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**Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other
elections: election of members of the Human Rights Council**

Note verbale dated 4 October 2022 from the Permanent Mission of Morocco to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Morocco to the United Nations has the honour to refer to the candidature of the Kingdom of Morocco to the Human Rights Council for the term 2023–2025, at the elections to be held in New York on 11 October 2022.

The Permanent Mission has the further honour to transmit herewith an aide-mémoire covering Morocco's contributions, achievements and commitments for the promotion and protection of human rights, prepared in conformity with resolution [60/251](#) of the General Assembly (see annex).

The Permanent Mission would be grateful if the present note verbale and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 117 (c).



Annex to the note verbale dated 4 October 2022 from the Permanent Mission of Morocco to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Candidature of Morocco to the Human Rights Council (2023–2025)

Voluntary pledges and commitments in accordance with General Assembly resolution [60/251](#)

1. Firmly committed to the United Nations system for the protection and promotion of human rights and determined to reaffirm its irreversible commitment to respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, the Kingdom of Morocco has decided to present its candidature for election to the Human Rights Council for the period 2023–2025.
2. This candidature is based on the deep conviction of Morocco, in line with the vision set out by His Majesty King Mohammed VI, about the importance of effective, pragmatic and collaborative multilateral action to address global challenges related to the three pillars of the United Nations: international peace and security, development, and human rights
3. A founding member of the Human Rights Council and a staunch proponent of its establishment in 2006, Morocco was a member of the Council for two terms, during the periods 2006–2007 and 2014–2016. Even as a non-member observer to the Council, Morocco has continued to participate actively and constructively in the work of the Council.
4. Thanks to its concrete and substantial involvement in the development, institutionalization and establishment of the rules of procedure and mechanisms of the Council, Morocco has been able to play a major role in strengthening the international human rights system.
5. By presenting its candidature for the period 2023–2025, Morocco wishes to reiterate its support for the Council and its mechanisms and to contribute to collective efforts to strengthen the actions and effectiveness of the institution.

Active role of Morocco on the Human Rights Council

6. Morocco has consistently advocated that the Council remain a space for dialogue and active and inclusive cooperation to promote the development and defence of human rights on the basis of the common vision and shared values that guided the establishment of the Council.
7. During its first term on the Council, Morocco served as Vice-Chair, from June 2006 to June 2007. In that capacity, Morocco made a significant and responsible contribution to the institution-building phase of the Council and to the negotiation and adoption of the institution-building package adopted through General Assembly resolution [60/251](#).
8. In a constructive spirit, the Kingdom of Morocco contributed greatly as a facilitator to the process of establishing and strengthening the Council's innovative universal periodic review mechanism. Morocco was designated as facilitator for the review for the period 2006–2007, as facilitator on modalities in 2008, and as facilitator for the review process of the mechanism (2010–2011). Morocco continues to advocate the protection of the mechanism from any politicization and to improve its effectiveness on the basis of good practices such as the voluntary submission of midterm reports on the status of implementation of recommendations. Morocco also welcomes the important contributions of national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations to the universal review.

9. Aware of the importance of fostering the engagement of all States in the universal periodic review process, Morocco is one of the major contributors to the universal periodic review mechanism funds for technical assistance to developing countries.
10. Since the establishment of the Council, Morocco has continued to contribute substantially to its work, notably through the elaboration, presentation, sponsorship, negotiation and promotion of many resolutions and decisions on various topics, such as human rights education; enforced or involuntary disappearances; technical assistance and capacity-building for developing countries; the impact of corruption on the enjoyment of human rights; protection of the environment; safety of journalists; fight against discrimination; digital technologies and human rights; the responsibility to protect populations against genocide; and war crimes.
11. Morocco was, along with Switzerland and Argentina, at the origin of the establishment, in September 2011, of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence.
12. Morocco was one of the initiators of the resolution through which the Human Rights Council established the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to Support the Participation of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States in the Work of the Human Rights Council in March 2012.
13. In addition to its active participation in the debates and informal discussions aimed at improving the work and effectiveness of the Council, Morocco is working to ensure that the Council remains a space for dialogue and active and inclusive cooperation between the different regional groups, with the aim of promoting a common vision and consensus among all the member States around the decisions of the Council.

Cooperation and interaction with United Nations human rights bodies

14. Morocco cooperates fully with all components of the United Nations human rights system, namely the Council and its mechanisms, the bodies created under international human rights instruments, and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.
15. Aware of the high importance of the international legal arsenal for the universal promotion and protection of human rights, the Kingdom of Morocco has strengthened its adherence to all international legal instruments relating to human rights, as well as to almost all their additional and optional protocols.
16. In that respect, the Kingdom interacts with the treaty body system in a sustained and open manner by regularly submitting its national reports in accordance with its commitments to these instruments. Morocco always ensures to provide, within the allotted time, the clarifications requested by these bodies concerning individual communications, as part of a constructive interaction consistent with its international commitments. The recommendations and conclusions of these bodies are followed with the utmost attention by the governmental authorities charged with ensuring their effective implementation.
17. The credibility of Morocco with regard to the promotion and protection of human rights and its convening capacity in this field led to its designation, at the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly, as co-facilitator for the review of the situation of the human rights treaty body system. The process was a real success for Morocco in many respects: level and volume of participation, transparency and inclusiveness of the process, and relevance of the final report ([A/75/601](#)).
18. Morocco regularly nominates Moroccan experts to serve on the treaty bodies, as part of its unwavering support for said bodies, with independent and highly qualified Moroccan experts serving on the following bodies: Human Rights

Committee, Committee on the Rights of the Child, Committee on Enforced Disappearances, Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Committee on Migrant Workers, Committee against Torture, Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

19. On 13 December 2019, Morocco also received an “A” grade in the Human Rights Committee’s follow-up review for its action to implement priority recommendations, in particular the adoption of the law on the national mechanism for the prevention of torture.

20. In the same spirit of commitment and interaction with the treaty bodies and special procedures of the Human Rights Council, Morocco has agreed, without hindrance and for the entire country, to 12 visits by special procedures mandate holders since 2000, endeavouring to facilitate their missions, respond to their observations and recommendations, and learn from their assessments. In addition, 14 invitations have been extended to special procedures to visit Morocco.

21. The Kingdom has also undergone three universal periodic reviews (April 2008, May 2012 and May 2017). Morocco, which participated in those reviews actively and at a high level, is fully implementing the recommendations that it accepted and is closely examining those that it did not accept.

22. Morocco is also the main sponsor or a member of the core groups of sponsors several resolutions on the mandates of special procedures mandated to examine issues such as transitional justice, enforced disappearances, torture, extreme poverty and the responsibility to protect.

23. Aware of the importance of the role of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Morocco has always supported initiatives undertaken by the Office on various issues, such as that concerning the prohibition of advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred. Morocco has made a substantial financial contribution to the budget of Office in support of its work, placing the country among the top ten donors in 2020. Morocco contributes regularly and substantially to the extrabudgetary resources of the Office.

24. In addition to its work inside the Council, Morocco endeavours to organize and participate in events, side-events and seminars aimed at promoting human rights in innovative and high-stakes thematic areas, including implementation of the Marrakech Compact on Migration as a vehicle for the promotion and protection of human rights; strengthening of the special procedures; artificial intelligence and human rights; implementation of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; and launch of a multi-religious study on the Convention on the Rights of the Child and on faith and the rights of the child. Morocco also organized a side-event during the forty-sixth session of the Council on establishing synergies between human rights and the Sustainable Development Goals at the national level.

25. In support of international activities for the promotion and protection of human rights, the Kingdom periodically hosts major international and regional meetings and events as part of the implementation of the Council’s decisions and recommendations (Rabat Plan of Action in October 2012; World Forum on Human Rights in 2014; triennial international conference of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions in October 2018; African Parliamentary Assembly on Human Rights).

26. The Kingdom of Morocco was also among the first Member States to endorse “The highest aspiration: a call to action for human rights”. In that connection, a briefing by the Secretary-General on the status of implementation of the call was held in February 2021 in New York, at the request of Morocco and nine other countries.

Main national achievements and initiatives

27. The Kingdom's proactive commitment to human rights has been captured at the national level by the momentum generated with the process of bold and innovative reforms and initiatives aimed at consolidating fundamental rights and freedoms and building a democratic, modern Moroccan society that respects human rights and the universal values of equality, pluralism and moderation.

28. Under the impetus of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, Morocco is engaged in an ongoing process of reform of its legislative and institutional framework aimed at bolstering the performance of institutions, strengthening the rule of law, democracy and good governance, and protecting and promoting human rights, with a view to improving the daily lives of citizens through an inclusive and participatory approach, and harmonizing the country's laws with international norms and standards.

1. At the legislative and regulatory level

29. The stipulation in the 2011 Constitution that treaties and international law take precedence over the country's law, the recognition of and respect for local cultural diversity, and the criminalization of torture and enforced disappearance are all measures that reflect the Kingdom's proactive and concrete commitment to human rights.

30. In 2004, Morocco adopted a bold and ambitious new Family Code, a historic reform that embodied the Kingdom's irreversible commitment to gender equality and women's rights. That commitment continued with the withdrawal of its reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in 2008, and the adoption, in 2011, of a Constitution which unambiguously enshrines equality between women and men in all areas. This proactive, inclusive and participatory dynamic in favour of women's rights has been reinforced by the country's pioneering leadership in gender-sensitive budgeting and the adoption of pro-gender government strategies such as the governmental plan for equality.

31. In order to strengthen the rule of law and the primacy of the law, the Kingdom has reformed its justice system to reinforce the means and guarantees for better protection of citizens, expanded public freedoms, and strengthened the institutional human rights mechanism.

32. On 18 September 2017, Act No. 33.17 on the transfer of powers from the governmental authority in charge of justice to the King's Chief Prosecutor at the Court of Cassation, in his capacity as head of the prosecution service, who has replaced the Minister of Justice for all matters concerning the supervision of prosecutors came into effect, in order to further strengthen the independence of the judiciary. Other reforms are under way with a revision of the Criminal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure, the Code of Civil Procedure and the Commercial Code, in order to implement an effective criminal policy.

33. Having the status of a constitutional institution, the Judicial Council oversees the application of guarantees relating to the independence, appointment, promotion, retirement and discipline of judges and prosecutors. The effective start-up of the Judicial Council with the installation of its 20 members on 6 April 2017 signalled a new phase in the process of reforming the Moroccan justice system, marked by the implementation of a set of measures designed to set the judiciary apart as an authority independent from the other branches of government.

34. The strategic plan of the Judicial Council, which has set clear objectives and well-defined priorities for itself, is based on the rules of good governance and the imperatives of effectiveness, efficiency, transparency and communication, to ensure that it is true to the ambitions of the institution.

35. In terms of planning, Morocco has distinguished itself by adopting a national strategy implemented through a plan of action for democracy and human rights for the period 2018–2021.

36. Morocco has continued to strengthen its national protection mechanisms, in particular by reorganizing the National Council for Human Rights, whose missions were expanded in September 2019 with the establishment of three protection and prevention mechanisms, namely the National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; the National Remedy Mechanism for Child Victims of Violations; and the National Mechanism for the Protection of the Rights of People with Disabilities.

37. Guided by the conviction that all human rights are universal, indivisible and interdependent, His Majesty King Mohammed VI launched the national initiative for human development in 2005 as an integrated plan for building upon political achievements, by promoting of the economic, social and cultural rights of citizens, and combating social and territorial disparities, gender discrimination and inequalities, etc.

38. Under the guidance of His Majesty the King, Morocco has invested in promoting, respecting and protecting the rights of all persons, particularly the most vulnerable populations. In that connection, it has made a major effort to bring its laws into line with the principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, notably through the adoption of a new Family Code in 2004, a new Labour Code in 2003, Act No. 19-12 on the employment conditions of domestic workers, adopted in 2016, Act No. 15-01 on the care of abandoned children, Act No. 37-99 on civil status, and several revisions of the Criminal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure.

39. The third phase (2019–2023) is aimed mainly at supporting vulnerable people, boosting the income and economic integration of young people and promoting the human development of future generations in order to honour the country's commitments to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda. Morocco pays particular attention to the rights of persons with disabilities, as His Majesty the King has always held these persons in high regard. Morocco has thus adopted a framework law for the protection of persons with disabilities, as well as a national strategy to promote the rights of persons with disabilities for the period 2017–2021.

40. The Kingdom has established a solid legislative and institutional framework for the promotion, respect and protection of the rights of older persons, in particular through the relevant provisions of the Constitution, the Social Charter of the Economic, Social and Environmental Council, the royal decree establishing the National Council for Human Rights, the Family Code and the Criminal Code.

41. As part of the national immigration and asylum strategy launched by His Majesty the King in 2013, Morocco is implementing policies and programmes aimed at facilitating the integration of legal immigrants, upgrading the regulatory framework for immigration and asylum, setting up an appropriate institutional framework and managing migration flows in compliance with human rights. The strategy, which comprises 11 sectoral and cross-cutting programmes, is guided by the principles of a comprehensive, coherent and responsible humanist approach and is based on human rights, compliance with international law, renewed cooperation and shared responsibility.

42. In line with its active and responsible engagement in the management of the migration issue at the international level, Morocco hosted the Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in December 2018, at which the Marrakech Compact on Migration was adopted.

43. At the instigation of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, a special commission has been set up to design a new development model in order to identify priorities and ways to achieve the changes expected by 2035 in Morocco. The commission

presented its report in May 2021, reviewing all the issues at stake and listing the actions to be taken to consolidate the country's achievements.

44. The main objective of the report is “releasing energies and regaining trust to accelerate the march of progress and prosperity for all”. It is a common frame of reference for all stakeholders in all their diversity, which places people at the heart of public policy priorities. It also renews the national compact, which safeguards both equity and freedom, protection and autonomy, innovation and tradition, diversity and unity in the service of a new ambition.

45. With a view to strengthening good governance by 2035, the new model places particular emphasis on the protection and promotion of human rights, including with regard to education, justice and freedom. In particular, it is aimed at:

(a) Promoting equality and parity and zero tolerance for all forms of violence and discrimination against women, and the protection of the fundamental right to compulsory education and to childhood;

(b) Strengthening individual and public freedoms and the protection of those freedoms by the judiciary as a necessary condition for the creation of a climate of trust and to release energies.

46. In the context of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the Kingdom of Morocco, guided by the vision of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, has adopted a holistic approach based on human rights, in particular the right to life and health, but also all economic and social rights, and on proactivity, inclusion and complementarity among actors (public sector, private sector and civil society).

47. As part of this approach, Morocco took proactive health measures to safeguard public health as soon as the first cases of COVID-19 appeared in the country. These inclusive measures were designed to protect the rights of all of the country's population groups, including migrants, in the context of an unprecedented health crisis, and are in line with all international legal instruments on human rights.

48. Aware of the economic and social repercussions of the crisis, the Kingdom has taken courageous decisions to mitigate them, in particular with regard to the most vulnerable segments of the population. It was within this framework that the Kingdom undertook, on royal instructions, the creation of a special fund for the management of the pandemic, endowed with almost 4 billion dollars, as well as an economic monitoring committee, whose mandate was to monitor the economic repercussions of the health crisis and to identify priority measures to support the economic sectors most affected. In the same vein, the Kingdom has launched a programme of monthly direct payments to the most vulnerable households, in particular in rural areas, and those employed in the informal sector.

49. A recovery plan, with a budget of 100 billion dirhams, has been launched on royal instructions to support the revival of economic activity and to create favourable conditions for an inclusive post-COVID recovery.

50. The Moroccan authorities have also undertaken to cover bank interest on consumer and housing loans for 400,000 citizens.

51. In the light of the lessons learned from the management of the pandemic, His Majesty King Mohammed VI has launched action to universalize social coverage, a major step in the promotion of economic and social rights, based on four pillars: the provision of compulsory health insurance for all, the granting of family allowances to all households, the provision of pensions to uninsured workers, and job loss compensation for unemployed workers.

52. Over the years, Morocco has made numerous commitments to young people: it has accorded them a special position in the Constitution, in which the authorities are

called upon to take all measures to promote the widespread participation of young people in the Kingdom's socioeconomic, cultural and political development, has adopted a quota for young people in parliament and has launched the Integrated National Youth Strategy 2015–2030.

2. At the institutional level

53. The commitment of Morocco to the protection and promotion of human rights is also reflected in the strengthening of the institutional framework for human rights through the creation of numerous institutions such as the National Council for Human Rights, the “Al-Wassit” Institution (the Ombudsman), the Interministerial Delegation for Human Rights, the Parity and Anti-Discrimination Authority and the National Integrity and Anti-Corruption Authority.

3. Strengthening the role of civil society

54. The new Constitution of 2011 gives civil society a key role in the democratic development of the Kingdom. The Interministerial Delegation for Human Rights in Morocco is one of the few administrations in the region that has instituted a partnership between the State and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), encouraging the strengthening of dialogue and partnerships with civil society and contributing to the strengthening of civil society capacities by establishing mechanisms and procedures for the development of cooperation with NGOs, and by reinforcing their role in the development of public policies relating to human rights.

International and regional cooperation on human rights

55. The Kingdom of Morocco has made the promotion and protection of human rights a fundamental dimension of its diplomacy and its relations with all its partners in the context of the United Nations, among its Maghreb, Arab-Muslim, Euro-Mediterranean and African neighbours, and in the context of South-South cooperation and partnership.

56. Morocco has undertaken several cooperation activities in the area of training and capacity-building with regard to human rights for the benefit of various brotherly and friendly countries.

57. In line with its firm commitment to contribute to the implementation of the three pillars of the United Nations, namely, peace and security, human rights and development, Morocco has always played an active role both in the Middle East and in Africa.

58. Morocco has worked tirelessly to reaffirm the important role played by national human rights institutions and Ombudsman and mediator institutions in promoting the effective exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Thus, it was on Morocco's initiative that the General Assembly adopted resolution [75/186](#) on the role of Ombudsman and mediator institutions in the promotion and protection of human rights, good governance and the rule of law, a text adopted by consensus and co-sponsored by 90 Member States.

59. Morocco, together with Argentina and France, are penholders of the joint biennial resolution on the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, including resolution [76/158](#), which was adopted by consensus and co-sponsored by 81 Member States.

60. The Kingdom of Morocco, an age-old land of welcome, is at the confluence of several migration routes. In recognition of the visionary scope of the national immigration and asylum strategy that he launched in 2013, His Majesty King Mohammed VI was appointed African leader on the issue of migration by the African Union. It was in that capacity that His Majesty the King presented an African agenda on

migration at the thirty-second African Union summit. In recognition of the leading and ambitious role played by Morocco in bringing the voice of Africa to the governance of migration, Morocco has, since December 2020, been host to the African Migration Observatory, which aims to address the structural need to provide reliable data to enable understanding of the phenomenon of migration and its different dimensions in Africa.

61. As a country of openness, peaceful coexistence, tolerance and respect for all religions under the Commander of the Faithful, Morocco presented to the General Assembly the draft resolution entitled “Promoting interreligious and intercultural dialogue and tolerance in countering hate speech”, a text adopted by consensus and co-sponsored by 90 Member States (resolution 75/309). On the basis of the resolution, it was decided to convene a high-level meeting of the General Assembly on 18 June 2022 to commemorate the first International Day for Countering Hate Speech.

62. In recognition of the role of Morocco as a major actor in the dialogue among civilizations, under the vision of His Majesty the King, Commander of the Faithful, the Kingdom will host the ninth Alliance of Civilizations Forum in 2022, which will be held in Africa for the first time. Morocco has also organized a special meeting at the United Nations on the global pledge for action by religious leaders and faith-based organizations to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.

63. Similarly, Morocco reiterates its unwavering commitment to full respect for the special status of its sacred places, as well as the need to work together to maintain and safeguard them, considering them to be oases of serenity, spaces for enlightenment and places for the development of a culture of peace, cohabitation and coexistence. Indeed, Morocco is one of five pilot countries of the worldwide mapping project. The Alliance of Civilizations chose Morocco as a pillar of the worldwide mapping project on the basis of its respect for freedom of religion and for various faiths and its efforts to safeguard religious sites.

64. Morocco has launched a call to action at the United Nations to support the humanitarian response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The objective is to promote international solidarity and cooperation, partnership and people-centred solutions based on international humanitarian law.

65. The aspiration of Morocco to serve, once again, on the Human Rights Council thus reflects its unwavering commitment to multilateralism as the fundamental framework for the preservation and defence of human rights, the establishment of peace, the fight against inequalities and human rights violations, and the promotion of cooperation, solidarity and dialogue.

Pledge of Morocco

66. Morocco plans to use its forthcoming election to the Council as an opportunity to further boost its commitment and contribution to the promotion and protection of human rights, through:

- (a) The strengthening of international solidarity;
- (b) The protection of fundamental freedoms;
- (c) The promotion of climate change issues and human rights;
- (d) The promotion of gender equality, the fight against discrimination and all forms of inequality.

67. To that end, the Kingdom of Morocco undertakes to:

- (a) Continue to develop its work to promote human rights both domestically and internationally;

- (b) Continue to support the work of the Human Rights Council as the main body of the United Nations system for the promotion and protection of human rights;
- (c) Work to strengthen the United Nations human rights mechanisms, including the treaty bodies and the universal periodic review;
- (d) Pursue its efforts to promote education and training in human rights at the national and international levels;
- (e) Promote the exchange of experience and best practices between States, with a view to strengthening dialogue and cooperation, in particular South-South cooperation, on human rights;
- (f) Share the experience of Morocco regarding the permanent national coordination mechanisms responsible for preparing reports and following up on the recommendations issued by United Nations human rights bodies;
- (g) Continue its cooperation and constructive dialogue with the special procedures in terms of both visits and activities to implement their mandates and their cooperation with the Council;
- (h) Continue to cooperate fully with the various treaty bodies by submitting its periodic reports on time, engaging in interactive dialogue with the committees at the time of review of the reports and actively following up on the recommendations of the committees;
- (i) Strengthen its commitment to strategic planning in relation to human rights, and share and promote practice in this regard in the context of the Council's work;
- (j) Harmonize national law with international standards and, where appropriate, ratify the few international instruments to which Morocco is not yet a party.
