

Climate change is one of the major challenges of our world, and Morocco, located in Northern Africa, is in a region that is particularly vulnerable to climate change. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), threats include extreme temperatures, more extreme precipitation and more frequent occurrences of droughts, ocean acidification and sea level rise, which can impact the health, livelihoods, and food and water security of the African people. These negative effects will be aggravated by the continent's existing development challenges, including poverty, political upheaval, migration pressures and limited access to capital, infrastructure and technology.¹ The landmark Paris Agreement, adopted in December 2015 at the 21st Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), known as COP 21, provides an international roadmap to limit the threat of climate change by keeping a global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to build climate resilience.² The 22nd Session of the Conference of the Parties to UNFCCC (COP 22), held in Marrakech, Morocco, in November 2016, pivoted to a new phase after years of negotiation to implementation of the Paris Agreement and the UN's ambitious Sustainable Development Goals. As host of COP 22, Morocco demonstrated how it can be a model for other North and Sub-Saharan countries, particularly with renewable energy, while also advocating for greater coordination of investments in mitigating technologies and resources to help developing nations receive the support they need to achieve their climate goals as quickly and efficiently as possible.³

Recognizing its vulnerability, Morocco has long been involved in international efforts on climate change. The government ratified the UNFCCC in 1995 and the Kyoto Protocol in 2002. In 2011, Morocco's Constitution made sustainable development a fundamental right for all citizens. The nation also signed and ratified the Paris Agreement, and submitted its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) in 2016 to the UNFCCC. Morocco's NDC outlines a vision for Morocco to 2030 and rests, to a large extent, on a major transformation of the energy sector, which contributes to two-thirds of its GHG emissions.⁴ It also contains provisions for improving agriculture, waste management, land use and forestry, and industrial processes. However, to achieve the conditional targets set in the NDC, gaining access to new sources of finance and enhanced support will be required.

Morocco favors a clear roadmap toward the mobilization of additional international financing flows to help the most vulnerable countries implement their NDCs and build resilience.⁴ This is particularly important to Morocco in advancing its energy goals. Approximately 96 percent of its energy needs are external sources, making it the largest energy importer in the region. Morocco's goal is to generate more than half of its energy from renewable by the year 2030. In order to achieve these targets, the government is committed to phasing out subsidies for fossil fuels and regulation in favor of green energy.⁵ In the long term, a switch to higher levels of renewable energy can help improve future prospects for the younger generation and could lead to the creation of up to half a million jobs in the renewable energy sector by 2040, mostly originating from the Noor-Ouarzazate solar complex.⁶ However, technology development, financial investment and a qualified workforce are needed, and the acceleration in the implementation in financial mechanisms such as the UNFCCC's Green Climate Fund are required.⁷

In addition, Morocco favors the strengthening of ways to coordinate the actions of the UN, society, governments, businesses, investors and other stakeholders – globally, regionally and at the country level – to help developing nations achieve their NDCs. This is particularly vital to addressing issues such as water and food scarcity in Morocco, where about 80 percent of water resources are used to irrigate agriculture. Achieving long-term sustainability in the face of climate change will require innovative business models, technology transfer,

¹ "Climate Change ∴ Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform." *United Nations*. United Nations, n.d. Web. 19 Feb. 2017.

² Development, Global Economy &. *AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT FOR INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND FOOD SECURITY IN MOROCCO* (n.d.): n. pag. Web.

³ Development, Towards A Low-Carbon Climate-Resilient. *Water and Environment, in Charge of Environment MOROCCAN CLIMATE CHANGE* (n.d.): n. pag. Web.

⁴ "Energy Policies Beyond IEA Countries." (n.d.): n. pag. Web.

⁵ "Morocco | General Assembly of the United Nations." *United Nations*. United Nations, n.d. Web. 19 Feb. 2017.

⁶ "Morocco Could Have Half A Million Green Jobs By 2040." *CleanTechnica*. N.p., 30 Jan. 2017. Web. 19 Feb. 2017.

⁷ "Morocco's INDC - A Strong Signal Coming from the First Arab Country." *Morocco's INDC - A Strong Signal Coming from the First Arab Country | CAN International*. N.p., n.d. Web. 19 Feb. 2017.

financial resources and citizen education.⁸ Recognizing this, the Moroccan government has teamed with other nations to launch innovative initiatives such as Global Climate Action Agenda and NDC Partnership.⁹ These initiatives and others like them can build on existing UN programs to focus coordination, identify needs and gaps, improve prioritization on most effective technologies, and encourage reliable data collection.¹⁰

⁸ "NDC Partnership to Help Countries Realize Promise of Paris Agreement." *NDC Partnership to Help Countries Realize Promise of Paris Agreement / NDC Partnership*. N.p., 01 Jan. 1970. Web. 19 Feb. 2017.

⁹ Unfccc.com. "Global Climate Action Agenda Climate Champions Release Detailed Roadmap." *UNFCCC*. N.p., n.d. Web. 19 Feb. 2017.

¹⁰ United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. "Status of Ratification." *The Paris Agreement - Main Page*. N.p., 10 Jan. 2017. Web. 19 Feb. 2017.