



***32nd Session of the United Nations Commission on Crime
Prevention and Criminal Justice
(CCPCJ)***

Statement of the Kingdom of Morocco

Delivered by

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Madame Chair,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you on your election to 32nd session of the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ). Rest assured of the full support of the Moroccan delegation in the accomplishment of your mandate.

My congratulations are also addressed to the distinguished members of the Bureau, as well as to the Secretariat for their efforts in the preparation of this session. My delegation associates itself with the statements delivered by the G77+China and the African Group.

Madame Chair,

This session of the Commission is being held in unprecedented circumstances marked by rising geopolitical tensions, coupled with multidimensional challenges ranging from climate change to economic volatility and protracted armed conflicts. It represents a unique opportunity to foster greater international cooperation to counter the problems that are caused by the phenomenon of transnational organized crime, and continue to assist the Member States in addressing threats caused by criminal groups.

In this respect, my delegation welcomes the choice of theme of this session: *“Enhancing the functioning of the criminal justice system to ensure access to justice and to realize a safe and secure society”*. This theme will allow delegations to take stock of their efforts in strengthening the efficiency of the criminal justice system, according to a concerted and integrated approach, with the fundamental objective of optimal implementation of the international legal corpus in the fight against transnational crime.

Madame Chair,

The Kingdom of Morocco reaffirms its commitment to the **full implementation of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime** and its additional protocols as international instruments in this area. These instruments represent a complete legal framework and a valid international reference, to collectively fight against the problems related to transnational organized crime.

With this in mind, the **Kingdom of Morocco**, which has developed a multidimensional and comprehensive strategy aimed at preventing crime and guaranteeing criminal justice, has placed **the fight against terrorism at the top of its security priorities** and has **developed a holistic and integrated strategy in the fight against terrorism**, based on a **three-pillar approach: the strengthening of internal security, the fight against poverty and the reform of the religious field.**

At the same time, **Morocco has strengthened its legal arsenal through the adoption of laws relating to the fight against terrorism, money laundering and the financing of terrorism.** Similarly, Morocco has adopted, in the context of reforming the religious field, a series of measures aimed in particular at combating the various forms of extremism and radicalization, and at promoting the values of moderation and tolerance enshrined in Islam.

At the continental level, in its capacity as Chair of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, **Morocco organized, last October, a ministerial meeting on development and de-radicalization as levers to fight against terrorism and violent extremism.**

The Moroccan presidency of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, which is in line with the Kingdom's commitments for a peaceful, stable and prosperous continent, aimed to develop collective responses to global and regional issues, in particular terrorism, child soldiers, climate change and food security.

Regarding Morocco's contribution to the global action in the fight against terrorism, the Kingdom co-chaired, since 2016, the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum (GCTF). For the record, **Morocco assumed this position for three consecutive terms**, jointly with the Netherlands during the period between 2015 and 2019, with Canada between 2019 and 2022, and with the European Union since September 2022.

Morocco's tenure as Chair of the GCTF includes the organization of 6 ministerial meetings, 13 meetings of the Forum's Coordinating Committee, the development and adoption of 32 working documents, and more than 138 meetings of working groups and experts.

During the 21st Meeting of the Coordinating Committee of the GCTF, Morocco and the European Union jointly launched, on 4 May 2023, in Cairo, an Initiative on "*education for the prevention and countering of violent extremism leading to terrorism*", in partnership with the Center of Excellence for countering violent extremism "*hedayah*".

This initiative is aimed to enhance the role of education as a powerful tool to prevent and counter radicalism and violent extremism, and to eradicate extremist ideologies that develop in precarious environments. This initiative also reflects the privileged partnership and common commitment between the Kingdom of Morocco and the European Union for the promotion of peace, security and development.

Furthermore, as part of its partnership with the United Nations, **Morocco hosts, in Rabat, the first UN Office for Counter-Terrorism and Training in Africa.**

This Office offers training on counter-terrorism, border security management, prevention of radicalization, and promotion of human rights in the fight against terrorism. It assists countries on the African continent to enhance their policies and make their counter-terrorism actions more effective.

In the same vein, **my country organized, jointly with the United States of America, in Marrakech, in May 2022, the 1st Ministerial Meeting of the Global Coalition against ISIS in Africa**, which represented an important keystone in the commitment and international coordination in the fight against ISIS.

The organization of this Meeting, in Marrakech, with broad Ministerial participation, confirmed, once again, Morocco's firm determination to coordinate closely with its partners to eradicate the threat of ISIS, which targets regional security and stability, and thus continue to fight against the sources of terrorism and extremism in the continent.

Madame Chair,

On the issue of migration, and as part of its management of migratory flows, Morocco developed, in 2013, the "National Strategy for Immigration and Asylum", which provided thousands of immigrants with access to the labour market and professional training, access to public school for their children, as well as the right to create associations and cooperatives, and to benefit from public healthcare services.

This National Strategy is instilled, in both design and practice, with the founding principles of human rights and humanitarian standards, with a view to offering the persons of concern the protection which is guaranteed to them, in accordance with the Kingdom's international commitments.

At the same time, **Morocco has been able, over the past five years, within the framework of the principle of shared responsibility and the imperative of sub-regional, regional and international cooperation, to abort more than 350,000 attempts of irregular**

migration, dismantle more than 1,300 trafficking networks and rescued more than 90,000 migrants at sea.

The Kingdom of Morocco has also initiated, for vulnerable categories of migrants, assisted voluntary repatriation programs, which constitute today a benchmark model of South-South cooperation in the promotion of durable solutions.

At the level of the African continent, His Majesty King Mohammed VI, in his capacity as "Leader of the African Union on the Question of Migration", initiated the "African Agenda for Migration", which included the proposal to create the "African Observatory on Migration", as a specialized institution of the African Union in Rabat, whose statutes were adopted at the 33rd Summit of Heads of State and Government of African Union, held in February 2020.

This African Observatory on Migration provides the continent with an effective tool allowing to elaborate better knowledge and understanding of the migration phenomenon in order to permit the collection, analysis and exchange of data between African countries.

In addition, **Morocco organized, in December 2018, the International Conference on Migration, under the auspices of the UN,** which adopted *the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration*, as a substantive contribution for innovative solutions to the migration phenomenon, combining equally border management and the protection of the human rights of migrants.

Madame Chair,

The growing scale of the phenomena of illegal immigration, trafficking in persons, illicit drugs and arms trafficking require, more than ever, enhanced interstate cooperation and greater involvement of sub-regional, regional and international organizations in order to combat effectively the scourge of international organized crime.

Morocco remains convinced, as it has always pointed out, that the fight against organized crime could only be achieved through continuous awareness of the dangers of crime, in all its forms and manifestations, with a deep conviction of the importance of taking concerted, coordinated and oriented actions within the framework of reinforced and sustained cooperation at the sub-regional, regional and international levels.

The option of cooperation and the principle of shared regional and international responsibility must constitute the cornerstone of any concrete action based on a common, realistic, sustainable and constructive vision, far from any narrow and non-collaborative approach having ideological or political backgrounds.

I thank you.