



KINGDOM OF MOROCCO

3rd Nuclear Security Summit

National Statement

The Hague, March 24-25, 2014

**Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen**

The delegation of the Kingdom of Morocco would like to extend its deepest thanks to the Kingdom of the Netherlands for hosting the proceedings of the third nuclear security summit and for sparing no effort to provide the most adequate and appropriate conditions for our gathering in The Hague, city of hope, peace and justice.

I would also like to pay a special tribute to President Barrack Obama for his initiative to convene Nuclear Security Summit once every two years. This biannual summit has in fact paved the way for adopting a comprehensive action plan on issues related to nuclear security. It has become an important framework to address the multidimensional facets of nuclear security, in particular nuclear terrorism and the illegal trafficking of radioactive materials as genuine global threats, requiring global and concerted international action.

**Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen**

Our meeting today is another opportunity to assess member states' progress in terms of implementing the Washington Action Plan and Seoul communiqué as well as other relevant initiatives to undertake actions towards the enhancement of the nuclear security system.

In this context and consistent with its home-grown strategy to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and with the vision of His Majesty the King Mohamed VI for a multidimensional and proactive approach to address the root causes of Terrorism, Morocco continues to pursue the process of profound and substantial reforms particularly through levelling, adapting the cultural and religious institutions and promoting the culture of tolerance while working towards the achievement of a sustainable human and economic development.

Indeed, among the national home-grown actions undertaken by Morocco are:

1. Completely adhering to all relevant international conventions relating to nuclear safety and security , while taking practical and concrete measures to implement the Washington Summit Action Plan;
2. Strengthening the legal regulatory and institutional framework pertaining to nuclear security and safety, by adopting the law 12 -142 on May 16, 2013, as an appropriate framework dealing with the specific licensing, supervision, inspection, safety and security standards in the field of nuclear and radioactive materials;
3. Setting up an accurate control system pertaining to nuclear materials, as well as a national register for radioactive materials;
4. Keeping updated records of the list of national institutions using radioactive materials, and sharing them with the law enforcement authorities;
5. Strengthening the physical protection of installations using radioactive materials.

**Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The Kingdom of Morocco, as a founder member of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT), is confident that supporting international initiatives for nuclear safety and security is an efficient means to strengthen the international nuclear security system. In this regard, the Kingdom of Morocco will be pursuing its contribution to implement the GICNT Declaration of principles, adopted at its first plenary meeting held in Rabat on October 30th and 31st 2006.

Eight years after the adoption of the GICNT declaration of principles and two years after the election of Morocco as chair of the " Response and Mitigation Working Group", Morocco and Spain conducted in April last year, in close cooperation with the IAEA, a joint exercise 'REMEX 13' to assess both countries capabilities to efficiently respond to a malevolent incident using radioactive materials. 'REMEX 13', which was a simulation of a criminal terrorist act using an explosive Radioactive Dispersive Device (RDD), commonly known as a dirty bomb, enabled both Morocco, Spain , the IAEA, as well as GICNT partner states to share information, develop best practices and draw lessons for improving emergency response mechanisms.

The exercise highlighted the paramount importance of bilateral, regional and international cooperation as well as the relevance of a coordinated action in the areas of preparedness and emergency response in the event of a nuclear and radiological incident.

Within this dynamic of strengthening the nuclear security system, the Kingdom of Morocco, in partnership with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), conducted, in Rabat, on 20th and 21st November 2013, a large scale International Conventional Exercise, ConveEx 2013, baptised "Bab Al Maghrib' (Gate of Morocco).

This exercise was based on a scenario of a terrorist attack involving a smuggled RDD from country X in the Sahelo-saharan region on sensitive targets in Morocco. The attack was perpetrated by a fictitious terrorist group called "the Black and White Fighters", known to operate in the Sahel region.

ConvEx-3 was an opportunity to:

- 1- Test national and other participating states as well as international organisations' communication and assistance coordination capabilities,
- 2- Share information and exchange best practices and expertise on nuclear and radiological crises management,
- 3- Contribute substantially to enhance the international security and safety architecture.

The success of "Bab Al Maghreb" was highlighted on the occasion of a high-level assessment meeting convened in Vienna, on 11 and 12 February 2014, with officials of the IAEA and representatives of relevant international organizations.

The lessons learned from ConvEx3 'Bab Al Maghrib' will be presented by the IAEA at its upcoming board of governors meeting in Vienna in June 2014.

**Mr. Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Convinced of the importance of promoting nuclear security culture, Morocco hosted and organized, in cooperation with IAEA, during the period 2010- 2013 in the headquarters of the Maamoura Center of Excellence in Rabat, more than 25 training course son nuclear safety and security. These training courses have involved nearly 1,500 trainees from African and MENA region countries. The most recent workshop was held in Marrakech in December 2013 and was attended by experts from the Francophone African Countries, with the aim of raising awareness on the importance of nuclear security issues.

In this vein, Morocco will spare no effort to strengthen regional and international cooperation for the promotion of nuclear security culture between and among all stakeholders.

**Mr. Chairperson
Excellencies
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The participation of the Kingdom of Morocco in this Summit reflects, once again, its sincere commitment and adamant will to contribute to international efforts for ensuring nuclear safety and security. This commitment stems from the wise royal view of his Majesty King Mohammed VI, which highlights the paramount importance of maintaining balance between the right to develop and use nuclear energy for development purposes and the obligations of non proliferation and transparency as well as safety and security requirements.

I would like to conclude by underlining the importance of an overall evaluation of the progress so far achieved in the area of nuclear security and call upon all partner states and international organizations for a more concerted and coordinated international action to build on the momentum generated by NSS process' dynamic and seek global assessment and novel venues towards the 2016 Washington fourth summit, while expressing the wish for a more peaceful and prosperous world.

I thank you.