

Royaume du Maroc

Ministère de l'Énergie, des Mines, de l'Eau et de l'Environnement
Département de l'Énergie et des Mines

Direction des Énergies Renouvelables
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المملكة المغربية

وزارة الطاقة والمعادن والماء والبيئة
قطاع الطاقة والمعادن

**Statement by Mr. Abderrahim EL HAFIDI,
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Under the theme:

« Relevance of the International Energy Charter to Global Challenges: its potential contributions to sustainable development and global efforts on climate change »

Plenary Session 1 “How can the Energy Charter contribute to global climate change and sustainable development including energy access”

November 26, 2016 - Tokyo, Japan

Mr. Chariman,

Excellences ladies and gentlemen, Ministers and Ambassadors

Ladies and Gentlemen

- First of all, I would like to thank the secretariat of Energy Charter for inviting me and greeting the opportunity to share with all participants to this relevant session the point of view of the Kingdom of Morocco about how can the energy charter contribute to global climate change and sustainable development including energy access.

Ladies and Gentlemen

1. Global Climate Change context

- Climate change is one of the most complex issues facing us today. It involves many dimensions – science, economics, society and politics.
- As we know, the primary cause of climate change is the burning of fossil fuels, such as oil and coal, which emits greenhouse gases into the atmosphere—primarily carbon dioxide. Other human activities, such as agriculture and deforestation, also contribute to the proliferation of greenhouse gases that cause climate change. In fact, CO₂ emissions from fossil fuel combustion and industrial processes contributed about 78% to the total GHG emission increase between 1970 and 2010.

2. International effort to fight against climate change : from UNFCCC to COP22

- To limit the climate change, a long-term international action will be essential. The main available instrument in this regard is the Framework convention of United Nations on climate change (UNFCCC). The stated objective of this Convention is to :
“... achieve, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention, stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system...”.
- **The COP21** has resulted in a historic agreement committing all countries to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. The main objective of this agreement is to stabilize global warming due to human activities on the Earth's surface "clearly below" by 2 ° C by 2100 relative to the temperature of the pre-industrial era (reference period 1861-1880) and to continue efforts to limit this warming to 1.5 ° C.
- **The COP22**, which ended in the early hours of Saturday 19 November in Marrakech, in the Kingdom of Morocco, strengthened the world's commitment to fight against global warming. At this COP, the 195 parties signed the **Marrakech**

action Proclamation which calls for an acceleration of the various actions in favour of climate, while recalling the urgency of the situation.

- Aspects concerning transparency and market mechanisms have also been clarified and the developed countries have established the roadmap for mobilizing the annual \$ 100 billion to be allocated to developing countries from 2020 to combat climate change.
- Numerous initiatives have also been launched, whether in the field of transfer technology, capacity building, South-South cooperation, mitigation or the provision of additional funding for adaptation to Climate change.

3. What are the solutions to fight against climate change? (through mitigation and adaptation)

- Climate change is already a reality. Scientific evidence shows that past greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are already affecting the global climate. If current developments continue, a rapid warming of the planet is to be expected. Action is needed today to reduce global GHG emissions in the coming decades.
- In its fourth Report published in 2007, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) shows that two types of measures are needed to address climate change: **mitigation and adaptation**. Indeed, **mitigation measures limit the climate change, while the goal of adaptation is to reduce the vulnerability of natural and socio-economic systems and thus address climate change at a lower cost.**

What about MOROCCO ?

- Even though the Kingdom of Morocco has a status of low carbon emitter, its geographical position confines it to a great natural vulnerability to climate change (desertification, floods, water scarcity...). To address this issue, Morocco is committed to proactively implement **adaptation and mitigation actions** as part of an integrated, participatory and responsible approach.
- Indeed, Morocco's commitment is to reduce its GHG emissions by **2030 by 42%** compared to projected emissions by 2030 under a "business as usual" scenario. This corresponds to a cumulative reduction **of 523.5 Mt CO2 eq over the period 2020-2030.**
- In concrete terms, the mitigation scenario leading to the conditional objective is based on an estimate of expected reductions in greenhouse gas emissions **from 54 projects covering all sectors, including energy**. This transformation is driven by great political will. It aims to reduce the country's heavy reliance on foreign energy sources

and increase the share of renewable energy, while responding to growing demand for energy to ensure the socioeconomic development and well-being of its citizens. The primary goals that underlie this energy transition are:

- Reaching over **52 % of installed electricity production capacity from renewable sources by 2030.**
- Reducing energy consumption by **20 % by 2030.**
- Substantially reducing public fossil fuel subsidies, building on reforms already undertaken in recent years.
- Substantially increasing the use of natural gas,
- And regional energy integration of the grid and the market
- Also, Morocco is currently drafting its **National Adaptation Plan**, which will present and quantify measures for the adaptation to climate change.

4. How the energy charter can contribute to fight against climate change?

- The global climate and energy objectives are to benefit from the Energy Charter's unique framework in the areas of investment, trade and transit within the respect and protection of national sovereignty. The concepts of stability, transparency and predictability which underpin the Energy Charter Process provide the basis that investors, businesses and policy-makers need to confidently accelerate investment decisions in cleaner technologies and energy efficiency.
- In this sense, the Energy Charter is relevant for achieving successful results in climate change mitigation and adaptation because of their objectives in encouraging investment and trade in the new resources of energy, energy efficiency, low carbon and R&D technologies and enhancing partnership between the public and private sectors.
- In fact, the Energy Charter has a main role in enhancing energy efficiency and environmental protection through:
 - The creation of mechanisms and conditions allowing a use so economic and effective as possible of the energy in order to limit the GHG emissions;
 - The promotion of a combination of sources of energy to minimize the negative effects on the environment in a profitable way, thanks to the pooling of best practices on the investment and the development of a clean energy and the use of low emissions technologies.

- As the Paris agreement paved the way for a new era of global transition to a low-carbon economy and sustainable energy model. The International Energy Charter will contribute to reinforce political efforts, to create an investment climate favourable to mobilize private investors towards the achievement of the long-term goals set out in the Paris Agreement, and to facilitate much needed energy access.
- The Energy Charter can play an important role in fostering greenhouse gas mitigation and sustainable development. The Energy Charter has to achieve a good balance between economic growth and the reduction of GHG emission.

Ladies and Gentlemen

5. Process of integration of Morocco into the Energy Charter: from observer status until becoming a full member of the Energy Charter Treaty

- The Kingdom of Morocco participated in the negotiations for the modernization of the Energy Charter, and signed the Energy Charter in 2012, as the first African country to do so.
- During these negotiations, Morocco made ambitious proposals to make the Energy Charter truly global, to attract the interest of the developing countries and to be gradually considered as a reference platform for the "Adaptation of global energy governance and strengthening of global energy cooperation and dialogue, in synergy with international organizations, in particular the United Nations system, active in this field.
- The Energy Charter should make it possible, in particular, to take advantage of the many synergies, to seize opportunities for integration of regional energy markets and to take account of the growing interdependence between exporting, consumer or transit countries, requiring Cooperation between these countries and ambitious partnerships between all stakeholders, in particular the energy industries.
- The Energy Charter has become a reference for strengthening global energy cooperation and dialogue, making it truly attractive to as many countries as possible, including developing countries, and that its expansion be as wide as possible.

6. Investment

- The attractive energy market, and its huge renewable energy potential, the Kingdom of Morocco is continuing its efforts to strengthen its positioning and attract more and more investors and international financial institutions, Development of major high-growth projects in the fields of renewable energies and energy efficiency.
- The total investment expected in the energy sector between 2016 and 2030 is estimated to over 40 billion US \$, of which thirty billion will be dedicated to electricity

generation projects from renewable sources, representing real investment opportunities for the private sector.

- Morocco has been able to transform its challenges and constraints into investment opportunities, through the implementation of major reforms and engagement in major energy development projects, which present real opportunities especially for private companies and financial institutions National and international, valued for over 15 years to more than US \$ 40 billion, of which $\frac{3}{4}$ for renewable energies