



LÂAYOUNE, 26-28 FEBRUARY 2020

3^d Morocco-Pacific Island States Forum

Strengthening Linkages, Delivering on Commitments and Unifying Voices
for Shared Prosperity Between Morocco and the Pacific Island States

Laâyoune Declaration

Adopted on February 26, 2020

during the Third Morocco-Pacific Island States Forum

- 1- We, Heads of the Delegations of the Member States of the Kingdom of Morocco-Pacific Island States¹ present in Laayoune, Morocco, reaffirm our commitment to strengthening cooperation between Morocco and the Pacific Island States for the mutual benefit of our countries, within the framework of South-South cooperation and in a spirit of solidarity and in line with the national priorities. In this spirit, we are grateful to His Majesty King Mohammed VI for the Kingdom's vision and will to elevate its relations with the Pacific Island States to hitherto unprecedented levels in diverse areas of cooperation.
- 2- We consider that the holding of the Third Morocco-Pacific Island States Forum is a platform to strengthen dialogue on common challenges and enhance cooperation in the areas of shared interest between Morocco and the Pacific Island States. We welcome the ongoing endeavors in the areas of education, technical cooperation in the sectors of vocational training, agriculture, health, fisheries, tourism, and climate change.
- 3- We recognize and welcome the ownership, leadership and considerable efforts that have been made by the Pacific Island States in advancing the implementation of the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway (SAMOA Pathway) and the Sustainable Development Agenda. In this regard, the Government of Morocco intends to continue providing support to the participation of the Pacific Island States to the Conferences of Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
- 4- We remain concerned about the adverse impacts of climate change, especially those related to coastal erosion, sea level rise, natural disasters and extreme weather events, which continue to pose a significant risk to Pacific Island States and to their efforts to achieve sustainable development and, for many, represent the gravest of threats to their survival and viability, including, for some, through loss of territory, as well as through threats to water availability and food security and nutrition.
- 5- In this regard, we will endeavor to strengthen our dialogue and cooperation, through innovative approaches and solutions, exchange of experiences and good practices, South South cooperation and triangular cooperation, and capacity building particularly in the fields of food security and nutrition, health, sustainable tourism, integrated coastal zones management approaches, renewables energies, education and training.
- 6- We will build on the experience and the potential of the initiatives launched by the Kingdom of Morocco notably the Initiative for the Adaptation of African Agriculture (AAA), the Initiative to promote Stability, Security and Sustainability (3S), and the Commission for African Island States launched at the First Africa Action Summit for Continental Co-Emergence, held on the sidelines of COP22 in November 2016, as well as the Coalition for Sustainable Energy Access and the Climate Change Competence Centre, known as "4C" in charge of availing the necessary means to meet the requirements of Climate Change management both at the national, regional and international levels.

¹ Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu

- 7- The Kingdom of Morocco expresses its will to join the Group of Friends on Climate and Security, and to leverage its membership of this Group to share its experience in the fields of climate change adaptation and mitigation and to advocate for strengthened international cooperation to tackle the intertwined challenges of climate change and international peace and security.
- 8- Guided by a spirit of solidarity, and recognizing the vulnerability of the Pacific Island States to the effects of climate change, the Government of Morocco commits to share its experience and expertise in the following areas of cooperation, for the mutual benefit of our countries:
- **Climate Change:** The Government of Morocco reaffirms its commitment to cooperate with the Pacific Island States to combat climate change by providing these States with technical assistance, organizing targeted joint training and integrating these States within the initiatives launched by Morocco in the field of access to renewable energies.
 - **Education and Training:** Government of Morocco affirms its commitment to deepen its cooperation with the Pacific Island States in the fields of higher education and vocational training, through the provision of scholarships enabling students from the Pacific Island States to enroll in Moroccan Universities and training centers, and the training of trainers.
 - **Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food Security:** Government of Morocco commits itself to strengthen cooperation with the Pacific Island States in the fields of agriculture and fisheries, and food security through exchange of visits of experts and high officials, and the provision of training programs.
 - **Tourism:** The Government of Morocco commits to organize learning visits of high officials from the tourism sector and providing training programs to the Pacific Island States.
 - **Health:** The Government of Morocco commits itself to organize learning visits for high officials of the health sector, training programs for experts, and expert missions for the benefit of the Pacific Island States.
- 9- To this effect, we decided to establish Roadmaps guiding the cooperation between Morocco and each of the participating States, over a three-year period. Such instruments will define the objectives, the fields, the financial means and the implementation mode for the projects covered by these Roadmaps, based on a preliminary study and a comprehensive analysis of Morocco's potential for cooperation and experience-sharing in each of the of the selected fields, and, taking into consideration the needs and expectations expressed by the Partner States.
- 10- We commit to advance in good faith the objectives laid down in the Laâyoune Roadmaps for Morocco-Pacific Island States Cooperation, bearing in mind the imperative of delivering on the commitments jointly made by our respective countries. In this respect, we commit to join our efforts to hold the Fourth Morocco-Pacific Island States Forum in the Pacific Region in 2023, and to review annually progress in the implementation of the present Declaration and the Roadmaps during each of the three sessions of the UN General Assembly leading up to the Fourth Morocco-Pacific-Island States Forum in 2023.
- 11- The Heads of the Delegations of the Pacific Island States present in Laâyoune commend the coordination efforts between our countries for the achievement of the common goals of international peace and security and sustainable development. We express our strong will to strengthen coordination and to support each other's positions in the United Nations and other international organizations.
- 12- Reaffirming our common attachment to the principles of the sovereign equality, the political independence, and the territorial integrity of States, solemnly affirm that the Sahara region is an integral part of Moroccan territory, and consider that the Moroccan Autonomy Initiative is the only and unique solution to the regional dispute on the Moroccan Sahara. We support the efforts led under the exclusive aegis of the United Nations towards achieving a realistic, practicable, and enduring solution to this regional dispute in full respect of Morocco's territorial integrity and national sovereignty.