

# INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

COMMITTEE ON MIDDLE EAST QUESTIONS

SECOND ROUND TABLE ON WATER

FROM WORDS TO ACTION

6 - 7 JULY 2017

IPU Headquarters, Geneva

## **CASE STUDY OF MOROCCO**

By the Moroccan delegation

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## CASE STUDY OF MOROCCO

### I - INTRODUCTION :

Morocco lies in the west corner of North Africa. Out of its total area of 710.000 Km<sup>2</sup>, 95% is in semi-arid, arid and desertic areas. The mediterranean harsh and fragile climate, as well as the reliability on agriculture with a significant growing population which increased from 11 millions in 1960 to 35 millions inhabitants in 2014 makes Morocco at high risk of water scarcity and shortage. However, aware of the vital role and sensivity of water resources, and taking benifit from ancestral experience and human heritage as well as innovative solutions, Morocco is amongst the most advanced countries in the management and best use of water both for access and good sanitation. Thus it has committed itself in 1990 to SDG (MDG at that time).

Today, with its long experience, we can confidently say that Morocco can meet the challenge.

In this review, we shall deal with water law and policy reforms, access to water and good sanitation, the advisory body and planification of the sector.

## II - LAW AND POLICY REFORM :

These issues have gone through many changes and updates in the last two decades. The aim of such reforms was to make the best of the water resource, to ensure its availability and supply, its economy and sustainable use and the prevention of its pollution in all its sources. These reforms aim also to minimise the impact of associated risks and adaptation to climate change. This includes the implementation of a drought management program and a national programme for the protection against floods other measures imply updating of the 10-95 law in accordance to the new constitution implying the full right of citizens to water access and good environment. This includes also the promulgation of the new law 36-15 to ensure the rational use of water by various stakeholders and its preservation. The new law dictates also the set up of water shed councils to allow information supply and ensure the involvement of users within a contractual management framework.

## III - WATER ACCESS : WHAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE ?

Since the early 19th century, Morocco involved itself in the search for an adequate water policy to fulfil its needs.

By the 1970s, he adopted a dynamic waterdam policy construction to accomplish self sufficiency both for drinking water and agriculture development. It should be noted that the country has a central water reservoir (the middle Atlas) from which rise most of the rivers, and a series of mountain chains of the Anti and High Atlas and the Rif. Besides the mountains, there are the Plateaus that contribute also to water supply. Morocco holds also a real network of rivers distributed over its entire territory.

Nowdays, the country has got 130 big water dams and over 100 small ones of which the capacity is estimated to be 17.2 billion cubic meter (BCM). The use of underground water is also customary especially

under harsh and xeric conditions. Traditional and other water storage systems are also used in many areas. The use of new technologies for sea water desalination have recently been used and are evolving gradually. About six desalination plants are planned some of which are in service. Their capacity amounts to 12.000 m<sup>3</sup>/day. The reuse of wastewater especially for green space irrigation is also practised in big cities.

This water policy resulted nowadays in 100% water access in urban areas and a very spectacular improvement in rural areas, from 14% water access in 1994, Morocco reached about 96% water access today.

In order to fulfil its SDD commitments and meet the challenge, Morocco has planned other actions :

- the construction of about 40 big water dams by 2030 with a 4.5 Million cubic meters capacity
- the desalination of 500 Million cubic meters of sea water by 2030 and the reuse of about 325 Million cubic meters of depolluted wastewater for the same period.

#### IV - ACCESS TO ADEQUATE SANITATION :

The quantity of wastewater produced annually in Morocco was estimated to be 700 Million m<sup>3</sup> in 2010 and is expected to reach 900 Million m<sup>3</sup> by 2020. 43% of the total amount is produced in coastal cities.

The access to adequate sanitation in urban areas is well advanced and covers 75% of the total urban area and it is expected to reach 100% by 2030. However, in rural areas, the rate of access to water sanitation remains very low and did not exceed 10% in 2015 but it is

expected to reach 100% by 2040 according to the national plan for wastewater.

The reuse of recycled wastewater is in its beginning today used mainly for gardening and golf fields. It is hoped to use 40% of the wastewater by 2030 mainly for green space irrigation and sport fields. Many research efforts are made to qualify the water for agricultural irrigation..

## V - INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK OF THE SECTOR :

This comprises the set up of sectorial planning body, regional institutions and other stakeholders of which we find

- 1- The Supreme Council for Water
- 2- The State Secretariat in charge of Water under the auspice of the ministry of Infrastructure, Transport, Logistics and Water
- 3- The water Bassin Agencies
- 4- The National Office for Electricity and Drinking Water
- 5- The Regional Offices for Agricultural Development
- 6- The Autonomous Agencies for Water and Electricity Distribution

## VI - TRAINING AND RESEARCH PROGRAMS :

Morocco has a long experience in training and research in the field of water management and utilities. The country houses leading specialized universities, high standard engineering institutes and schools as well as very renowned research institutions and laboratories in the subject matter. These institutions have been the

basis for human resources building capacity nationally and internationally. They are also the support for specialized research programs carried out by individual researchers or research teams a national level or in partnership with other world leading institutions from the USA, Europe and other parts of the world.

The various research programs involve conventional as well as new techniques of water management. These programs are related to.

- Means and tools of mobilizing surface and undergroundwater.
- Water economy and sustainable use of the resource
- Desalination of seawater
- wastewater treatment and reuse
- Innovative solutions to water access and sanitation
- Laws and policy reforms
- Etc

## VII – CONCLUSION

No doubt, water will remain for ever a vital resource. It is basic for life and water demand will ever remain increasing as it is used in all sectors of human life. This makes its good management, its best and rational use a necessity and a must. Morocco, due to its dry climate and owing to its long experience and ancestral heritage in water management is one of the few leading countries in water issues.

The various national programs on access to water and adequate sanitation and the different laws and policy reforms in the subject matter makes of the country a good example to follow. It allowed

the country to meet the SDDs and fulfill its commitments towards the international community. However, there still is a genuine need for exchange of experience and international cooperation.