and the textbooks

Within the framework of the implementation of the agreement protocol between the Department of Education and the International Committee of the Red Cross, a special educational program will be set up during 2010-2011 for all junior high school students to enable them to be acquainted with and integrate the principles, concepts and contents of international humanitarian law. These principles will be enunciated through the teaching methods, the curricula and the sequences of school life altogether.

The ultimate goal of this project is thus paramount teaching of international humanitarian law by integrating the latter into the junior high school subjects said to be promising and adapting related methods to the curriculum to be explored, in order to have the learners assimilate international humanitarian law and enable them to develop the necessary skills to access the principles, concepts and different contents of the latter.

Teaching international humanitarian law will cover the following subjects:

- Humanities as the subject-matter most appropriate for introducing the content of international humanitarian law;
- Islamic education and language courses as they are liable to convey the principles and concepts of international humanitarian law.

Several specific actions are programmed under this project in order to involve as many stakeholders as possible and sustain this educational approach.

Pedagogical meetings will be held during 2010 and 2011 for the benefit of publishers, educational authors' committees and the Committee for the evaluation and approval of school textbooks in order to sensitize them to the importance of integrating international humanitarian law into the curricula.

Consolidating pedagogic diversification by:

- continuing to open new Hebrew schools in favor of Moroccan Jewish children according to their needs and in conformity with the procedure in force. It should be noted that state and private schools are open, on an equal footing, to Moroccan children, Jews and Muslims alike, as well as to foreign children residing in Morocco. Hebrew schools for Moroccan Jewish children can be opened upon submission of a simple application to the regional education authorities. Children from families of Muslim faith are free to register in these schools.
- developing cooperation ties with foreign schools existing in Morocco. It should be noted that the Moroccan educational space hosts many schools offering children of expatriates and willing nationals curricula that differ from those provided for by the national system.
- establishing more twinnings between Moroccan schools and their counterparts in the Mediterranean region.
- setting up educational and inter-academic partnerships between Regional Academies of Education and Training (AREF) and their counterparts in the Mediterranean region.

Strengthening foreign language proficiency

The Ministry of Education has developed an ambitious program to encourage foreign languages proficiency at different educational stages. The purpose of this program is to:

- enhance the teaching of freedom of expression, respect for the others' opinions and acceptance of differences;
- Promote the students' language skills and potentials;
- Develop communication skills and the values of dialogue.

Intensifying the “Language and Culture of Origin teaching (ELCO)” program directed to Moroccan children abroad to better meet the purposes of the Alliance of Civilizations.

This program was launched as early as the 80s by the Department of National Education and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation. Other Moroccan departments have participated in the steering and improvement of the program, namely the Ministry in charge of the Moroccan Community residing Abroad and the Hassan II Foundation for Moroccan Residents Abroad.

In the framework of a partnership between the above-mentioned Moroccan departments and the host countries, the implementation of the ELCO program aims at:

- Contributing to prepare the emigrated child to better interact with his/her culture of origin and help in the achievement of his/her integration into the hosting socio-educational environment by teaching him/her the values and concepts of tolerance and respect;
- Teaching the child to respect and accept the culture of the host country;
- Developing the critical and creative spirit among students and preparing them to participate actively in the social and educational life of the host country.

In the years to come, this program will be strengthened as more attention will be paid to cultural and early-learning activities for a better integration of the beneficiaries in the host societies.

Organizing an international conference in Rabat on 24-25 June 2010 on the “Language and Culture of Origin Teaching (ELCO)” program

This conference, in which will be participating representatives of the relevant authorities in the host countries, aims at discussing issues relating to training demand and supply and to the various social and pedagogic situations that this type of teaching is facing. A study will also be conducted to look into the objectives of the latter, mainly as concerns the guarantees of academic success of the new generations and their socio-economic integration into societies where they have now become nationals.

Promoting the role of higher education in propagating and implanting the culture of peace, dialogue and respect for the Other

By being naturally related to research, analysis and the propagation of knowledge, higher education makes a considerable contribution, both qualitative and quantitative, to the Alliance of Civilizations thanks to a better understanding of the civilizations of the world and their role in enriching the universal human and cultural heritage.

In the fields of training, research, scientific output, exchange and communication alike, Moroccan higher education is officially oriented to universal values.

In collaboration with Morocco's sixteen universities, the Department of Higher Education has developed a comprehensive project dedicated to promoting dialogue and cultural diversity among civilizations and valorizing heritage.

This project aims at:

- Developing skills in the fields of cultural diversity and intercultural mediation;
- Highlighting the various components of the national culture around the Arab, Amazigh, Jewish and Christian heritage in Morocco;
- Promoting and disseminating the principles of citizenship and the values of democracy and dialogue with other cultures;
- Promoting intercultural dialogue between Morocco, on the one hand, and the countries of the Mediterranean and Northern Europe, on the other.

Implementation of this project will be pursued by:

- Multiplying accredited research facilities as a means of promoting intercultural dialogue;
- Creating further BA's, Master's and Doctoral courses dedicated to cultural diversity and its good governance both nationally and internationally;
- Supporting internationally shared university courses on openness and multiculturalism through conventional mechanisms (joint university training, co-graduation and co-supervision of theses and research);
- Encouraging branches dealing with multilingual translation and supporting translation work as a means of highlighting the contribution by various cultures of the world to human civilization and as a tool for sustaining intercultural dialogue;
- Supporting research on the history of Semitic civilizations and the typology of civilization relations between various Semitic peoples;
- Supporting the "cultural heritage competence pole" made of a network of laboratories dealing, under 14 Moroccan universities, with the investigation, rehabilitation and preservation of the common heritage of the three cultures (Islam, Christianity and Judaism) in Morocco;

- Encouraging the collection, by universities and research centers, of the data related to the history, religions and civilizations of the Far East and sub-Saharan Africa. In the same spirit, special support will be given to lexical and terminological research related to the relations between Arabic, Amazigh and other languages such as Japanese;
- Encouraging research on the role of Arab and Islamic philosophy in the Muslim West and its impact on the development of science;
- Establishing, within a partnership between Moroccan and European universities, a program designed to encourage research and documentation on traditions and cultures;
- Organizing forums, seminars and conferences on topics related to religion and culture in a globalized world in dire need of good governance of cultural diversity. Examples of the topics to be discussed at the planned symposia are: Promoting dialogue between the civilizations of Morocco and the Iberian Peninsula, the role of Arab thinkers in the development of Human Sciences; migration as a means of communication and understanding between cultures; perspectives for interdisciplinary exchange and multiculturalism, etc.

Establishing the Euro-Mediterranean University in Fez

The Moroccan initiative of creating a Euro-Mediterranean University in Fez is a contribution to the establishment of a Euro-Mediterranean space for higher education and scientific research offering the region more possibilities to access specific knowledge and greater chances to study and work in a multicultural context.

The project, which was announced at the meeting of Foreign Ministers of the Union for the Mediterranean, held in Marseille on 3 and 4 November 2008, is meant to be the southern "counterpart" of the Euro-Mediterranean University established in 2008 in Piran (Slovenia). The proposed Euro-Mediterranean University of Fez is testimony of the commitment of Morocco to concretize the objectives of regional integration and the development process of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership, mainly through the creation of a space for meetings between academic communities and civil society, for dialogue and for exchange on issues on how to strengthen intercultural understanding and promote social, cultural and human partnership.

The Euro-Mediterranean University of Fez will develop research activities in priority fields for scientific and socioeconomic development in the countries of the Euro-Mediterranean region, through thematic research and training programs on Mediterranean civilizations and societies and by promoting closer ties between cultural identities.



Media, Communication and the Shaping of Public Opinion

Since the purpose is to influence mindsets and ways of being in order to implant values of tolerance, respect for differences and cultural diversity, Morocco believes that action of the media, religious communities and the various opinion-makers could contribute considerably in this regard, provided that this action comes within a national strategy for the promotion of the culture of peace, cultural pluralism and acceptance of the Other.

As concerns communication, the media, cultural action and religious guidance altogether, Morocco has developed coherent and synergic public policies to promote the values of tolerance, respect for the Other and the fundamentally pluralistic nature of human civilization.

Religious guidance

In its public policy concerning religious guidance, Morocco has clearly and sustainably integrated sensitization to the principles of the Alliance of Civilizations. This sensitization is performed directly or indirectly on several levels and in many fields of intervention and relies on the continuation and consolidation of the following actions:

- **Strengthening the capacity** of religious supervisors (80,000) by offering them, as part of a comprehensive program entitled " Mithaq Al-Ulema" (the Pact of Ulema), advanced courses mainly aimed at consolidating the respect for human rights and highlighting humanities, foreign language learning and the need to adapt the discourse to the requirements of modern life.
- **Creating a new type of religious instructors within the same framework "Mithaq Al Ulema"**. These are supervising Imams half-way between Scholars "Alem" "and preachers "Khotabaa" . They will be closer to

citizens to communicate with them and teach them about the principles of tolerance and respect for the Other and how to interact with other civilizations.

- **Entrusting women with religious guidance by training them as murchidat (religious instructors).** Within the same approach, the murchidat, whose number is on the increase, are receiving adequate training on the political and social choices of Morocco to enable them to convey the values of openness, coexistence and equality to a large part of the Moroccan population, especially among women.
- **Establishing inter-university partnership agreements between Dar Al-Hadith Al-Hassania,** an institution for higher education under the Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs, and European universities for more openness on the modern approach of religious thought and for a better command of foreign languages.
- **Introducing modules relating to major religions, spiritual traditions and ancient languages such as Greek, Latin and Hebrew into most schools and institutions offering traditional teaching (Al Atiq).**
- **Inviting Muslim scholars** from different cultural backgrounds to take part in the religious Hassanian lectures (Durus Hassaniya) held each year during the holy month of Ramadan before His Majesty King Mohammed VI, Commander of the Faithful, and representatives of national and international NGOs to participate in the debates following the lectures.
- **Opening the "Sidi Chiker" international meetings on Sufism** to the international media and national and foreign NGOs for a better understanding of Muslim spirituality both in its social and cultural aspects. These meetings are held every two years in the region of Marrakech with the participation of more than 1,000 affiliates from countries from all continents.
- **Organizing programs to welcome groups from different religious faiths visiting Morocco.**

The Media and Communication

Thanks to its ability to partially or massively impact behaviors and reach the public at large, free and credible media is, as a matter of fact, at the forefront of any approach meant to promote, explain or influence with the purpose of fighting cultural stereotypes and disseminating values of intercultural exchange.

Reinforcing the Alliance of Civilizations also requires that the latter be known in society. To this end, the Department of Communication is considering to take the following actions:

- **Establishing the "Media at the service of the Alliance Of Civilizations" Prize**

Launched by the Ministry of Communication, in partnership with professional associations of journalists and media owners, the Media at the service of the Alliance of Civilizations Award will seek to honor journalists who have stood out by their actions and commitment to cultural understanding, the promotion of diversity and the fight against intolerance and stereotypes on gender, culture or religion.

This Prize, whose first edition will be organized in early 2011, also aims at encouraging the development of good journalistic practices concerning intercultural dialogue.

Genuine partnerships within the media (written press, radio, television, news agencies and e-journalism) will be sought to ensure success and optimal support for this initiative.

- **Creating an International Media Center**

The creation of an international center where media actors can meet will serve as a space for exchange and cooperation between journalists from different countries in order to build cooperative ties, carry out joint projects and promote the concepts of cultural diversity and tolerance among the peoples.

The expected outcome of this project is to foster conviviality and tolerance between journalists and representatives of the international media. Beyond the purely professional relationship, the objective is to promote cultural diversity and enhance understanding among different cultures without affecting the freedom to inform objectively.

Meant to be a genuine multicultural journalistic agora, this space will host seminars, conferences and training sessions targeting journalists and other media actors from various countries and with different careers.

This center, whose main “contractor” will be the Ministry of Communication, will start operating in the fourth quarter of 2010. Its potential partners include ministries of different member countries of the Alliance of Civilizations, journalists’ professional organizations, radio and TV operators, news agencies and newspaper publishers. The audience of the media will also be contributing to support the activities of the Center.

- **Designing Media Guides on the issues related to the Alliance of Civilizations**

This is a project for designing one or more media guides aiming at dealing with issues related to the subjects addressed by the Alliance of Civilizations.

These guides, directed to students of journalism or acting journalists, will increase the journalists’ intellectual and professional alertness whenever it comes to stereotypes, stigma and cultural prejudice which may be intentionally or inadvertently conveyed by the media.

These guides will be prepared in close collaboration with journalists, academics and intellectuals.

They are intended for different types of media: TV, radio, newspapers, internet, blogs, etc.

- **Creating a website dedicated to the Alliance of Civilizations**

This website will aim at highlighting Morocco’s actions aiming at promoting the culture of tolerance and understanding between East and West and overcoming existing prejudice in the cultures of these two poles. It will also provide, in a dynamic and practical way, news related to the Alliance of Civilizations as a UN instrument.

Particular attention will be paid to information liable to sensitize the youth on the virtues of intercultural understanding, dialogue between the peoples and the fight against obscurantist ideology that fuels hatred and incites to extremism.

The content of the website will mainly consist of a forum dealing with interactive dialogue to promote the exchange of ideas and opinions on topics of multiculturalism and pluralism.

Journalists' professional associations, particularly those operating through electronic information portals, media users and bloggers' associations will be involved in the project.

This project is convergent and complementary with the media mechanism of rapid response to intercultural tensions provided by the Alliance of Civilizations.

The Ministry of Social Development, Family and Solidarity (MDSFS) has planned actions that are perfectly synergistic with the Alliance of Civilizations' efforts. These actions, which are integral part of this National Plan, mainly include:

- **Implementing the national strategy for promoting the image of women in the media**

The Ministry of Social Development, Family and Solidarity intends to resume, during the years 2010-2011, several activities programmed within the implementation of the specific strategy entitled "Promoting the image of Moroccan women in the media". The objectives pursued through these activities are as follows:

- Re-mobilizing stakeholders for a better representation of women by the media;
- Improving collective consciousness regarding the stakes behind the detailed follow-up and full implementation of the provisions of such strategy.

The partners to this strategy are all the Departments signatory to the strategy, the Associations pleading for women's rights and the latter's international partners, such as UNFPA, UNIFEM, etc.

- **Working out a national program to disseminate the culture of equality**

In 2009, a study was conducted by the MSDFS on the culture of equality. This study made it possible to understand how values, norms and practices in specific areas or social institutions may foster inequality, reinforce power disparities between genders or perpetuate violence against women.

A national program for propagating the culture of equality was developed according to the findings of the study. One of this program's major objectives is disseminating the results and recommendations of the study, mainly the kind of action to be taken within the sectors concerned for a better propagation of the culture of equality.

Several actors such as ministerial departments, NGOs, the media and people intervening in areas concerning Women, the Family and Youth will be involved and targeted in this national action.

- **Undertaking a national campaign of sensitization to the culture of equality**

During this national campaign, a wide variety of communication material dedicated to the issue of gender equality will be produced and disseminated. The objective is to refer Moroccan citizens from all backgrounds to practices and standards facilitating the dissemination of the culture of equality.

This campaign of information and communication will bring together, in a joint effort, several stakeholders: The Ministry of Social Development, Family and Solidarity (MDSFS), the Ministry of Communication, the Department of Education, the Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs, media actors, and NGOs.

- **Insertion of a module on the Alliance of Civilizations in the program entitled "Takwia for the qualification of associations".**

This action is designed to explain and promote the principles and objectives of the Alliance of Civilizations within a public whose influence is tremendous in the Moroccan society, namely the associative networks of civil society.

Within the authorities' efforts to support such networks in the course of their development and promote their skills for a better accomplishment of their missions and control of their objectives, the Ministry of Social Development, Family and Solidarity (MDSFS) and the Agency for Social Development have established the Program "Takwia for the Qualification of Associations (PTQA)".

Under the training component of this program, it is planned to insert modules to popularize the objectives of the Alliance of Civilizations and sensitize associations and other associative networks to the latter. A specific training module will be worked out to this end.

The project concerning the sensitization to the values of the Alliance of Civilizations aims at:

- Promoting the values and objectives of the Alliance of Civilizations among partner associations;
- Providing associations with fundamental knowledge to help them open up to the culture of tolerance and disseminate it afterwards;
- Promoting universal values and ideals advocated by human civilizations, in particular freedom, equality, fraternity, justice, solidarity, tolerance, coexistence and unity among the nations and different human communities.

Associations will be selected to relay for disseminating this culture among other associations.

All partner associations and networks of the Ministry and the Agency of Social Development in the sixteen regions of the Kingdom (one province per region) will benefit from this project. They will act as a transmission belt to enhance these values and transmit them to other associations, thus ensuring a wider dissemination.

The project will last for two years in each partner province, and will regularly support the *Takwia* program for the Qualification of Associations which is spread over a renewable period of three years up to 2012.

- **Organizing an international symposium on "Women's rights: between specificity and globalization."**

- **Increasing the volume of the programs by the satellite TV channel Assadissa and Mohammed VI radio for the Holy Qur'an.**

These are devoted to exalting and promoting the spirit of moderation and respect for religion. They will also be designed and selected with special concern for the rapprochement of religious communities and the popularization of the virtues of inter-religious dialogue.

- **Creating, within the Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs' website**, a section on Interreligious Dialogue where international religious news will be announced.

Culture and Cultural Communication

Organizing events that highlight Morocco's cultural diversity in its interactions with other civilizations has always been a constant in the Kingdom's cultural activities.

To ensure maximum dissemination of the values of dialogue, cultural diversity and the Alliance of Civilizations, a genuine partnership between public actions and private initiatives have been established at this level. Several events and activities are planned for the 2010 - 2012 period, including:

- **The organization, by the Ministry of Culture, of numerous conferences, forums and events on themes converging with the principles of the Alliance of Civilizations.**

- A symposium on "Arab civilization today: the return of the power of culture against the culture of power";
- An International Symposium on music and the dialogue of cultures;
- A writing creativity Contest on the theme "Dialogue and Alliance of Civilizations"
- An International Symposium on "Human Heritage and civilization heritage at the service of development";
- A Forum on "The Dialogue of civilizations and ways of coexistence and peace for a better future";
- An International Symposium on "Justice in International Relations";
- An Annual International Forum on the theme "The crossroads of civilizations."

- **Organizing Moroccan cultural weeks abroad** (in an average of four events per annum) to promote Moroccan culture in other civilizations. Morocco is also home to many yearly cultural weeks organized by different countries to honor the world's cultures.

- **Enriching public libraries** with works that convey the culture of peace, dialogue and tolerance.

- **implementing a national program for the translation** into Arabic of great literary works conveying the values of democracy, tolerance and peace, and into foreign languages of major Moroccan works.

- **Establishing a database at the national level** that groups the initiatives of the State, civil society and private actors for the promotion of dialogue among civilizations.

- **Developing a national program that highlights shared heritage** (synagogues, Moroccan-Jewish heritage, Portuguese heritage in Morocco, Andalusian heritage etc..).

- **Strengthening partnership with foreign cultural centers in Morocco** in order to promote the culture of dialogue among civilizations.

- **Sharing the results of archaeological research in Morocco**, which elucidate, by archaeological evidence, the synergy between the various civilizations of the world.

- **Supporting cultural works that fight racism and exclusion.**

- **The organization by the Spirit of Fes Foundation of the 16th edition of the Fez Festival of World Sacred Music "from 4 to 12 June 2010.** This world-famous festival carries a message of peace and spirituality through music and reflection on cultural and ethical challenges of Globalization. It has

been described by the UN in 2001 as one of the events that remarkably contributed to the dialogue of civilizations. An international network of support and mediatization has developed in the United States of America through the organization "Spirit of Fez", which organizes, every two years, a program of festivals and meetings of Fez in nearly 20 US cities. Many other cities such as Milan, London and Madrid expressed the wish to become relays to extend the message of this festival.

- **The organization by “the Association of the Fez Festival of the Sufi Culture”, in April 2011, of the 5th edition of the Fez Festival of Sufi Culture.**
- **The organization, during the year 2011, by the "Spirit of Fez Foundation" and the "Moroccan Interdisciplinary Center for Strategic and International Studies (CMIESI)" of "the 4th Forum of Fez on the Alliance of Civilizations".**
- **Organizing an exhibition entitled "Morocco-Europe: six centuries in the eye of the other.** This is a project that highlights the history of the relations between Morocco and Europe, a history still unknown to both the Moroccan and European publics. The exhibition will be held in several European cities (Brussels, Antwerp, Seville, Amsterdam, Paris, London) and in New York. Its inauguration will take place in Brussels at the Museum of Europe in October 2010 and it will be hosted by the National Library of Morocco in Rabat from 22 November to 31 December 2010 before traveling again across the world. The catalog (250 pages) will be published in Arabic, French, English, Dutch and Spanish. The Council of the Moroccan Community Abroad (CCME) is the main partner of this project led by the Brussels Center for Judeo-Moroccan culture.
- **Opening the Casablanca International Book and Publishers Fair (SIEL) to the participation of different continents and a larger number of publishers around the world.** A stand for the promotion of literary and artistic creations of Moroccans across the world will also be introduced in this exhibition by the Council of the Moroccan Community Abroad (CCME). Different perceptions and intercultural creativity will be the watchwords of this ambitious plan to which will also be invited intellectuals and expatriate writers from other countries.
- **The support, by the Council of the Moroccan Community Abroad, of a policy aimed at translating works of Moroccan literature in French, English, Dutch and Spanish, as initiated on the occasion of the 16th SIEL edition.** This effort will continue and may lead to partnerships in this field between the countries interested.



Youth, Gender and Citizenship

The globalization of economy and communication offer opportunities of involvement to the youth in promoting understanding between the peoples and encouraging positive interaction between cultures. The increasing mobility of the youth is thus a chance for fighting prejudice and learning to live together.

Morocco's actions in the field of Youth and Sport seek, inter alia, to implement processes of rapprochement between different peoples. This rapprochement is achieved through sport activities and other actions concerning youth and childhood by creating opportunities for encounters, openness and sharing between Moroccan youth and their counterparts from other cultures.

Today, young people from all countries form a community with a predilection for progress and interaction in the virtual space. Morocco's action in relation with its youth is concerned with improving access of Moroccan youth to NICT to enable them to become dynamic and positive players within a framework of a fruitful interaction between the youth of the world for the benefit of the societies of tomorrow.

In this regard, Morocco has adopted a rapprochement approach, which consists of creating more space of interaction with and between the youth and considers that the prerequisite for such dynamics is setting up the adequate material and immaterial infrastructure where this youth may produce, express itself and participate in the process of development.

The Ministry of Youth and Sports makes sure to implement a national integrated strategy for youth. This is a comprehensive and integrated approach that would promote youth-related issues and strengthen essential mechanisms that enable them to face the various challenges of globalization.

The adoption of the above mentioned Strategy will provide significant support to the projects related to youth that Morocco provides for within its adherence to the goals of the Alliance of Civilizations. These actions are as follows:

- **Organizing four forums a year**, on average, throughout the national territory, with the ambition to provide answers to certain questions and concerns related to Moroccan youth, such as education, health, culture, leisure, religion and citizenship;
- **Supporting the participation of young Moroccans in international** meetings and other activities concerning youth to encourage their openness to the world and enable them to establish contacts necessary to multicultural exchange;
- **Developing and conducting joint projects between Moroccan, regional and international bodies and organizations** dealing with youth, which would foster the development of the culture of peace, tolerance and the spirit of initiative among young people;
- **Increasing Morocco's capacity to host the world youth** through summer camps held each year by the Ministry of Youth and Sports (600 foreign youngsters per year are currently benefiting from these camps);
- **Strengthening the action program for American, Japanese, Korean and other volunteers in youth houses.** This program aims at:
 - Enabling young Moroccans and others from various host countries to discover other civilizations and cultures;
 - Giving young people from other countries the opportunity to discover Morocco and establish ties of friendship and collaboration with young Moroccans;
 - Fighting against racism and xenophobia through acquaintance and human contact;
 - Improving Moroccan youth's command of foreign languages for a better intercultural communication;
 - Initiating the development of multicultural communities between the youth of the world;
 - Strengthening volunteering action;
 - Improving the development of capacities and sharing of the know-how.
- **Organizing language learning journeys** in favor of hundreds of young people from all over the world, including cultural activities, meetings with young Moroccans and journeys within Morocco to help increase the peoples' mutual understanding.
- **Developing the international action of the National Institute for Youth and Democracy.** This project will open this institute to the youth of the world at large on topics such as democracy, tolerance, citizenship, understanding and peaceful coexistence.
- **Supporting the creation and the future action of the Mediterranean Board for Youth, which** aims at bringing together the youth of the Mediterranean through the establishment of a greater mobility of students, who will not only be able to continue their studies in the University of their choice but also start a first professional experience in one of the countries of the region.

As a practice involving youth at the first degree, sport is also a vector of human and cultural rapprochement of specific contribution.

A member of forty-seven international federations, the International Olympic Committee and the International Special Olympics, Morocco is a haven for international sporting events. Among the actions promoting the Alliance of Civilizations, Morocco is planning to :

- **Exchange experts and experience in the field of sport;**
- **Exchange groups of young athletes;**
- **Organize sporting events around the following themes: Sport and peace, tolerance and Sport, Sport and Citizenship, Sport and brotherhood;**
- **hosting major sports events: African Youth Games (2010), international tournaments (tennis, motorsports, different Olympics and Paralympics sports ...)**

IV

Migration, Tolerance and the Culture of Diversity

Being historically a land of immigration and emigration, Morocco has always been an advocate of a migration governance philosophy rehabilitating migration in its noble pursuit as a vector bringing together peoples and civilizations.

Thanks to relevant choices with regard to the management policy of the relations between the Kingdom and the Moroccans of the world, the Moroccan community abroad perfectly exemplifies this ability to avoid identity disconnection while assuming a key role in promoting successful integration systems.

The Moroccans Residing Abroad have thus made it possible for the emergence of multiple links between the Kingdom and the host countries, particularly in the cultural, socioeconomic, technological, environmental and sustainable development fields, which are factors for the enhancement of understanding and community harmony within host societies but also between the latter and the Moroccan society.

Morocco, which became a land of transit and settlement, strives, moreover, to preserve, on its territory, the rights of migrants and refugees and to cooperate with the UNHCR and NGOs to fight against stigma and reactions of rejection.

It should also be noted in this regard that Morocco, mindful of efficiency, has been relentlessly calling for a genuine regional cooperation in this field.

The Kingdom's actions within this framework are as follows:

- **Morocco's commitment to international cooperation in the fight against illegal migration:**

Morocco's further commitment to all initiatives and within all regional and international organizations dedicated to the fight against illegal migration and human beings trafficking, is a constant in its action in this regard.

- **Concerted organization of legal migration and the promotion of the rights of migrants:**

Convinced that illegal migration is a factor aggravating negative stereotypes and attitudes of rejection towards immigrant populations, Morocco is determined to continue working internationally and regionally to promote legal migration and protect the rights of migrants and their families.

Indeed, facilitating legal migration is an appropriate means to undermine the traffickers' business as the temptation to illegally emigrate is likely to subside when there is hope for legal opportunities for mobility.

- **Establishing a network of African, Moroccan and European NGOs for action against illegal migration:**

Actions will be taken to encourage and facilitate the establishment of a network of African, Moroccan and European NGOs working in the field of migration, especially to initiate joint sensitization actions upstream in order to target potential candidates.

- **Initiating cross-twinning partnerships (Morocco-EU-Africa) in the field of migration.**

- **Sharing with African countries the expertise of the National Agency for the Promotion of Employment and Skills (ANAPEC) to develop intermediation mechanisms for a rational management of the mobility of labor.**

- **Expanding co-development projects** across all migration routes, starting from the experiments conducted in Mali and Senegal, to build a grid as dense as possible in this area.

- **Developing a plan to mobilize skilled Moroccan expatriates** through the renovation of the "International Forum of Moroccan Skills Abroad» portal (FINCOME) aimed at encouraging and supporting the contribution of these skilled people to the economic and social development of the country while emphasizing their bridging role between the host societies and the societies of origin.

- **Creating centers and areas of cultural exchange in several countries hosting Moroccan migrants**

Some ten centers are scheduled for 2010 and 2015, five of which are being finalized: The Moroccan-Flemish Cultural Center (Brussels), the Moroccan-Spanish Cultural Center (Barcelona), the Moroccan Cultural Center in Tripoli, the Moroccan Cultural Center in Montreal and the Moroccan Cultural Center in Mantes-la-Jolie.

The cultural activities of these centers will be organized in cooperation with migrant associations, municipalities and elected officials of the host countries. Their programs and cultural offers will increase human and intellectual interaction between Moroccan Diaspora and the populations of host countries and will offer opportunities for mutual understanding and dialogue in many fields such as language, art and civilization.

- **Meetings of "Moroccan Women from here and beyond"**

Initiated in 2008 by the Council of the Moroccan Community Abroad (CCME), the forum is attended each year in December by hundreds of women of Moroccan origin settled in nearly twenty countries, many of which are members of the Group of Friends of the Alliance of Civilizations, questions the economic, cultural and social reality of women emigrants.

The meeting consists of an academic seminar, with researchers from the countries of residence, including, in parallel, thematic workshops for exchange between participants.

The third edition of the forum, one of whose goals is to strengthen the role of emigrant women, will be held in December 2010 in Marrakech.

Among the objectives of this important event now become annual, which aspires to find a place within the agenda of the CCME, is to promote emigrant women's potential and specific action in strengthening cultural understanding with the societies of the host countries.

- **Carrying on with the establishment of a partnership framework** between the CCME and European universities (France, Spain, Belgium, Netherlands and Italy) for the organization of seminars, debates and workshops on the issue of immigration, especially in the field of intercultural relations. These activities also aim at setting up cultural and scientific exchange networks between European universities and the Moroccan universities partners of the CCME.

- **Creating a university chair for the promotion of intercultural dialogue** within the framework of a partnership to be finalized between the CCME and the Autonomous University of Barcelona. Both institutions already signed, in April 2010, a framework agreement that allowed for the organization, in Barcelona on 8 and 9 April 2010, of a seminar on "freedom of religion And Muslim citizenship".

- **Organizing, in 2011, a Summer School entitled "Law & Religion in the Mediterranean Space"** by the CCME in partnership with the University of Insubria in Italy. This program will be open to students and doctoral students from the Mediterranean countries and will be a platform for exchange and rapprochement between researchers from the North and South of the Mediterranean.

- **Creating the Council of Moroccan Ulemas in Europe:**

In addition to its role of religious supervision of the Moroccan community in Europe, the Council of Moroccan Ulemas in Europe plays a doctrinal part in promoting the principles of coexistence and the fight against extremist expressions in societies with other religious references and where the Muslim presence does not have a long social and cultural local experience.

This Council's action is consistent with Morocco's full cooperation with partner countries to strengthen the integration of migrants in host societies.

- **Establishment, by the Council of the Moroccan Community Abroad, of a working group called "Worship and religious education"**

Through this group, the CCME, which has made of the religious issue one of its priorities, intends to favor serene and responsible thinking on the conditions and foundations that will allow Islam and Moroccans of the world to fully integrate into an environment with religious diversity and strengthen their ties with other faiths in the spirit of the Alliance of Civilizations and interreligious dialogue.

- **Organization by the Council of the Moroccan Community Abroad and the Catholic University of Leuven (Belgium) of a symposium entitled " The Architecture of Mosques and their Integration into the European Space"**

- **Creating a Museum on Emigration**

The project of a museum on migration in Morocco, one of the recommendations of the Equity and Reconciliation Commission (IER) which will be implemented by the CCME in the years 2010-2012, is intended, inter alia, to highlight, through a better understanding of the history of Moroccan emigration, the various human, social, cultural and economic interactions brought about by emigrants.

This project also aims at giving rise to various joint initiatives with member countries of the Friends of the Alliance of Civilizations' Group: reflections on the history of migration in each of these countries, exchange of archives; exchange of good practices in the field, etc.

- **Supporting the projects on the history of migration** through the organization of conferences and exhibitions on the history and contribution of the Moroccans in the host countries. These projects also include support to the translation of related works.

- **Creating an international network of emigration councils and institutions.**

This platform may be an important axis for partnership within the framework of the Alliance of Civilizations. The first conference of these councils was held in Rabat in March 2009 and many personalities including ministers, government officials, representatives of migrants' councils, members elected by emigrant communities to representative institutions of their countries of origin, representatives of Moroccan political parties and migration experts participated in it.

The foreign delegations invited to this conference represented 16 countries around the world (Algeria, Belgium, Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Ecuador, Spain, France, Italy, Lebanon, Lithuania, Mali, Mexico, Portugal, Senegal and Tunisia).

The CCME was entrusted with the secretariat of the Liaison Committee of the Emigration Councils. It is mainly busy preparing the second conference and expanding the networks between emigration councils, related institutions and the researchers working on the issue. The next meeting is to be held in Spain.

- **Publication of the proceedings of the symposium on "Migration, Identity and Modernity in the Maghreb"**, organized in Essaouira on 17-20 March 2010 by the Council of the Moroccan Community Abroad (CCME) in collaboration with the Centre Jacques Berque. This symposium made it possible to discuss, publicly and scientifically, in a Maghreban country, the issue of pluralism and the history of Judaism in these countries. It was also an opportunity to reaffirm the legitimate place of Judaism in the Moroccan memory and identity and the cultural and educational challenges to be met in order to implant the culture of peace and tolerance and that of dialogue between cultures and civilizations to reveal the shared values.

- **Establishing a network of researchers and actors from different backgrounds pursuing scientific research and the discussions initiated at the symposium on "Migration, Identity and Modernity in the Maghreb".**

- **Organizing several international symposiums and meetings on emigration and its contribution to intercultural rapprochement, such as :**

- A seminar on youth and multiculturalism, which will be organized by the Council of the Moroccan Community Abroad, to enable young people from immigrant backgrounds to discuss issues related to identity, integration and governance of cultural diversity.
- An international symposium on "migration and dialogue of civilizations" to be organized by the Ministry of Culture.

- **Establishing an annual meeting entitled "Young Moroccans: Citizens of the World"**

Like the annual meeting of Moroccan Women of the World held in Marrakech, a special program will gather, in July 2010, 350 young Moroccans with different nationalities staying in various countries around the world. This meeting has a twofold objective: describe the current situation of the youth from migrant origin and provide them with a space for exchange. This meeting will become regular and could also be opened to other youth from other migrant origins.

Follow-up Mechanism

Morocco aims at giving its National Plan for the Alliance of Civilizations a unifying, inclusive and sustainable character. Synergy and consistency between the projects and action will be constantly sought; similarly, Initiatives primarily involving civil society actors and youth will be encouraged.

A national committee for the Alliance of Civilizations, composed of NGOs and government departments' representatives and academic personalities and chaired by the National Focal Point, has the task of preparing the bi-annual journal of the National Plan and evaluating its implementation.