

Kingdom of Morocco



Minister Delegate to the Minister of Energy,
Mining, Water and the Environment,
for Water



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WATER AND CLIMATE

ENTITLED

« WATER SECURITY FOR CLIMATE
JUSTICE »

RABAT, JULY, 11-12, 2016

THE RABAT CALL

« *WATER FOR AFRICA* »

Climate change and its impacts, which are manifested primarily through the water cycle, affect the natural resources, the ecosystems and the societies, and constitute a serious threat to humanity.

The impact of climate irregularity on water cycle is complex and different from one region to another in the world, with strong human, economic and environmental repercussions. Africa is a low GHG producer and is suffering from climate change. In fact, the arid and subtropical part of African would become the region where climate change effect will be the most important by 2100. The proportion of the African population, which could face water stress, will be higher, going from 47% in 2000 to 65% by 2025.

These repercussions threaten the sustainable development in general. They also threaten particularly the new sustainable development program, which was adopted by the UN in September 2015 and which includes a set of worldwide goals, integrating access to water and sanitation and the integrated and sustainable water management, in order to end poverty, to fight against inequality and injustice, and to face climate change by 2030.

We, as participants to the International Water and Climate Conference (ICWC), held in July 11th and 12th, 2016 in Rabat;

Are Expressing our sincere gratitude and thanks to the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco for the welcoming and for the outstanding organization of this important international manifestation, as part of the preparatory phase of COP22, which will be held in Marrakech from 7 to 18 of November 2016;

Are thankful to the French Minister for Environment, Energy and the Sea; and the World Water Council for the co-organization of the conference;

Are also thankful to the AfDB, the World Bank, the GIZ and the French Water Partnership for their support to the conference;

Note with satisfaction the historical agreement during COP21 held in Paris in December 2015, which has recognized the place of adaptation which should be treated at the same level as attenuation, including for the financial mechanisms. Water is a natural beneficiary because of the large impact of climate change and in relationship with the majority of risks;

Are saluting the initiatives which were launched within the Agenda of Actions during COP21: the Paris Agreement, the alliance for business for water and climate, the coalition of megacities for water, as well as the initiative « Climate is water »;

Note the support of the Paris Agreement on water and climate change adaptation in river basins, lakes and aquifers, to integrating water in the Climate Change Action Plan;

Are saluting the initiatives which were launched to face the water problems in Africa: the AAA initiative (Africa Adaptation Agriculture) and the Africa initiative under the form of water, climate and development program of the Global Water Partnership;

Have noted the opportunities which are offered to us through the Paris initiated dynamics, and which will be set up in Marrakesh, in order to integrate water issues in the climate negotiations;

Have noted that globally Africa is below the world average for the majority of indicators related to the access of water and sanitation services, as well as food security;

Are considering that Africa, which are faced with large risks related to climate change, need the financial support and know how, in order to propose efficient contributions for adaptation;

Due to the urgency and the necessity to undertake adaptation actions in water sector in particular for Africa, in order to minimize the impacts of climate change in terms of water access, health and food security, and to protect the aquatic ecosystems and ensure sustainable development.

We call the international community, on the eve of the 22nd Conference of the Parties to be held in Marrakech from 7 to 18 November 2016, to:

1. Work towards the integration of water and climate agendas to improve profitability for resilient societies and protected ecosystems, to both meet the needs of adaptation to climate change and to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals;
2. Consider more water as a priority in the discussions on adaptation, including in the Adaptation Committee, and put adaptation policies at the same level as those of mitigation at COP 22 in Marrakesh;
3. Create a political momentum, launch a call for action for water and adopt a priority action plan, particularly in Africa;
4. Put in place mechanisms to monitor the commitments made in the field of water and climate change;
5. Open up more climate funds (Adaptation Fund, Green Fund) to projects targeting better water management and support both infrastructure projects and the improvement of knowledge related to resource and climate change impact, capacity building, governance, monitoring and policies assessment;
6. Create an Intergovernmental Group of Experts to assess the interactions and impacts of climate change on the water cycle and follow their evolution;
7. Link the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals to resilience actions to climate change and adopt a priority action plan for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals in Africa;
8. Invite international donors and the green fund to help Africa to provide effective contributions in terms of adaptation, particularly in water field, and to implement the related intended actions.

Rabat, July 12th, 2016.