

Neighbourhood Partnership with Morocco 2026-2029

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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SUMMARY

Developed jointly with the Moroccan authorities, the Neighbourhood Partnership with Morocco for 2026-2029 aims to continue and consolidate support for the Kingdom of Morocco in its efforts to address challenges related to human rights, the rule of law and democracy, with key Council of Europe conventions as a reference. It has been deepened and broadened and supported by regular political dialogue between the Council of Europe and the Moroccan authorities.

This document is also in line with the Reykjavík Declaration – United around our values –, which guides the Council of Europe's work with other regions and recognises the importance of the Council of Europe's co-operative dimension, which is part of the Organisation's strategic triangle of standard-setting, monitoring and co-operation.

Throughout its previous partnerships, Morocco has continued to make new commitments to the Council of Europe, notably by acceding to some of its conventions, most recently the Convention on the Counterfeiting of Medical Products and Similar Crimes Involving Threats to Public Health (Medicrime Convention) and the Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime and on the Financing of Terrorism (Warsaw Convention). The partnership will continue to support the authorities in their efforts to finalise the ongoing accession processes (including the Lanzarote Convention, the Macolin Convention and the Criminal and Civil Law Conventions on Corruption), and raise their awareness of the benefits of other legal instruments with a view to strengthening national regulatory frameworks and international co-operation in areas such as artificial intelligence, environmental protection and the fight to abolish the death penalty, among others.

Co-operation with Morocco has continued to strengthen through Morocco's regular participation in various Council of Europe convention committees and intergovernmental bodies.¹ The country actively participates in several Council of Europe Enlarged Partial Agreements, such as the North-South Centre, where it holds the vice-presidency, and the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS). It is a member of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) and also holds observer status with the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ). The Human Rights Education Programme for Legal Professionals (HELP) has been a great success in the country, which has many certified tutors on topics that are essential for the protection of human rights.

The previous Neighbourhood Partnership was marked by a large-scale reform process to bring Moroccan legislation into line with international and European human rights standards. In addition to the completion of the ratification processes outlined above, the current Neighbourhood Partnership will focus on promoting other Council of Europe conventions open to non-member states on topics of interest to Morocco, such as the Council of Europe Conventions on an Integrated Safety, Security and Service Approach at Football Matches and Other Sports Events (Saint-Denis Convention), and conventions against Trafficking in Human Organs (Santiago de Compostela Convention), on Offences relating to Cultural Property (Nicosia Convention), on Access to Official Documents (Convention of Tromsø), on artificial intelligence, on protection of the legal profession, and on the Protection of the Environment through Criminal Law.

The partnership aims to consolidate achievements in the fight against violence against women and gender equality, children's rights, the fight against human trafficking and personal data protection. It will support Morocco in the legislative and institutional processes currently underway in these areas. Particular attention will continue to be paid to capacity building for legal professionals.

Promoting good governance and respect for the rule of law remains a priority for the Neighbourhood Partnership, particularly with a view to supporting Morocco in its commitments to mitigate the risks of corruption, assess the impact of legislative reforms and strengthen the system for combating money laundering. The Partnership also aims to support Morocco in its initiatives to abolish the death penalty. In the field of democracy, the Partnership will continue to support the actions of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in favour of Morocco, as well as the implementation of Moroccan legislation on advanced regionalisation.

¹ Such as the Committee of the Parties to the Lanzarote Convention and the Advisory Committee on the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data. Morocco has also worked with the Gender Equality Commission (GEC), the European Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC), the Committee of Experts on the Functioning of European Conventions on Co-operation in Criminal Matters (PC-OC), the Council of Europe Committee on Combating Terrorism (CDCT), the Penological Co-operation Council (PC-CP) and the Steering Committee on Media and Information Society (CDMSI).

The Neighbourhood Partnership aims to support Morocco in its efforts to implement the [United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\) for 2030](#), in particular Goals 3,² 4,³ 5,⁴ 8,⁵ 10,⁶ 11,⁷ and 16⁸.

The overall budget for the Neighbourhood Partnership is estimated at €15 million.

² Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

³ Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

⁴ Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

⁵ Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

⁶ Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries

⁷ Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

⁸ Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

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PART I-INTRODUCTION

1.1 GENERAL OVERVIEW

1.1.1 COUNCIL OF EUROPE POLICY TOWARDS NEIGHBOURING REGIONS

At its 121st session held on 11 May 2011 in Istanbul, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (CM) approved the proposals made by the Secretary General concerning the Council of Europe's policy towards its immediate neighbourhood (hereinafter: Neighbourhood Policy), which aims to promote dialogue and co-operation with countries and regions close to Europe that express a willingness to co-operate with the Council of Europe on the basis of shared values of human rights, the rule of law and democracy. In addition, the CM invited the Secretary General to draw up action plans for the implementation of this policy.

The Council of Europe's policy towards neighbouring regions is addressed to a given country at its request. It contributes to:

- supporting the consolidation of democracy;
- promoting good governance based on the protection of human rights and the rule of law; and
- consolidate and extend the Council of Europe's regional action in combating cross-border and global threats.

According to the terms approved by the CM, the Neighbourhood Policy comprises two components:

- dialogue with the neighbourhood, conducted at political level; and
- priorities for co-operation with the neighbourhood, which define specific activities to be carried out in the areas of human rights, the rule of law and democracy.

The Neighbourhood Policy aims primarily to extend co-operation beyond the continent and to develop a common legal area. It is based on the "Istanbul Parameters" established in 2011, according to which co-operation with the countries concerned must, in particular, be demand-driven, tailored to needs and flexible.

The regional dimension, which has been in place since 2012 in the southern Mediterranean, brings together several countries in the region and, in addition to fostering co-operation between Europe and the region, promotes co-operation between southern Mediterranean countries through Council of Europe tools, including the Council of Europe's European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity (North-South Centre), which is also mandated to work in this region.

The Neighbourhood Policy in the Southern Mediterranean region is implemented in close partnership with the European Union (EU). In addition to regular consultations, including at high level between the two organisations, the region is one of those identified as a priority for joint action between the EU and the Council of Europe⁹.

In the run-up to the 10th anniversary of the Council of Europe's policy towards neighbouring regions, the CM highlighted in 2021 the positive results of the Neighbourhood Policy.¹⁰ Furthermore, at the 4th Council of Europe Summit in Reykjavík (Iceland) in May 2023, the Heads of State and Government of the Organisation's 46 member States committed themselves to "strengthening the Council of Europe's role in the evolving European multilateral architecture and in global governance by enhancing its external dimension through a new engagement based on its fundamental values with democracies around the world and its southern neighbourhood".

1.1.2 THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND MOROCCO

Although Morocco had relations with the Council of Europe before the adoption of the Neighbourhood Policy, it was only in the context of its implementation that relations between the Council of Europe and Morocco were strengthened, making Morocco a privileged partner in the region. The conclusion of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Council of Europe and Morocco led to the opening of the Council of Europe office in Morocco in 2014.

⁹ EU/CoE Declaration of Understanding (1 April 2014).

¹⁰ Based on document SG/Inf(2021)14 "Review of the Policy on Neighbouring Regions and the Council of Europe's Contribution to Global Governance".

The priorities for co-operation between Morocco and the Council of Europe, based on themes that are central to the Organisation's work, have been set out in successive framework co-operation agreements adopted by the CM and the Moroccan authorities:

- Neighbourhood Co-operation Priorities for Morocco 2012-2014;¹¹
- Neighbourhood Partnership with Morocco 2015-2017;¹²
- Neighbourhood Partnership with Morocco 2018-2021;¹³
- Neighbourhood Partnership with Morocco 2022-2025.¹⁴

Through the implementation of the co-operation priorities set out in these documents, Morocco has gradually made new commitments to the Council of Europe, becoming, for example, the first country in the Arab world to be granted the status of partner for democracy with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) and “partner for local democracy” with the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe.

At the time of writing, Morocco has acceded to 13 Council of Europe conventions and protocols and, at the request of the authorities, has been invited by the CM to become a contracting party to several others. Morocco is also a member of several enlarged agreements or enlarged partial agreements, such as the Venice Commission, the North-South Centre and the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS) and participates as an observer in the CEPEJ. Annex II provides comprehensive information on this aspect of relations between the Council of Europe and Morocco.

During regular consultations held in 2025, the Moroccan authorities expressed their willingness to continue co-operating with the Council of Europe.

1.1.3 ADDED VALUE OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE'S TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMES

The Council of Europe's technical assistance programmes are an integral part of the Organisation's triangular strategy. This unique strategy is based on standard-setting, monitoring and co-operation activities. Once developed, legally binding standards are monitored by independent mechanisms, supplemented by technical co-operation to facilitate their implementation. The Council of Europe's actions are designed and implemented in areas where it has solid expertise and provides significant added value.

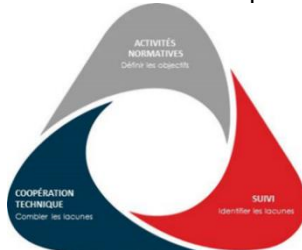


Figure 1: The Council of Europe's triangular strategy

In the case of Morocco, as a non-member State of the Council of Europe, monitoring mechanisms apply depending on the country's accession to conventions open to non-member States. This is the case with regard to the Council of Europe Conventions on the Counterfeiting of Medical Products and Similar Crimes Involving Threats to Public Health (MEDICRIME Convention) and on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime and on the Financing of Terrorism (Warsaw Convention), among the conventions that have most recently entered into force. Other accession processes along these lines have already been initiated by Morocco (Annex II).

In addition, the methodologies of several monitoring mechanisms are used to assess the country's situation in certain areas and formulate recommendations, which makes it possible to define roadmaps to accompany reforms. Other tools, such as the Council of Europe's HELP Programme, are also actively used in Morocco. A wide range of Council of Europe tools can be used to ensure fruitful co-operation according to needs, including:

¹¹ DGProg/Inf(2011)4-rev, adopted on 12 April 2012

¹² CM(2015)16, adopted on 29 January 2015

¹³ CM(2018)47, adopted on 21 March 2018

¹⁴ CM(2021)144, adopted on 15 October 2021

- Council of Europe conventions open to non-member States and, more generally, Council of Europe standards in areas identified as priorities;
- the expertise of several Council of Europe bodies, such as intergovernmental bodies, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe (Congress), the North-South Centre, and the International Co-operation Group on Drugs and Addictions (Pompidou Group);
- the methodologies developed within the Council of Europe to regularly assess and respond to shared challenges (such as those of the Council of Europe's Group of States against Corruption (GRECO)), the tools developed in the field of combating cybercrime, tools such as those of the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ), the Human Rights Education Programme for Legal Professionals (HELP) and the Human Rights Education Programme for Youth of the North-South Centre (HEY).

Working methods aimed at making the Council of Europe's expertise available to Morocco include, in particular:

- support for the evaluation of the existing legal and institutional framework in targeted areas and the identification of needs and follow-up actions;
- assistance in drafting new legislation, revising existing legislation, and establishing human rights institutions and new good governance structures, based on European and other international standards, Council of Europe networks of experts in key priority areas, and reference documents;
- transfer of knowledge and skills on specific topics with a view to strengthening national capacities;
- the exchange of experiences and good practices between Europe and the southern Mediterranean partner countries benefiting from Council of Europe co-operation projects, as well as between countries in the region, and the creation of formal and informal networks.

Morocco is also one of the priority beneficiaries of joint regional programmes between the European Union and the Council of Europe, in particular the various phases of the South Programme,¹⁵ including phase VI of which began in November 2025, and GLACY+,¹⁶ as well as CyberSouth¹⁷ and CyberSouth+,¹⁸ with regard to the fight against cybercrime. At the bilateral level, Morocco has also benefited from joint programmes between the European Union and the Council of Europe, including the CEPEJ-Morocco programme¹⁹ and the programme to support the National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture (NMP) and the Moroccan Parliament.²⁰ Morocco is also currently benefiting from a joint bilateral programme between the European Union and the Council of Europe entitled "Towards a More Protective, Accessible and Effective Justice in Morocco" (MA-JUST).²¹

1.2 OBJECTIVES OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP

The main objective of co-operation between Morocco and the Council of Europe, in accordance with the Council of Europe's policy towards neighbouring regions, is to support Morocco in its ongoing democratic reforms by helping it to address challenges in the areas of human rights, the rule of law and democracy, using international and European standards as a reference. This Neighbourhood Partnership is a strategic, flexible and dynamic programming tool that sets out the priorities for co-operation between Morocco and the Council of Europe for the period 2026-2029. It may be revised depending on developments in Morocco.

Its specific objectives are to:

- consolidate the results of co-operation implemented since 2012 and initiate new areas of co-operation in line with national reform priorities, in accordance with the demand-driven approach, in areas of expertise of the Council of Europe;

¹⁵ "Strengthening Democratic Reform in the Southern Neighbourhood" (South Programme, 2012-2014); "Towards a Strengthened Democratic Governance in the Southern Mediterranean" (South Programme II, 2015-2018); "Ensuring Sustainable Democratic Governance and Human Rights in the Southern Mediterranean" (Southern Programme III, March 2018 - February 2020); "Regional Support to Reinforce Human Rights, the Rule of Law and Democracy in the Southern Mediterranean" (South Programme IV, March 2020-August 2022); "Protecting Human Rights, the Rule of Law and Democracy through Shared Standards in the Southern Mediterranean" (South Programme V, September 2022-October 2025); "Strengthening Euro-Mediterranean Legal Space for Shared Prosperity and Human Security" (South Programme VI, November 2025-December 2028).

¹⁶ Global Action on Cybercrime Extended

¹⁷ "Co-operation in the fight against cybercrime in the Southern Neighbourhood" (CyberSouth, 2017-2023).

¹⁸ Strengthening co-operation on cybercrime and electronic evidence in the Southern Neighbourhood region (CyberSouth+, 2024-2026).

¹⁹ CEPEJ-Morocco "Improving the Functioning of Justice in Morocco Based on the Tools Developed by the CEPEJ".

²⁰ "Support for the national mechanism for the prevention of torture and the development of the role of Parliament in Morocco".

²¹ Launched in June 2024, for a period of 40 months. The main objectives of this programme are to strengthen and expand the judicial protection of rights and freedoms; improve access to law and justice for all, including the most vulnerable; and increase the efficiency of justice.

- continue high-level political dialogue through various means, including the participation of Moroccan experts in relevant Council of Europe intergovernmental or convention committees;
- continue efforts to support the expansion of the common legal area between Europe and Morocco, encouraging the harmonisation of Moroccan legislation with European and international standards and the ratification of Council of Europe conventions open to non-member States, in accordance with the procedures set out in the conventions concerned, and complete the accession processes currently under way; in this context, support, as necessary, the drafting and effective implementation of new laws in line with European and other international standards;
- raise awareness in Morocco of the importance of new Council of Europe conventions such as the Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence, Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law, the Convention for the Protection of the Profession of Lawyer, and the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of the Environment through Criminal Law, among others;
- support the establishment and effective functioning of bodies for the protection of human rights and good governance;
- in addition to Morocco's presence in the structures of the Council of Europe, of which it is already a member or observer, promote its participation in other Council of Europe structures.

The main areas of co-operation for the period 2026-2029 were identified during high-level consultations and in-depth technical consultations with the relevant Moroccan authorities.

Consultations were also held with other international organisations – in particular the European Union (EU) as the Council of Europe's main partner in the region – as well as with bilateral actors active in Morocco, including the main donors to the Council of Europe's work in the country, in order to ensure a co-ordinated approach. Consequently, the priority areas for co-operation aim to promote synergies between all stakeholders in order to avoid duplication.

In achieving its objectives, the Neighbourhood Partnership will also support Morocco in its efforts to implement the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

PART II - ENHANCED POLITICAL DIALOGUE

2.1 INTRODUCTION

The Reykjavík Declaration adopted at the 4th Summit of the Council of Europe in May 2023 committed, in particular, to strengthening the Council of Europe's role in the evolving European multilateral architecture and in global governance by reinforcing its external dimension, particularly in the southern neighbourhood. In this regard, the Neighbourhood Partnership provides the necessary framework for enhanced political dialogue between the Council of Europe and the Moroccan authorities. The results of the 2022-2025 Neighbourhood Partnership with Morocco show a convergence of strategic visions on common democratic values, human rights and the rule of law, reflecting the quality of co-operation between Morocco and the Council of Europe. The enhanced political dialogue therefore offers relevant opportunities, ranging from high-level dialogue on issues on the bilateral agenda and political issues of common interest to more technical consultations on the implementation of the Neighbourhood Partnership. Furthermore, the additional rights granted to Morocco in 2025 by PACE as part of its status as a partner for democracy reflect its growing role in Euro-Mediterranean and Euro-African dialogues, as well as the potential of Moroccan parliamentary diplomacy in promoting the values and standards of the Council of Europe within the parliaments of the region. The arrangements described below cover all of the Council of Europe's intergovernmental bodies, from political bodies to committees of experts. The CM will closely monitor the implementation of the enhanced political dialogue.

2.2 HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE

The CM may invite the Moroccan Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation, or other high-level government representatives, to attend its sessions.

The Secretary General of the Council of Europe and the Moroccan Minister for Foreign Affairs shall hold regular consultations on issues on the bilateral agenda and matters of common interest.

Moroccan ministers may be invited to participate as observers in conferences of specialised ministers concerned with the implementation of the neighbourhood partnership, as provided for in Resolution CM/Res(2011)7.

2.3 CONSULTATIONS

In addition to the high-level dialogue, the ministers' delegates may invite the relevant Moroccan ministries and institutions to consultations on issues related to the implementation of the neighbourhood partnership. The CM's Rapporteur Group on External Relations (GR-EXT) will hold exchanges of views with representatives of the relevant Moroccan ministries and institutions when examining issues relating to co-operation with Morocco and monitoring the implementation of the partnership. Other rapporteur groups may also hold such exchanges of views.

2.4 PARTICIPATION IN INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEES OF EXPERTS

Representatives of Morocco may attend certain parts of relevant meetings of intergovernmental committees of experts as observers when issues relating to the implementation of the Neighbourhood Partnership are being discussed.

2.5 NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP REPRESENTATIVE

The Consul General of Morocco in Strasbourg has been appointed by the Kingdom's authorities as the Neighbourhood Partnership representative to the Council of Europe to liaise on its implementation.

PART III – CO-OPERATION PRIORITIES

The proposed co-operation priorities are presented below by pillar of action, following the structure of the Council of Europe's Programme and Budget 2024-2027.

3.1 GUARANTEEING HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

Actions undertaken under this operational pillar will contribute to the implementation of the United Nations [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs), in particular the following goals: Goal 4 (target 4.4²²), Goal 8 (targets 8.3²³ and 8.7²⁴), Goal 10 (target 10.2²⁵), Goal 13 (target 13.3²⁶) and Goal 16 (targets 16.1,²⁷ 16.3,²⁸ 16.5,²⁹ 16.6,³⁰ 16.10³¹ and 16.a³²).

3.1.1 CAPACITIES OF NATIONAL AUTHORITIES, LEGAL PROFESSIONALS AND CIVIL SOCIETY TO BETTER PROTECT AND PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS (EUROPEAN HUMAN RIGHTS TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR LEGAL PROFESSIONALS - HELP)

The extension of the European human rights training programme for legal professionals (HELP) in Morocco over several years has contributed to a better understanding of European and international human rights standards among legal professionals and national authorities, as well as representatives of independent human rights organisations, university students and civil society in Morocco, as evidenced by the steady increase in the number of users of the online platform, reaching 1,853 users in November 2025, an increase of 95% since the start of the previous partnership.

²² Goal 4, target 4: By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship.

²³ Goal 8, Target 3: Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services.

²⁴ Goal 8, Target 7: Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms.

²⁵ Goal 10, Target 2: By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status.

²⁶ Goal 13, Target 3: Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, , impact reduction and early warning.

²⁷ Goal 16, Target 1: Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere.

²⁸ Goal 16, target 3: Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all.

²⁹ Goal 16, target 5: Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms

³⁰ Goal 16, target 6: Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels

³¹ Goal 16, target 10: Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements

³² Goal 16, target a: Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international co-operation, for building capacity at all levels, , in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime

Priority continues to be given to adapting the courses to the Moroccan context, taking into account ongoing legislative reforms and the needs of the competent authorities. HELP courses on human rights in sport, drug use and human rights, business and human rights, the environment and human rights, ethics for judges, prosecutors and lawyers, combating corruption, human rights and bioethics, and the standards of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) are available in Arabic, and some have been adapted to the Moroccan context. Other courses on the Council of Europe's HELP platform on topics such as disability and human rights, or human rights and bioethics could be presented, translated and adapted to the Moroccan context.

In addition, various editions of HELP courses launched at regional level in 2024 have included Moroccan participation, notably courses on combating human trafficking and personal data protection.

In addition, some HELP courses are integrated into judicial training as a compulsory module in the curriculum of the Higher Institute of the Judiciary (ISM), such as the course on combating violence against women and the course on combating human trafficking. Other partners can also benefit from these training courses, such as the Ombudsman's Office, universities and institutional training centres, in particular the Centre for Training and Exchange in Mediation in Rabat, in relation to the defense of human rights, democratic governance and the rule of law. Demand for HELP training has continued to grow and remains a priority within the framework of the current Neighbourhood Partnership. Particular attention will be given to raising awareness and providing training on environmental standards, particularly issues relating to international standards in this area.

Expected results:

- Legal professionals (judges, prosecutors, lawyers), representatives of national authorities, representatives of civil society and law students have acquired and/or improved their knowledge of European and international human rights standards and thus have the skills to better promote and protect human rights in their fields of action.

Main national partners: *Ministry of Justice and other relevant ministries, National Human Rights Council (CNDH), National training institutions for legal professionals, including the ISM, the Association of Moroccan Bar Associations (ABAM), bar associations, parliament, universities/law faculties, civil society organisations, the Presidency of the Public Prosecutor's Office (PMP), the High Council of the Judiciary (CSPJ) and the Kingdom's Ombudsman Institution.*

3.1.2 ABOLITION OF THE DEATH PENALTY

Morocco's decision to support the 10th United Nations resolution on the moratorium on the use of the death penalty, announced on 9 December 2024 and confirmed by a vote in favour on 17 December 2024, sent a strong signal about the momentum in Morocco towards its eventual abolition. At the Reykjavík Summit, it was decided that the Council of Europe should continue to fight for the universal abolition of the death penalty. The North-South Centre addressed this issue at the first edition of the "North-South Dialogues" in 2024 with a round table entitled "Perspectives and interregional co-operation for the abolition of the death penalty", which was attended by representatives from several countries, including the President of the CNDH. This led to the launch of a co-operation project on the abolition of the death penalty in Morocco in October 2025. It will be implemented by the CNDH and the Council of Europe's Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law.

Expected results

- The main Moroccan partners and Moroccan youth are made aware of the abolition of the death penalty.

Main national partners: *Ministry of Justice, CNDH, Parliament, civil society.*

3.2 PROMOTING SOCIAL JUSTICE, HEALTH AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The actions undertaken within the framework of this operational pillar will contribute to the implementation of the United Nations [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs), in particular the following goals: Goal 3 (targets 3.5³³, 3.8³⁴ and 3.9³⁵, 3.c³⁶), Goal 15 (targets 15.5³⁷ and 15.9³⁸), Goal 16 (target 16.6³⁹), and Goal 17 (target 17.6⁴⁰).

3.2.1 EUROPEAN SOCIAL CHARTER

The Moroccan Constitution guarantees a number of social and economic rights, such as the right to health, social security, education, work and fair remuneration. Although they are not open to non-member States of the Council of Europe, the European Social Charter (ESC) and the Revised European Social Charter (RESC) remain reference instruments for guaranteeing these rights beyond Europe. In raising awareness of the standards established by the ESC and the RECS, particular attention will be paid to women's rights and social rights as human rights and drivers of development. The human rights training course for legal professionals (HELP) "Labour rights as human rights" will be adapted to the national legal framework in co-operation with the relevant Moroccan institutions. This course will enable judges, prosecutors and lawyers to develop their expertise and better guarantee the protection of labour rights and the promotion of social justice in Morocco.

Expected results:

- Representatives of the government, parliament and civil society are more aware of the main Council of Europe standards on social rights with a view to gradually bringing Moroccan legislation into line with European standards.

Main national partners: Ministry of Solidarity, Social Integration and Family, Parliament, civil society, Ministry of Health and Social Protection.

3.2.2 HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS

➤ COMBATING COUNTERFEIT MEDICAL PRODUCTS

The Council of Europe Convention on the Counterfeiting of Medical Products and Similar Crimes Involving Threats to Public Health (MEDICRIME Convention) entered into force in Morocco on 1 August 2022.

The Public Prosecutor's Office, the focal point of the MEDICRIME Committee, co-ordinates the work of all national actors involved in the fight against falsified medical products. Morocco is committed to strengthening the fight against the scourge of counterfeit medicines by aligning its national legislation with international standards and improving co-operation between health, judicial, police and customs authorities. Morocco actively participates in the meetings of the Committee of Parties. Support could be provided to strengthen the institutional capacities of senior officials in key national institutions with regard to the prosecution, investigation and adjudication of cases involving counterfeit medical products. By using its HELP online course on pharmaceutical crime and the MEDICRIME Convention, legal and law enforcement professionals will improve their knowledge and procedures in this area.

³³ Goal 3, target 5: Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol.

³⁴ Goal 3, target 8: Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.

³⁵ Goal 3, target 9: By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution.

³⁶ Goal 3, target c: Substantially increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries, especially in least developed countries and small island developing States.

³⁷ Goal 15, target 5: Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species.

³⁸ Goal 15, target 9: By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts.

³⁹ Goal 16, target 6: Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels.

⁴⁰ Goal 17, target 6: Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international co-operation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved co-ordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism.

Expected results:

- Legislation on combating the falsification of medical products and other similar offences is brought into line with the Convention on the Counterfeiting of Medical Products and Similar Crimes Involving Threats to Public Health (MEDICRIME Convention);
- The skills of national actors in this area, particularly magistrates and law enforcement agencies, are strengthened;
- Morocco participates in the 24/7 network to combat this type of illegal activity, as part of enhanced international co-operation in criminal matters.

Main national partners: Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health and Social Protection, Ministry of the Interior, Directorate-General of National Security (DGSN), Customs and Indirect Taxes Administration, Royal Gendarmerie; PMP; CSPJ.

➤ **COUNCIL OF EUROPE INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION GROUP ON DRUGS AND ADDICTION (POMPIDOU GROUP)**

Morocco has been a member of the Council of Europe's International Co-operation Group on Drugs and Addictions (Pompidou Group) since 2011 and actively participates in the Pompidou Group's Mediterranean Network for Co-operation on Drugs and Addiction (MedNET), which it currently chairs. Since 2008, MedNET has supported the establishment of specialised training courses in various universities in Morocco to strengthen the capacities of health professionals in the field of care and treatment for people who use drugs. More than 400 professionals have completed the university diploma in addiction studies launched in 2009 and offered in several medical faculties. Today, the Ministry of Health aims to develop a medical specialisation recognised by official state accreditation.

A network of professionals working in addiction treatment centres across the country was established in 2019 (Réseau Maroc Addicto Remad) with the support of MedNET. This network continues to provide a national professional platform for the exchange of knowledge and expertise and collaboration with the Moroccan Observatory on Drugs and Addictions (OMDA).

Thanks to its new mandate adopted in 2021, the Pompidou Group will be able to assist the Kingdom of Morocco in improving the well-being and mental health of its citizens by addressing both substance use disorders and behavioural addictions. National efforts are being made to raise awareness of the risks of cybercrime, promote the safe and responsible use of digital technologies among young people, and consider the use of digital tools in prevention efforts. Morocco also benefits from its participation in the MedSPAD Committee⁴¹ to strengthen its expertise in conducting, analysing and interpreting results and using them in national prevention policies. A total of 27,130 young people aged 15 to 17 participated in MedSPAD surveys between 2009 and 2022. The survey results have informed the design and implementation of 242 prevention initiatives targeting high school students and are taken into account by the authorities to adapt and develop prevention interventions and strategies that reflect the realities of drug use and behavioural addictions.

By using the Pompidou Group's law enforcement network and its HELP online course on human rights and drug use, legal and law enforcement professionals will improve their knowledge and procedures in relation to drug-related crimes.

Expected results:

- The national strategy on drugs and addiction is based on the results of data collected through the Remad network and MedSPAD school surveys;
- Certificate programmes offered at certain universities in the country are extended to other medical specialisations and are accredited by the state, thereby improving the care and treatment of addiction in Morocco;
- Legal and law enforcement professionals responsible for implementing drug legislation are aware of the latest trends and human rights and help to promote the application of alternative measures and penalties to deprivation of liberty.

Main national partners: Ministry of Health and Social Protection, Ministry of Justice, OMDA, General Delegation for Prison Administration and Reintegration (DGAPR), universities, medical faculties, civil society.

⁴¹ Committee of the Mediterranean School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs [MedSPAD Surveys - Pompidou Group](#).

3.2.3 ORGAN TRAFFICKING

Trafficking in human organs is a serious threat to the right to life and public health. As this is a global threat, including through the involvement of criminal organisations operating across borders, the Council of Europe Convention against Trafficking in Human Organs (Santiago de Compostela Convention) is open to non-member States. It aims to prevent and combat such trafficking by criminalising certain acts, protecting the rights of victims and facilitating co-operation at national and international level. The Convention attaches paramount importance to preventive measures, which are at the heart of its provisions. Morocco has Law No. 16.98 on the donation, removal and transplantation of human organs and tissues, which forms the basis of the Moroccan system for preventing and suppressing illegal practices in this area.

Expected result:

- The main Moroccan partners are made aware of the Council of Europe Convention against Trafficking in Human Organs (Santiago de Compostela Convention) with a view to Morocco's possible accession to the Convention.

Main national partners: Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health, Ministry of the Interior, law enforcement agencies.

3.3 ACTING FOR EQUALITY AND HUMAN DIGNITY

The Neighbourhood Partnership's main priorities include equality between women and men, combating violence against women and domestic violence, combating human trafficking and protecting children's rights, particularly against sexual abuse and exploitation, and developing a robust and child-friendly judicial system. Morocco is making significant progress in these areas in terms of harmonising its legal and institutional frameworks with Council of Europe standards.

The actions undertaken within the framework of this operational pillar will contribute to the implementation of the United Nations [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs), in particular the following goals: Goal 5 (targets 5.1⁴², 5.2⁴³, 5.3⁴⁴, 5.4⁴⁵, 5.5⁴⁶, 5.a⁴⁷ and 5.c⁴⁸), Goal 8 (targets 8.7⁴⁹ and 8.8⁵⁰), Goal 10 (targets 10.3⁵¹ and 10.7⁵²), and Goal 16 (targets 16.1⁵³, 16.2⁵⁴, 16.3⁵⁵ and 16.6⁵⁶, 16.10⁵⁷ and 16.a⁵⁸).

⁴² Goal 5, target 1: End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere.

⁴³ Goal 5, target 2: Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.

⁴⁴ Goal 5, target 3: Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.

⁴⁵ Goal 5, target 4: Recognise and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate.

⁴⁶ Goal 5, target 5: Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities to leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.

⁴⁷ Goal 5, target a: Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws.

⁴⁸ Goal 5, target c: Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels.

⁴⁹ Goal 8, target 7: Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms.

⁵⁰ Goal 8, target 8: Promote labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants and those in precarious employment.

⁵¹ Goal 10, target 3: Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and actions in this regard.

⁵² Goal 10, target 7: Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.

⁵³ Goal 16, target 1: Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere.

⁵⁴ Goal 16, target 2: End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children.

⁵⁵ Goal 16, Target 3: Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all.

⁵⁶ Goal 16, target 6: Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels.

⁵⁷ Goal 16, target 10: Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements

⁵⁸ Goal 16, target a: Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international co-operation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime.

3.3.1 EQUALITY BETWEEN WOMEN AND MEN AND THE FIGHT AGAINST VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Within the framework of previous partnerships, the Council of Europe supported the preparation and implementation of Law No. 103-13 on combating violence against women, in force since September 2018, as well as the drafting of the parliamentary report evaluating this law as part of the Council of Europe's support for the evaluation of public policies. This work has also been supported by HELP online courses on combating violence against women and domestic violence.

The interdependence between the Convention on Cybercrime (Budapest Convention), the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data (Convention 108) and the Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) makes the Council of Europe a benchmark in the fight against the digital dimension of violence against women. In this regard, it should be noted that on 4 March 2026, the Committee of Ministers adopted Recommendation CM/Rec(2026)2 on accountability for technology-facilitated violence against women and girls with the expansion of The portal for reporting cases of cyberviolence and cyber-harassment committed online ([EMC-Helpline](#)), initially designed for children, was extended to women victims of violence in the digital space. The relevant case law of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR), translated into Arabic, supports training efforts and serves as a source of inspiration for national judicial decisions in this area. Specific efforts will continue to be made to strengthen the role of judges and public prosecutors in this area and to better understand the psychological impact of violence on victims, including law enforcement officers. Efforts will continue to be made to evaluate the territorial protocol for the care of women victims of violence, which places particular emphasis on intersectoral co-ordination in the provision of care services.

A better understanding of the Moroccan legal and institutional framework in light of Council of Europe standards, the fight against gender-based discrimination and the promotion of women's rights in the context of the revision of the Family Code ("Moudawana"), capacity building for professionals, the effective implementation of relevant national legislation and co-ordination efforts to better protect victims of violence against women and domestic violence, and the evaluation of the territorial protocol for the care of women victims of violence, involving members of civil society and the media, will continue to be at the heart of the Neighbourhood Partnership's intervention in this area.

Expected results:

- Representatives of target ministries and institutions and parliamentarians are aware of the standards of the Istanbul Convention and international and European best practices in this area;
- Actors involved in the protection of women's rights have a better understanding of applicable national legislation and international and European standards, as well as specific training to ensure holistic care for women victims based on legal, health, social and judicial approaches;
- The general public is more aware of the phenomenon of violence against women and domestic violence, including through the strengthening of the skills of media professionals.

Main national partners: Ministry of Solidarity, Social Inclusion and the Family, Observatory on Violence against Women, Ministry of Health and Social Protection, PMP, CSPJ, Observatory on the Image of Women in the Media, Ministry of Justice, other relevant ministries, CNDH, Parliament, High Authority for Audiovisual Communication (HACA), DGSN, Royal Gendarmerie, journalists' associations, civil society, Ministry of National Education, Preschool and Sports.

3.3.2 TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

The adoption by the Moroccan Parliament in 2016 of Law No. 27-14 against trafficking in human beings, which is based on the standards established by the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, to which the Moroccan authorities could consider acceding, has consolidated the national framework for prevention, victim protection and prosecution of offenders, while helping to strengthen Morocco's migration policy and its human rights-based approach.

Within the framework of this Partnership, the Council of Europe will support, under the aegis of the National Commission for Combating and Preventing Human Trafficking (CNCLT), the full operationalisation of the national referral mechanism (NRM) in order to ensure better protection for victims, as well as the implementation of procedures related to the mechanism and the application of Law No. 27-14 on combating human trafficking, both in terms of prevention and assistance to victims. Other institutions and professionals working on the protection and care of victims of trafficking will continue to receive the necessary support from the Council of Europe to strengthen their capacities, in partnership

with the HELP programme, whose course on combating human trafficking, translated into Arabic and adapted for the Moroccan national context, is part of the compulsory training for judicial attachés in training at the ISM. A strategy was developed in 2024 to establish priorities and standard operating procedures with the aim of improving co-ordination and efficiency among the various actors involved in combating human trafficking. Various tools developed in collaboration with the CNCLT will serve as a reference and guide the process of identifying and supporting victims detected by the relevant actors.

In the future, there are plans to involve Moroccan professionals in the Council of Europe Network of Lawyers and NGOs specialising in legal assistance to victims of trafficking.

Co-operation could be developed with the Council of Europe Network of Prosecutors on Migrant Smuggling and the work of the European Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC), within the framework of the Council of Europe Action Plan on strengthening international co-operation and investigation strategies in the fight against criminal organisations involved in migrant smuggling, particularly from sub-Saharan countries. In June 2025, Morocco participated in the meeting of the Council of Europe's Network of Correspondents on Migration, which is responsible for migration issues at the national level. This mutually beneficial co-operation could be institutionalised if Morocco became a participating member of the Network.

Expected results:

- Morocco applies to accede to the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings;
- Institutions and professionals working to protect and care for victims of trafficking have their capacities strengthened on the basis of European and international standards and best practices;
- The NRM, which guarantees the implementation of standardised procedures for the detection, identification, referral and support of victims of trafficking, is fully operational;
- The CNCLT consolidates its role as the co-ordinating body for the fight against trafficking;
- The participation of Moroccan professionals in the Council of Europe Network of Lawyers and NGOs specialising in legal assistance to victims of trafficking is encouraged;
- Morocco participates in the Council of Europe Network of Prosecutors on Migrant Smuggling and the work of the European Committee on Crime Problems and the Council of Europe Committee of Experts on Fighting the Smuggling of Migrants (PC-TM) in order to exchange best practices and strengthen co-operation. Morocco is assessing its interest in a possible observer status in this area in light of the committee's terms of reference;
- A country profile of Morocco, including legal and judicial information on migrant smuggling, has been produced and published on the CDPC website.

Main national partners: CNCLT, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and African Co-operation and Moroccans Abroad, Ministry of Health and Social Protection, other relevant ministries, CNDH, Royal Gendarmerie, DGSN, civil society, universities, training institutions and legal professions, CSPJ.

3.3.3 CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

The authorities remain committed to developing skills and reviewing existing policies and mechanisms with a view to improving the protection of children in accordance with international standards. In this context, Morocco has begun the process of ratifying the Lanzarote Convention, which was passed by both houses of the Moroccan Parliament and published in the Official Gazette in 2014. These Council of Europe standards have, however, served as a fundamental framework for the development of a roadmap between Morocco and the Council of Europe in this area, with Morocco's regular participation in the Committee of Parties to the Lanzarote Convention (T-ES).

As part of the Integrated Public Policy for Child Protection (PPIPE), a substantial component relating to more responsible use of the Internet and social networks by children has been developed with the support of the Council of Europe, leading to the launch of a portal for reporting cases of cyberviolence and cyberbullying ([EMC-Helpline](#)) against children, which allows content to be reported and texts, images and videos to be removed within 24 hours.

Co-operation will continue to focus primarily on harmonising Morocco's legal framework with Council of Europe standards and other international standards, and on strengthening the capacities of stakeholders in this area. To this end, co-operation with the Council of Europe will focus on supporting Morocco in the operationalisation of Integrated Territorial Child Protection Mechanisms (DTIPE) through institutional support, capacity building and knowledge production at national and territorial levels.

Expected results:

- Morocco completes the process of acceding to the Lanzarote Convention;
- The legislative and institutional frameworks and structures for the protection of children's rights are strengthened, including at the territorial level, and their compliance with international and European standards is pursued;
- The general public is made more aware of the phenomenon of child sexual abuse, including through the strengthening of the skills of media professionals, the organisation of awareness-raising campaigns and the production of educational kits on the use of artificial intelligence;
- Violent behaviour in schools is reduced, particularly cyberviolence and cyberbullying, by strengthening pupils' resilience and promoting a culture of peace and respect for human rights.

Main national partners: Ministry of Solidarity, Social Integration and the Family, National Observatory for the Rights of the Child (ONDE), Ombudsman's Office, Parliament, CNDH, HACA, civil society, Ministry of Justice, PMP, Ministry of Health and Social Protection, Ministry of National Education, Preschool and Sports, Ministry of Youth, Culture and Communication, other relevant ministries, National Commission for the Control of Personal Data Protection (CNDP), DGSN, Royal Gendarmerie, CMRPI. Interministerial Delegation for Human Rights (DIDH), CSPJ.

3. 4 STRENGTHENING CONFIDENCE IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

Since the adoption of the revised Constitution of 2011, the Moroccan authorities have undertaken major reforms in the area of the rule of law, particularly in the justice sector, including the reform of the criminal justice system. The Council of Europe will continue to support Moroccan reforms in the areas of independence, professionalism, integrity and transparency of the judiciary, in line with the rebalancing of powers brought about by the 2011 Constitution, which enshrined the principle of the separation of powers, as well as supporting the reform of various aspects of criminal and prison law and the legislative process relating to the review of the constitutionality of laws. The integration of a human rights approach into all programmes targeting vulnerable groups reflects Morocco's commitment to strengthening citizens' trust in public institutions (among other things, by promoting universal accessibility – buildings, digital services, communication – in all projects related to justice and public services).

The actions undertaken under this operational pillar will contribute to the implementation of the United Nations [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs), in particular the following goals: Goal 16 (targets 16.1⁵⁹, 16.3⁶⁰, 16.5⁶¹, 16.6⁶², 16. a⁶³).

3. 4.1 DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW (VENICE COMMISSION)

Morocco participates in the Venice Commission's regional activities, such as its ongoing support for the Moroccan Ombudsman Institution, and in bilateral legislative and institutional developments.

The Venice Commission has contributed to the development of more effective and inclusive legislation in Morocco by sharing its expertise on legislative drafting and evaluation by parliamentary institutions, as well as on legal certainty and the quality of legislation, by organising joint seminars with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the Moroccan Parliament. In this context, the Neighbourhood Partnership will aim to strengthen co-operation between the Parliament and the Venice Commission. In particular, the Venice Commission remains willing to provide its high-level expertise in the context of institutional strengthening, particularly following the establishment of a process for reviewing the constitutionality of laws, as well as in the field of human rights protection.

⁵⁹ Goal 16, target 1: Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere.

⁶⁰ Goal 16, Target 3: Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all.

⁶¹ Goal 16, target 5: Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms.

⁶² Goal 16, target 6: Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels.

⁶³ Goal 16, target a: Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international co-operation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime.

Expected results:

- Legislative processes are supported by the Venice Commission at the request of the authorities;
- The powers of the Ombudsman institution as a human rights protection body are strengthened.

Main national partners: *Constitutional Court, Parliament, Ministry of Justice, ISM, Ombudsman Institution of the Kingdom and other independent governance bodies, Minister Delegate to the Head of Government in charge of Digital Transition and Administrative Reform, General Secretariat of the Government, CNDH, DIDH.*

3.4.2 EFFICIENCY AND QUALITY OF THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

An observer to the CEPEJ since 2013, Morocco has expressed its interest in the CEPEJ's tools since the country began co-operating with the Council of Europe, particularly in the context of several bilateral co-operation programmes implemented by the CEPEJ in the country since then. Its observer status with the Consultative Council of European Prosecutors (CCPE) since 2019 has enabled representatives of the Presidency of the Public Prosecutor's Office (PMP) to participate actively in its work, particularly in the establishment of effective management of prosecution services. In addition, the General Inspection Service of the High Council of the Judiciary of Morocco actively participates in the Arab Network of Judicial Inspection Services (ARNJIS), providing the Secretariat and the Presidency.

Priority actions in the area of judicial efficiency and quality are based on the structural reforms already undertaken by the Kingdom of Morocco and are in line with the support provided by the Council of Europe to date. They are being significantly reinforced through a joint programme with the European Union "MA-JUST" programme, which began in June 2024, providing a solid basis for co-operation to consolidate achievements and deepen reforms, with the overall expected impact of strengthening the rule of law through an effective judiciary in line with international standards in this area, thereby enabling accessible justice. The CEPEJ will contribute to the continuous improvement of access to justice, in particular by facilitating citizens' access to legal information. It will also encourage alternative dispute resolution methods, as a complement to traditional judicial channels. The CEPEJ will also establish co-operation with lawyers and their professional associations that defend the rights and interests of lawyers as a profession and will support the establishment of a modern legal framework for legal and judicial assistance and aid. Morocco has already expressed its interest in acceding to the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of the Profession of Lawyer, which was opened for signature on 13 May 2025. Morocco is a member of the "Network of National Correspondents of the CEPEJ".

The effectiveness of the judicial system, in particular the use of performance indicators, statistical data and management tools to better monitor and organise the functioning of the courts, the digitisation of judicial procedures, the role of artificial intelligence in the work of judges and lawyers, communication between the judicial system and the media and users, and the functioning of judicial inspection services will also be at the heart of the Partnership's efforts.

Expected results:

- Support initiatives to digitize the justice system in order to bring it into line with international and European standards and best practices by consolidating the reforms and efforts already undertaken by Morocco, while ensuring the protection of the fundamental rights of users of the justice system, particularly in the area of personal data protection;
- Strengthen the efficiency and quality of the justice system and develop the professional capacities of judges and prosecutors;
- Access to law and justice for all, including the most vulnerable, is improved;
- The authorities are familiar with the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of the Profession of Lawyer;
- Morocco is actively participating in the ARNJIS network.

Main national partners: *Ministry of Justice, PMP, CSPJ, ISM, professional associations of magistrates and lawyers.*

3.4.3 PRISONS – POLICE – DEPRIVATION OF LIBERTY

➤ POLICE

Through the co-operation initiated between the Council of Europe and the Moroccan authorities, law enforcement agencies will continue to benefit from capacity-building activities in various areas, such as combating cybercrime and the proper use of electronic evidence, combating violence against women (through a HELP course specifically designed for law enforcement agencies) and combating violence against children in the digital environment, as well as strengthening the capacity of law enforcement agencies to improve their soft skills and their understanding and handling of cases involving violence against victims of violence and vulnerable persons.

Expected results :

- The capacity of law enforcement agencies to apply international standards and competences in receiving victims of violence and vulnerable persons are strengthened.

Main national partners: *Ministry of the Interior, DGSN, Royal Gendarmerie, National Police and Judicial Police.*

➤ PRISONS – DEPRIVATION OF LIBERTY

Law 43-22 on alternative sentences introduced alternatives to imprisonment with the aim of reducing prison overcrowding and promoting the rehabilitation and social reintegration of offenders. Prison overcrowding remains a major problem for the national authorities, with the situation exacerbated by the excessive use of pre-trial detention (31% of the total prison population) and custodial sentences, which have put additional pressure on the prison system. Law 43-22 represents a key step in the reform of the criminal justice system and signals Morocco's commitment to tackling prison overcrowding and recidivism. Reducing pre-trial detention could be explored as a means of reducing prison overcrowding. The establishment of new institutional bodies with the support of the Neighbourhood Partnership, such as the National Crime Observatory (ONC) launched in November 2024 with the support of the Council of Europe, plays a key role in the reforms implemented by the Kingdom of Morocco.

The Neighbourhood Partnership could address several interrelated areas: pre-trial detention, criminal convictions, and alternative sentences and measures to deprivation of liberty.

The Council of Europe can support the Moroccan authorities' efforts to reduce prison overcrowding through a specific project on pre-trial detention. This would accompany the implementation of the new Code of Criminal Procedure and strengthen the capacity of the judiciary to ensure that pre-trial detention is no longer applied systematically but takes into account, among other things, the case law of the European Court of Human Rights (the Court) on this matter, which is the main reference point for fundamental rights and a source of inspiration and improvement for legislation and judicial practice, even in States that are not parties to the European Convention on Human Rights.

Expected results:

- National stakeholders (magistrates, lawyers and law students) have a better understanding of the principles concerning the right to liberty and security according to the case law of the Court;
- Magistrates are proficient in techniques for assessing the necessity of pre-trial detention, particularly in light of the case law of the Court;
- The reduction of prison overcrowding is envisaged through the efficient management of pre-trial detention.

Main national partners: *High Council of the Judiciary, ISM, PMP, Ministry of Justice, lawyers, law students, civil society, DGAPR.*

3.5 ENSURING THE SAFETY, SECURITY AND INTEGRITY OF SOCIETY AND INDIVIDUALS

The actions undertaken within the framework of this operational pillar will contribute to the implementation of the United Nations [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs), in particular the following goals: Goal 9 (target 9.b⁶⁴), Goal 16 (targets 16.3⁶⁵, 16.5⁶⁶, 16.6⁶⁷, 16.7⁶⁸, 16.10⁶⁹ and 16.a⁷⁰), Goal 17 (target 17.6⁷¹).

3.5.1 FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION AND MONEY LAUNDERING

After being invited in 2021 by the Committee of Ministers to accede to the Civil and Criminal Law Conventions on Corruption, Morocco took further internal measures and made the fight against corruption one of its priorities. Accession to one of these conventions would automatically make Morocco a member of the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) and subject it to its monitoring mechanism and evaluations. Since October 2019, the INPPLC has been participating in the Šibenik Network of Corruption Prevention Agencies (NCPA), which is a network established in co-operation with GRECO⁷².

The Kingdom of Morocco's accession to international agreements on the fight against corruption will need to be followed by the alignment of national legislation with these agreements, as well as the development of the capacities of the actors concerned, in order to ensure their proper implementation.

With regard to the Council of Europe Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime and on the Financing of Terrorism (Warsaw Convention), Morocco underwent an initial assessment in 2024 to determine its compliance with several provisions of the Convention. The establishment and strengthening of the National Financial Intelligence Authority (ANRF – which replaced the Financial Intelligence Processing Unit in 2021) demonstrates Morocco's efforts to align its national anti-money laundering institutional framework with international standards in this area, in particular the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). As an observer member of the Warsaw Convention, the country participates in the work of the Committee of Experts on Criminal Asset Recovery (PC-RAC), which is responsible for drafting an additional protocol and an explanatory report.

The development of a legal framework on conflicts of interest is one of Morocco's priorities. The Moroccan Parliament has adopted a Code of ethics requiring members of parliament to disclose any conflicts of interest and declare gifts received in the course of their official duties. The capacities of Moroccan officials and institutions responsible for combating money laundering and corruption will continue to be strengthened.

Expected results in the fight against corruption:

- Morocco completes the process of acceding to the Civil and Criminal Conventions on Corruption;
- The powers of the institutions responsible for combating corruption are strengthened with a view to implementing effective procedures for preventing and combating corruption, particularly with regard to audits and the management of conflicts of interest;
- The capacities of public institutions specialising in the fight against corruption and money laundering, the Public Prosecutor's Office and the judiciary, as well as the investigative and prosecutorial capacities of law enforcement agencies, are strengthened.

Expected results in the fight against money laundering and terrorist financing (AML/CFT):

- The national AML/CFT legal framework is upgraded in line with international standards;
- The capacities of the Moroccan FIU and other national institutions involved in AML/CFT are strengthened, particularly in terms of detection, risk analysis and management, prevention and

⁶⁴ Goal 9, target b: Support domestic technology development, research and innovation in developing countries, including by ensuring a conducive policy environment for, inter alia, industrial diversification and value addition to commodities.

⁶⁵ Goal 16, target 3: Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all

⁶⁶ Goal 16, target 5: Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms.

⁶⁷ Goal 16, target 6: Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels.

⁶⁸ Goal 16, target 7: Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels.

⁶⁹ Goal 16, target 10: Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements

⁷⁰ Goal 16, target a: Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international co-operation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime.

⁷¹ Goal 17, target 6: Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international co-operation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved co-ordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism.

⁷² At the same time, INPPLC signed a memorandum of understanding with the Moroccan anti-corruption body, which also joined the network, thereby helping to intensify inter-institutional dialogue and networking with its counterparts in order to learn from best practices.

supervision;

- A national entity dedicated to the freezing, management and recovery of assets is established;
- The partnership between public actors, the private sector and civil society in AML/CFT is strengthened.

Main national partners: *INPPLC, Ministry of Digital Transition and Administrative Reform, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Economy and Finance, National Financial Intelligence Authority (ANRF), PMP, DGSN, CSPJ, Royal Gendarmerie, other relevant public administrations.*

3.5.2. DIGITAL CHALLENGES: CYBERCRIME – DATA PROTECTION

➤ ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Since the end of 2024, Morocco has been following the work on the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence. The government is committed to introducing AI applications in a wide range of sectors such as justice, law enforcement, the economy, industry and public services in general. The Neighbourhood Partnership plans to continue to involve Morocco in this area, particularly in work aimed at identifying and effectively managing the risks inherent in the development of artificial intelligence technologies, using an approach that respects human rights. Following the entry into force of the Framework Convention, Morocco may be invited to accede to it.

Expected results:

- Morocco becomes an observer state to the Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAI);
- The national legislative framework for artificial intelligence is developed in accordance with the standards of the Framework Convention on AI, with a view to increasing the capacity of Moroccan society to deal with the risks associated with the development of new AI technologies;
- The technical skills of professionals and actors from different sectors, including magistrates, judicial attachés and CSPJ officials, are strengthened in the field of AI thanks to Council of Europe tools such as HUDERIA and the HELP and HEY programmes, which would make it possible to anticipate and support technological changes likely to influence the Moroccan judicial ecosystem;
- Co-operation between the Moroccan authorities and their counterparts in Europe and the Southern Mediterranean region in the field of AI is strengthened.

Main national partners: *Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Digital Transition and Administrative Reform, CNDP, universities, civil society, CSPJ.*

➤ FIGHT AGAINST CYBERCRIME

Morocco has been a party to the Budapest Convention since 29 June 2018 and signed its second additional protocol on strengthening co-operation and disclosure of electronic evidence on 12 May 2022. Morocco has been very active in the various committees set up under the joint EU/Council of Europe Global Action on Cybercrime Extended (GLACY+) programme and receives technical assistance as a priority country under the joint EU/Council of Europe project on co-operation on cybercrime in the Southern Neighbourhood region (CyberSouth+) (2024-2026).

The necessary amendments to Moroccan national legislation are being prepared to include additional procedural powers in line with the Second Additional Protocol to the Budapest Convention. The Moroccan authorities are facilitating and strengthening dialogue between the criminal justice system and the cybersecurity sector, including the private sector.

During the previous Partnership, Morocco streamlined its reporting system and established a national platform for reporting all crimes committed online, including hate speech and crimes against children. Highly specialised courses were provided to cybercrime investigators on cryptocurrencies, digital forensics, ransomware attacks, and online child sexual exploitation and abuse, and the ISM continued to integrate cybercrime modules into its programmes and consolidate the pool of national trainers.

Public-private partnerships have multiplied, including with multinational service providers, and international requests have been issued by prosecutors and police services. Morocco also continued to invest in cybercrime prevention programmes targeting schools and developing awareness campaigns. Morocco remains committed to serving as a regional hub for digitalisation policies and cybercrime.

Co-operation could be developed in the following three areas: strengthening the protection of victims of cybercrime, training judicial personnel in the management and preservation of electronic evidence in accordance with international standards and harmonising the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Penal Code with the standards of the Budapest Convention and its additional protocols.

Expected results:

- Morocco continues to bring its national legislative framework into line with the Convention on Cybercrime (Budapest Convention);
- Moroccan authorities facilitate and strengthen dialogue between the criminal justice system and the cybersecurity sector, including the private sector;
- Standard operating procedures for law enforcement agencies and first responders for the collection and analysis of electronic evidence continue to be implemented;
- National judicial capacities on cybercrime and electronic evidence are strengthened.

Main national partners: Ministry of the Interior (*DGSN-DGAI*), Ministry of Justice, other relevant ministries, ISM, CNDP, Directorate-General for Information Systems Security, Judicial Police, Royal Gendarmerie, PMP, CSPJ.

➤ **PROTECTION OF PERSONAL DATA**

As a contracting party to the Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data (Convention 108) and its Additional Protocol, Morocco is prepared to accede to the Protocol amending the (modernised) Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data (Convention 108+). The Council of Europe has supported the launch of this process by working with the National Commission for the Control of Personal Data Protection (CNDP), in particular through capacity-building activities. The HELP programme's online course on data protection and the right to privacy has been translated into Arabic and integrated into the HELP platform. The Council of Europe will continue to support the CNDP in its contribution to the necessary legislative, technical and societal developments related to data protection.

In line with previous Neighbourhood Partnerships, this Neighbourhood Partnership aims to promote a culture of respect for privacy and personal data protection in Morocco.

Expected results :

- Morocco signs the Protocol amending the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data (Convention 108+);
- The legislative framework for data protection is strengthened in line with European standards;
- The technical skills of professionals and stakeholders from different sectors, including civil society and young people, are strengthened in the area of data protection through programmes such as HELP and HEY;
- Co-operation between Moroccan authorities and their counterparts in Europe and the Southern Mediterranean region in the field of data protection is strengthened.

Main national partners: CNDP, DIDH, DGSN, relevant ministries, CSPJ, legal professionals, members of civil society, journalists, private and public sector stakeholders.

3.5.3 INTEGRITY AND GOVERNANCE IN SPORT

Morocco has embarked on a structural reform of the sports sector, based on a strong vision set out in the 2008 Royal Letter and a political will to make sport a lever for inclusion and human development.

Morocco is a party to the Anti-Doping Convention (ETS No. 135) and the European Convention on Spectator Violence and Misbehaviour at Sports Events and in particular at Football Matches (ETS No. 120) and has signed the Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions (Macolin Convention).

As a party to ETS No. 120, Morocco is also an *ex officio* observer to the Committee of the Convention on an Integrated Approach to Security, Safety and Services at Football Matches and Other Sporting Events (CETS No. 218, Saint-Denis Convention).

Morocco is a member of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS) and in 2024 received a support and follow-up visit on the implementation of the European Sports Charter (Recommendation CM/Rec(2021)5).

The HELP course on sport and human rights is available in Arabic and has been adapted to the Moroccan context. Similarly, the HEY course "Towards responsible, safe, inclusive and ethical sport" has been presented in Morocco and will serve to strengthen the skills of young people and their teachers, including in the context of major international sporting events that the country will host in the coming years.

The upcoming sporting events have contributed to Morocco's interest in the Saint-Denis Convention, which this Partnership will work to promote. By acceding to this Convention, Morocco could be the first non-member state of the Council of Europe to become a party to it. The online course on the Saint-Denis Convention and other visibility tools could be translated into Arabic to better promote the Convention.

As the protection of children in sport is one of the APES' priorities, Morocco is encouraged to take advantage of the "Let's raise our voices" project, which aims to prevent and respond to all forms of violence and abuse. Actions could be carried out in the context of school sport with a view to better integrating the principles of inclusion, sports ethics and respect for fair play. Gender equality in sport could also be promoted, as well as female leadership and the organisation of mixed competitions.

Expected results:

- Morocco completes the process of acceding to the Macolin Convention;
- Morocco accedes to the Convention on an Integrated Approach to Safety, Security and Services at Football Matches and Other Sporting Events (Saint-Denis Convention);
- The technical skills of professionals and actors from different sectors, including civil society and young people, are strengthened through programmes such as HELP and HEY;
- Activities carried out as part of the Donnons de la Voix project strengthen the protection of children in sport;
- Morocco adopts a national framework for integrity in sport, strengthens skills in ethical governance of sport, including in school sport, and enhances the protection of children.

Main national partners: Ministry of Justice, Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of National Education, Preschool and Sports, national sports federations, National Olympic Committee, civil society, Moroccan Games and Sports Society (MDJS)

3.6 EMBEDDING DEMOCRATIC VALUES IN SOCIETIES

At the 4th Summit of the Council of Europe held in Reykjavík (Iceland) in May 2023, the Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe member states, warning against the decline of democracy, adopted the "Reykjavík Principles for Democracy", which include, among other things, the democratic participation of civil society and young people. This Neighbourhood Partnership counts civil society among the beneficiaries of the proposed actions, where relevant. Similarly, it pays particular attention to raising awareness and strengthening the skills of young people in relation to Council of Europe standards that have been identified as priorities in the work with Morocco.

The actions undertaken within the framework of this operational pillar will contribute to the implementation of the United Nations [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs), in particular the following goals: Goal 3 (target 3.8⁷³), Goal 4 (targets 4.4⁷⁴, 4.5⁷⁵, 4.7⁷⁶), Goal 8 (targets 8.5⁷⁷ and 8.6⁷⁸), Goal 10 (target 10.3⁷⁹), Goal 11 (target 11.4⁸⁰), Goal 16 (targets 16.3⁸¹, 16.4⁸², 16.6⁸³, 16.7⁸⁴, 16.10⁸⁵).

⁷³ Goal 3, target 8: Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.

⁷⁴ Goal 4, target 4: By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have the skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship.

⁷⁵ Goal 4, target 5: By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations.

⁷⁶ Goal 4, target 7: By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development.

⁷⁷ Goal 8, target 5: By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.

⁷⁸ Goal 8, target 6: By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training.

3.6.1 ACCESS TO INFORMATION

The right of access to information is a fundamental right guaranteed by Article 27 of the Moroccan Constitution. The Partnership aims to promote a culture of transparency in governance and to safeguard the right of access to information, encouraging the sharing of good practices and knowledge based on Council of Europe standards in this area. The Council of Europe Convention on Access to Official Documents (Tromsø Convention) is the first binding international legal instrument to recognise the right of every person to access official documents held by public authorities without discrimination and regardless of the status of the applicant or the reasons for requesting access.

Expected results:

- Morocco requests to be invited to accede to the Tromsø Convention.

Main national partners: *Commission on the Right of Access to Information (CDAI), Ministry of Digital Transition and Administrative Reform, HACA, civil society.*

3.6.2 PROMOTION OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND MEDIA PLURALISM

Since 2015, the Council of Europe has sought to support Morocco's reform efforts in the area of freedom of expression and the media.

HELP courses on freedom of expression and hate speech, tailored to the Moroccan context, were launched in 2021. These courses have facilitated a better understanding and appropriation of European and international standards in these areas by legal professionals, university students and civil society.

Representatives of the Moroccan authorities regularly participate as observers in meetings of the Steering Committee on Media and Information Society (CDMSI) and related working groups, including the High Authority for Audiovisual Communication (HACA), as well as in thematic conferences where they have been able to learn more about European standards and share best practices in this constantly evolving environment.

Morocco has been a member of the European Audiovisual Observatory since May 2014.

The Council of Europe will continue its work to date, contributing to the efforts of the Moroccan authorities, the HACA, journalists' associations and members of civil society to create an environment conducive to freedom of expression through the promotion of professional standards for journalists and the creation of an institutional framework to promote media freedom. Particular attention will be paid to sharing good practices and knowledge inspired by Council of Europe standards and to strengthening the capacities of Moroccan journalists to enable them to practise ethical and high-quality journalism in collaboration with the CNP and the Higher Institute of Information and Communication (ISIC), combating disinformation and, among other things, promoting equality between women and men and disseminating a positive and non-stereotypical image of women and men in the media. Other avenues for collaboration could be explored, in particular to support the Moroccan media in their dealings with digital giants and to mainstream media and information literacy in school and university curricula, while supporting the role of civil society in promoting media literacy and equality between women and men.

⁷⁹Goal 10, target 3: Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard.

⁸⁰ Goal 11, target 4: Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage.

⁸¹ Goal 16, target 3: Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all.

⁸² Goal 16, target 4: By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime.

⁸³ Goal 16, target 6: Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels.

⁸⁴ Goal 16, target 7: Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels.

⁸⁵Goal 16, target 10: Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements.

Expected results:

- The regulatory framework and institutional action on freedom of expression and media pluralism are more in line with international standards and those of the Council of Europe.
- Media literacy is addressed as a priority in national curricula and quality journalism is supported by institutional initiatives;
- Civil society contributes to the creation of an environment conducive to freedom of expression that respects the ethical standards of journalists and media professionals;
- The media are more aware of issues related to equality and contribute to promoting a positive and non-stereotypical image of women and men.

Main national partners: Ministry of Youth, Culture and Communication, HACA, National Press Council (CNP), DIDH, journalists' associations, journalists, civil society, public and private media.

3.6.3 DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE – CIVIL SOCIETY – YOUTH

In line with the Reykjavík Declaration, the Neighbourhood Partnership places particular emphasis on the new generations' ownership of democratic values, the rule of law and human rights, which remains essential to ensuring the success and sustainability of democratic reforms.

In 2009, Morocco became a member of the Council of Europe's European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity (North-South Centre), with which it has developed active co-operation over the years. This collaboration has helped to strengthen the skills of Moroccan young people and youth organisations through several Euro-Mediterranean co-operation projects, particularly in the context of the Centre's various Youth Universities, including the Mediterranean University on Youth and Global Citizenship (MedUni).

In November 2024, at the United Nations Alliance of Civilisations Forum, the North-South Centre launched the Human Rights Education for Youth (HEY) Programme. Inspired by the HELP Programme, this new initiative aims to strengthen young people's capacity for action in the field of human rights and the rule of law by improving their knowledge and understanding of European standards and other international legal frameworks, including specific treaties, conventions, protocols and charters of the United Nations, the League of Arab States and the African Union. The courses developed within this framework will be aimed at young people aged 18 to 30 from Europe, Africa and the Middle East, using interactive teaching methods based on the North-South Centre's expertise in global citizenship education and youth co-operation. The programme also includes a specific training process for young tutors to ensure cascade dissemination through national courses. Like the HELP Programme, which inspired it, the HEY Programme also offers the potential to adapt courses to the Moroccan national context.

Expected results:

- Raising awareness of European and international standards on human rights and the rule of law among young people through the implementation of the HEY Programme, the Rule of Law Youth Network (RoLYN) cycles and the Mediterranean Universities on Youth and Global Citizenship (MedUni);
- Training a pool of young HEY tutors who will be able to disseminate their knowledge to their peers, thanks to the HEY training methodology.

Main national partners: Ministry of Youth, Culture and Communication, Ministry of National Education, Preschool and Sports, Moroccan civil society organisations (including those working with young people), DIDH, Parliament, local authorities.

3.6.4 CULTURE AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

The illicit trade in cultural objects in the form of transnational organised crime contributes to the financing of corruption and money laundering, as well as other crimes, and can even be a source of terrorist financing. Furthermore, the removal of cultural and archaeological objects from their country or place of origin constitutes an act against national identity and collective memory and the destruction of historical knowledge for humanity as a whole.

The Council of Europe Convention on Offences relating to Cultural Property (Nicosia Convention) defines preventive measures at national and international level (inventories of cultural property databases, monitoring and reporting of transactions, import and export control procedures, etc.). It aims to establish transnational co-operation to curb the illegal trade in cultural property. It represents a major advance in international law as it is the only treaty that criminalises offences against cultural property. Given the importance of its cultural heritage, the Neighbourhood Partnership plans to support the competent authorities in promoting a better understanding of the Nicosia Convention with a view to its possible participation in this treaty, as part of enhanced international co-operation in this area.

Expected results:

- The main Moroccan partners are made aware of the Council of Europe Convention on Offences relating to Cultural Property (Nicosia Convention) with a view to Morocco's possible participation in the Convention.

Main national partners: *Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Youth, Culture and Communication, PMP, Parliament, civil society organisations, CSPJ.*

3.6.5 PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

Since 2011, the Moroccan Parliament has enjoyed the status of democracy partner with the PACE of the Council of Europe. A delegation composed of members of both chambers of the Moroccan Parliament regularly participates in PACE sessions and the work of its committees, promoting exchanges with their counterparts from Council of Europe member States. Networking and peer-to-peer experience sharing at interparliamentary level have been strengthened, and continue to be so, through the participation of Moroccan parliamentarians and civil servants in events covering areas of strategic interest to the country, such as combating violence against women, protecting the environment and combating water stress.

The Council of Europe's support for the Moroccan Parliament has been strengthened through a joint European Union/Council of Europe programme, which ended in November 2024⁸⁶. In addition, PACE has granted⁸⁷, with effect from January 2025, additional rights to members of the Moroccan delegation to PACE⁸⁸. The new Partnership will build on the achievements of the previous partnership and continue the full participation of the Moroccan parliamentary delegation in the work of the PACE and its committees.

Expected results:

- The Moroccan Parliament continues to fulfill its role as a body responsible for monitoring government action, in particular for monitoring and evaluating public policies;
- The Parliament is more open to citizens, particularly young people, women and civil society in Morocco, and effectively supports and encourages their participation in the legislative process;
- Parliamentary diplomacy and political dialogue between the Moroccan Parliament and the parliaments of neighbouring countries and Council of Europe member States continue to develop.

Main national partners: *Moroccan Parliament, relevant ministries, CNDH, civil society.*

3.6.6 CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES

Contacts between the Kingdom of Morocco and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe were established in 2010 through the Congress's contribution to the work of the Consultative Commission on Regionalisation (CCR), which was tasked with designing a model for advanced regionalisation in Morocco.

⁸⁶ "Support for the national mechanism for the prevention of torture and the development of the role of Parliament in Morocco (2020-2024)".

⁸⁷ In accordance with its [Resolution 2492 \(2023\)](https://pace.coe.int/fr/files/31755) on the Evaluation of the Functioning of the Partnership for Democracy, the text of which is available at the following link: <https://pace.coe.int/fr/files/31755> (hyperlink).

⁸⁸ The Moroccan delegation now has the right to table proposals for recommendations and resolutions as well as amendments, to request and open topical debates, to submit written statements and to be appointed rapporteurs for information reports that do not contain draft resolutions and/or recommendations, as well as the right to participate in meetings of the Standing Committee, to ask spontaneous oral questions to guest speakers during plenary sessions of the Assembly and meetings of the Standing Committee, the right to appoint members to participate in the work of committees and subcommittees, and to be appointed as full members of various networks established within the Assembly.

In April 2019, Morocco became the Congress's first partner for local democracy, and its delegation, composed of representatives of associations of local elected officials, now participates in the work of the Congress. As part of past co-operation, the Congress supported, through benchmarking and peer learning, the revision of the legislative framework and the clarification of powers between the three levels of governance in Morocco. The Congress's expertise was called upon with regard to possible amendments to the organic law on prefectures and provinces and initial support for the revision of the institutional architecture of decentralisation, which could be developed within the present Partnership, the finances of local authorities and mechanisms for citizen participation. The participation of the Moroccan delegation in the work of the Congress's committees and plenary sessions also provides an opportunity to exchange experiences with their European counterparts.

The new partnership will build on the completion of these actions, on the results of past activities on women's participation in elections and improving the status of elected representatives, as well as new areas of co-operation, bringing the Congress's expertise to newly elected representatives with the aim of strengthening democratic governance in Morocco.

Expected results:

- Institutional and operational instruments aimed at ensuring interaction, convergence and continuity of dialogue between the three levels of decentralisation and between the State and the regions are put in place to reduce territorial disparities;
- The capacities of national associations of local authorities for citizen participation at all levels of territorial governance (local, provincial and regional) are improved;
- The advocacy capacities of national associations of local authorities are strengthened in a context of structured and effective dialogue with central government departments.
- Equality between women and men and citizen participation are strengthened through the implementation of participatory mechanisms within local and regional authorities, with the integration of an approach sensitive to equality between women and men into the budgeting system.

Main national partners: Ministry of the Interior, Ministry Delegate to the Head of Government in charge of Digital Transition and Administrative Reform, local and regional government associations, public administration training centres, Economic, Social and Environmental Council of Morocco (CESE), media, civil society.

PART IV – IMPLEMENTATION

4.1 METHODOLOGY

The overall co-ordination of technical co-operation provided by the Council of Europe is the responsibility of the Directorate of Programme Co-ordination (DPC), which directs the programming and fundraising for co-operation activities while ensuring the smooth running of the Council of Europe's field offices. In essence, responsibility for co-operation projects lies with the Organisation's "major administrative entities" that have the necessary expertise. In accordance with the Organisation's decentralised implementation policy for technical assistance and co-operation, the Council of Europe office in Rabat⁸⁹ is responsible for implementing projects in the field. In October 2025, it had 13 CoE staff members.

4.1.1 A HUMAN RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH

The Council of Europe also favours a human rights-based approach at all levels and in all stages of its activities. Its *acquis*, in particular its legal instruments and institutions, combined with the principles of participation and inclusion, equality and non-discrimination, accountability, transparency and access to information, brings added value to its activities.

[The Council of Europe's approach to human rights – Practical guide for co-operation projects](#) aims to promote understanding that the realisation of human rights is an ultimate goal of the Organisation's co-operation activities and to apply fundamental principles to all its interventions in the context of project cycle management and strategic orientation.

The Council of Europe emphasises the integration of gender mainstreaming throughout its project activities, in line with its [Gender Equality Strategy \(2024-2029\)](#). The strategy highlights the need to ensure that gender equality policies and relevant instruments benefit in particular women from disadvantaged groups, but also people facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.

⁸⁹ <https://www.coe.int/web/Rabat>

[The Council of Europe Toolkit on Gender Mainstreaming in Co-operation Projects](#) provides practical guidance on integrating a gender dimension into the Organisation's co-operation activities and those carried out by partners and other national actors. Its aim is to help the Council of Europe define the priorities, key objectives and measures of the neighbourhood partnership, and to encourage the Moroccan authorities to integrate an approach sensitive to equality between women and men into reforms in order to maximise efforts in this field. The implementation of the toolkit will be accompanied by training on gender mainstreaming provided by the Organisation to all staff involved in co-operation activities, as well as to partners and national actors. Balanced participation of women and men will be ensured, provided that the persons concerned meet the requirements in terms of experience and local knowledge. For example, standards relating to gender equality and women's rights will be taken into account when reviewing national legislation and frameworks in the light of European standards. Gender equality will also be included in training activities and programmes. Gender impacts will be analysed during the design, implementation, reporting and evaluation of projects. In addition to gender mainstreaming, specific measures to promote gender equality will be considered.

As part of its long-standing commitment to placing children at the centre of its work, the Council of Europe is committed to advancing the protection and promotion of children's rights, [in line with its Strategy for the Rights of the Child 2022-2027](#), developed as part of the "Building a Europe for and with children" programme launched in 2006. The Strategy, which places particular emphasis on children's rights in the digital environment, is reinforced in this regard by Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2018\)7](#) of the Committee of Ministers to member States on guidelines for the respect, protection and fulfilment of children's rights in the digital environment.

Similarly, the Council of Europe encourages the active participation of civil society in project activities, in accordance with [the Guidelines on the participation of civil society organisations in Council of Europe co-operation activities](#). The [online resource for civil society](#) provides easy access to its handbook "[Working with the Council of Europe: a practical guide for civil society](#)", which contains detailed information on the various forms of access, co-operation, contribution and/or partnership that are possible and of interest to non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

[The Roadmap on the Council of Europe's engagement with civil society 2024-2027](#) marks an important step in the follow-up to the [Reykjavík Declaration - United around our values](#) and presents proposals for developing a policy for meaningful and effective participation by civil society, including youth civil society, in all aspects of the Organisation's intergovernmental standardisation, monitoring and co-operation activities. Civil society participation will be ensured through various means throughout the Neighbourhood Partnership, with the aim of strengthening its role in the country by promoting dialogue between the authorities and civil society and developing its capacities. To this end, it is planned to involve civil society actors in the relevant activities of certain projects or to implement projects specifically targeting civil society, by providing services and thematic expertise, allocating grants to be launched during the partnership, monitoring reforms and preparing analytical reports. They will thus contribute to ensuring the protection of human rights, democracy and the rule of law in the country.

The [Council of Europe's Policy on Reporting Wrongdoing and Protection against Retaliation \(Speak Up Policy\)](#), which came into force on 1 June 2023, is an integral part of the Organisation's ethical framework.

[The Reykjavík Declaration – United in our values](#) also aims to strengthen the environmental dimension of human rights with a view to targeting and reinforcing the Council of Europe's work in this area.

In this context, the Council of Europe's co-operation sector aims to make the fight against climate change and environmental degradation an integral and more explicit part of its work. To achieve this, it can 1) integrate environmental protection and climate change considerations into co-operation projects; 2) design and develop co-operation projects that have specific environmental objectives; and 3) improve the Council of Europe's working methods and practices to ensure greater environmental sustainability in its co-operation activities.

The Council of Europe has continued to play a leading role in developing standards for the digital age to protect human rights online and offline and in many contexts. The adoption in May 2024 of the [Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law](#), which is based on Council of Europe standards and other relevant international standards and whose application can be extended worldwide, is a landmark achievement for the Organisation.

The implementation of Neighbourhood Partnership projects requires, but is not limited to, needs assessments, legislative expertise, capacity building, awareness raising, peer reviews and gender analysis. The implementation methodology, which is in line with the Council of Europe's Project Management Methodology (PMM), strengthens the sense of ownership among national actors and ensures that results are sustainable. PMM improves the quality of project implementation in terms of planning and monitoring, cost-effectiveness and efficiency. It also improves risk assessment, integrates a human rights-based approach and gives greater attention to gender issues.

Furthermore, the co-operation designed by the Council of Europe follows an "interinstitutional approach" that enables the Organisation's various bodies and institutions to target government actors, parliaments, civil society, universities, professional associations and local and regional authorities, in order to create a multiplier effect that will trigger comprehensive, inclusive, successful and sustainable reforms.

4.1.2 LESSONS LEARNED FROM EXPERIENCE

This Neighbourhood Partnership takes into account the lessons learned from the implementation of the co-operation established since 2012 with Morocco, of which the following are particularly noteworthy:

The interest of the Moroccan authorities in several Council of Europe conventions has been decisive in the implementation of neighbourhood partnerships. The Council of Europe's high-level expertise in supporting the implementation of standards has continued to be highly appreciated by the competent authorities, enabling the partnership to continue its work in favour of human rights and the rule of law.

The use of monitoring mechanism methodologies and the content of conventions to design co-operation projects and activities, even on topics for which Morocco has not yet been invited to accede to the relevant convention, has proved very useful.

The Human Rights Education Programme for Legal Professionals (HELP) remains one of the highlights of the work in Morocco, which has also welcomed the new Human Rights Education Programme for Young People (HEY) and is actively engaged in the latter, given that a very large proportion of its population is young.

The Council of Europe Office in Rabat has maintained regular dialogue with national authorities and partners, including at high level.

A flexible approach and tailor-made methodologies have made it possible to adapt projects to priority needs, the pace of reforms and changes in the institutional framework. Furthermore, this adaptability has enabled projects to remain demand-driven, resulting in relevant interventions that are aligned with partners' needs and more likely to have an impact.

Strategic communication ensured the visibility of the Council of Europe and the Neighbourhood Partnership in Morocco. The use of social media and improved communication in Arabic and on topical issues proved successful.

The increasing participation of Moroccan experts in projects reinforces the complementarity of national expertise and international experience, as well as the commitment of beneficiaries.

The regional dimension of the work in the southern Mediterranean promotes opportunities for mutual learning and co-ordinated approaches.

4.1.3 RISK MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

Due to the nature of its mandate, the Council of Europe operates in complex and unstable environments that expose it to risks. The risk analysis of the Neighbourhood Partnership and possible mitigation strategies are based on the Council of Europe's Risk Management Policy⁹⁰ and Risk Management Guidelines, adopted in June 2016. All projects implemented under the Neighbourhood Partnership have their own assessment and mitigation strategies. The risks identified in the course of co-operation activities are entered in the organisational risk register, which is periodically brought to the attention of the Secretary General and the Senior Management Group of the Council of Europe. The results will be analysed by an internal audit, an external audit and the Audit and Evaluation Advisory Committee.

4.2 CONTRIBUTION OF THE TO THE UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

As indicated above, the Neighbourhood Partnership will support the efforts of the Moroccan authorities to achieve the United Nations [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs), in particular Goals 3, 4, 5, 8, 11, 13, 15, and 16.

4.3 CO-ORDINATION

Co-ordination to ensure the effective use of resources and the relevance of the Council of Europe's actions is carried out at various levels and in various bodies, including the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (CM).

The Council of Europe designs and implements actions in areas where it has solid expertise and brings real added value. Joint co-operation is established with the Moroccan authorities on the basis of an in-depth analysis of the objectives pursued by other international organisations and actors in the field and their actions, implemented and/or planned to achieve these objectives.

To ensure the relevance of its actions, the Council of Europe works in close co-ordination with relevant international partners, notably the European Union (EU) and in particular the EU Delegation to Morocco. Since 2012, Morocco has been one of the beneficiaries of the South Programme, a joint regional programme between the European Union and the Council of Europe,. It is also a beneficiary of the MA-JUST bilateral joint programme⁹¹.

Co-ordination is also in place with other organisations, including certain United Nations (UN) agencies. To ensure efficiency and avoid duplication of activities, the Organisation also co-ordinates its activities with those of its Member States' development agencies.

4.4 FINANCING

The overall budget for this Neighbourhood Partnership is estimated at €15million, of which €3.9 million has already been secured. The available funding represents 26%, while 74% remains unfunded (€11.1 million).

There are multiple sources of funding for Neighbourhood Partnership projects. These mainly include voluntary contributions (VC) from donor countries and international organisations, in particular joint bilateral and regional programmes between the European Union and the Council of Europe.

Contributions from the European Union (€3,454,387) account for 88% of the funding provided. Funding from the regular budget (€411,863) accounts for 10%. Voluntary contributions from member States and other donors (€75,000) account for 2% of the funding provided. The current donors (in descending order according to the volume of their financial contributions) are the European Union and Monaco.

⁹⁰ The revised risk management policy was adopted by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe on 15 December 2023 and entered into force immediately. In order to encourage a pragmatic, consistent and transparent approach to risk management at the Council of Europe, this version updates the provisions of the previous policy (adopted in 2016) and places risk management in a broader institutional perspective. It ensures complementarity with other aspects of the Organisation's governance system (internal control, data protection, ethics, crisis management, business continuity, etc.), implements the recommendations of the Internal Control Directorate and the Council of Europe's Advisory Committee on Control, and clarifies roles and responsibilities throughout the Organisation. By helping to improve the management of risks that could threaten the Council of Europe, the revised policy will also strengthen the Organisation's governance system.

⁹¹ "Towards a more protective, accessible and effective justice system in Morocco".

The costs of co-ordinating the implementation of the Neighbourhood Partnership will be charged to general management expenditure, up to a maximum of 7% of the direct costs of the Neighbourhood Partnership.

In line with the Council of Europe's resource mobilisation strategy, the funding efforts co-ordinated by the Directorate of Programme Co-ordination (DPC) are focused on the Neighbourhood Partnership as a whole. Funding at Neighbourhood Partnership level offers particular flexibility, with funds being allocated to projects that are most in need and most likely to contribute to the long-term implementation of major political and institutional reforms. The Council of Europe also promotes longer-term co-operation agreements and multi-annual contracts with key partners and donors in order to foster effective strategic partnerships and ensure predictable and flexible funding.

The structure of the Neighbourhood Partnership for 2026-2029 is aligned with that of the Council of Europe's Programme and Budget and harmonised with its two biennial budget cycles in order to enhance coherence, complementarity and co-ordination.

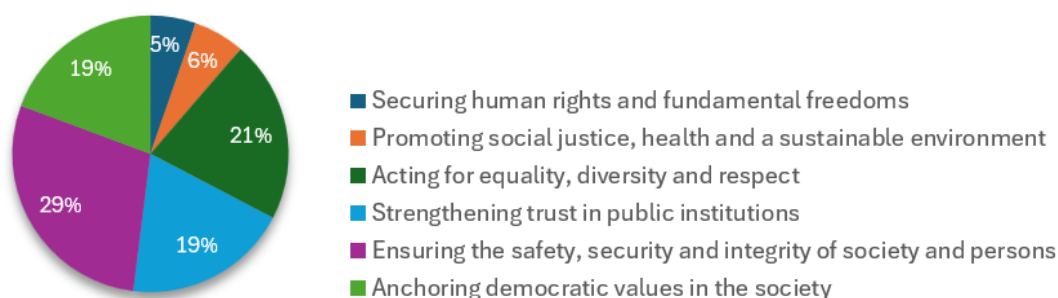


Figure 2: Estimated budget detailed by sectors of the Neighbourhood Partnership with Morocco 2026-2029

4.5 GOVERNANCE

The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (CM) is responsible, through its Group of Rapporteurs on External Relations (GR-EXT), for the overall evaluation of the results of the implementation of the Neighbourhood Partnership.

The Council of Europe will regularly report on the progress and results of the Neighbourhood Partnership. To this end, the Directorate of Programme Co-ordination (DPC) will submit progress reports and a final report to the CM, according to the following schedule:

- An oral report 12 months and 36 months after the adoption of the Neighbourhood Partnership to present the progress made since its official launch;
- A comprehensive mid-term monitoring report 24 months after the adoption of the Neighbourhood Partnership;
- A final progress review report at the end of the Neighbourhood Partnership implementation period.

The Council of Europe and the Moroccan authorities will also regularly assess progress made in implementing the Neighbourhood Partnership.

In addition, the DPC will send annual reports on the implementation of the Neighbourhood Partnership to donors who contribute financially to the Neighbourhood Partnership, in accordance with contractual requirements.

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ANNEX I: LOGICAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE 2026-2029 NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP WITH MOROCCO

3.1 Guaranteeing human rights and fundamental freedoms	
Expected outcomes	Indicators
<i>Capacity of national authorities, legal professionals and civil society to better protect and promote human rights</i>	
Legal professionals (judges, prosecutors, lawyers), representatives of national authorities, representatives of civil society and law students have acquired and/or improved their knowledge of European and international human rights standards and thus have the skills to better promote and protect human rights in their fields of action. The training of trainers will also continue under this partnership, with a focus on courses related to the protection of human rights.	- Number of legal professionals, representatives of public institutions and members of civil society trained in the application of human rights in their fields of activity; - Level of capacity of legal professionals, representatives of public institutions and members of civil society to use relevant European and international standards to guarantee and promote human rights in their daily work.
<i>Abolition of the death penalty</i>	
The main Moroccan partners and Moroccan youth are made aware of the abolition of the death penalty.	Level of awareness among Moroccan partners regarding the death penalty.
3.2 Promoting social justice, health and sustainable development	
Expected results	Indicators
<i>Implementation of the European Social Charter</i>	
Representatives of the government, parliament and civil society are more aware of the Council of Europe's main social rights standards with a view to gradually bringing Moroccan legislation into line with European standards.	- Level of awareness of Council of Europe standards on social rights; - Level of awareness among representatives of the government, parliament and civil society of the Council of Europe's main standards in the field of social rights.
<i>Combating counterfeiting of medical products</i>	
- Legislation on combating the counterfeiting of medical products and other similar offences is brought into line with the MEDICRIME Convention; - The skills of national actors in this area, particularly magistrates and law enforcement agencies, are strengthened; - Morocco participates in the 24/7 network to combat this type of illegal activity, as part of enhanced international co-operation in criminal matters.	- Degree of compliance of existing legislative and institutional frameworks and practices for combating corruption, money laundering and terrorist financing with the Convention - Level of expertise of stakeholders in combating counterfeit medical products and other similar offences - Degree of co-operation and participation in the 24/7 network

<i>International Co-operation Group on Drugs and Addiction (Pompidou Group)</i>	
- The national strategy on drugs and addiction is based on the results of data collected through the Remad network and MedSPAD school surveys; - Certificate courses offered at certain universities in the country are being extended to other medical specialisations and are accredited by the state, thereby improving the care and treatment of addiction in Morocco; - Legal and law enforcement professionals responsible for implementing drug legislation are aware of the latest trends and human rights and help to promote the application of alternative measures and penalties to deprivation of liberty.	- Extent to which the national drug strategy is based on scientifically validated knowledge and data collection and takes into account a human rights approach; - Number of individuals trained in addiction care and treatment (disaggregated data); - Degree of use of alternatives to imprisonment in cases of addiction.
<i>Organ trafficking</i>	
The main Moroccan partners are made aware of the Council of Europe Convention against Trafficking in Human Organs (Convention of Santiago de Compostela) with a view to Morocco's possible participation in the convention.	Level of awareness among key Moroccan partners of the Council of Europe Convention against Trafficking in Human Organs.
3.3 Acting for equality and human dignity	
Expected results	Indicators
<i>Equality between women and men and combating violence against women and domestic violence</i>	
- Representatives of target ministries and institutions and parliamentarians take ownership of the standards of the Istanbul Convention and international and European practices in this area; - Actors involved in the protection of women's rights have a better understanding of applicable national legislation and international and European standards, as well as specific training to ensure holistic care for women victims based on legal, health, social and judicial approaches. - The general public is more aware of the phenomenon of domestic violence and violence against women, including through the strengthening of the skills of media professionals.	- Level of compliance of legislative and institutional frameworks and structures relating to the fight against violence against women with European and international standards and practices; - Level of knowledge of applicable national legislation and international and European standards; - Number of legal professionals trained to prevent secondary victimisation; - Level of awareness among the general public and the media of the different forms of violence against women and the provisions of Law No. 103-13 on combating violence against women.
<i>Human trafficking</i>	
- Morocco is seeking to accede to the Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings; - Institutions and professionals working to protect and care for victims of trafficking have their capacities strengthened on the basis of European and international standards and best practices; - The MNR, which guarantees the implementation of standardised procedures for the detection, identification, referral and support of victims of trafficking, is fully operational; - The CNCLT consolidates its role as the co-ordinating body for the fight against	- Morocco's request to be invited to accede to the Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings; - Level of capacity of institutions and professionals and level of alignment with European and international standards and best practices; - Establishment and operationalisation of the National Referral Mechanism (NRM); - Level of participation and involvement of Moroccan professionals in relevant networks;

- trafficking; - The participation of Moroccan professionals in the Council of Europe Network of Lawyers and NGOs specialising in legal assistance to victims of trafficking is envisaged/encouraged; - Morocco participates in the Council of Europe Network of Prosecutors on Migrant Smuggling and the work of the European Committee on Crime Problems and the Council of Europe Committee of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Migrants (PC-TM) in order to exchange best practices and strengthen co-operation. Morocco is assessing its interest in possible observer status in this area in light of the committee's terms of reference; - A country profile of Morocco containing legal and judicial information on migrant smuggling is published on the CDPC website.	The country profile for Morocco, including legal and judicial information on migrant smuggling, is prepared.
<i>Children's rights</i>	
- Morocco completes the process of acceding to the Lanzarote Convention; - The legislative and institutional frameworks and structures for the protection of children's rights are strengthened, including at the territorial level, and their compliance with international and European standards is pursued; - The general public is made more aware of the phenomenon of child sexual abuse, including through the strengthening of the skills of media professionals, the organisation of awareness-raising campaigns and the production of educational kits on the use of artificial intelligence; - Violent behaviour in schools is reduced , particularly cyberviolence and cyberbullying, by strengthening pupils' resilience and promoting a culture of peace and respect for human rights.	- Ratification by Morocco of the Lanzarote Convention and other Council of Europe conventions on children's rights. - Degree of compliance of legislative and institutional frameworks concerning the protection of children's rights with international and European standards. - Level of awareness among the general public and the media regarding the fight against sexual abuse and exploitation of children and the protection of children.
3.4 Strengthen trust in public institutions	
Expected results	Indicators
<i>Democracy through law (Venice Commission)</i>	
- Legislative processes are supported by the Venice Commission at the request of the authorities; - The powers of the Ombudsman institution as a human rights protection body are strengthened.	- Number of new organic laws prepared with the support of the Venice Commission; - Level and quality of the exercise of the Kingdom's Ombudsman as a human rights protection body - Quality of measures and decisions taken by bodies promoting and protecting human rights, in particular the Ombudsman of the Kingdom.

<i>Efficiency and quality of the justice system</i>	
• Support initiatives to digitise the justice system in order to bring it into line with international and European standards and best practices by consolidating the reforms and efforts already undertaken by Morocco, while ensuring the protection of the fundamental rights of users of the justice system, particularly in the area of personal data protection; • Strengthen the efficiency and quality of the justice system and develop the professional capacities of judges and prosecutors; • Access to law and justice for all, including the most vulnerable, is improved; • The authorities are familiar with the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of the Legal Profession; • Morocco is actively participating in the ARNJIS network.	• Level of compliance of the digitisation of the justice system with relevant European and international standards; • Number of CEPEJ tools adopted by Moroccan courts and judicial institutions with a view to improving their functioning and performance; • Morocco requests to begin the process of acceding to the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Lawyers as soon as it enters into force; • Level of Morocco's participation in the ARNJIS network.
<i>Police</i>	
• The capacity of law enforcement agencies to apply international standards and competences in receiving victims of violence and vulnerable persons are strengthened.	• Level of capacity of law enforcement agencies in terms of interview techniques that are more respectful of human rights; • Number of law enforcement officers with non-technical skills in understanding and supporting victims of violence and vulnerable persons.
<i>Prisons, deprivation of liberty</i>	
• National stakeholders (magistrates, lawyers and law students) have a better understanding of the principles concerning the right to liberty and security according to the case law of the ECHR; • Magistrates are proficient in techniques for assessing the necessity of pre-trial detention, particularly in light of ECHR case law; • The reduction of prison overcrowding is envisaged through the efficient management of pre-trial detention.	• Number and level of awareness of the main Moroccan partners are aware of the case law of the ECHR in this area; • Degree of use of alternatives to pre-trial detention and level of impact on prison overcrowding rates.

3.5 Ensuring the safety, security and integrity of society and individuals	
Expected results	Indicators
<i>Fight against corruption and money laundering</i>	
• Morocco completes the process of acceding to the Civil and Criminal Conventions on Corruption; • The powers of the institutions responsible for combating corruption are strengthened with a view to implementing effective procedures for preventing and combating corruption, particularly with regard to audits and the management of conflicts of interest; • The capacities of public institutions specialising in the fight against corruption and money laundering, the public prosecutor's office and the judiciary, as well as the investigative and prosecutorial capacities of law enforcement agencies, are strengthened; • The national AML/CFT legal framework is upgraded in line with international standards; • The capacities of the Moroccan FIU and other national institutions involved in AML/CFT are strengthened, particularly in terms of detection, risk analysis and management, prevention and supervision; • A national entity dedicated to the freezing, management and recovery of assets is established; • The partnership between public actors, the private sector and civil society in AML/CFT is strengthened.	• Morocco's accession to the Civil and Criminal Conventions against Corruption; • Degree of compliance of existing legislative and institutional frameworks and practices for combating corruption, money laundering and terrorist financing with European and international standards; • Level of capacity of public institutions specialising in the fight against corruption and money laundering, law enforcement agencies, the public prosecutor's office and the judiciary.
<i>Artificial intelligence</i>	
• Morocco becomes an observer state to the Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAI); • The national legislative framework for artificial intelligence is developed in accordance with the standards of the Framework Convention on AI, with a view to increasing the capacity of Moroccan society to deal with the risks associated with the development of new AI technologies; • The technical skills of professionals and actors from different sectors, including magistrates, judicial attachés and CSPJ officials, are strengthened in the field of AI thanks to Council of Europe tools such as HUDERIA and the HELP and HEY programmes, which would make it possible to anticipate and support technological changes likely to influence the Moroccan judicial ecosystem; • Co-operation between the Moroccan authorities and their counterparts in Europe and the Southern Mediterranean region in the field of AI is strengthened.	• Morocco becomes an observer state at the Artificial Intelligence Committee; • Degree of development of Morocco's legislative framework for AI; • Degree of compliance of Morocco's legislative framework on AI with the standards of the Framework Convention on AI; • Number of professionals using CoE tools; • Degree of dialogue and co-operation between the Moroccan authorities and their counterparts in Europe and the Southern Mediterranean region in the field of AI.

<i>Cybercrime</i>	
• Morocco continues to bring its national legislative framework into line with the Convention on Cybercrime (Budapest Convention); • Moroccan authorities facilitate and strengthen dialogue between the criminal justice system and the cybersecurity sector, including the private sector; • Standard operating procedures for law enforcement agencies and first responders for the collection and analysis of electronic evidence continue to be implemented; • National judicial capacities on cybercrime and electronic evidence are strengthened.	• Degree of compliance of the national legislative framework with the Convention on Cybercrime (Budapest Convention); • Degree of inter-agency co-operation; • Degree of development of operational procedures by national authorities and actors responsible for preventing and combating cybercrime.
<i>Protection of personal data</i>	
• Morocco signs Protocol amending the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data (Convention 108+); • The legislative framework for personal data protection is strengthened in line with European standards; • The technical skills of professionals and stakeholders from various sectors, including civil society and young people, are strengthened in the area of data protection through programmes such as HELP and HEY; • Legal professionals, members of civil society and various stakeholders in the private and public sectors are harmonising their personal data protection practices with European practices; • Co-operation between Moroccan authorities and their counterparts in Europe and the Southern Mediterranean region in the field of data protection is strengthened.	• Signature of Protocol No. 223 (Convention 108+); • Degree of compliance of national legislation on personal data protection with international standards and Convention 108+; • Level of capacity of professionals and actors from different sectors, including civil society and young people, in the field of data protection; • Level of harmonisation of Morocco's practices in the field of personal data protection with European practices; • Degree of co-operation between Moroccan and European authorities and in the southern Mediterranean region in the field of personal data.
<i>Integrity and governance in sport</i>	
• Morocco completes the process of acceding to the Macolin Convention; • Morocco accedes to the Convention on an Integrated Approach to Security, Safety and Services at Football Matches and Other Sporting Events (Saint-Denis Convention). • The technical skills of professionals and actors from different sectors, including civil society and young people, are strengthened through programmes such as HELP and HEY; • Activities carried out as part of the "Donnons de la Voix" project strengthen the protection of children in sport; • Morocco adopts a national framework for integrity in sport, strengthens skills in ethical governance of sport, including in school sport, and enhances the protection of children.	• Ratification of the Macolin Convention by Morocco; • Morocco begins the process of acceding to the Saint-Denis Convention; • Level of updating of policies, legislation and practices relating to integrity and governance in sport; • Level of compliance with Council of Europe standards in terms of integrity in sports governance; • Number of professionals, young people and civil society actors benefiting from programmes such as HELP and HEY.

3.6 Anchoring democratic values in societies	
Expected results	Indicators
<i>Access to information</i>	
Morocco requests to be invited to accedes to the Council of Europe's Tromsø Convention.	Morocco initiates the procedure to accede to the Council of Europe's Tromsø Convention.
<i>Promotion of freedom of expression and media pluralism</i>	
- The regulatory framework and institutional action on freedom of expression and media pluralism are more in line with international standards and those of the Council of Europe. - Media literacy is addressed as a priority in national curricula and quality journalism is supported by institutional initiatives; - Civil society contributes to the creation of an environment conducive to freedom of expression that respects the ethical standards of journalists and media professionals; - The media are more aware of equality issues and contribute to promoting a positive and non-stereotypical image of women and men.	- Degree of compliance of the regulatory framework and institutional action on freedom of expression and media pluralism with European and international standards. - Degree of integration of media literacy into national education programmes. - Number of actions implemented by civil society to help create an environment conducive to freedom of expression that respects applicable ethical standards. - Quality of training provided and application of the code of ethics for journalists in line with European standards, including awareness of equality between women and men issues and the fight against stereotypes.
<i>Democratic governance - Civil society - Youth</i>	
- Raising awareness of European and international standards on human rights and the rule of law among young people through the implementation of the HEY Programme, the Youth Rule of Law Network (RoLYN) cycles and the Mediterranean Universities on Youth and Global Citizenship (MedUni); - Training a pool of young HEY tutors who will be able to disseminate their knowledge to their peers, using the HEY training methodology.	- Extent to which the capacities of local leaders, citizens and members of civil society are strengthened; - Number of civil society actors and young people using the tools developed by the Council of Europe; - Number of participants from Moroccan civil society and youth in North-South Centre initiatives; - Number and level of capacity of young HEY tutors to use relevant European and international standards to guarantee and promote human rights in their daily work and to disseminate them to their peers; - Number of young Moroccans trained on international standards in human rights and the rule of law by HEY tutors; - Number of HEY courses adapted and implemented in Morocco.

<i>Culture and cultural heritage</i>	
The main Moroccan partners are made aware of the Council of Europe Convention on Offences relating to Cultural Property (Nicosia Convention) with a view to Morocco's possible participation in the Convention.	Level of knowledge of the provisions of the Council of Europe Convention on Offences relating to Cultural Property (Nicosia Convention) among relevant stakeholders
3.7 Parliamentary Assembly	
- The Moroccan Parliament continues to fulfill its role as a body responsible for monitoring government action, in particular for monitoring and evaluating public policies; - Parliament is more open to citizens, particularly young people, women and civil society in Morocco, and effectively supports and encourages their participation in the legislative process; - Parliamentary diplomacy and political dialogue between the Moroccan Parliament and the parliaments of neighbouring countries and member countries of the Council of Europe continue to develop.	- Many of the laws and policies approved by the government are evaluated by Parliament; - Level of awareness among women and young people of electoral issues and citizen participation in the democratic process; - Degree of citizen participation in consultations with Parliament; - Extent to which contributions from citizens and civil society are reflected in documents and draft laws prepared by Parliament; - Regularity and scope of exchanges between members and officials of the Moroccan Parliament with their counterparts in the region and in Europe.
3.8 Congress of Local and National Authorities	
- Institutional and operational instruments aimed at ensuring interaction, convergence and continuity of dialogue between the three levels of decentralisation and between the State and the regions are put in place to reduce territorial disparities; - The capacities of national associations of local authorities for citizen participation at all levels of territorial governance (local, provincial and regional) are improved; - The advocacy capacities of national associations of local authorities are strengthened in a context of structured and effective dialogue with central government departments; - Equality between women and men and citizen participation are strengthened through the implementation of participatory mechanisms within local and regional authorities, with the integration of an approach sensitive to equality between women and men into the budgeting system.	- The extent to which the legal framework and practices at local and regional level reflect European good practices in local governance and integrate an approach sensitive to equality between women and men; - Regularity and scope of consultations and co-operation between local, regional and national authorities; - Level of knowledge among elected representatives and administrative staff of the principles of good governance and ethics at local level; - Degree of participation of citizens, particularly women, in local decision-making.

ANNEX II: STATUS OF MOROCCO'S ACCESSION TO RELEVANT COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONVENTIONS AND PARTIAL AGREEMENTS

1. Participation in conventions

Accession		
ETS 062	European Convention on Information on Foreign Law	19/06/2013
ETS 097	Additional Protocol to the European Convention on Information on Foreign Law	19/06/2013
ETS 066	European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage	19/06/2013
ETS 104	Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention)	25/04/2001
ETS 120	European Convention on Spectator Violence and Misbehaviour at Sports Events and in particular at Football Matches	17/01/2013
ETS 135	Anti-Doping Convention	16/06/2013
ETS 185	Convention on Cybercrime (Budapest Convention)	29/06/2018
ETS 189	Additional Protocol to the Convention on Cybercrime, concerning the criminalisation of acts of a racist and xenophobic nature committed through computer systems	29/06/2018
ETS 127	Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters, as amended by the 2010 Protocol (CETS No. 208)	22/05/2019
ETS 108	Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data	28/05/2019
ETS 181	Additional Protocol to the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data, regarding supervisory authorities and transborder data flows	28/05/2019
ETS 198	Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime and on the Financing of Terrorism	19/04/2022
ETS 211	Convention on the Counterfeiting of Medical Products and Similar Crimes Involving Threats to Public Health (MEDICRIME Convention)	19/04/2022
Signature not yet followed by ratification		
ETS 215	Council of Europe Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions	20/09/2021

ETS 224	Second Additional Protocol to the Convention on Cybercrime, concerning the strengthening of co-operation and the disclosure of electronic evidence	12/05/2022
Invitations to accede		
ETS 027	European Agreement on the Exchange of Programmes by Means of Television Films	428 th CM meeting September 1989
ETS 029	European Convention on Compulsory Insurance against Civil Liability in respect of the Use of Motor Vehicles	1188 th CM meeting - 15/01/2014
ETS 034	European Agreement on the Protection of Television Broadcasts + Protocols STE 054, 081, 113	422 nd CM meeting – November-December 1988
ETS 053	European Agreement on the Prevention of Emissions Transmitted by Stations Located Outside National Territories	422 nd CM meeting – November–December 1988
ETS 160	European Convention on the Exercise of Children's Rights	1156 th CM meeting - 28/11/2012
ETS 173	Criminal Law Convention on Corruption	1415 th CM meeting - 20/10/2021
ETS 174	Civil Law Convention on Corruption	1415 th meeting of the CM - 20/10/2021
ETS 192	Convention on Personal Relations Concerning Children	1156 th CM meeting - 28/11/2012
CETS 201	Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Lanzarote Convention)	1156 th CM meeting - 28/11/2012
Right of signature		
CETS 218	Council of Europe Convention on an Integrated Approach to Safety, Security and Services at Football Matches and Other Sporting Events	State party to the convention SCEQE 120 before 3 July 2016
CETS 223	Protocol amending the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data (CETS No. 223)	10/10/2018

Right of accession		
ETS 188	Additional Protocol to the Anti-Doping Convention	State party to the Convention ETS 135

2. Participation in partial agreements

Title	Status
European Pharmacopoeia	Observer 06/06/1997

3. Participation in extended partial agreements

Title	Status
European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity (North-South Centre)	Member 01/07/2009
Council of Europe International Co-operation Group on Drugs and Addictions (Pompidou Group)	Member 01/07/2011
European Audiovisual Observatory	Member 13/05/2014
Co-operation Group for Prevention, Protection and Organisation of Relief against Major Natural and Technological Risks (EUR-OPA)	Member 01/03/1995
Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (APES)	Member 24/04/2010
Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card	Invited to join

4. Participation in expanded agreements

Title	Status
European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission)	Member 01/06/2007

5. Participation in committees established by a resolution of the Committee of Ministers

Title	Status
European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ)	Observer 29/05/2013



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The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 46 member states, including all 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.