

Royaume du Maroc



المملكة المغربية

**64th Session General Conference of the International Atomic
Energy Agency**

**Statement of H.E. Mr. Nasser Bourita
Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation
and Moroccan Expatriates**

Vienna, 21 September 2020

**Mr President,
Mr. Director-General,
Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen.**

First of all, I would like to congratulate you on your election to the chairmanship of the 64th Session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

I also take this opportunity to express sincere gratitude to the Member States for their confidence in the Kingdom of Morocco to carry out the tasks of this presidency. I also pay tribute to the dedicated work of the Director General of the Agency, Ambassador Rafael Mariano Grossi, wishing him full success in his mandate.

Mr President,

The sixty-fourth session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency is taking place in a delicate circumstance and an exceptional global context. For more than 9 months, the international community has been facing unprecedented challenges due to the difficult and multidimensional repercussions of the "Covid-19" pandemic, on all levels - health, economic and social.

Faced with this situation, we cannot help but see, with all objectivity and responsibility, the limited preparedness and the humility of our collective ability to deal with the requirements of this exceptional circumstance, which requires effective cooperation and practical coordination at the international level, in a spirit filled with innovation to limit the spread of the epidemic and solidarity in mitigating its repercussions.

This situation urges us, more than ever, to rearrange our plans and priorities, and to renew our thinking on more effective ways to improve preparedness and anticipate crisis management and support in facing them.

Our being keen to improve the readiness and effectiveness of our organization does not imply any disdain for its relentless efforts and its distinguished ability to adapt to the conditions dictated by the Corona pandemic.

In this context, I warmly salute, on behalf of the Kingdom of Morocco, the agency's dedication, under the leadership of the Director General, to support the efforts of Member States in facing the epidemic, by providing the latest equipment for the rapid detection of the Corona Virus, as well as the organization of virtual training courses to enhance national capabilities.

In particular, I would like to express the Kingdom of Morocco's appreciation for the urgent assistance provided by the International Atomic Energy Agency to one hundred twenty-five member states, including forty-five African countries.

Mr President,

The principles of solidarity and South-South cooperation are not mere buzzing slogans, but rather framing headings for the foreign policy whose foundations were laid by His Majesty King Mohammed VI.

Pursuant to these principles, His Majesty King Mohammed VI announced, last April, a creative and proactive initiative aimed at developing a framework at the level of African Heads of State to support the various stages of managing the health crisis associated with the Corona pandemic.

In a translation of this initiative, Morocco sent, on the basis of Royal High Instructions, medical aid to twenty African countries from all regions of the continent, in order to contribute to their efforts to combat the Covid-19 pandemic. These countries were provided with medical supplies and preventive equipment manufactured locally by Moroccan companies, in accordance with the standards set by the World Health Organization.

In the post-pandemic horizon, Morocco is looking forward to holding a meeting with some African countries and the International Atomic Energy Agency, to conduct a comprehensive assessment of experiences related to pandemic management at all stages, to draw lessons and exchange best practices.

Mr President,

The Kingdom of Morocco is seizing the opportunity of this session, to renew its commitment and firm adherence to the spirit of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the central role of the Agency in implementing the requirements of this treaty which is a fundamental pillar of the non-proliferation system.

In this context, Morocco highlights the need to strengthen and intensify efforts to review the composition of the Board of Governors, as an essential step in the path of strengthening governance within the agency as provided for in the amended Article VI, which was adopted twenty-one years ago during the forty-third session of the General Conference of the Agency

Considering that this amendment has, so far, prompted the acceptance of only sixty-two members out of the required one hundred and thirteen countries to enter into force, the Kingdom of Morocco welcomes the contribution of all member states to this endeavor, and will strive during its presidency of this conference to raise support in order to activate this requirement, which will enable the strengthening of the African presence within the Board of Governors as a core organ of the Agency.

Thank you for your kind attention, and I wish our conference full success.