

"Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me first to express my joy and gratitude to be among you today in Ethiopia, a country that shines through its deep history, cultural richness, and exceptional heritage. It is a great honor to share this moment with my brothers and sisters representing the diverse African nations present.

I want to express my appreciation to the Organization of African Union Youth and its organizational partners for this kind invitation. I hope to meet your expectations and contribute meaningfully to our fruitful exchanges."

"Ladies and Gentlemen, dear participants and partners in African development,

My name is Hakim Mouafek, and it is with profound honor that I address you as a committed Moroccan expert in youth promotion. Today, I would like to share with you reflections and experiences centered around a crucial theme for our collective future: 'Promoting the social dimension and cultural diversity.'

Africa, a continent rich in cultural diversity, harbors a dynamic and talented youth, embodying the promising future of our continent. In addressing this crucial matter, we must recognize that Africa's strength lies in its cultural and social diversity—a wealth that must be preserved, celebrated, and used as a driving force for development.

In Morocco, we have adopted significant initiatives embodying these values. The National Initiative for Human Development (INDH), launched in 2005 by His Majesty King Mohammed VI, stands as an eloquent example. It aims to combat poverty and social exclusion by promoting integrated human development. This initiative places citizen participation and the appreciation of diversity at the heart of its actions, encouraging young people to engage in local projects. It unfolds into four essential programs:

1. Recovery of deficits in basic infrastructure and social services.
2. Support for individuals in precarious situations.
3. Improvement of income and economic inclusion of youth.
4. Boosting the human capital of the rising generations."

To achieve these objectives, the Kingdom of Morocco has established infrastructure and programs dedicated to youth, notably those under the Ministry of Youth. As an example, I can mention

- Youth Centers,
- Socio-Sports Centers,
- Reception Centers,
- Summer Camps

[Video of youth center \(annexe 1\)](#)

Ladies and Gentlemen,

However, the relevance of these establishments lies in the programs offered for the flourishing of youth and their social development. The Department of Youth thus proposes three categories of activities:

1. Basic Activities:

- Educational activities
- Artistic and cultural activities
- Recreational activities
- Capacity-building activities

2. Territorial Proximity Activities:

- Activities addressing the specific needs of each region, such as immigration, delinquency, health, etc.

3. National Programs:

- Initiatives organized at the national level, often in collaboration with national and international bodies.

Take, for example, the '**Youth Cultural Tourism Program**,' offering young people the opportunity to discover the richness of Moroccan heritage while fostering intercultural exchange. These experiences strengthen bonds between young people from different regions of the country, creating a dynamic and inclusive social fabric. This program also extends internationally, promoting intercultural learning between young Moroccans and their foreign counterparts.

Objectives of the Youth Cultural Tourism Program:

- Promote the openness of young people to the world and other cultures.
- Foster values of tolerance, exchange, meeting, and dialogue.
- Forge bonds of friendship and brotherhood between young Moroccans and foreigners.
- Complete the training of young people.
- Raise awareness about the cultural and civilizational characteristics of Morocco.
- Inform and discover the traditions and characteristics of the countries targeted by youth exchanges.

The program's activities include sessions on understanding Morocco, joint sessions between regions/countries, linguistic and cultural stays, themed camps, and many others.

Another project of the Moroccan Ministry of Youth, the '**Youth Pass**,' represents a bold initiative aiming to support young people's access to cultural, sports, and educational activities. It fosters individual development while promoting the diversity of talents and interests of Moroccan youth.

[[Video: Youth Pass \(see Annex 2\)](#)].

Similarly, the '**National Volunteer Program**,' called **Motatawi3**, embodies Morocco's commitment to mobilize youth for the common good. By encouraging young people to engage in volunteer actions, this program strengthens the sense of belonging to a community while promoting solidarity and intercultural understanding. [Presentation of the Motatawi3 program

([see Annex 3](#))].

Program Objectives:

- Promoting Youth Civic Participation.
- Encouraging Critical Thinking.
- Strengthening their Sense of Belonging to the Nation.
- Knowledge Development, Independence, and Commitment.
- Enhancing Civic Engagement.

- Developing their Capacities through Diverse and Integrated Learning Experiences.
- [[Video: Motatawi3 Program \(see Annex 4\)](#)].

Ladies and Gentlemen, to rally the voices of African youth and the development ecosystem, we must promote an inclusive approach, highlighting the richness of our cultural diversities. The Moroccan initiatives mentioned are just examples among many on our continent. Together, let us work to create societies where every young person has the opportunity to flourish, regardless of their origins, religion, or background.

Allow me to conclude with the inspiring words of Nelson Mandela: 'Our diversity as the African people is our greatest strength, and no one knows better than ourselves how to address our problems.' By uniting our strengths and celebrating our diversity, we will build a future where African youth is the cornerstone of progress and prosperity on our continent.

Thank you."