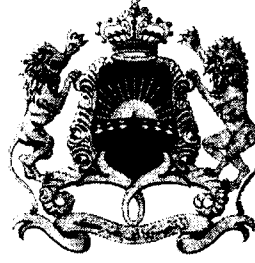


*The Permanent Mission  
of the Kingdom of Morocco  
to the United Nations*



البعثة الدائمة  
للمملكة المغربية لدى الأمم المتحدة  
نيويورك

**STATEMENT BY H.E.M TAÏB FASSI FIHRI**

**MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND COOPERATION**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE COMMUNITY OF DEMOCRACIES'  
MINISTERIAL MEETING**

**- NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009 -**

**Check Against Delivery**

Mister Chairman,  
Honorable Ministers,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me first and foremost to congratulate the Government of Portugal for the excellent work and achievements made under its presidency of the Community of Democracies in November 2007.

I would also like to congratulate the Government of Lithuania as President of the Community of the Democracies for the 2009-2011 period. I am convinced of the necessity to plan ahead of time the next presidencies to insure continuity of the work already achieved and to insure also a certain level of consistency and organization between the previous, actual and future presidencies.

I am convinced that the under Lithuania's Chairmanship, we will continue to build on our shared principles and goals to promote democracy in all regions of the world, to support the integrity of democratic processes in societies on the democratic path and to coordinate policies to enhance the effectiveness of democratic governance.

Distinguished audience,

There is a growing debate on the importance of democratization around the globe, and questions such as how seriously the calls to adopt real and effective democratic practices have been heard and how far have we have gone in implementing the desired reforms continue to arise.

While some signs of change have been noticed in some countries, answers to these questions remain difficult to reach. If today's uncertainties in these difficult times that we all experience proves anything it will be that there is an enormous amount of work ahead of us that needs to be done, despite the achievements we are all trying to protect and reinforce.

For democracy to be well deep-rooted and successful, a strong will has to come from the authorities. Many countries have already started to reveal some signs of willingness to introduce reforms, and others have achieved more than what is has been expected by taking serious steps in the process of democratization. However, the speed and level of their achievements vary.

Democratic reform is recognized as a desirable process by all the countries of our Community. Each country is different and consequently, while political reform is a common aim, the reform process adopted is specific to each country.

In this context, Morocco, under the leadership of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, is building a modern and democratic State, based on our shared democratic values.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As it has always shown, Morocco will continue to support the initiatives undertaken under the umbrella of the Community of Democracies to strengthen the foundations of democracy and to broaden its scope.

I would like to underline the importance of the NGO's role in the CoD process. I firmly believe that the scope of action of the Community of Democracies cannot be broadened without the active participation of the civil society. In this sense, we encourage CoD participating states to actively take part in the different CoD Working Groups and in the building up of a global democracy network.

Under the presidency of Portugal, the Convening Group of the Community of Democracies held a series of meetings through which a number of suggestions related to the implementation and improvement of the output of the Working Groups have been discussed. These projects, which emphasize the importance of the work done in the framework of the four (4) Working Groups, will for sure enhance the work of the CoD. I am particularly thinking of the importance of establishing a Troika, which will greatly help the Convening Group and the CoD to reach out to the outside world, increasing its representation, sharing tasks and providing mutual support.

Last but not least, I would like to reiterate Morocco's commitment in the efforts of the member countries of the CoD in achieving the Millennium Development Goals and also in implementing the decisions taken during the previous presidencies of the Community of Democracies.

In line with the vision of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, Morocco's aspiration is that our Partnership be a genuine one, progressive in its approach, and pragmatic and respectful regarding the specificities of each region. The objective was, and I think still is, not to compete with existing co-operation instruments, but to strengthen our Partnership through the use of existing regional and inter-regional structures. We also want our Partnership to be more than just 'dialogue'. We need to therefore focus on a number of precise and concrete projects that would benefit each region depending on its needs and specificities.

As a member of the Convening Group of the Community of the Democracies and on behalf of the Kingdom of Morocco, I would like to express our support to Lithuania, as Chair, in its efforts to organize an engaging and successful Ministerial Conference in 2011.

I hope that the upcoming Ministerial will highlight and enhance our commitment to build on our shared principles and goals to promote democracy in all regions of the world, to support the integrity of the democratic processes and to coordinate policies to enhance the effectiveness of democratic governance.

Thanks for having me with you today, and thank you for your attention.