

Neighbourhood Partnership with Morocco 2015-2017

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Introduction

Council of Europe policy towards neighbouring regions

At its 121st Session on 11 May 2011 in Istanbul, the Committee of Ministers endorsed the proposals made by the Secretary General regarding a Council of Europe (CoE) policy towards its immediate neighbourhood, aimed at promoting dialogue and co-operation with the countries and regions in the vicinity of Europe which express the will to co-operate with the CoE, based on the common values of human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The Committee of Ministers further invited the Secretary General to draw up action plans for the implementation of this policy.

The CoE policy towards neighbouring regions, which is demand driven and country specific, is designed for partners in North Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia, and pursues the following three objectives:

- ▶ to facilitate democratic political transition in the countries concerned;
- ▶ to help promote good governance through the protection of human rights and the rule of law;
- ▶ to reinforce and enlarge CoE regional action in combating transborder and global threats.

The policy has been implemented in close partnership with the European Union (EU), on the basis of

the modalities endorsed by the CoE Committee of Ministers, in particular its two key components:

- ▶ the *Neighbourhood Co-operation Dialogue*, carried out at political level;
- ▶ the *Neighbourhood Co-operation Priorities (NCP)*, setting out specific co-operation activities to be carried out in the fields of human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

The document "Neighbourhood Partnership with Morocco 2015-2017" was endorsed by the Committee of Ministers of the CoE on 4 February 2015. The Neighbourhood Partnership document is therefore divided into two parts:

PART I – Enhanced Political Dialogue
PART II – Co-operation.

The first part on Enhanced Political Dialogue, offers wide opportunities for dialogue between the CoE and the Moroccan authorities, ranging from High-level strategic Dialogue with the Secretary General of the CoE and the Committee of Ministers, on topics on the bilateral agenda and political issues of common interest to more technical consultations relevant to the implementation of the Neighbourhood Partnership.

The second part focuses specifically on co-operation priorities identified during discussions between the CoE and the Moroccan national authorities concerned.



Co-operation objectives

The main objective of co-operation between Morocco and the CoE, in line with the CoE policy towards neighbouring regions, is to assist Morocco in the ongoing process of democratic reforms, which started several years ago, by helping the country to tackle challenges related to human rights, the rule of law and democracy, and in particular:

- ▶ to consolidate the results of the co-operation implemented since 2012 through the “Neighbourhood Co-operation Priorities with Morocco 2012-2014” and to initiate new areas of co-operation in line with national reform priorities, based on the demand driven approach, in the fields of expertise of the CoE;
- ▶ to continue the efforts made to facilitate the creation of a common legal area between Europe and Morocco, encouraging the authorities to bring Moroccan legislation into line with European and international standards and to ratify the CoE conventions open to non member States, with due regard for the procedures set out in the relevant conventions;
- ▶ to provide support to the development and to the effective implementation of new legislation in accordance with European and other international standards according to needs;
- ▶ to provide support to the setting up and functioning of human rights institutions and new governance structures;

- ▶ to enhance Morocco’s presence in the CoE structures of which it is already a member or observer (Venice Commission, the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice, the European Pharmacopoeia, the Pompidou Group’s MedNet network,...) and to encourage it to participate in other CoE structures, according to needs.

The present framework of co-operation is a flexible, dynamic strategic tool setting out priorities for co-operation between Morocco and the CoE for the period 2015-2017. The main areas of co-operation have been identified on the basis of high level consultations as well as of detailed technical consultations between the relevant Moroccan authorities and the CoE.

Consultations have also been carried out with other international organisations – in particular the EU, as the main partner of the CoE’s action in Morocco – and with bilateral actors, so as to ensure a co-ordinated approach. Hence, the priority areas of co-operation aim to foster synergies between all the relevant actors in order to avoid duplication.

The implementation of activities foreseen in the Neighbourhood Partnership document has already started, in particular in the framework of the EU-CoE joint Programme “Towards strengthened democratic governance in the Southern Mediterranean” (South Programme II, 2015-2017).



The Council of Europe and Morocco

The relationship between the CoE and Morocco has gradually evolved since the adoption in 2008 of the joint EU-Morocco document on advanced status and has been enhanced in the context of the implementation of the Neighbourhood Policy established by the CoE in 2011, making Morocco a privileged partner in the region.

Further to the fruitful Neighbourhood Co-operation Dialogue held between the CoE and Moroccan authorities and the successful implementation of the Neighbourhood Co-operation Priorities for Morocco in 2012-2014, the Committee of Ministers considered it necessary to give a new momentum to the relationship with this country, which shares with the CoE the

values of human rights, rule of law and democracy, through a Neighbourhood Partnership combining and strengthening the two pillars of the policy – political dialogue and co-operation – along the lines fixed in Istanbul in 2011. The Neighbourhood Partnership is therefore offering a framework for an “Enhanced Political Dialogue” the intensity of which could reflect the quality of the co-operation between Morocco and the CoE.

Morocco, which has always expressed an interest in consolidating dialogue and co-operation with the CoE institutions, welcomed the Committee of Ministers initiative to open up promising prospects for the enrichment of this mutually-beneficial bilateral partnership.

Co-operation priorities

Human rights



Gender equality

In a context characterised in particular by the introduction of the Governmental Equality Plan (PGE) 2012-2016, given considerable EU support, the CoE assisted with the preparation of the draft law establishing the Authority for Gender Equality and the Fight against all Forms of Discrimination (APALD), which is provided for under the constitution. The Moroccan authorities have also been involved at various points in the work of the CoE's Committee on Gender Equality (GEC). Morocco and the CoE took part in certain of each other's activities on women's access to justice.

Overall objective	To promote women's rights and participation in public and political life, particularly in decision-making spheres
Expected results for 2015-2017	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Legislation on gender equality, according to the principles deriving from the 2011 Constitution, is drafted in line with relevant CoE standards; 2. the setting up of the Authority for Gender Equality and the Fight against all Forms of Discrimination is supported and this Authority establishes contacts and exchanges with relevant European bodies; 3. women's participation in political life and decision-making processes and women's access to justice are supported, in accordance with CoE best practice; 4. the awareness of the media of the equality issue is raised in order, in particular, to combat gender stereotypes and enhance the image and position of women in the media; the setting up of the Monitoring Centre on the Perception of Women in the Media is supported.
Partners	<i>Ministry of Solidarity, Women, Family and Social Development, the future Authority for Gender Equality and the Fight against all Forms of Discrimination, National Human Rights Council, Interministerial Delegation on Human Rights, Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Communication, High Authority on Audio-visual Communications, Ministry of Public Service and Modernisation of the Administration, civil society.</i>

Combating violence against women

The CoE provided practical support to the Moroccan authorities in this field, thanks to a voluntary contribution from Norway to combat violence against women and children under the regional programme for 2012-2014 covering Morocco, Tunisia and Jordan. On the occasion of a high-level regional conference, the commitment of the Moroccan authorities, who co-organised the event, allowed to reflect their willingness to combat this phenomenon, and afforded the opportunity to promote the CoE Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention). The CoE was then asked by Morocco to give a presentation on the Istanbul Convention and to provide an expert opinion on the draft law to combat violence against women.

Overall objective	To combat violence against women by adapting the legislative framework, enhancing awareness of European standards in this field, and improving prevention
Expected results for 2015-2017	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Moroccan national authorities, members of parliament and civil society have a good understanding of CoE standards in this field, in particular the CoE Convention on Preventing and Combating violence against Women and Domestic Violence to which the Moroccan authorities could confirm their commitment to accede; 2. the legislative framework, concerning measures relating to prevention, assistance and victim protection, the prosecution of perpetrators and the training of the key players involved is drawn up in line with CoE standards in this field; 3. institutional capacities and those of the relevant professionals to prevent and combat violence against women and domestic violence are enhanced; 4. the adoption of measures and services to strengthen the effectiveness and efficiency of efforts to combat violence against women, in particular access to justice by women victims of violence, and to improve the quality of help and guidance centres for women victims is supported; 5. the future National Monitoring Centre on combating violence against women is established and operates effectively, taking into account the tools and experience of the CoE in this field.
Partners	<i>Ministry of Solidarity, Women, Family and Social Development, Ministry of Justice and Freedoms, National Human Rights Council, Interministerial Delegation on Human Rights, civil society.</i>

Promoting children's rights and protecting children against violence

Morocco has begun framing an integrated child protection policy and in this connection, the Moroccan Parliament ratified several CoE instruments in this field: the Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Lanzarote Convention), the European Convention on the Exercise of Children's Rights and the Convention on Contact concerning Children. In addition, the CoE provided technical support for the drafting of the Law establishing the Advisory Council for Family and Children's Affairs, which is provided for under the constitution, and was made possible thanks to a voluntary contribution from Norway to combat violence against women and children under the regional programme for 2012-2014 covering Morocco, Tunisia and Jordan.

Overall objective	To strengthen children's rights and protection against all forms of violence by adapting the legislative framework and enhancing awareness of European standards in this field
Expected results for 2015-2017	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The effective implementation of CoE conventions and standards is supported, in particular in the context of the revision of the legal framework concerning the protection of children; 2. institutional capacities and those of the relevant professionals working in the field of protecting children against violence are enhanced; 3. the drafting and implementation of the action plan of the integrated child protection policy are supported, including on the basis of civil society initiatives, drawing in particular on the CoE Guidelines on integrated national strategies for protecting children against violence; 4. the setting up of the Advisory Council for Family and Children's Affairs is supported and this Council establishes contacts and exchanges with relevant European bodies and civil society organisations.
Partners	<i>Ministry of Solidarity, Women, Family and Social Development, Ministry of Justice and Freedoms, Ministry of Youth and Sport, the Interministerial Delegation on Human Rights, National Children's Rights Monitoring Centre, civil society.</i>

Prevention of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment

In a context characterised by the application of the new provisions of the 2011 Constitution (in which Article 22 makes torture a criminal offence) and the ratification by the Moroccan Parliament of the Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT), Morocco expressed a wish to learn more about the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, its monitoring mechanism (the "CPT"), and its standards and working procedures. It requested CoE assistance for the forthcoming introduction of a National Prevention Mechanism (NPM).

Overall objective	To enhance national capacities for preventing and combating torture and inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment in accordance with European standards in this field
Expected results for 2015-2017	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Moroccan national authorities, members of parliament and civil society have a good understanding of CoE standards regarding the prevention of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; 2. the legislative framework concerning the prevention of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment is drafted or implemented in line with CoE standards in this field, including with regard to the protection of the fundamental rights and freedoms of persons suffering from mental and psychological disorders; 3. the national mechanism for the prevention of torture in Morocco is up and running with the possible support of the CPT and the capacities of the members and staff of the future NPM are enhanced; if appropriate, the operational skills of other relevant professions, such as the police, are also enhanced in line with relevant international provisions in the human rights field and from a prevention point of view.
Partners	<i>National Human Rights Council, Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Justice and Freedoms, Ministry of Health, Directorate General of Prisons and Rehabilitation, Interministerial Delegation on Human Rights.</i>

The fight against human trafficking

In the general context of a new migration policy focused more on respect for human rights, the Moroccan authorities prepared a draft law to combat human trafficking, due to be passed in 2014. The CoE closely coordinated its efforts in this regard with the other international players active in this field, in particular the EU. The CoE and the "Centre for Migration Policy Development" (ICMPD) jointly organised a training course designed to familiarise the relevant Moroccan bodies with certain European mechanisms for combating trafficking and with the CoE's Anti-trafficking Convention, with a view to Morocco's possible accession to this instrument.

Overall objective	To enhance national capacities to combat trafficking in human beings in accordance with relevant European standards
Expected results for 2015-2017	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Moroccan national, regional and local authorities, members of parliament and civil society have a good understanding of CoE standards in the fight against trafficking in human beings, in particular with a view to the possible accession of Morocco to the CoE Convention in this field; 2. the legislative framework concerning the fight against human trafficking is drawn up in line with CoE standards in this regard; 3. exchanges of best practice are increased and the technical capacities of the authorities and relevant Moroccan stakeholders are enhanced, on the basis of the CoE's expertise and best practice.
Partners	<i>Ministry of Moroccans Resident Abroad and Migration Affairs, Interministerial Delegation on Human Rights, Ministry of Justice and Freedoms, Ministry of the Interior, National Human Rights Council, civil society.</i>

Migrants' rights and integration

In view of the fact that Morocco was planning to introduce a new migration policy covering, in particular, questions of irregular migration, asylum and human trafficking, the PACE Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons met in Rabat to look at how Morocco and Europe could face up to the challenges and opportunities of South-North migration. In addition, the Chair of the Moroccan delegation to the PACE asked the President of the Assembly to consider providing assistance to members of the Moroccan Parliament in the preparations for the implementation of Morocco's new migration policy. In this context, the President of the National Human Rights Council held talks with the Deputy Secretary General of the CoE and the PACE Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons to look at how Morocco and the CoE could step up their co-operation in this field.

Overall objective	To assist Morocco in implementing a human rights-based migration policy
Expected results for 2015-2017	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Moroccan national authorities, members of parliament and civil society have a good understanding of CoE standards in order to draft legislation relating to the new migration policy, in particular with regard to the fight against human trafficking and the various European systems for managing irregular and regular migration; 2. the role of the Moroccan Parliament in framing and implementing the new migration policy, with regard in particular to human rights-related aspects, is reinforced.
Partners	<i>Ministry of Moroccans Resident Abroad and Migration Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Co-operation, National Human Rights Council, Interministerial Delegation on Human Rights, Ministry of the Interior, parliament, civil society.</i>

Data protection

As Morocco had expressed a wish to strengthen its legislation on the protection of personal data and move closer to European standards in this field, the Committee of Ministers invited the Kingdom to accede to the CoE Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data (Convention No. 108). The CoE, together with the National Personal Data Protection Board (CNDP), organised a Seminar on "Protection of personal data: the challenges of the digital age and transparency". This event afforded the opportunity to raise participants' awareness of this issue, throw the spotlight on Convention No. 108 with a view to its ratification by Morocco (which took place in 2014) and discuss with the authorities those aspects of the current legislation which should be reviewed in order to be fully in line with Convention No. 108.

Overall objective	To enhance national capacities in the data protection field in accordance with relevant European standards
Expected results for 2015-2017	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The legislative framework is reviewed in line with the relevant CoE standards, in particular the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data (Convention No. 108) and its additional protocol; 2. the recommendations resulting from the seminar jointly organised by the CoE and the CNDP in March 2014 are implemented; 3. co-operation with the CNDP is stepped up via its regular participation in the meetings of the Consultative Committee of Convention No. 108 and other relevant CoE bodies and activities.
Partners	<i>National Personal Data Protection Board, Ministry of Industry, Trade and New Technologies, Ministry of Justice and Freedoms, Ombudsman of the Kingdom.</i>

Drug abuse and drug trafficking

The CoE continued providing assistance to Morocco in order to put in place a national drug prevention strategy. Morocco, which has been participating since 2006 in the Pompidou Group's Mediterranean network (MedNET) (and became a member in 2011) is the first country in the Arab world to have introduced opioid substitution treatment, thanks in particular to training organised by MedNET for medical staff.

Overall objective	To improve the quality of the implementation of coherent drug policies in Morocco, with due regard for human rights and from a public health perspective
Expected results for 2015-2017	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Finalisation of a national drug prevention strategy, to which the CoE will have contributed by providing appropriate expertise and prevention material, particularly with regard to schools; 2. technical support for strengthening the mechanisms and policies for identifying and monitoring drug use and abuse, in particular by gathering information for strategic analysis; 3. consolidation of the National Monitoring Mechanism for drugs and addictions as a key institution in the implementation of the National Drugs Strategy; 4. the capacities of the relevant professionals are enhanced through addictology courses attended by an increased number of participants; 5. the capacities of the care centre staff working on the treatment and rehabilitation of drug users are enhanced.
Partners	<i>Ministry of Health, National Monitoring Centre on Drugs and Addiction, Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Justice and Freedoms, Ministry of Education and Vocational Training, civil society.</i>

The fight against the counterfeiting of medical products

On 13 December 2012, Morocco signed the Convention on the Counterfeiting of Medical Products and Similar Crimes Involving Threats to Public Health (MEDICRIME Convention). Morocco also attended the 13th meeting of the Committee of Experts on Minimising the Public Health Risks Posed by Counterfeiting of Medical Products and Related Crimes (CD-P-PH/CMED), under the aegis of the European Pharmacopoeia, with which Morocco has, since 1997, had observer status.

Overall objective	To support the implementation by Morocco of the Convention on the Counterfeiting of Medical Products and Similar Crimes Involving Threats to Public Health (MEDICRIME Convention)
Expected results for 2015-2017	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The provisions of the Convention on the Counterfeiting of Medical Products and Similar Crimes Involving Threats to Public Health are taken into account in domestic legislation and in the practices of the relevant professionals (in particular by means of multi-disciplinary training courses involving the justice, healthcare, customs and police sectors); 2. CoE expertise is made available to the Moroccan authorities to strengthen co-operation between the competent authorities (including via the setting up of national and international networks) and to implement or upgrade existing standards in the field of prevention with regard to the counterfeiting of medical products.
Partners	<i>Ministry of Justice and Freedoms, Ministry of Health, Ministry of the Interior, Directorate General of National Security.</i>

Rule of law

Independence and efficiency of justice

Based on its evaluation report on the Moroccan judicial system presented to the Moroccan authorities, the CoE's European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ) drew up a working plan with three Moroccan pilot courts (Casablanca, Sidi-Kacem and Agadir) with the aim of implementing certain CEPEJ tools designed to improve the quality of justice and judicial time management and resolving certain difficulties observed in those courts, for example with regard to the notification of judicial acts. The CEPEJ recently set up, together with the Judicial Services Commission, a project for the training of instructors so that more Moroccan courts can benefit from the application of CEPEJ tools. Morocco obtained observer status with the CEPEJ in June 2013. At the request of the Moroccan Ministry of Justice and Freedoms, the CEPEJ, the Venice Commission and the Consultative Council of European Judges made a detailed expert appraisal of the two draft laws relating to the status of judges and the Supreme Council of the Judiciary, provided for by the constitution.

Overall objective	To enhance the independence, efficiency and quality of justice by improving court performance and supporting the implementation of judicial reform and revision of the legal framework, on the basis of European standards
Expected results for 2015-2017	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The organisational plan for justice reform is implemented, taking account of the CoE's standards and tools, in particular with regard to revision of existing legislation;2. Time management in the courts is improved, including in the Courts of Appeal and Court of Cassation, in order to ensure the efficiency of the whole judicial process, on the basis of the experience of co-operation with the pilot courts of Casablanca, Sidi Kacem and Agadir;3. New procedures to improve the quality of the judicial process and develop training for judicial staff are introduced in the following areas: alternative dispute settlement measures (mediation), organisation of access to the courts, management of judicial expertise by the courts and effective measures for notifying judgments and enforcing court decisions, including the enforcement of administrative court decisions;4. The recommendations of the CEPEJ to improve the quality and efficiency of justice are implemented on the basis of a new analysis based on available 2013 data and taking account of the publication of the Charter for Reform of the Judicial System.
Partners	<i>Ministry of Justice and Freedoms, Supreme Council of the Judiciary, Higher Judicial Institute, courts and judicial professionals, civil society.</i>

Supporting constitutional reform, the drafting of new legislation, the establishment and efficient functioning of new governance bodies

Given that the 2011 Constitution provided for the drafting of a number of institutional acts and ordinary laws and the setting up of new governance bodies, the Venice Commission advised on the draft institutional acts on the status of judges and the Supreme Council of the Judiciary and on the draft laws concerning two new bodies provided for under the constitution, the Authority for Gender Equality and the Fight against all Forms of Discrimination and the Advisory Council for Family and Children's Affairs. The Venice Commission also helped the Moroccan Parliament to organise debates in preparation for the drafting of the institutional act on implementation of the official status of the Amazigh language (November 2012) and, with an eye to the future institutional act on the plea of unconstitutionality, shared the experience of European and Arab courts relating to this matter with the Constitutional Council. Lastly, the Venice Commission regularly co-operated with the Ombudsman in order to enhance the capacities of his staff through training activities on the mechanisms for the protection of human rights.

Overall objective	To further develop the rule of law in Morocco by developing a stable and democratic legal framework and practices, with due account for European standards; to strengthen non-legal protection in the field of human rights through mediation
Expected results for 2015-2017	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Draft institutional and ordinary implementing acts provided for in the constitution, including the texts to establish or strengthen the governance bodies set out in the constitution are drawn up with the support of the Venice Commission; 2. exchanges of experience between the Ombudsman, the National Human Rights Council and other similar institutions in the CoE member States and States on the Southern shore of the Mediterranean are increased; 3. co-operation with the Constitutional Court is stepped up.
Partners	<i>Ministry of Justice and Freedoms and other specialist ministries, the Ombudsman, Parliament, National Human Rights Council, the Constitutional Court, Interministerial Delegation on Human Rights.</i>

Creation of a common legal area

Since 2012, the Moroccan authorities have expressed an interest in acceding to certain CoE conventions open to non-member States in order to bring their legislation more into line with European and international standards. Morocco, which has consequently submitted various requests to this end to the CoE, has acceded to several CoE conventions and has been invited by the Committee of Ministers to accede to other instruments. Morocco's requests related to conventions concerning children's rights (protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse), cybercrime, protection of personal data, the counterfeiting of medical products, the fight against doping, laundering, the identification, seizure and confiscation of the proceeds from crime, and the financing of terrorism. In addition, Morocco has been invited to take part in the negotiation meetings on certain new conventions (Convention against the Manipulation of Sports Results, for example). Since early 2014, five CoE Conventions, concerning children's rights, the fight against cybercrime and the protection of personal data, have been adopted by the Moroccan Parliament.

Overall objective	To promote Morocco's accession to the CoE conventions open to non-member States and provide assistance for the effective implementation of those instruments
Expected results for 2015-2017	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Morocco is invited by the CoE's Committee of Ministers to accede to those instruments which are essential for the consolidation of human rights and the rule of law; 2. co-operation between the CoE and Morocco facilitates the internal ratification processes, the transposition of the provisions of the conventions into domestic law and the practical implementation of the commitments entered into by the country; 3. Morocco's participation in the intergovernmental steering committees responsible for monitoring or the drafting of conventions is increased.
Partners	<i>Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Co-operation, relevant ministries, National Human Rights Council, Interministerial Delegation on Human Rights, Ombudsman of the Kingdom.</i>

Information society and Internet governance; freedom of expression, independence of the media

In a context characterised by the drafting of several reforms to bring the media into line with the new provisions of the constitution, Morocco was invited to become the 41st, and first non European, member State of the European Audiovisual Observatory, thereby gaining access to reliable, up-to-date information on the legal and economic aspects of the European audiovisual industry, essential in order to understand and keep abreast of this strategic sector. Morocco will be represented on the Executive Council of the Observatory by the High Authority on Audiovisual Communications (HACA).

Overall objective	To consolidate the freedom of expression and media independence and plurality through enhanced press freedom; to promote convergence of Moroccan regulations in the audiovisual sector with the CoE's instruments
Expected results for 2015-2017	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bringing Moroccan regulations in the audiovisual sector closer to CoE standards is fostered by Morocco's possible accession to relevant CoE conventions (in particular the European Convention for the Protection of the Audiovisual Heritage and its Additional Protocol on the Protection of Television Productions); 2. there is full awareness of the CoE's standards relating to the Internet and human rights, in particular freedom of expression and respect for private life, and freedom of the Internet is upheld by the national legislation and in judicial practices, in accordance with the commitments made by Morocco.
Partners	<i>High Authority on Audiovisual Communications, Ministry of Communication, Ministry of Justice and Freedoms, parliament, National Telecommunications Regulation Agency, National Personal Data Protection Board, relevant professional associations, civil society.</i>

Combating corruption, money-laundering and terrorism

On the basis of an initial analysis of needs carried out in October 2012, a further analysis based on the methodology of the CoE's Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) was given a public presentation in Morocco. This document was accompanied by detailed recommendations to the Moroccan authorities covering, amongst other things, the prevention of corruption in the judiciary, the police, the public authorities and political parties, and in connection with public procurement. The CoE took great effort to ensure that this initiative was closely co-ordinated with those of other international players, such as the OECD, the World Bank and the UNDP. The CoE also shared with the Moroccan partners information on the general methodology for evaluating corruption risks and on best European practice in this field. Close co-operation was established with the Central Anti-Corruption Authority (ICPC) with regard to the drafting of its future internal rules, including in connection with its investigation powers.

Overall objective	To promote good governance and the prevention of corruption and money-laundering with due account for the relevant CoE standards, mechanisms and instruments by enhancing the policy framework, operational capacities and the co-ordination of the relevant stakeholders
Expected results for 2015-2017	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Moroccan national authorities, members of parliament and civil society have a good understanding of CoE standards in the prevention and fight against corruption with a view to Morocco's possible accession to the relevant instruments and the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO); 2. the recommendations deriving from the CoE's analysis of the Moroccan anti-corruption framework are implemented as part of the national anti-corruption strategy; the new internal operating rules of the National Probity and Anti-Corruption Institute (INPPLC) are in line with the standards and practices promoted by the CoE; the CoE evaluates the implementation of the recommendations contained in the analysis of the Moroccan anti-corruption framework; 3. training and capacity-building activities are proposed on the basis of the recommendations contained in the analysis of the anti-corruption framework; 4. capacities regarding investigation techniques in the field of serious economic crime, and in particular money-laundering, are enhanced.
Partners	<i>National Probity and Anti-Corruption Institute, Ministry of Public Service and Modernisation of the Administration, Ministry of Justice and Freedoms, Ministry of the Interior, the Financial Intelligence Unit, General Inspectorate of Finances, General Confederation of Moroccan Enterprises, parliament, Ombudsman of the Kingdom, National Personal Data Protection Board, civil society.</i>

Combating cybercrime

In a context characterised by the desire of the Moroccan authorities to upgrade and strengthen their legislative framework, to promote the security of information systems and raise awareness of this issue among the stakeholders in society, the accession of Morocco to the CoE's Cybercrime Convention (the Budapest Convention) was ratified by the Moroccan Parliament. Under the GLACY (Global Action against Cybercrime) joint programme 2013-2016, funded by the EU and implemented by the CoE, Morocco is eligible for support in the fields of legislation, training for the judicial professions and the law enforcement agencies, institution building, information sharing and international co-operation.

Overall objective	To step up the co-ordinated fight against illegal activities in cyberspace, such as online fraud, counterfeiting, unauthorised access, child pornography and harassment
Expected results for 2015-2017	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Legislation on combating cybercrime is drafted with due account for the CoE standards in this field (the Budapest Convention);2. the capacities of the players concerned (in particular the judicial professions, law enforcement agencies and departments specialising in cybercrime) are enhanced through Morocco's active participation in GLACY, the joint CoE/EU programme.
Partners	<i>Directorate General of National Security, Ministry of Justice and Freedoms, Higher Judicial Institute, Ministry of Trade, Industry and New Technologies, National Personal Data Protection Board, Directorate General for the Security of Information Systems.</i>

Democracy

Interparliamentary co-operation

The Parliamentary Assembly of the CoE assisted the Moroccan Parliament in the exercise of its constitutional prerogatives by organising, for members of both chambers, specific seminars on the provisions of the Constitution on the members of parliament's scrutiny of the activities of the government, on the role of the opposition and arrangements for the implementation of the citizens' right of legislative initiative, a provision which will also be the subject of an institutional act. In addition, the Parliamentary Assembly sought to enhance the capacities of civil servants of the Moroccan Parliament in the CoE's fields of action by means of information workshops on the role of the European institutions. The Political Affairs and Democracy Committee also prepared its contribution to the implementation of Resolution 1818 (2011) on the "Partner for Democracy Status" during an exchange with members of the Moroccan Parliament. In its Resolution 1942 (2013) on "Evaluation of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Parliament of Morocco", adopted on 25 June 2013, the Assembly encouraged Moroccan members of parliament to step up their efforts to implement the process of reform and resolved to reassess implementation of the status within two years (2015).



Overall objective	To help strengthen the role and capacities of both chambers of the Moroccan Parliament on the basis of the priorities jointly identified in the Partner for Democracy status, granted in June 2011 by the Parliamentary Assembly of the CoE and in PACE Resolution 1942 (2013) on "Evaluation of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Parliament of Morocco"
Expected results for 2015-2017	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Moroccan Parliament's capacities in the passing of institutional acts and other laws deriving from the constitution are strengthened with the support of the PACE by means of exchanges of experience and relevant practices with representatives of the parliaments of CoE member States; 2. the members of the Moroccan Parliament acquire a good understanding of the CoE standards regarding the fields included in Resolution 1818 (2011) on "The request for Partner for Democracy status with the Parliamentary Assembly submitted by the Parliament of Morocco" and in Resolution 1942 (2013) on "Evaluation of the partnership for democracy in respect of the Parliament of Morocco"; 3. the competences of the officials and staff of both chambers of parliament are enhanced, in particular with regard to certain of their thematic committees, by means of specific training under the Strategic Plan for the upgrading and development of the activities of the Chamber of Representatives.
Partners	<i>Parliament of Morocco (including the Chamber of Representatives and the Chamber of Counsellors), Ministry of Moroccans Resident Abroad and Migration Affairs, National Human Rights Council, Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Solidarity, Women, Family and Social Development, Ministry of Justice and Freedoms.</i>

Democratic governance at local and regional level

Given that Morocco is undertaking a far-reaching reform of the organisation of local and regional authorities, initiated prior to the adoption of the 2011 constitution, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, on the basis of its earlier contribution to the work of the Consultative Committee on Regionalisation (CCR) and in co-operation with the Venice Commission, organised an exchange of views with the Moroccan Parliament on the challenges associated with and arrangements for implementing advanced regionalisation in Morocco, based on the experience of CoE member States in this field.

Furthermore, the "partner for local democracy" status intended for countries of the CoE's Southern and Eastern neighbourhood was adopted in October 2014.

Overall objective	To assist the local and regional reform currently taking place and help strengthen local and regional democracy and associations of local and regional authorities
Expected results for 2015-2017	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Morocco considers the possibility of becoming a partner for local democracy; 2. promotion of CoE's standards and principles in the field of local and regional democracy, especially those contained in the European Charter of Local Self-Government, and in the field of local and regional planning and development; 3. an invitation to a delegation of Congress members to observe the local elections may be considered by the Moroccan authorities; 4. the capacities of local elected representatives and their associations are enhanced with the support of the CoE.
Partners	<i>Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Public Service and Modernisation of the Administration, Ministry of Urban and Regional Planning, Parliament, Moroccan Association of Chairs of Municipal Councils, Moroccan local and regional authorities, local and regional government staff and elected representatives, public administration training centres.</i>

Strengthening of participatory democracy and civil society stakeholders

The constitutional reform of 2011 firmly established participatory democracy as a principle of governance and assigned responsibility for ensuring its implementation to the public authorities, not only by means of creating new governance bodies, but also by making provision for the right of citizens to put forward legislative proposals and the right of petition vis-à-vis the public authorities.

Overall objective	To strengthen the role of civil society in the preparation, implementation and evaluation of the decisions and projects of elected institutions and the public authorities and in raising public awareness of the importance of citizen participation in the democratic transition
Expected results for 2015-2017	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support is provided to facilitate implementation of the recommendations which emerged from the national dialogue on civil society, on the basis of the Code of Good Practice for Citizen Participation in the Decision-making Process and with the co-operation of the Expert Council on NGO Law; 2. the Conference of INGOs assists with the setting up, if appropriate in conjunction with other CoE bodies, of a network of civil society organisations in the countries of the Southern Mediterranean which could be involved in the CoE's activities in the region.
Partners	<i>Ministry with responsibility for relations with parliament and civil society, Ministry of Public Service and Modernisation of the Administration, National Human Rights Council, new governance bodies provided for by the constitution, civil society.</i>

Training in democratic governance and human rights education



The CoE supported the setting up of a School of Political Studies in Morocco, which also engaged in partnerships with the other 20 schools which are members of the Network of CoE Schools of Political Studies and took part in the 2012, 2013 and 2014 sessions of the World Forum for Democracy, organised by the CoE in Strasbourg, enabling it to become further involved in similar experiences at international level.

Moreover, the CoE, in partnership with the European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation and the Venice International University, organised the first training academy for young professionals from the Southern Mediterranean region on democratic governance.

With regard to activities relating to the democratic governance of youth policies and enhancing the capacities of youth organisations, the CoE co-organised in Morocco an international seminar of researchers in youth affairs and a training course for multipliers and trainers in the democratic participation of young people, attended by representatives of Tunisia and Algeria. The CoE also gave the benefit of its experience of participation policies to the final conference on the setting up of the Consultative Council on Youth and Voluntary Associations.

In addition, the National Human Rights Council and the Interministerial Delegation on Human Rights expressed the wish to benefit from the CoE's expertise in the field of education for human rights and democratic citizenship. Specific support could be given by the CoE to the future Human Rights training centre which the National Human Rights Council is scheduled to set up in late 2014.

Overall objective	To enable target audiences (young professionals, youth organisations) to further develop and/or acquire knowledge in the field of human rights, the rule of law and good governance
Expected results for 2015-2017	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Moroccan School of Political Studies consolidates its foothold as a civil society player able to bring together a multidisciplinary audience, further enlarged to politicians and academics on the major democratic challenges in Morocco, while enhancing the capacities of the beneficiaries and providing certification of the skills acquired; 2. a targeted programme of education in democratic citizenship and human rights (EDC/ HRE) is drawn up and implemented with the national authorities primarily concerned, in particular via the future National Human Rights Council training centre and with civil society stakeholders, with the CoE making available and adapting if necessary the educational material it has in this field and training courses for trainers; 3. the competences of young Moroccan professionals, including in the media sector, involved in the implementation of European and international co-operation projects in the field of human rights and democratic governance are enhanced through the Training Academy for Young Professionals (Venice); 4. national processes for the development of participation and democratic citizenship among young people are supported by the setting up of a pool of trainers and non-formal educational resources for use by youth organisations and local and regional authorities.
Partners	<i>Parliament, youth associations, universities, National Human Rights Council, Interministerial Delegation on Human Rights, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Youth and Sport, Ombudsman of the Kingdom, National Personal Data Protection Board, civil society.</i>



Implementation and evaluation

A large variety of CoE tools will be used, as required, to ensure successful co-operation, in particular:

- ▶ CoE conventions open to non member States and, more generally, CoE's standards in the priority areas;
- ▶ the long-standing expertise of several CoE bodies (such as the intergovernmental bodies, the Parliamentary Assembly of the CoE (PACE), the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, the Venice Commission, the Pompidou Group and the North South Centre);
- ▶ the methodologies developed within the CoE to regularly assess and respond to "shared" challenges (such as the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) and the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ));
- ▶ the Partner for Democracy status granted by the PACE to the Moroccan Parliament.

The working methods designed to make the CoE's expertise available to Morocco include, in particular:

- ▶ support for assessing the existing legal and institutional framework in selected areas and identifying needs and follow-up measures;
- ▶ assistance with the drawing-up of new legislative texts, the revision of existing legislation, the setting-up of human rights institutions and new governance structures, provided for by the Moroccan Constitution, inspired by European and international standards, through the mobilisation of the CoE's networks of experts in the main priority fields, and the CoE's reference documents;
- ▶ transferring knowledge and skills on specific subjects with a view to enhancing national capacities;
- ▶ facilitating the exchange of experience and good practices between Europe and partner countries of the South Mediterranean benefiting from CoE co-operation projects, as well as between the countries of the region, and creating relevant formal and informal networks.

Whenever appropriate, relevant Moroccan experts will be closely involved in the preparation of assessments, including through peer reviews. This will also ensure that the proposed projects are adapted to the needs of the partner country.

All the actions which will be implemented as part of this document will strive to ensure sustainability. In

this regard, particular attention will be paid to pilot projects which can subsequently be rolled out, to the training of trainers, to the creation of professional networks of CoE experts and Moroccan beneficiaries and to the development of professional and institutional capacities.

Particular attention will also be paid to cross-cutting issues, in particular gender mainstreaming. For this purpose, specific Guidelines will ensure that gender mainstreaming is appropriately taken into consideration both in the planning and in the implementation of activities.

The implementation of projects corresponding to the co-operation priorities should also facilitate the involvement of civil society where appropriate. It will also aim at a decentralised implementation of the activities, so as to target a larger number of Moroccan regions in the co-operation activities, whenever feasible. This will also contribute to an increased visibility and ownership of the co-operation activities by national authorities. The CoE Office in Rabat will continue to co-ordinate efforts with other donors in this area and provide support for the implementation of the co-operation activities.

Monitoring implementation

Responsibility for monitoring implementation of the Neighbourhood Partnership with Morocco will lie, at the CoE level, with the Committee of Ministers of the CoE and in particular its Rapporteur Group on External Relations (GR-EXT). The Secretariat will regularly keep the latter up to date with the progress made in the programmes and projects. To this end, the Office of the Directorate General of Programmes will draft a mid-term follow-up report and a final evaluation report, taking due account of the joint assessment carried out by Morocco and the CoE within the framework of the Steering Committee.

Moreover, a bilateral steering committee comprising the co-operation contact points in Morocco and the CoE will be set up as part of the effort to strengthen the political dialogue with Morocco to ensure the follow-up of the implementation of the Morocco-CoE partnership.

Monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Neighbourhood Partnership with Morocco will be carried out jointly by the CoE and the Moroccan authorities and will comply with the requirements and conditions laid down by the various donors.

Partners

The partnership between the CoE and the EU, which remains to be a key partner, is pursued in the Southern Mediterranean region, in particular in the framework of the new EU-CoE joint Programme “Towards strengthened democratic governance in the Southern Mediterranean” (South II Programme, 2015-2017).

The priorities referred to in this paper will also be implemented through voluntary contributions from other national and international partners and donors. Further information on the projects described are available at the Office of the Directorate General of Programmes of the CoE.

www.coe.int

The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 47 member states, 28 of which are members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.

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