

*Mission Permanente
du Royaume du Maroc*

Genève



البعثة الدائمة
للمملكة المغربية

جنيف

The 20th session of the Human right Council

General debate on item 3:

Cross regional statement on: "corruption and human rights"

Delivered by Morocco on behalf of a group of 132 States.

Geneva, 26th June 2012

Madame President,

I have the honor to make this statement on behalf of 132 states.

Madame President,

We are deeply concerned about the increasing negative impact of widespread corruption on the enjoyment of human rights. This can happen on the one hand, through weakening of institutions and erosion of public trust in government and on the other, through undermining national initiatives to improve citizens' lives. It can impair the ability of governments to fulfil their human rights obligations.

Corruption constitutes one of the biggest obstacles to the effective promotion and protection of human rights, as well as to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, in particular the goals on the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger and on the achievement of universal primary education.

We believe that corruption is a universal phenomenon and it has been an issue of greatest concern to citizens of many countries. For too long, the anticorruption and human rights movements have been working in parallel rather than tackling these problems together.

The fight against corruption has been a common denominator to people all around the world and the scourge of bribery crosses the border of countries and regions. Corruption has become a serious problem with international implications, overlapping with several other transnational crimes. Globalization and modern technology have made the corruption diverse in its manifestations and, at the same time, provided more transparency about it.

Experience shows that fight against corruption can contribute significantly to the promotion of fundamental principles of human rights and the rule of law, essential to a free and democratic society. Corruption has always enabled the exploitation and injustice that too often impede respect for human rights and prevent our societies from advancing.

We welcome, in this respect, the continued efforts of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and its engagement with the UN anti-corruption actions, including its participation in intergovernmental meetings such as the Marrakesh Conference of States parties to the UN Convention against Corruption.

We also welcome the crucial role of civil society and media in addressing corruption issues and their ability to use human rights principles in fighting against corruption, including through raising awareness, calling attention to abuse and advocating for necessary improvements in the relevant legislation.

Madame President,

Several parts of the world are undergoing profound changes, resulting from great aspirations and expectations expressed by their peoples, particularly with regard to the promotion of transparency and rule of law in public life and the principles on which good governance rests, that is accountability, transparency, responsibility and integrity, as they are an indispensable condition for the full realization of human rights.

To tackle the disastrous effects of corruption, which may emanate from various resources, concerted efforts at both national and international levels are necessary in

order to combat and prevent corruption and its negative manifestations, especially where the impact of corruption hinders the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

The fight against corruption is important in fulfilling people's aspirations for balanced and sustainable human development and achievement of the elimination of the pockets of poverty and vulnerability as well as in securing the promotion and protection of human rights and ensuring the preservation of the rule of law.

We also believe that the time has come to deepen reflection on how to address the close connection between human rights and anti-corruption measures. In this regard, our delegations fully support the call by the Human Rights Council stressing the importance of promotion of human rights-based policy coherence and coordination in the deliberations and actions by States and in the intergovernmental processes of implementing the United Nation's Convention against Corruption. It is encouraging that, up to now, 160 countries have ratified the UNCAC. This means that they should be committed to take effective measures to prevent and combat this scourge.

The coordination of action and cooperation between Member States in Geneva and Vienna, as well as close collaboration between the OHCHR and UNODC are vital, especially for sharing experiences and expertise regarding policy coherence in the implementation of international human rights obligations and anti-corruption laws. Their role is also vital for identifying best practices and examples of actions in which fight against corruption is assisted by and contributes to human rights protection.

In this context, we take note of the establishment of the International Anti-corruption Academy in Austria, which can provide assistance, education, training and cooperation in the matter.

In conclusion, and for all the above-mentioned reasons, we affirm the mutually reinforcing relationship between the promotion and protection of human rights and anti-corruption efforts, as recognized by the Human Rights Council.

I thank you

This statement was read by Morocco on behalf of: *Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Palestine, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russia, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay, Ukraine, Venezuela, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Holy See.*