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20 years of rule: 20 years of consolidation of an independent and diversified foreign policy

20 years ! On the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the enthronement of HM King Mohammed VI, tributes, analyzes and "feedback" on the Sultan's 20 years of rule have multiplied, both nationally and internationally. The symbolism of two decades is strong, for a people deeply attached to its King, for a country steeped in modernity and for a Monarch who will have marked the spirits by his style, his initiatives taken and his vision. A reign fits, by definition, in the long time. While the beginning of a third decade is obviously of great symbolic value, it is still only a stage point among others. This is, of course, neither the time of the balance sheet, nor the opportunity, a little too easy, to succumb to an inventory right, all the more so because the difficulties are identified, the evils are known and have been recorded, with lucidity, by the Head of State, himself, on the occasion of recent Royal Speeches. These 20 years are more of an opportunity to stop the time, to retrospect a stable Morocco, often cited as an

example, which attracts, who moves and who advances. These 20 years also make it possible to initiate a productive introspection and to begin a lucid, pragmatic and objective (re) questioning. As such, thinking about a revised, fairer, more egalitarian, more inclusive and more innovative development model is of paramount importance. It is in this context that the Amadeus Institute, which has been working on the issue for several months, will shortly publish a Memorandum of Concrete and Operational Proposals. the evils are known and have been recorded, with lucidity, by the Head of State, himself, on the occasion of recent Royal Speeches. These 20 years are more of an opportunity to stop the time, to retrospect a stable Morocco, often cited as an example, which attracts, who moves and who advances. These 20 years also make it possible to initiate a productive introspection and to begin a lucid, pragmatic and objective (re) questioning. As such, thinking about a revised, fairer, more egalitarian, more inclusive and more innovative development model is of paramount importance. It is in this context that the Amadeus Institute, which has been working on the issue for several months, will shortly publish a Memorandum of Concrete and Operational Proposals. the evils are known and have been recorded, with lucidity, by the Head of State, himself, on the occasion of recent Royal Speeches. These 20 years are more of an opportunity to stop the time, to retrospect a stable Morocco, often cited as an example, which attracts, who moves and who advances. These 20 years also make it possible to initiate a productive introspection and to begin a lucid, pragmatic and objective (re) questioning. As such, thinking about a revised, fairer, more egalitarian, more inclusive and more innovative development model is of paramount importance. It is in this context that the Amadeus Institute, which has been working on the issue for several months, will shortly publish a Memorandum of Concrete and Operational Proposals.

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Among the many evolutions and concrete transformations experienced by our country over the last 20 years, we can not but pride ourselves on the enrichment and diversification of Morocco's relations with its neighborhood, its continent and the world. . The comparisons between two successive Sovereigns are often hazardous, as the context and realities of the moment evolve. However, it is clear that if King HM King

Hassan II masterfully managed to place the Kingdom on the map of the countries that matter, making, in particular, Morocco a pivot of the relationship between the West and the Arab World -Muslim, HM King Mohammed VI, for his part, offered the Kingdom a real foreign policy strong, consistent, but mostly independent. In 20 years, Morocco has thus passed, on the international level, from the status of an intermediary country, a bridge country or an honest broker, to the status of a country playing a role in the international game, master of its external relations. The Kingdom, through the International Vision of HM King Mohammed VI, therefore has a doctrine of foreign policy of its own, based on the preservation of its national interests, the diversification of strategic partnerships and the tireless reinforcement multidimensional South-South cooperation.

"More than association, less than membership" vs "Morocco is not the preserve of anyone"

This Royal Doctrine started in Paris on March 20, 2000, during a State Visit to Paris. The Sovereign then pronounced a phrase, which has since become an expression, which would redefine the Kingdom's relations with the European Union (EU): "more than association, less than membership". By this expression, Morocco was killing two birds with one stone; to break with the memory of a sloppy and unrealistic demand for membership, expressed in the late 1980s and to break the dynamic of assistanat and European paternalism vis-à-vis the Kingdom. This Moroccan desire to co-build its relationship with the EU led to the establishment of the advanced status, the first

partnership of its kind, in October 2008 and the first Morocco-EU Summit, also the first of its kind, in March 2010.

This "exceptional" partnership between the two parties did not prevent the distension of their relations between 2016 and 2018, following the cancellation by the European Parliament of the Morocco-EU agriculture and fisheries agreements. This crisis of nearly three years, has allowed, following the freezing by Morocco of several political components of this partnership (including migration and security), to highlight the duty of clarity of the EU and its members. institutions vis-à-vis Morocco and its territorial integrity. The vote, at the beginning of the year, by the European Parliament to a very large majority of the deputies, the new versions of the Morocco-EU Agricultural Agreement and the Morocco-EU Fisheries Agreement made it possible to materialize this expression of clarity. necessary for a sustainable and balanced Partnership. Otherwise, the joint political declaration, made public at the end of the Morocco-EU Association Council last June, called for the recasting and rebalancing of the Morocco-EU Partnership. The use, in this same text, for the first time of the term "shared prosperity" is the expression of the novel and unique character of the relationship that binds the Kingdom to Europe. This new status under construction, even more "advanced", corresponds to an innovation in the European corpus, which Morocco is once again at the origin. It initiates, in fact, the creation of a common Euro-Moroccan "space" called to be dynamic and evolutionary in time. The Morocco-EU Strategic Partnership is doing well. He is alive and dynamic in accordance with the Vision of HM King Mohammed VI and the highest interests of Morocco,

However, despite the importance of this Strategic Partnership as an "exception" for both parties, the Kingdom, as rightfully recalled by the Sovereign on the occasion of the 2016 Speech from the Throne, "is not the preserve of anyone" . Morocco, under the leadership of HM King Mohammed VI, is one of the few countries in the world to benefit from both a free trade agreement with the EU and with the United States, he has been, since 2004, a major ally outside NATO. The international doctrine of Morocco carried by the Sovereign is by nature independent. It advocates the diversification of strategic institutional partnerships with the major powers. The Kingdom following, in particular, the Royal Visits to India, China and Russia has implemented this diversification, while offering a concrete perspective of triangular cooperation Partner-Morocco-Africa. The diversification chosen by the Kingdom is the expression of a multipolar and globalized world, where multilateralism is running out of steam in favor of "multipartnership" and the multiplication of regional and bilateral agreements. This is how Morocco is now playing its full part in the concert of the most dynamic nations in terms of economic and commercial cooperation.

"Autonomy and nothing but autonomy"

While HM King Mohammed VI is celebrating his 20 years of rule today, it is easy to say that since the 1991 cease-fire, Morocco has not been in such a favorable position on the Question national. First of all, we must underline the impact of the huge investments made in the Southern Provinces, which have become true poles of competitiveness and growth. Moreover, in terms of human development, the three regions of the Sahara can be considered as the most advanced kingdoms. In fact, the GDP per capita is 41% higher than the national average and the HDI in the Sahara, which in

1975 was 0.408 points lower than that of the country, is now clearly superior to that of the average of the other regions of the Kingdom. It is in this context, uses to refer to the Royal Speech, November 6, 2014, in which HM King Mohammed VI affirmed that "for every dirham in the region, Morocco invests 7 dirhams in its Sahara". The Sovereign then admits a reality shared by all, that "the Moroccans have borne the costs of development of the Southern Provinces. They gave from their pockets, and taken from the means of subsistence of their children, so that their brothers of the South could live worthily ". Finally, at the UN level, the Kingdom took over in 2007, through the initiative of autonomy of the Southern Provinces, which is a compromise solution within the framework of the national sovereignty of Morocco, thought and promoted by the Sovereign but also co-built with the forces of the Sahara. All UN Resolutions on the Sahara, from Resolution 1754, April 2007, to Resolution 2468,

This dynamic, thanks to the efforts made by Morocco and the constant monitoring of the Sovereign, has not suffered from numerous attempts at disruption and changes of parameters, at the UN level, initiated by the opponents of our territorial integrity. Indeed, Algeria and Polisario, which in response to the achievements of the Moroccan Proposal of autonomy, have invested, in recent years, all their efforts in an instrumentalization of Human Rights and a supposed "exploitation" by Morocco natural resources in the Sahara, with the support, conscious or unconscious of some international NGOs. These efforts have been in vain, since, at each faith, Morocco has emerged strengthened. In 2013, while American draft proposed the extension to the Minurso of the monitoring of human rights in the Sahara, Resolution 2099 did not alter the mandate of Minurso, which even "welcomed" Morocco's efforts to promote

human rights in the Sahara, while underlining the role of the CNDH. All the resolutions that followed continue to speak the same language about human rights in the Sahara.

In 2016, while Morocco is openly in conflict with the UN Secretary-General, following Ban Ki-moon's visit to Tindouf and Bir Lahlou and following, in reaction, to the expulsion by Morocco of the members of the civilian component of Minurso, the Kingdom has been strengthened overall by the fact that the Security Council for the first time disassociated itself from the various declarations and postures of the Secretary General of the time. In April 2018, Resolution 2414 took up all Moroccan demands, particularly on the question of the presence of Polisario elements in Guerguerat and in the buffer zone, strongly calling for the "immediate withdrawal" of the separatist group from the region. . The Polisario's intentions to install "administrative" buildings in Bir Lahlou and

In April 2019, Resolution 2468 quotes Algeria five times, which demonstrates to the international community the decisive involvement of this country - which houses, finances, trains and supports the Polisario Front - in the non-resolution of this artificial conflict inherited from the Cold War. The latest Resolution calls, once again, on the parties to be "realist" and therefore to go beyond the outdated 1991 cease-fire formulas. On the other hand, and unequivocally, paragraph 11 of the UN text recalls that the The primary and exclusive mission of MINURSO is the maintenance of peace. In its explanations for voting, South Africa, which abstained, acknowledged that the text was "unbalanced" and regretted that it was "in favor of Morocco". Resolution 2468 must therefore,

"Africa must trust Africa"

The Royal Vision for Africa is to be seen as an expression of the real break in the foreign policy of the Kingdom. Historically focused towards the North, the eyes of Morocco and its economic operators are now on their continent of belonging. Africa corresponds to the natural geographical extension of the Kingdom, as its economic, political, cultural and religious roots in this continent are indisputable. At a time when the disunity of a Maghreb, mired in its inertia, is a sad reality, unfortunately noted by all, Morocco, thanks to its proactive African action, carried by the Vision of HM King Mohammed VI, made of its membership in a "North West Africa" arc, from Tangier to Lagos, a political reality and a strategic priority.

The Kingdom, the first African investor in West Africa and the second largest African investor on the continent, is at the initiative of many structuring projects in West Africa, which he wears and finances, in the image the Cocody Bay Safeguarding and Development Project and the project for the development of the West African Business City in Dakar. The Kingdom also initiates and co-conducts, with Nigeria, the mega-project of the Nigeria-Morocco gas pipeline, of a length greater than 4000 km. This project aims to link Nigeria to Morocco and, eventually, to Europe, crossing a dozen countries on the Atlantic coast. Its purpose is to fight against the great disparities that persist in these countries in terms of energy production and consumption. While Nigeria occupies the 2nd position in terms of global gas production, some countries in the zone are forced to import gas in large quantities from various sources and, as a

result, have their economy impacted. The pipeline will also address issues related to the energy sector, including electricity generation and consumption, faced by these countries. In addition to a promise of job creation, this project tackles the problems of electrification, but also the industrialization which, until then, constitute a brake on the development of the region. The pipeline will also address issues related to the energy sector, including electricity generation and consumption, faced by these countries. In addition to a promise of job creation, this project tackles the problems of electrification, but also the industrialization which, until then, constitute a brake on the development of the region. The pipeline will also address issues related to the energy sector, including electricity generation and consumption, faced by these countries. In addition to a promise of job creation, this project tackles the problems of electrification, but also the industrialization which, until then, constitute a brake on the development of the region.

The multidimensional character of the "Moroccan model" in Africa, initiated by HM King Mohammed VI, allowed the Kingdom to go beyond its zone of "comfort" and "confidence" that was until then Africa Western and Central Francophone. To this end, the year 2016 must be considered as the real turning point in our relations with Africa. The Royal Visits to Rwanda, Tanzania, Nigeria, Zambia and Ethiopia have enabled the Kingdom to open a new page of cooperation with these countries, which were once considered hostile. This is where the real paradigm shift, or the "turning point", initiated by the Sovereign, is to go beyond political constraints through economic cooperation.

The Royal Vision for the continent can be summed up in the following idea: Africa is a dignified and independent continent, which assumes its cultural identity and which knows how to welcome the other, its neighbor, in the respect of its rights and its dignity of man. These are the African values defended by Sovereign, who have always led Morocco refused to be the security proxy for Europe and to sign readmission agreements that the EU asked him to initial in order to facilitate the return of migrants from Europe. 'Africa. At a time when some expel nationals of ECOWAS, Morocco, on the impulse of HM King Mohammed VI, has made the choice of regularization, the extension of the rights of foreigners and implement a national strategy turned towards their social and professional integration.

"It's beautiful the day we go home after a long absence! "

January 31, 2017 is undoubtedly, to date, the most significant international date of the reign of HM King Mohammed VI. It marks the return of Morocco within its "institutional family", the African Union (AU), and breaks with more than 34 years of policy of the empty chair, which has not borne fruit. On the occasion of this historic return, the Sovereign addressed his African peers with his heart, through a unifying, positive and constructive Speech, which demonstrates the Afro optimism of the Kingdom and which will undoubtedly remain one of the The most moving speech ever delivered by the Monarch. In the words of HM King Mohammed VI, we see the perpetual interdependence between Morocco and its home continent. Its purpose is solidarity, co-development,

The credibility of the Kingdom and its continental leadership immediately enabled the Kingdom to regain its place within the African agora. On the political front, the AU Summit in Nouakchott, in July 2018, fully validated the relevance of the strategic choice of Morocco's return to the Pan-African institution, thought and wanted by HM King Mohammed VI. Historically hostile to the interests of the Kingdom on the National Question, the position of the AU has, today, radically evolved. Yesterday judge and party in the exclusive service of defending the interests of opponents of our territorial integrity, today "facilitator" recognizing the prominence and exclusivity of the UN Security Council in the resolution of this artificial regional conflict, 'AU is now a pragmatic organization, fully grounded in its time, serving the African unity and development of our continent. It is, indeed, an important and historical break - thanks, in particular, to the efforts made by the Kingdom - which in fact, despite the increasingly isolated presence of the pseudo "rasd", allows this organization to get rid of the weight of an inheritance she pulled like a ball and that directly questioned its credibility, or even its operation.

By integrating the AU, Morocco has brought its experience and expertise to many thematic or transversal topics. In addition to the issue of Migration and the African Observatory on Migration, the Kingdom has contributed to the negotiations and the establishment of the African Continental Free Trade Area (Zlecaf).

The past 20 years have therefore been rich and intense in terms of Morocco's external relations. HM King Mohammed VI brought a vision of his own and a characteristic doctrine of Moroccan values to the DNA of foreign policy of the Kingdom. Our relations

have diversified and the choice of Africa has been erected as an irreversible strategic option. The foreign policy of the Kingdom is at the forefront. We can not forget to recall that the Kingdom is to this day one of only two countries to have organized two COPs and that Morocco is considered as an important actor of the Interreligious Dialogue at the world level, as evidenced by the recent visit of the Pope Francis in Rabat.

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