

## **Delegation from the Kingdom of Morocco** *Position Paper for the General Assembly*

The topics before the United Nations (UN) General Assembly (GA) are I. Nuclear Disarmament and International Security, II. Ensuring Access to Affordable, Reliable, Sustainable, and Modern Energy for All, and III. Combating Human Trafficking. The Kingdom of Morocco finds these topics immensely important for the peaceful and progressive development of the international community. We eagerly anticipate addressing these issues in a collaborative and productive manner with our fellow Member States.

### **I. Nuclear Disarmament and International Security**

In 1958, between Rabat and Fes, an accidental fire on the back wheel of a B-47 bomber plane carrying a nuclear bomb almost caused an explosion which could have killed many Moroccan citizens. Since then, the Kingdom of Morocco has been actively involved in nuclear material regulation within our state and internationally. Nuclear disarmament is certainly a topic which directly concerns every Member State and their citizens, as a nuclear war would undoubtedly be the end of humanity as we know it. The UN has a long history of tackling this issue – the first resolution ever passed, *GA Resolution 1* (1946), established a *Commission to Deal with the Problems Raised by the Discovery of Atomic Energy*. According to the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), over 14 500 nuclear weapons are still in our world today.

The Kingdom of Morocco is actively engaged in action on this issue. Morocco has ratified and signed the *Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons* (TNP) (1968) and the *Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material* (1987), as well as signed the *Convention on Nuclear Safety* (1996), showing our vested interest in ensuring that nuclear weapons and nuclear material are subject to strict legal guidelines. Morocco is also party to the *Treaty of Pelindaba* (1996), also known as the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone, which 54 states are party to. On a national level, we have created an office titled the Moroccan Agency of Nuclear and Radiological Safety and Security, responsible for “establishing [...] national regulations on nuclear security [and] safety” (Report from the International Journal of Nuclear Security, 2017). As a result of this report, a five-year plan for prevention of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction was created, with missives including the adoption of “international regulations in nuclear security as national regulations” and the establishment of a “national training center of nuclear security”. In 2020, there will be a Review Conference of the TNP, and Morocco will be participating.

Morocco sees the necessity of addressing this issue in the GA most urgently. We therefore appeal to the nations which possess nuclear weapons to consider signing and ratifying the three protocols of the *Treaty of Pelindaba* and other worldwide nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties, in which they are “invited to agree not to use or threaten to use a nuclear explosive device against any Treaty party [...]”. Additionally, at the *Nelson Mandela Peace Summit* hosted by the UN (2018), honorable Heads of State “welcomed the example set by South Africa in unilaterally dismantling its nuclear-weapon program and recalled the firm plea made by Mr. Mandela in favor of the total elimination of nuclear weapons”. 2019-2028 has been designated by the UN as the *Nelson Mandela Decade of Peace* by *GA Resolution 72/243*, and as part of this framework we will use our strong ties to diverse states to continue the discussion and strengthen existing initiatives by hosting a *Summit on Perceived Nuclear Threats*, with additional focus on incentives to reduce nuclear stockpiles, as these particular themes were considered to be most important by the *Nuclear Disarmament Working Group* (2019). The Summit would take place in the location of the closed army base between Rabat and Fez, the site of what could have been a terrible nuclear accident in 1958.

### **II. Ensuring Access to Affordable, Reliable, Sustainable, and Modern Energy for All**

In a time where sustainability and alternative resources are making headlines around the world, the topic of ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all is already occupying the Member States of the UN and will continue to be a pressing matter for the coming decades. *Sustainable Energy for All* (SEforALL) is an initiative launched by former UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon in 2011 with the purpose of achieving *Sustainable Development Goal* (SDG) 7, which calls for “universal access to sustainable energy by 2030”. This is a lofty goal, considering about 1.2 billion people around the globe

currently live without access to energy at all (World Bank, 2017), especially those in rural or developing areas. Morocco sees this as especially concerning to the African Union (AU), as sub-Saharan countries report only about 40% of the population as having access to electricity at all.

Of course, seen in a positive light, this leaves ample room for development of new structures and energy provision without having to change existing infrastructure. Morocco will certainly be able to lend expertise to the development of modern energy plans in Africa, as here we are at the forefront of sustainable energy production. Due to the investments of the current government into wind, solar, hydroelectric and other renewable power sources worth about \$ 13 billion, Morocco ensures over 40% of its energy will be from renewable sources in 2020, and more than 50% by 2030. Of course, the focus of Morocco will now lie on how to provide this energy to all. We will begin by implementing on a national level a plan to provide rural areas with sustainable (solar) energy, and on an international level, we call on our fellow Member States most affected by energy inequality – members of the AU in particular – to create an efficient and equality-based sustainable energy policy. To do so, we can look to and work with organizations such as the Desertec initiative, which aims to use solar-rich areas of the world to provide energy for all, and lists the Noor solar power plant in Morocco on its website as an example of clean energy success. The Desertec model could be implemented in the AU, where loans from countries with stronger economies would finance sustainable energy projects across the Union, and extra energy would be sold at a profit, enabling loan repayment.

### **III. Combating Human Trafficking**

Human trafficking is a major issue concerning most countries around the globe, with tens of millions of people affected yearly, and women being disproportionately affected, making up around 70% of trafficking cases. The human trafficking industry is very profitable, and it can be difficult to identify trafficked persons. Additionally, the widespread use of the internet is creating new ways for traffickers to “recruit and advertise” trafficked persons, according to the *2019 Trafficking in Persons Report* (United States Department of State). These factors make human trafficking one of the hardest issues to tackle in today’s environment.

Internationally, human trafficking has been an issue for decades, although Article 3 and 4 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (UDHR) (2018) declare that every human has the right to freedom and security of person, and that “no one shall be held in slavery or servitude”. The *United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons* (2010) was established as a result of GA *Resolution 64/293*, which provided a global framework for taking action on human trafficking. Security Council *Resolutions 2331* (2016) and *2388* (2017) both condemned human trafficking, especially with focus on times of political instability and war. According to Refworld, an online resource from the UN High Commission for Refugees, Morocco has been making progress on combatting human trafficking: Law 27.14 was implemented in 2016, ensuring that appropriate penalties for trafficking are in place, and in 2019, our Public Ministry created a public awareness campaign in partnership with UN Women to combat human trafficking. The President of the Public Ministry, Mohamed Abdennabaoui, stated that working to fight against human trafficking “remains a central preoccupation of the Moroccan justice system”.

Morocco therefore requests that the GA consider an update to the 2010 *Global Plan*, specifically to address online-related aspects of trafficking such as recruiting and advertising. To implement this, Morocco would suggest a conference on research done on online recruitment efforts and propaganda with a human trafficking focus in 2021 at UN headquarters, inviting experts in this field from research bodies such as counter-terrorism units and governments, to be titled the *Conference on the Effects of the Internet on Human Trafficking*. The results will then be compiled into additional guideline points to be added to the *Global Plan*, to be accessible for all. Funding for this project could be requested from the *UN Office on Drugs and Crime*.