Delegation From

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Position Paper on Morocco’s views on The UN’s Framework Convention on Climate Change

*Overview*

In 1992, countries joined an international treaty, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, as a framework for international cooperation to fight climate change. The UN General Assembly negotiations on a Framework Convention on Climate Change began on December 11, 1990. The Convention on Climate Change was founded on March 21st, 1994. The first convention was in Berlin, Germany April 1995. The most recent Conference of the Parties was in Paris in December 2015, during this they parties developed an agreement called the Paris Agreement. The 2015 Paris Agreement, adopted in Paris on 12 December 2015, marks the latest step in the evolution of the UN climate change regime and builds on the work undertaken under the Convention. The Paris Agreement charts a new course in the global effort to combat climate change.

Topic 1: The Impact of Climate Change on Human Health

Morocco’s most impacting form of infectious diseases come from food or waterborne diseases like, bacterial diarrhoea, and hepatitis A. Vector-borne diseases may be a significant risk in some locations during the transmission seasons, typically April through November. In 2012, healthy expectancy in both sexes was 10 years lower than overall life expectancy at birth. This lost healthy life expectancy represents 10 equivalent years of full health lost through years lived with morbidity and disability. The food and waterborne diseases can be partly because of the impacts that climate change has on the community in Morocco.

Natural disasters have a huge impact on those our citizens in Morocco. Morocco’s 2,175 miles of coastline makes it particularly vulnerable to sea level rise. With most of its economic activity near the coast, and no legislation preventing building in the coastal zone, climate change is a real threat. Small-scale farmers find themselves more and more having to compete for water with golf courses and hotel swimming pools. While in other parts of the country flooding causes disasters. Morocco is in an earthquake zone, minor earthquakes occur occasionally. A strong earthquake hit the northern of town of Al Hoceima in 2004, killing over 600 people; this was one of the most recent, and biggest devastations in Morocco. More minor example such as Morocco’s rainy season causes many problems too. It extends from October through April, often resulting in devastating floods. Within the past decade, nine out of the top ten natural disasters in Morocco were floods. Droughts rank on top of the list of natural disasters in terms of the number of people affected and associated economic losses. Droughts affect water supplies in rural areas and have negative impacts on rain fed agriculture. Therefore, making climate change one of the main reasons why over the years more and more disasters keep happening more frequently.

Pollution is also a major problem being faced with today. In Morocco, the areas that contribute to the high pollution rates are, horrible air pollution and low air quality, improper garbage disposal and water quality. These all have impacts on its citizens and makes climate change more of a prominent issue in Morocco. Consequently, agriculture, fishing, water supplies, tourism, and unique ecosystems are all fragile. In rural communities it is the women whose lives are most affected by the changes wrought by climate change. Many women face difficulties in their daily lives are highly affected by climate change. Women may have to travel further to find clean water because of lack of rain reduces agricultural productivity. In additions this many of the current situations in Morocco like low air quality make it significantly harder for citizens to live their everyday lives.

Topic 2: Climate Refugees

In Morocco, there are uniformed men who patrol the beaches of southern Morocco. They are looking out at the Atlantic Ocean searching for boats overflowing with economic migrants heading for the Canary Islands. Some of the Nigerians, Mauritanians, Moroccans and others desperate enough to board these small boats succeeded in getting to Europe. Climate change is likely to have increased the amount of people willing to risk this dangerous voyage. Sadly, the bodies of men, women and children regularly are found washed up on the beach. However, in the last two years, there have been fewer bodies. Whether this means there are less people setting off on the journey or if they are just better equipped, it is difficult to say. As desertification increases and lower rainfall makes farming less productive, life becomes more precarious for some Africans already living on the margin. In the future, perhaps more people will be inclined to try their luck in a leaky boat in the hope of a better and more prosperous life. Helping to prevent more pollution from occurring and protecting our environment can help these people who are fleeing the area because of the horrible living conditions because of climate change and the impact it has on our citizens in Morocco.

Topic 3: Steps to Enforce the Paris Agreement and Further Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The world’s climate is changing on a daily basis and it will continue to change into the coming century. Morocco is no exception to these worldwide changes. The major impacts of climate change in Morocco will be higher temperatures, increased rainfall and an increase in extreme weather events. The Moroccan population has more than tripled over the past 50 years, putting the country’s natural resources under pressure. With about 3,300 km of coastlines, Morocco’s sea level is currently unstable and rising waters could have negative impacts and with most of its economic activity near the coast, climate change is a real threat to agriculture, fishing, water supplies, and the ecosystems of the country. Morocco is also facing a water supply increase, rising temperatures, urban air pollution and a risk of earthquakes and tsunamis. The costs of these climate-related events are estimated at MAD 1.162 billion in 2030 or about MAD 222 per person per year of which over 90 percent results from flooding. For that, Morocco has joined other African countries to adapt better to the devastating effects of climate change and has given high priority to this phenomenon.

Morocco has ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 1995 and the Kyoto Protocol in 2002. We have also submitted its second National Communication in April 2010 and has developed a national plan for climate change, which mainly focuses on developing renewable sources of electricity. Morocco has also invested in a range of fully developed strategies, including the green plan for agriculture which is in combination with Morocco’s plan to protect the environment. It also appears that Morocco has made significant progress against a wide range of the Millennium Development Goals(MDGs) indicators including ensuring environmental sustainability. However, even though Morocco has demonstrated political leadership on this issue, the Moroccan government still doesn’t identify climate change as a category within its national budgets. The Paris Agreement will enter into force on 4 November 2016. As a result, the first session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement will take place in Marrakech, Morocco.