



ONUDI 49^{ème} Session du Conseil de Développement Industriel

Discours du Royaume du Maroc

Au titre du point 7 :

**« UNIDO's response to the COVID-19 pandemic »
Discours prononcé par S.E Azzeddine FARHANE
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du Maroc à Vienne**

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Madam Chairperson, Director General of UNIDO, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me first to congratulate your Excellency, Ambassador, Madam Dominika KROIS, on your election as President of the 49th Session of the Industrial Development Board and also the other members of the bureau and assure you of my delegation's full support.

I would also like to thank the former President, H.E Ambassador Darmansjah DJUMALA and the members of the 48th IDB session for their outstanding work.

My deep appreciation goes for Mr LI Yong, the Director General for his valuable work, commitment and total involvement in achieving inclusive and sustainable development.

Morocco associates itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the G77 and China and the Africa Group and would like to make the following comments:

1-The Kingdom of Morocco's response to the Covid-19 crisis has so far been exceptionally efficient. It reacted very quickly and effectively to stem the spread of the disease (closing borders, general lockdown, and social distancing). The strength of this response is partially credited for Morocco's effort to find an appropriate balance between saving the economy, reducing the social negative impact on the population and limiting the loss of life.

2-At the same time, a comprehensive set of measures was rapidly planned and deployed: The country's health system was made more robust and flexible; regulation rolled out aimed at sustaining the economy, and livelihoods, which were to be severely impacted by the necessary lockdowns.

3-His Majesty King Mohammed VI immediately created a special fund to help manage the Coronavirus pandemic. This fund was successful in raising 3 billion dollars, getting public personalities and citizens to donate in a general spirit of solidarity. Other positive arrangements made early include the massive production and distribution of affordable masks and the successful collaboration between the private and public sectors to increase the production of medical and pharmaceutical supplies.

4-In terms of the economic response, a significant effort was made, and the creation of a committee to monitor the economic impact of the pandemic was beneficial. The central bank increased liquidity provision to the banking sector by providing foreign exchange swaps to domestic banks, increasing refinancing operations for small businesses, expanding the range of collateral to include public and private debt instruments, bringing reserve requirements down from two percent to zero. The government has also worked with banks to provide small and medium businesses and self-employed individuals with initial three-month loan deferrals and then interest-free loans. The government provides stipends to workers impacted by coronavirus-related unemployment and underemployment.

5-In terms of education the Ministry of Education has set an E-Learning platform to ensure continuity in teaching and learning. Public television and radio were also programming pedagogical content for students in collaboration with the ministry. The Moroccan development agency (AMCI) launched a campaign to raise awareness on coronavirus among foreign students with a scholarship in Morocco. Besides, Morocco despite the difficult

pandemic context, has provided to 20 African countries, masks and medical equipment, in accordance with the traditional solidarity within the continent.

6- Highlighting the measures taken by Morocco, to curb the spread of the virus such as the mandatory wearing of masks, increasing mask production to 8 million units per day and selling them at low prices, Morocco has equipped its health centers with respirators and intensive care beds.

7- After the success of these steps, Morocco began its vaccination campaign on January 29. The Kingdom, which has a population of 36 million, has already vaccinated more than 19 million people so far and is now among the first world's pioneers, not only in vaccinating its population against Covid-19, but also in starting producing its own vaccines.

Madam, Chair,

8- Since 5th July, 2021, under the Chairmanship of His Majesty King Mohammed VI the project to produce the Covid vaccine, as well as other key vaccines was launched in Morocco. Such achievement will allow the kingdom to become self-sufficient and a leading biotechnology platform to create, in the next 5 years, a champion continental of vaccine and biotherapies, able to ensure the health needs of the African continent in the short and long term.

9- For this purpose, three agreements of cooperation were signed for the production of the anti-Covid19 vaccine between the Moroccan government and the National Pharmaceutical Group of China (Sinopharm), another memorandum of understanding concerning the establishment of vaccine manufacturing capacities in Morocco between Morocco and the Swedish company Recipharm, as well as a contract for the provision to Morocco of the aseptic filling facilities between the Societe Therapeutique Marocaine (Sothema) et Sinopharm.

10- The production will begin now until 2022/2023, starting by 5 million doses of Sinopharm's Covid-19 vaccine per month. It is expected that this capacity will gradually increase in the medium term, which will represent an important step towards a vaccination national and continental health independence and sovereignty.

11- As closing, Morocco believes that UNIDO could contribute in improving health security in the developing countries by supporting the construction of plants for medical purposes, providing inclusive and sustainable trainings of work teams, by the transfer of an adequate know-how, in order to respond efficiently to the immediate health imperative and to ensure the health global needs in the short and long term, through UNIDO's commitment to maintaining an equitable distribution of vaccines around the world.

Thank you