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CHAMBRE DES CONSEILLERS



مجلس المستشارين

Executive Summary

Review of the 2023-2024 Legislative Year



His Majesty King Mohammed VI, May God Assist and Glorify Him

General Introduction

The 2023-2024 legislative year is marked by a pronounced social focus, in alignment with the visionary directives of the Royal Speech delivered at its commencement. **His Majesty, May God Assist Him**, highlighted the significance of prioritizing social projects, emphasizing the preservation of Moroccan values' depth and authenticity, especially during times of crisis.

In this context, we reiterate our pride and dedication to adhering to the Royal Directives, which underscore the importance of continuing support for the populations affected by the Al Haouz earthquake and striving towards their reconstruction. Special attention has been granted to revising the Family Code, deemed a cornerstone of Moroccan society. Additionally, the initiation of direct social assistance for families and vulnerable groups has begun, in accordance with the Royal Speech delivered on Throne Day. This speech also underscored the importance of ensuring water security, managing this crucial resource judiciously, and taking necessary actions to support the water sector.

As a parliamentary institution, we are entrusted by the Royal Speech with a paramount responsibility: to support this extensive social project with the highest diligence and vigilance. We are tasked with adopting all essential legislative measures and undertaking oversight and evaluation initiatives to aid the Government in fortifying the foundations of the social state, which we all aspire to build under **His Majesty's** Enlightened Guidance.

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A significant highlight of this legislative year was the Royal Message delivered during the national conference commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Moroccan Parliament's establishment, held on January 17, 2024, **under the High Patronage of His Majesty, may God Protect and Assist Him.**

This Royal Message, of profound importance, illuminated the key stages and characteristics of the Moroccan parliamentary journey, emphasizing Parliament's active contribution to Morocco's reform and development process since its independence to the present day. The message also highlighted the challenges that need to be addressed, necessitating greater efforts *“to achieve the institutional, representative democracy which we want for our country, and which would be a credit to it.”*

His Majesty also added *“Among the most significant challenges which have to be addressed to take parliamentary work to a new level, one can mention the need to prioritize the higher interests of the nation and of the citizens over narrow partisan considerations. Ethical standards in parliamentary life also need to be improved through the adoption of a binding code of ethics in both Houses. We also need to achieve harmony between representative democracy and participatory democracy, enhance the profile of parliamentary elites and of elected officials, and ensure greater access of women and young people to representative bodies.”*

In response to Royal Directives, the House of Councillors swiftly implemented the necessary measures to achieve the noble objectives outlined by **His Majesty**. Among these initiatives, the adoption of a code of ethics within the legislative institution proved essential.

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A consensus was reached among all members of the House on the fundamental principles and measures to fulfill the Royal Directives. The deliberations culminated in the adoption of an advanced and clearly defined document. This document, composed of 35 articles, was signed by the presidents of the groups, the coordinators of the parliamentary groups, and non-affiliated members. It signifies a clear and firm commitment from all components of the House to positively engage in this crucial parliamentary project, thereby enabling the institution to fully play its role in the moralization of political and parliamentary life, in accordance with the best international practices.

A brief summary of the legislative year highlights that it unfolded amidst constant pressures due to challenging international and national circumstances. These included worsening drought and water stress, fluctuations in commodity prices, and the repercussions of international instability, which heavily impacted our projects and economic and social plans. Despite these challenges, our country continues to advance along the ambitious development path set by **His Majesty the King, May God Assist and Glorify Him**. This path aims to strengthen the foundations of the social state, improve the resilience of the national economy, and enhance the attractiveness of investments, especially in promising sectors such as renewable energies, the green economy, new technologies, and the pharmaceutical industry.

Moreover, Moroccan diplomacy, renowned for its competence, wisdom, and long-term vision, continues to yield positive results by strengthening Morocco's position as a strong and reliable political and economic partner. It also generates growing support and favorable positions towards the Kingdom's territorial integrity, with increased

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recognition of the relevance of the autonomy proposal as the sole basis for a sustainable solution to the conflict over the Moroccanity of the southern provinces of the Kingdom.

This year, characterized by a continuous national dynamic, was marked by constructive public debate on social, economic, and political issues, addressing current demands and future challenges. The House played a crucial role in facilitating this dialogue through various parliamentary forums and meetings (social justice, regionalization, professional chambers...), particularly around the central project of revising the Family Code. This reform project was the subject of broad and fruitful consultations between the different stakeholders, in accordance with the royal directives calling for a participatory approach.

In this perspective, the House of Councillors, comprising all its political, trade union, economic, professional, and territorial components, has prepared to implement necessary measures and initiate appropriate actions to enhance its legislative, oversight, and evaluation capacities. The House aims to contribute concretely and productively to the national effort to modernize and adapt the social, economic, and political structures of the State, thus enabling the country to achieve its ambitious objectives, consolidate its gains, and prepare for future challenges.

The qualitative reforms, ambitious strategies, and structuring projects undertaken during the 25 years of **His Majesty King Mohammed VI's** reign have undeniably transformed Morocco into an emerging economy with modern foundations and remarkable dynamism. This transformation has positioned the Kingdom as a pole of excellence and a unique model in its regional and international context, owing to its strategic location, political stability, social peace, natural resources, economic potential, and developed infrastructure.

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However, it is our duty to objectively and responsibly acknowledge the magnitude and seriousness of the challenges that continue to confront our country. Among these challenges are climate change, global political fluctuations, and the international commitments that the Kingdom of Morocco has consciously undertaken. We are also fully aware that the solid foundations established over the past twenty-five years open promising prospects for Morocco's future. This imposes significant responsibilities on each of us—leaders and citizens alike—and obliges us to remain faithful to the path charted by **His Majesty** to continue achieving our strategic objectives and meeting the expectations of present generations while preserving the rights of future generations.

In this context, we are convinced that the Government and Parliament will face a busy agenda of crucial deadlines in the short and medium term. These challenges require enhanced convergence and coordination of efforts while respecting the principle of separation of powers. Key issues include continental and international sporting events, energy concerns, the management of drought and water scarcity, and the continued implementation and sustainable funding of programs related to the royal social protection project. This also encompasses the reconstruction of areas affected by the Al Haouz earthquake, legislative reforms, particularly in criminal law, the modernization of public finances, and the strengthening of health security. The latter includes the creation of territorial health groups, the improvement of mediation missions by social, economic, and professional actors, ensuring the fluidity and regularity of social dialogue, and exploring ways to strengthen its institutionalization.

I. Legislation, Oversight, and Evaluation of Public Policies

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One of the key characteristics of this legislative year lies in the constructive working methodology adopted by the House of Councillors. Guided by constitutional principles, this approach places the nation and the general interest at the core of its actions. It promotes consensus and unanimity while respecting a space for constructive divergence and productive pluralism, thus reflecting the diverse positions and specific choices of the House's components.

It is important to emphasize that the legislative dynamic of this year was largely shaped by Royal Guidelines, notably those outlined by **His Majesty** during the opening of the first session of the 2023-2024 legislative year. This includes the development of the legal framework to address the consequences of the Al Haouz earthquake, the enhancement of the social protection system, and the implementation of the direct social support project. These initiatives are part of the continuation of major reforms, such as the revision of the Family Code, in line with the Royal Vision.

October 2023 session

1. Legislative Work

The legislative work of the House of Councillors during the October 2023 session was marked by the constant commitment of the permanent committees in studying the submitted bills, fostering an atmosphere of cooperation and constructive dialogue with the government. This collaborative environment enabled the unanimous approval of the vast majority of adopted bills, covering crucial areas.

In this context, the House of Councillors approved twenty-three (23) legislative bills. Among them, the finance bill for the year 2024 stands out. Other significant bills include two addressing national efforts to mitigate

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the consequences of the Al Haouz earthquake. These bills establish the legal framework for the care of child victims of the earthquake, granting them the status of “Wards of the Nation,” and the creation of the Grand Atlas Development Agency.

Additionally, the House adopted two bills related to the development of the health system and two concerning the implementation of the social support project: one on the direct social support system and the other on the creation of the National Social Support Agency. Four more bills addressed social protection, two covered the education sector, and seven involved the ratification of international agreements in various fields, affecting African, Islamic, and bilateral cooperation with several friendly and brotherly countries. Notably, seven of the bills approved during this session were prioritized and submitted to the Bureau of the House by the Head of Government, in accordance with the provisions of Article 78 of the Constitution.

The bills adopted during this session benefited from the active engagement of House members, who proposed a total of 454 amendments. These proposals underwent thorough discussions, resulting in the adoption of 91 amendments, including 73 related to the finance bill. Demonstrating a spirit of consensus, 303 amendments were withdrawn, while 60 were rejected by vote.

2. Oversight and Evaluation of Public Policies

During the first period, the House of Councillors held 33 plenary sessions, amounting to approximately 64 hours of deliberations. These sessions prominently featured the presentation of the 2024 Finance Bill and included four joint sessions with the House of Representatives. One

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notable session focused on a statement by the Head of Government on “Direct Social Support,” while another presented the report by the President of the Court of Audit on the activities of financial jurisdictions for the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

The session also included a monthly session during which the Head of Government addressed questions on general policy, specifically evaluating the program geared towards reducing territorial and social disparities and its impact on the development of rural and mountainous areas. Besides, 10 legislative sessions were organized.

In terms of Government Oversight, the House of Councillors questioned 22 ministerial departments on urgent and current issues during 16 weekly sessions. These questions addressed public concerns, focusing on crucial aspects of the country’s social and economic life. The year was marked by climatic challenges due to insufficient rainfall and a tense social situation, particularly in the national education sector, where protests demanded reform of the civil servants’ status. The House closely monitored these issues, seeking solutions that balance the interests of students and educational staff while striving to improve public schools.

The House also monitored the implementation of Government projects in areas affected by the Al Haouz earthquake, particularly in the sectors of agriculture, road infrastructure, and urban planning.

During the October 2023 session, an entire oral question session was dedicated to the critical water situation in Morocco, in coordination with the Ministry in charge of water. This initiative, in response to recurring droughts, aimed to mobilize collective efforts to raise awareness and take effective measures in accordance with Royal Guidelines.

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Topics discussed during the question sessions included developments for the 2023-2024 university year, preparations for the agricultural season, development of earthquake-affected areas, reduction of territorial and social disparities, advanced regionalization, digitization of local public services, and challenges related to the financing of social protection by 2026.

The Presidency of the House of Councillors received responses from various ministers, including those of Industry and Trade, Economic Inclusion, Employment and Skills, the ministry in charge of the Budget, and the Ministry of Higher Education. These responses addressed commitments made during the oral question sessions in April 2023.

In accordance with Article 168 of the House's Rules of Procedure, the presidency received 35 requests for urgent speaking time from various parliamentary groups and unaffiliated members. The Government responded favorably to 8 of these requests, despite the recurrence of some topics.

With regard to ministerial commitments made during the oral question sessions, several were highlighted during the October 2023 session. These commitments primarily affected the sectors of equipment and water, economic integration, small businesses, employment and skills, youth, culture and communication, health and social protection, transport and logistics, investment and convergence, public policy evaluation, higher education, and the delegated ministry in charge of the budget. Notable commitments included developing a national mental health strategy for 2024-2030, constructing new air stations and improving service quality and capacity at several airports, launching an aid program for 100,000

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entrepreneurs and self-employed individuals, implementing the youth passport nationwide, adopting a new status for teacher-researchers, and developing a roadmap to enhance communication and coordination with Moroccans living abroad to support their investment projects.

In total, 1,310 oral questions were submitted between sessions and during the October 2023 session. The Government responded to 369 of these questions during 16 plenary sessions, addressing 118 urgent questions and 251 ordinary questions. Sector-wise, the questions were predominantly focused on the economic sector (34%), followed by internal affairs and infrastructure (24%), the social sector (22%), Human Rights, administration, and religious affairs (17%), and foreign affairs (3%).

Regarding written questions, 899 were received, with the Government responding to 389 of them. It should be noted that a significant number of questions posed during this session have not yet reached the response deadline, as per the legal timeframes (365 questions).

The permanent committees of the House also played a significant oversight role. Despite the demanding task of examining the finance bill, which required approximately 200 hours over 68 meetings, the Committee on Education, Cultural, and Social Affairs held meetings to address crucial issues related to protests in the education sector and the “conditions and consequences of the new status of education civil servants,” as well as the “novelties of the new school year.”

Additionally, recognizing the importance of the legal framework of the organic law related to the finance law as a reference for establishing budget preparation and approval rules, the Finance Committee of the House, in

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collaboration with its counterpart from the House of Representatives and the Ministry of Economy and Finance, organized a study meeting on the requirements of reforming this law. This meeting aimed to expand the scope of application of the organic law and clarify several procedural provisions related to the study and voting of the finance bill.

Furthermore, the Productive Sectors Committee participated in a field visit organized by the relevant ministry, intended to inform parliamentarians about the development of marine aquaculture in the Oriental region and the efforts required to preserve the biodiversity of this ecosystem.

In terms of evaluating public policies, the House of Councillors set up two ad hoc working groups at the beginning of the legislative year. One of these groups was tasked with preparing the annual session for discussing and evaluating public policies. To determine the areas to be examined, the Bureau of the House of Councillors pursued a broad participatory approach involving the various components of the House to select a public policy for evaluation during the year. In total, 67 subjects were proposed for examination.

Ultimately, it was decided that this year's annual public policy evaluation session would focus on the theme of "public policy in the field of tourism." This sector was chosen due to its vital importance, as it is not only a cornerstone of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) but also a strategic driver for economic development, territorial justice, and job creation in Morocco. Consequently, tourism policies are central to the economic, territorial, and social concerns of the House of Councillors.

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On the other hand, another ad hoc working group was assigned the task of preparing a report on the Kingdom's language policy. This topic holds significant interest among the Councillors due to its critical importance. The report examines language policy as a means of preserving and promoting national identity, enhancing communication, and integrating into the knowledge society, in accordance with Article 5 of the Constitution. It also underscores the role of language learning in the development of the national education system, aligning with the objectives of the new development model.

In terms of **relations with constitutional institutions**, the House continued to strengthen its cooperation with other national institutions. One notable event during this session was the receipt, in accordance with Article 110 of Organic Law No. 100.13 concerning the Superior Council of the Judiciary, of the report from the Presidency of the Public Ministry on the implementation of criminal policy for the year 2022.

Besides, the House received the annual report of the Court of Audit on its activities for the 2022-2023 fiscal year, as mandated by Article 148 of the Constitution. This report was presented by the President of the Court of Audit before both houses of Parliament during a joint plenary session on Tuesday, January 30, 2024, and discussed in the presence of the government during the plenary session on Monday, February 5, 2024.

Adhering to the tradition of complementarity and coordination, the Bureau of the House adopted a participatory approach to identify priority areas for discussion regarding the Court of Audit's report. This approach emphasized examining territorial issues and the social and economic measures implemented by the Government and public institutions monitored by the Court of Audit.

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Similarly, the House of Councillors received annual and thematic reports from several constitutional councils, which were distributed to its members. The Bureau of the House coordinated with the House of Representatives to establish a unified procedure for responding to these reports, in accordance with Article 160 of the Constitution and the Constitutional Court's decisions on this matter.

The Economic, Social, and Environmental Council (CESE) continued to inform the House of its ordinary and extraordinary session agendas. The Bureau of the House maintained cooperation with CESE through joint activities and by delegating members of the House to participate as observers in CESE's work.

Recognizing the importance of continuous mobilization, even during **inter-sessional period**, the House of Councillors maintained its activities without interruption. On the legislative front, the Justice, Legislation, and Human Rights Committee continued to review Bill No. 10.23 concerning the organization and management of penitentiary establishments.

In terms of **ad hoc groups and public policy evaluation**, the group in charge of preparing the annual session dedicated to discussing and evaluating public policies in the tourism sector persisted in its efforts. In this context, it consulted with the Minister of Tourism, Handicrafts, Social and Solidarity Economy, as well as the Minister of Culture, Youth, and Communication, to gain a comprehensive understanding of their respective ministry strategies regarding tourism.

The group also conducted two field visits: the first to the Tangier-Tetouan-Al Hoceima region on February 12 and 13, 2024, and the second to the Drâa-Tafilalet region on February 26 and 27, 2024. These visits

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facilitated meetings and consultations with industry professionals and representatives of local authorities.

Additionally, the thematic group tasked with preparing a report on multilingualism in Morocco initiated a series of preliminary meetings to outline its program and work plan. These meetings included sessions at the headquarters of the Higher Council for Education, Training, and Scientific Research, and the Royal Institute of Amazigh Culture.

Regarding the **oversight of Government action**, the inter-session period provided a valuable opportunity to address local issues and concerns through written questions. During this period, 209 written questions were submitted, covering various aspects of economic, social, cultural, and health matters across several provinces and prefectures of the Kingdom, complementing the oral questions that focus on national issues.

In this same period, the government responded to 352 written questions, many of which had been submitted during previous sessions. Additionally, 273 oral questions were submitted.

April 2024 session

1- Legislative Level

In its **legislative function**, the House adopted Organic Bill No. 30.24, which amends and supplements the organic law related to appointments to high office. For that matter, it approved two essential bills aimed at rationalizing penal policy in our country. The first bill addresses alternative sentences, providing a solution to the negative effects of short-term custodial sentences on offenders, society, and penal institutions. This

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bill allows these sentences to be replaced by alternative and appropriate measures, facilitating the social integration of convicts. The second bill focuses on the organization and management of penal institutions, aiming to reinforce human rights values within these institutions, humanize them, and develop their operational modes in alignment with relevant international standards. This new approach emphasizes the rehabilitation and reintegration of inmates.

Continuing the implementation of the Royal Project for the generalization of social protection and overcoming certain difficulties related to universal medical coverage for different categories, the House adopted Bill No. 21.24. This bill institutes specific provisions for the basic mandatory health insurance regime for individuals capable of paying contributions but not engaged in any remunerated or non-remunerated activity. The House also approved Bill No. 02.24, which concerns the revision of the Dahir constituting law related to the social security regime.

To finalize the comprehensive and practical reform of the national health system, the House approved Bill No. 32.24, which provides for the dissolution and liquidation of the National League Against Cardiovascular Diseases. Additionally, it approved two bills aimed at closing the accounts for the 2022 financial year and improving the business and investment climate, particularly in the context of industrial acceleration, through Bill No. 56.23. This latter bill aims to align the provisions of the legal framework with those of Framework Law No. 03.22, serving as an Investment Charter.

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A notable highlight of this session was the increased rate of adoption of parliamentary legislative initiatives. The House approved eight proposed laws, an unprecedented number, marking the first time that the number of adopted bills and proposed laws was equal during the same parliamentary session. These proposals concerned essential areas related to citizens' rights, particularly in their relationship with land management, through the amendment of the Real Rights Code, the Obligations and Contracts Code, and the law on co-ownership. They also addressed civil servants, with significant amendments to the general status of the civil service, aimed at strengthening the basic guarantees granted to them, particularly those suffering from difficult health conditions. Additionally, these proposals included a supplement to the Companies Law and an amendment to the Insurance Code.

Alongside with this, the House rejected a proposed law from the House of Representatives aimed at amending Articles 2 and 4 of Law No. 41.10, related to the conditions and procedures for accessing the Family Solidarity Fund. This proposal lost its relevance following the repeal of the fund by the new law on direct social support.

It is essential to underscore the importance of legislative initiatives put forward by the members of the House, which play a crucial role in enhancing and expanding the national legal framework. During this session, the House Bureau received 11 proposed laws, covering a diverse range of topics. These include the establishment of specialized agencies and funds to focus on specific sectors, amendments and additions to the Small and Medium Enterprises Charter, and initiatives aimed at improving the civil service's overall status, the legal framework for high-level appointments, and efforts to combat food waste.

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Equally important is the value of the interactions between House members and the proposed bills, particularly in the context of the right to amend. For instance, Bill No. 43.22 on alternative sentences saw 148 proposed amendments, while Bill No. 10.23, concerning the organization and management of penal institutions, received 174 amendments. Additionally, 123 amendments were proposed for the bill amending the Dahir related to social security. These contributions have led to significant revisions of the respective bills.

This dynamic engagement has notably increased the efficiency of the standing committees' work, not only in preparing for plenary sessions but also in fulfilling their oversight and consultative roles. For example, the Interior Committee questioned the Minister of Transport and Logistics regarding the Marhaba 2024 operation. Meanwhile, the Justice, Legislation, and Human Rights Committee initiated consultations to review Morocco's initial report on implementing the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the fifth periodic report on the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

The Education, Social, and Cultural Affairs Committee held a listening session with the Minister of Higher Education, Scientific Research, and Innovation, focusing on progress in medical and pharmacy faculties. Additionally, the Finance, Planning, and Economic Development Committee organized a joint meeting with its counterpart from the House of Representatives to review the Government's latest proposals concerning the reform of the organic law related to finance laws before its legislative process.

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In terms of executing the current year's budget and preparing the finance bill for 2025, the Finance Committee was pre-informed by the government about the opening of additional credits by decree during a special meeting on June 4, 2024. A joint meeting on July 25, 2024, further outlined the general framework for preparing the finance bill for the coming year.

2. Oversight and Evaluation of Public Policies

In the second period, the House convened 25 plenary sessions, highlighted by two major events: the presentation and discussion of the Head of Government's mid-term review of governmental action for 2021-2024, and the examination of the temporary thematic committee's report on linguistic policy in Morocco. An annual session was also dedicated to evaluating public policies in the tourism sector.

The April 2024 session was marked by five sessions focused on studying and voting on finalized bills and proposals, alongside 13 weekly oral question sessions. These sessions saw questions directed at 21 Government sectors on issues pertinent to the daily lives of Moroccan citizens. These matters, which garnered significant public attention, directly addressed the concerns of various social groups, particularly in education, training, higher education, health, and agriculture. Discussions also centered on government intervention mechanisms to support priority sectors, with a particular emphasis on accelerating seawater desalination projects to mitigate the severe shortage of this vital resource, worsened by ongoing droughts in the country.

The questions raised by the Councillors also focused closely on infrastructure development projects, including roads, airports, and ports,

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in anticipation of the country's hosting of several international sporting and cultural events.

In accordance with Article 168 of the Rules of Procedure of the House of Councillors, the Presidency of the House received 32 requests for urgent interventions following oral question sessions, from various groups and unaffiliated Councillors. Of these, five were accepted by the government. Additionally, a monthly session was dedicated to responses from the Head of Government on issues related to general policy, under the theme: "Social dialogue as a lever to improve workers' conditions and strengthen the performance of the national economy."

Several commitments made by ministers during oral question sessions were recorded in the sectors of national education, agriculture and maritime fisheries, digital transition and administrative reform, interior affairs, health, and social protection. Notably, the House received responses to commitments made by the ministers of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccans Living Abroad, Justice, Equipment and Water, Energy Transition and Sustainable Development, Transport and Logistics, as well as Agriculture, Maritime Fisheries, Rural Development, and Water and Forests, during the oral question sessions of the October 2023 session.

In total, between the two sessions and during the April 2024 session, 805 oral questions were submitted, with the government responding to 300 questions in 13 plenary sessions, including 102 urgent questions and 198 regular questions. During the same period, 1,191 written questions were posed, and the Government provided 689 responses. It is worth noting that a significant number of questions asked during this session had not yet reached the legal deadline for responses (492 questions).

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Given the importance of the reports and advisory opinions issued by constitutional institutions, their regular dissemination was maintained, enabling members of the House to utilize them in their legislative, oversight, and evaluation functions. In this context, the opinion of the Economic, Social, and Environmental Council was sought on critical topics such as “The Challenges Facing Very Small, Small, and Medium-Sized Enterprises” and “The Role of Scientific Research in Innovation and Enhancing the Competitiveness of the National Economy.”

Regarding interactions with constitutional institutions, the House not only reviewed the annual report of the Court of Auditors during the previous session but also continued to cooperate and coordinate on the status of asset declarations for both new members and those who had left the House. The House also received reports on the execution of the finance law for the year 2022, the general declaration of conformity, and a note on the certification of state accounts. These documents were crucial for enriching the discussion around the draft liquidation bill.

Furthermore, the House received and reviewed the annual reports of the Competition Council and the National Human Rights Council for 2022, as well as the annual report of the National Agency for the Fight against Illiteracy for 2022-2023, in accordance with the provisions of Law No. 38.09.

II. Parliamentary Diplomacy

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This legislative year was distinguished by the active engagement of all members of the House, who played a pivotal role in enhancing parliamentary cooperation at both bilateral and multilateral levels, spanning various geopolitical spheres. This approach is in harmony with Morocco's national diplomacy, celebrated for its competence, wisdom, and foresight, which continues to solidify the Kingdom's standing as a reliable and influential political and economic partner on the global stage. This dynamic has led to growing support and favorable positions regarding Morocco's territorial integrity, particularly through the recognition of the autonomy proposal as the only viable solution to the artificial conflict surrounding the Moroccan identity of the southern provinces. Moreover, this diplomacy addresses other strategic and vital issues for the Kingdom of Morocco. Below are key highlights of these efforts:

1. Within regional, continental, and international parliamentary organizations:

The Speaker of the House of Councillors, Mr. Enaam Mayara, led a delegation from both Houses of the Moroccan Parliament at the parliamentary meeting organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union on December 6, 2023, during the 28th session of the "Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change" (COP28), held in the United Arab Emirates from November 30 to December 12, 2023.

During this occasion, Mr. Mayara delivered a speech underscoring Morocco's steadfast commitment to local, regional, and international efforts to combat climate change, guided by the Proactive Vision of **His Majesty King Mohammed VI, may God Protect and Assist Him**. He highlighted the Kingdom's significant strides in transitioning to

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renewable energies and diversifying clean energy sources, driven by a series of initiatives launched by **His Majesty**, including the development of solar, wind, hydraulic, and hydroelectric plants, as well as efforts to protect forests and biodiversity.

Mr. Mayara stressed that, under the Leadership of **His Majesty the King, may God Assist Him**, Morocco has doubled its ambitions in climate change adaptation and mitigation, committing to an increased national contribution towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions, expanding clean energy production, and fulfilling these commitments across various critical sectors.

As Speaker of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean, Mr. Enaam Mayara also participated in the high-level session of this meeting on December 10, 2023. In his address, he expressed deep concern over the escalating climate emergency and its unprecedented impact on the Euro-Mediterranean and Gulf regions. He called for intensified efforts and increased climate financing, welcoming the establishment of the “Loss and Damage” Fund, while emphasizing that much work remains, particularly in the area of energy transition.

The Speaker of the House of Councillors also commended the declaration to double global nuclear capacity by 2050, noting that this initiative was positively received by many member states of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean, who view nuclear energy as a sustainable pathway to achieving the goal of zero emissions.

This participation also offered the Speaker of the House of Councillors the opportunity to engage in discussions and coordination meetings with several presidents of assemblies and participating delegations. Among

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them were Mr. Saqr Ghobash, President of the Federal National Council of the United Arab Emirates; Mr. Ahmed Bin Salman Al Musalam, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Kingdom of Bahrain; Mr. Ali bin Saleh Saleh, President of the Shura Council of the Kingdom of Bahrain; and Mr. Gayo Achibéri, Acting Speaker of the Pan-African Parliament. These meetings facilitated:

- Emphasizing the critical role of parliamentary diplomacy in strengthening bilateral cooperation, and its potential to harness the numerous opportunities and resources available in their respective countries to diversify economic relations, enhance trade exchanges, and elevate these partnerships to higher levels across various sectors.

- Showcasing the unique composition and functions of the House of Councillors, as well as its prominent position within several international and continental parliamentary groups and unions.

- Highlighting the significant African initiatives led by **His Majesty King Mohammed VI, may God Protect and Assist Him**, aimed at ensuring a dignified life for all Africans. These initiatives focus on key areas such as food security, health sovereignty, energy security, the development of continental industrial platforms, the sharing of best practices with African brother countries, as well as training and capacity-building programs.

- In addition, the permanent delegations and representatives of the House of Councillors actively participated in a series of international meetings during this session, including:

- The 21st Autumn Meeting of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE),

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held in Yerevan, Armenia, from November 18 to 20, 2023.

- The General Assembly of the Andean Parliament (Parladeino), held in Ecuador from November 20 to 24, 2023.

- The 80th Executive Committee session and the 45th Conference of the African Parliamentary Union, held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, from December 11 to 15, 2023.

- The first ordinary session of the year 2024 of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, held at the European Parliament in Strasbourg from January 22 to 26, 2024.

- The committee meetings and the second session of the fourth year of the third legislature of the Arab Parliament, held in Cairo, Egypt, on January 20 and 21, 2024.

- The meeting of the Bureau of the Parliamentary Assembly of La Francophonie, hosted by the Wallonia-Brussels Parliament, on January 26 and 27, 2024, in Brussels, Belgium.

2. At the Bilateral Level

During this period, Mr. Enaam Mayara, Speaker of the House of Councillors, engaged in several bilateral meetings with government and diplomatic figures, as well as presidents of national parliaments and leaders of regional, continental, and international parliamentary unions. On January 30, 2024, he welcomed Mr. Ahmed Ould Bahya, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania to Rabat. This meeting provided an opportunity to underscore the strength and depth of the human, spiritual, and fraternal ties between the two neighboring countries. The discussions also explored various aspects of bilateral relations and strategies for

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further enhancing them across multiple domains.

Mr. Enaam Mayara emphasized that relations between Morocco and Mauritania have gained significant momentum in recent years, owing to the Wise and Enlightened Vision of **His Majesty King Mohammed VI, may God Protect and Assist Him**, and **His Excellency President Mohamed Ould Cheikh El Ghazouani**. He stressed the importance of building on this positive dynamic to intensify cooperation in strategic sectors that present genuine opportunities for strengthening the partnership between the two nations.

The Mauritanian Ambassador expressed his pride in the fraternal and solidarity-based relations between the two countries and his admiration for the Kingdom's development across various sectors. He also conveyed his country's commitment to further developing and diversifying bilateral cooperation, particularly in economic and commercial areas, and highlighted the need to inject new vigor into parliamentary cooperation by enhancing mechanisms for dialogue and consultation.

On January 29, 2024, the Speaker of the House of Councillors received Mr. Damilola Olawuyi, Chairman of the United Nations Working Group on Business and Human Rights. During this meeting, Mr. Enaam Mayara showcased Morocco's progress in the field of human rights over the past two decades, noting that this commitment is a deliberate choice supported by the active participation of all segments of society. This advancement has enabled Morocco to chair the United Nations Human Rights Council, a testament to the nation's efforts and policies to strengthen the rule of law under the Leadership of **His Majesty King Mohammed VI, may**

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God Protect and Assist Him.

Mr. Damilola Olawuyi, in turn, commended Morocco's openness and its ongoing engagement with the UN human rights system. He stated that his visit was primarily aimed at promoting the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

On January 24, 2024, the Speaker of the House of Councillors also met with Mr. Yacouba Katilé, President of the Economic and Social Council of the Republic of Mali. During this meeting, Mr. Enaam Mayara highlighted the institutional significance of economic and social councils and discussed the various forms of close cooperation between the House of Councillors and the Economic, Social, and Environmental Council of the Kingdom of Morocco.

This meeting also provided an opportunity to commend the strong fraternal relations between the two friendly nations, rooted in a shared historical and civilizational heritage and a mutual commitment to advancing these ties across all fields in service of both peoples.

On January 23, 2024, Mr. Enaam Mayara had the honor of receiving Mr. Alexander Kido López Barola, Plenipotentiary Extraordinary Ambassador of the Federative Republic of Brazil to Morocco. During their discussion, Mr. Mayara emphasized the importance of enhancing parliamentary cooperation by reactivating the Moroccan-Brazilian friendship group and implementing previously signed memorandums of understanding. He also proposed the establishment of a parliamentary economic forum to capitalize on the numerous cooperation opportunities across various sectors.

In response, the Brazilian Ambassador lauded the quality and depth of

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relations between Morocco and Brazil, which have significantly evolved over the years through agreements across multiple sectors. He reaffirmed Brazil's commitment to developing projects aimed at further strengthening cooperation with Morocco, aspiring to elevate the relationship to a higher level of global partnership. The Ambassador also underscored Brazil's recognition of the recent royal initiative, which positions Morocco as a strategic gateway to the African continent and a platform for accessing its markets. He expressed support for Mr. Mayara's proposal to create a parliamentary economic forum between the two countries.

On January 16, 2024, Mr. Mayara welcomed Mr. Kim Jin-pyo, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea, who was on a working visit to Morocco, leading a significant parliamentary delegation from January 15 to 18, 2024. During their meeting, Mr. Mayara expressed Morocco's admiration for South Korea's remarkable development journey and conveyed the Kingdom's desire to draw inspiration from the Korean experience, particularly in technology and renewable energy sectors. He highlighted that Morocco's development model, led by **His Majesty King Mohammed VI, may God Protect and Assist Him**, presents immense potential and opportunities that Korean investors should seize as a gateway to African markets.

Mr. Mayara also detailed the unique characteristics of the House of Councillors, including its composition and its role within various international and continental parliamentary groups and unions.

The Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea, for his part, praised the strong political relations between the two countries, noting that Morocco was the first African nation where South Korea established a diplomatic representation more than sixty years ago. He

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commended the reforms undertaken by Morocco and emphasized that South Korea places great importance on major infrastructure projects that Morocco plans to launch, such as the high-speed train, renewable energy initiatives, and the automotive industry. These projects, he noted, could serve as the basis for fruitful partnerships between the two nations, grounded in a win-win principle.

On December 21, 2023, Mr. Mayara welcomed Ms. Marjanna Sall, Ambassador of the Republic of Finland to Morocco. This meeting provided both parties with the opportunity to reaffirm their commitment to strengthening bilateral relations by promoting dialogue and intensifying reciprocal parliamentary exchanges. The focus was on exploring new avenues for cooperation, particularly in the sectors of water management, renewable energy, and the green economy.

Earlier, on December 18, 2023, Mr. Enaam Mayara received Mr. Mustafa İlker Kılıç, the new Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to Rabat. Their discussions centered on the future of Morocco-Turkey relations and ways to enhance cooperation across various fields.

On December 14, 2023, the Speaker of the House of Councillors also met with Ms. Sahiba Gafarova, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Mr. Mayara emphasized the strong political relations and the deep fraternal, cultural, and civilizational ties that unite Morocco and Azerbaijan. This meeting was particularly meaningful as the two countries celebrated thirty years of diplomatic relations, which have laid a solid foundation for a fruitful and promising partnership.

After outlining the functioning, composition, and competencies of the House of Councillors, Mr. Mayara reaffirmed the institution's commitment

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to supporting and advancing all initiatives aimed at deepening and strengthening bilateral relations. He also expressed Morocco's sincere gratitude to the Republic of Azerbaijan for its steadfast support of Morocco's territorial integrity and sovereignty over the Sahara. In return, he reiterated Morocco's unwavering support for Azerbaijan in various international forums, particularly in preserving its territorial integrity and border security.

Ms. Sahiba Gafarova, in turn, praised the progress Morocco has made across various sectors and highlighted the robust political ties between the two nations. She underscored the importance of intensifying efforts to bolster economic cooperation and fully capitalize on the available opportunities and potentials.

On December 4, 2023, Mr. Enaam Mayara received a delegation from the Senate of the Republic of Colombia, led by Mr. Germán Blanco Álvarez, President of the Colombian-Moroccan Friendship Group, who was on a working visit to Morocco at the invitation of the House of Councillors. This visit was part of ongoing efforts to strengthen parliamentary relations between the two legislative bodies.

During the meeting, Mr. Mayara emphasized the significance of this visit, which reflects the deep-rooted friendship between the two countries. He reaffirmed Morocco's commitment to continuing the enhancement of bilateral relations in pursuit of mutual interests and to fostering fruitful relations with Latin American countries. He also expressed his hope that the current tensions in bilateral relations, stemming from the establishment of ties between the current Colombian government and the so-called "fictitious republic," can be overcome. Mr. Mayara pointed out that the recent resolution adopted by the Colombian Senate, which explicitly supports Morocco's territorial integrity and sovereignty, marks

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a significant step forward in strengthening parliamentary relations and advancing bilateral cooperation in service of shared interests, which should not be swayed by transient and subjective positions.

Mr. Germán Blanco Álvarez, President of the Colombian-Moroccan Friendship Group, reaffirmed the Colombian Senate's determination to advance Colombian-Moroccan relations across all sectors. He provided an update on internal political developments in Colombia, particularly in the realm of foreign relations, and stated that the current stance of the Colombian government regarding Morocco's territorial integrity has harmed Colombia's own interests by endorsing a separatist and terrorist movement unrecognized by the United Nations.

During the same session, Mr. Enaam Mayara also met with Mr. Carl Julius Cronenberg, President of the German-Maghreb Friendship Group in the Bundestag, who was leading a significant parliamentary delegation on a visit to Morocco. On this occasion, Mr. Mayara briefed the German delegation on the alarming security situation in the Sahel and Sahara region, which has become a haven for armed groups, clandestine migration networks, and human trafficking. He also highlighted the close ties between the Polisario Front and these groups, posing a threat not only to Africa but also to Europe.

Mr. Cronenberg, the President of the German-Maghreb Friendship Group, in response, praised the multifaceted partnership between Morocco and Germany, expressing Germany's eagerness to continue expanding this partnership and building on its achievements. He emphasized that Morocco stands as a model of political and institutional stability in the region and serves as a key economic partner both regionally and internationally.

The Chairperson of the Parliamentary Friendship Group for relations

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with the Maghreb at the German Bundestag

On November 13, 2023, Mr. Mayara welcomed Mr. Jeyhun Bayramov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan, during his official visit to Morocco. This meeting reaffirmed the shared commitment of both countries to deepen their relations and invigorate bilateral cooperation across various sectors, with a particular emphasis on the role of parliamentary engagement in supporting and enhancing these relations.

On November 14, 2023, the Speaker of the House of Councillors also received Mr. Tomas Antonio Guardia Williamson, the Ambassador of Panama to Morocco. During this meeting, Mr. Mayara reaffirmed Morocco's dedication to its relationship with Panama, framed within a sincere commitment to South-South cooperation. He emphasized Morocco's efforts to strengthen ties between peoples and to promote collaboration across various sectors. Mr. Mayara also referenced the royal speech delivered on the 48th anniversary of the Green March, noting that "the Atlantic façade is Morocco's gateway to Africa and an open window to the American space."

In turn, the Panamanian Ambassador expressed his satisfaction with the outcome of the meeting, lauding Morocco's interest in developing relations with Panama. He also voiced admiration for Morocco's developmental achievements over the past two decades under the leadership of **His Majesty King Mohammed VI, may God Protect and Assist Him.**

During this session, on November 15, 2023, Mr. Enaam Mayara engaged in discussions with Mr. Charles Flanagan, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee of the Irish House of Representatives. Mr. Mayara emphasized the significant value the House of Councillors places on fostering strong relations between the legislatures of Morocco

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and Ireland, noting that parliamentary cooperation is a crucial catalyst for advancing bilateral relations in areas of mutual interest.

On the issue of the Moroccan Sahara, Mr. Mayara expressed appreciation for Ireland's support of United Nations Security Council resolutions and its commitment to a peaceful resolution of the conflict.

In response, Mr. Flanagan, the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee of the Irish House of Representatives commended the strength of political ties between the two friendly nations, highlighting Ireland's decision to appoint a new ambassador to Rabat for the first time in about two years as a testament to its commitment to enhancing cooperation with Morocco.

It is worthwhile pointing out that the Councillors continued their duties diligently even after the session's official closing. The period between sessions, from October 2023 to April 2024, was marked by intense activity, conducted with the same rigor and dedication, particularly in the field of diplomacy.

Within regional, continental, and international parliamentary organizations, the permanent national delegations and those representing the House of Councillors participated in several key events. These included the Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations in New York, USA, from February 7 to 10, 2024; the Presidential Election Monitoring mission in Azerbaijan on February 7, 2024; the Winter Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, held in Vienna, Austria, on February 22 and 23, 2024; the 18th Session of the Conference of the Union of Councils of the Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and associated meetings in

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Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, from March 2 to 5, 2024; the 68th session of the Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations headquarters in New York from March 11 to 22, 2024; and the 148th General Assembly and the 213th Session of the Governing Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in Geneva, Switzerland, from March 23 to 27, 2024.

On the bilateral front, this period was marked by the working visit of Mr. Enaam Mayara, Speaker of the House of Councillors, to the United Mexican States from February 20 to 24, 2024, leading a delegation from the House at the invitation of the President of the Mexican Senate, Ms. Ana Lilia Rivera. This visit aimed to strengthen bilateral parliamentary relations, building on the former President of the Mexican Senate's visit to Morocco from June 9 to 12, 2022, at the invitation of the House of Councillors.

During this historic occasion, the Speaker of the House of Councillors, Mr. Enaam Mayara, delivered a landmark address during a plenary session of the Mexican Senate—the first of its kind in Moroccan-Mexican parliamentary relations—dedicated to welcoming the Moroccan delegation. Mr. Mayara underscored the imperative for Morocco and Mexico to collaborate closely in revitalizing their bilateral relations, aspiring to elevate them to a model of South-South cooperation. This year marks the 62nd anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Morocco and Mexico, as well as the 20th anniversary of the historic visit of **His Majesty King Mohammed VI** to Mexico in 2004—a visit that opened new and promising avenues for bilateral relations. Today, Morocco stands as Mexico's foremost Arab trading partner and its second-largest partner in Africa.

The Speaker of the House of Councillors also highlighted the crucial

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role of parliamentarians in deepening these ties, advocating for the expansion of cooperation into diverse fields through parliamentary diplomacy. He proposed the creation of a Moroccan-Mexican Economic Parliamentary Forum, envisioned as a platform for the exchange of expertise across various sectors and the development of concrete initiatives for collaboration. This forum, he suggested, would capitalize on the shared opportunities presented by the strategic regional positions of both Morocco and Mexico.

In the broader context of shared challenges and opportunities, Mr. Mayara lauded the outcomes of the South-South Parliamentary Dialogue Forum, which brought together Parliaments from Africa, the Arab world, Latin America, and the Caribbean. He noted that this forum, held under the high patronage of **His Majesty King Mohammed VI, may God Protect and Assist Him**, and organized by the House of Councillors on February 15 and 16, 2024, is unique in successfully uniting the legislative institutions of these three major geopolitical groups from the Global South.

The Speaker of the House of Councillors further emphasized the forum's enrichment through the contributions of over 40 countries, including 30 presidents of parliamentary unions and senates. He praised the forum's Final Declaration, which unanimously endorsed the Initiative of **His Majesty King Mohammed VI** to facilitate Sahelian countries' access to the Atlantic Ocean.

This initiative is seen as a strategic move to position Morocco's Atlantic coast as a key logistical hub, strengthening connections between Southern countries and bringing production chains closer to raw material

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sources—particularly within the Afro-Arab-Latino-American geo-economic space, a region rich in global resources and raw materials.

Mr. Enaam Mayara’s participation provided a valuable opportunity for meetings with Ms. Marcela Guerra Castillo, President of the Chamber of Deputies of Mexico, and Ms. Ana Lilia Rivera, President of the Mexican Senate. These discussions centered on several key areas:

□ **Addressing common regional and international challenges:** The talks highlighted the pressing need to strengthen mutual cooperation in tackling security, economic, and environmental issues. By working together, the two nations aim to consolidate regional stability and deepen integration.

□ **Enhancing sustainable development and trade relations:** Both sides stressed the importance of coordinated efforts to achieve sustainable development and increase trade exchanges between Morocco and Mexico. Such cooperation would not only benefit both nations but also contribute to the stability of the broader region, laying the groundwork for a sustainable and prosperous future.

□ **Exploring investment opportunities and South-South cooperation:** Discussions emphasized Morocco’s strategic role as a gateway to Africa and Mexico’s position as a key economic power in Latin America and the Caribbean, with a focus on capitalizing on these roles to foster deeper cooperation.

□ **Praising the South-South Parliamentary Dialogue Forum:** The Moroccan delegation expressed pride in the significant participation in the forum, which brought together over 30 presidents and representatives from 40 countries. The unanimous support for

His Majesty King Mohammed VI's Initiative to enhance Sahelian countries' access to the Atlantic Ocean was particularly noted as a model of South-South Cooperation, building bridges between African countries and the Atlantic nations of Latin America and other Arab countries.

Between October 2023 and April 2024, the Speaker of the House of Councillors also engaged in several bilateral meetings with key officials, diplomats, and leaders of national parliaments, as well as regional, continental, and international parliamentary unions. These included:

- **February 7, 2024:** Meeting with Mr. Vladimir Franco, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Panama.
- **February 12, 2024:** Meeting with Mr. Jean François Ndongou, Speaker of the Transitional National Assembly of the Republic of Gabon.
- **February 13, 2024:** Meeting with Ms. Karima Mohammed Al Abbasi, Secretary-General of the Shura Council of Bahrain.
- **February 14, 2024:** Meeting with Ms. Cristina Reyes Hidalgo, the newly appointed Speaker of the Andean Parliament, who visited Morocco to participate in the Parliamentary Conference on South-South Cooperation organized by the House of Councillors on February 15 and 16, 2024.
- **February 14, 2024:** Meeting with Mr. Richard Ravalomanana, Speaker of the Senate of the Republic of Madagascar, and Mr. Faisal Al-Fayez, President of the Jordanian Senate.
- **February 15, 2024:** Meeting with Mr. Amosson Jefa Kingi,

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Speaker of the Kenyan Senate, and Mr. Jeremiah Kpan Koung, President of the Liberian Senate.

□ **March 6, 2024:** Meeting with Ms. Isabelle Valois, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Canada to the Kingdom, Mr. Jassem Mubarak Mubarak, President of the National Human Rights Office of the State of Kuwait, and Mr. Leslie Baja, Ambassador of the Republic of the Philippines to Morocco.

This period was further marked by **the organization of several significant regional and international events**. In collaboration with the **Association of Senates, Shuras, and Similar Councils in Africa and the Arab World, and the South-South Dialogue Forum**, the House of Councillors of the Kingdom of Morocco hosted a Parliamentary Conference on South-South Cooperation. The Conference, titled “**South-South Cooperation: The Role of National Parliaments and Regional and Continental Parliamentary Unions in Africa, the Arab World, and Latin America to Strengthen Strategic Partnerships and Achieve Integration, Unity, and Common Development,**” took place at the House of Councillors in Rabat on February 15 and 16, 2024.

The organization of this event, which convened 30 speakers of national parliaments and representatives from regional, continental, and international parliamentary unions, was driven by a shared commitment to enhancing coordination, consultation, and the exchange of perspectives and experiences on strategic contemporary issues. These issues encompass **development, economic transformation, trade, investment, technology, innovation, as well as energy, health, food, and water security**. The aim was to formulate and adopt concrete recommendations, proposals, and decisions that underscore the critical role of national parliaments

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and parliamentary unions in Africa, the Arab world, and Latin America. These efforts are geared toward fostering and strengthening strategic partnerships across economic, social, and humanitarian fields, to achieve common goals of development, integration, and unity, while laying the foundation for cooperation, solidarity, peace, stability, and prosperity.

Highlights from the Final Communiqué of the Parliamentary Conference on South-South Cooperation include:

□ **Support for His Majesty King Mohammed VI's Initiative:** The Communiqué acknowledged and supported the Initiative of **His Majesty King Mohammed VI**, may God Protect and Assist Him, aimed at enhancing the access of Sahelian countries to the Atlantic Ocean. It also stressed the urgent need to address significant infrastructure gaps and boost investments in the Atlantic region of Africa.

□ **Transforming Morocco's Atlantic Façade:** The initiative seeks to establish a robust institutional framework that unites the 23 countries on the African continent bordering the Atlantic Ocean. This could potentially transform Morocco's Atlantic coastline into a pivotal hub for enhancing logistical connectivity—both maritime and aerial—facilitating the exchange of goods and improving investment flows in Southern countries. The initiative also aims to bring wealth-generating production chains closer to raw material sources, particularly within the Afro-Arab-Latin American geo-economic space, which is abundant in global resources and raw materials.

□ **Strengthening South-South Cooperation:** The Communiqué

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called for drawing inspiration from such initiatives to bolster South-South coordination, cooperation, and solidarity among African, Arab, Latin American, and Caribbean countries. This can be achieved both bilaterally and through the enhancement of regional integration mechanisms and interregional cooperation, especially in areas related to sovereignty, food and energy security, health, economic exchanges, sustainable development, and ongoing coordination and consultation through permanent institutional channels.

On the sidelines of the Parliamentary Conference on South-South Cooperation, the Speaker of the House of Councillors engaged in bilateral meetings with government and diplomatic officials, as well as with speakers of national parliaments and leaders of regional, continental, and international parliamentary unions.

On March 5, 2024, the House of Councillors, in partnership with the House of Representatives and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, organized a conference on the evaluation of laws by the parliamentary institution. This event was part of the “Support and Strengthening of the Role of Parliament in Consolidating Democracy in Morocco for the Period 2020-2024” program. The conference, attended by members of both Houses of the Moroccan Parliament, as well as experts, academics, and representatives from the Venice Commission, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, and the European Union in Morocco, focused on key issues related to developing quality legislation and enhancing the capacity of parliamentarians and officials in the field of law evaluation.

Continuing with the House’s dedication to supporting national diplomacy

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in all its dimensions, **the April 2024 session** achieved significant results, thanks to contributions from all members of the House. The House continued its efforts to reinforce bilateral and multilateral parliamentary cooperation across various geopolitical regions, with the goal of defending strategic and vital interests of the Kingdom of Morocco within the broader national diplomatic framework. Under the Enlightened Leadership of **His Majesty King Mohammed VI, may God Protect and Assist Him**, particular emphasis was placed on the national cause.

In this context, Mr. Enaam Mayara, Speaker of the House of Councillors, had the honor of representing **His Majesty King Mohammed VI** at the inauguration ceremony of the President of the Union of Comoros, **His Excellency Mr. Ghazali Assoumani**, held on May 24, 2024, in the capital, Moroni. On this occasion, the Speaker conveyed **His Majesty's** greetings and congratulations to His Excellency on his election as President, along with best wishes for success in his noble duties. Furthermore, the strong will and ambition of the Kingdom of Morocco, under the **leadership of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, may God Protect and Assist Him**, to elevate the exceptional relations between the two brotherly countries to new heights in all areas of mutual interest were reaffirmed.

During the audience granted to the Speaker of the House by His Excellency the President of the Union of Comoros, the latter expressed his pride in the deep and enduring relations between the Union of Comoros and the Kingdom of Morocco, under the esteemed leadership of **His Majesty King Mohammed VI, may God Protect and Assist Him**. He also conveyed his profound appreciation for **His Majesty's** ongoing efforts to elevate bilateral relations between the two brotherly nations and

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his steadfast initiatives aimed at advancing Africa’s development across political, economic, and humanitarian spheres.

In this context, the Speaker of the House made a significant working visit to the Republic of Panama at the invitation of the Speaker of the Latin American and Caribbean Parliament. This visit culminated in the signing of a cooperation agreement between the House of Councillors and the Latin American and Caribbean Parliament concerning the “**King Mohammed VI Library.**” The memorandum of understanding outlines the expansion of the library’s roles, transforming it into a communication platform linking the national parliaments of the member states of the Latin American and Caribbean Parliament, as well as the parliaments of the Kingdom of Morocco and their counterparts in Africa and the Arab world.

The agreement further emphasizes that this initiative reflects the shared commitment of both parties to enhance the significance of this space, which proudly bears the prestigious name of **His Majesty King Mohammed VI, may God Protect and Assist Him.** This venue will serve as a hub for promoting the culture and history of the Kingdom of Morocco, while also fostering the shared cultural and human heritage rooted in the common values and principles between the Kingdom of Morocco and the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

The provisions of the agreement are rooted in the memorandum of understanding signed between the two Parliaments of the Kingdom of Morocco and the Latin American and Caribbean Parliament on April 25, 2018. This document aims to strengthen channels of communication and cooperation on issues of mutual interest, as well as to enhance coordination in international forums, in accordance with the general values and principles governing relations between the two parties, founded

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on mutual understanding, consultation, and respect for the sovereignty and unity of the member and observer states of the Latin American and Caribbean Parliament.

As part of this visit, the delegation participated in several symposiums included in Parlatino's preparatory program to celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of the oldest and largest parliamentary group in the Latin American and Caribbean region. The accompanying parliamentary delegation attended two conferences focusing on migration and youth issues. These platforms provided an opportunity to present the key pillars of Morocco's policy on migration and migrant management, highlighting Morocco's unique position as a country of origin, transit, and destination for migrants from diverse nations, while showcasing the distinctive characteristics and strengths of the Moroccan experience in integrating youth into political life.

This session also saw the participation of the Speaker of the House, in his capacity as Speaker of the The Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean, in the 18th General Assembly of this regional parliamentary organization, held on May 15 and 16, 2024, in Braga, Portugal.

This General Assembly, distinguished by keynote speeches from the President of the Portuguese Republic, the Speaker of the Assembly of the Republic of Portugal, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and the President of the United Nations General Assembly, was highlighted by the presentation of the "The Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean Excellence Award" to the Bayt Mal Al-Quds Acharif Agency. The agency, the executive arm of the Al-Quds Committee chaired by **His Majesty King Mohammed VI, may God Protect and Assist Him**, was recognized for its outstanding services and valuable contributions to humanitarian and social work. This recognition aligns

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with the Kingdom of Morocco’s consistent and principled diplomacy in support of the Palestinian cause, guided by the Enlightened Leadership of **His Majesty King Mohammed VI, may God Protect and Assist Him.**

This initiative also underscores the Kingdom of Morocco’s commitment, under **His Majesty’s** wise Leadership, to building bridges of understanding among the peoples of the Euro-Mediterranean region, by reinforcing the values of mutual respect, coexistence, cooperation, and solidarity.

The agency received the award during the second edition of the “**Marrakech Economic Parliamentary Forum for the Euro-Mediterranean and Gulf Region,**” held under the High Patronage of **His Majesty King Mohammed VI, may God Protect and Assist Him,** on July 11-12, 2024, in Marrakech. This prestigious event was organized by the House of Councillors and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean.

During the forum, the Speaker of the House of Councillors engaged in a series of bilateral meetings with the speakers of various national parliaments, including the Speaker of the Assembly of the Republic of Portugal, the Speaker of the Parliament of Montenegro, the Speaker of the Parliament of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the Speaker of the Majlis Al-Shura of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. These discussions centered on enhancing both bilateral and multilateral parliamentary cooperation between Morocco and these nations.

In line with its ongoing collaboration **with regional, continental, and international parliamentary bodies,** the House of Councillors’

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permanent delegations actively participated in several key activities during this period. Notable engagements included the 31st annual session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the sessions of the standing committees of the Pan-African Parliament, and the Arab Parliaments' dialogue on the regional review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. Other significant involvements included participation in the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the 34th session of the Executive Committee of the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union, the 6th World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue under the theme “Dialogue for Global Peace and Security,” and the 5th Conference of the Association “Parliamentarians for Al-Quds” under the theme “Freedom and Independence for Palestine.” Further contributions were made at meetings of the Committee on Parliamentary Affairs and the Committee on Economic, Social, and Environmental Affairs of the Parliamentary Assembly of La Francophonie (APF), the 6th Conference of the Arab Parliament and Speakers of Arab Parliaments on “Arab Parliamentary Vision for the Safe Use of Artificial Intelligence,” the 3rd phase of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the spring session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the 49th session of the Parliamentary Assembly of La Francophonie, the 4th session of the 4th legislature of the Arab Parliament, and a working visit by the President of the Morocco-France Friendship Group in the French Senate.

On the bilateral front, numerous meetings were conducted during this period, involving official visits by governmental and diplomatic figures, as well as presidents of national parliaments and regional, continental, and international parliamentary unions. Distinguished visitors included

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the Speaker of the Parliament of the Republic of Montenegro, the Speaker of the Parliament of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the President of the Assembly of the Republic of Portugal, the President of the Majlis Al-Shura of Saudi Arabia, the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Kingdom of Bahrain, the Speaker of the Andean Parliament, the Speaker of the Central American Parliament, the Speaker of the Parliament of the Southern Common Market (Parlasur), the President of the Swiss National Council, the Speaker of the Finnish Parliament, and the President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. The latter participated in a debate organized by the Moroccan Parliament and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, marking the conclusion of the project “Supporting the Development of the Role of Parliament in Deepening Democracy in Morocco 2020-2024.” Additional meetings included interactions with the Deputy-Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Republic, the First Deputy-Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Malawi, the Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam, the President of the France-Morocco Parliamentary Friendship Group in the French Senate, and a Palestinian delegation visiting Morocco at the invitation of the Bayt Mal Al-Quds Acharif Agency. The House of Councillors also hosted delegations from the Republic of Indonesia, the Committee on Agriculture, Lands, and Natural Resources of the National Assembly of the Republic of Zambia, the Director-General of the International Labour Organization, and the Accredited ambassador of Spain in Rabat.

In the realm of **organizing regional and international events**, the House of Councillors, in collaboration with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean, hosted the second edition of the Marrakech Economic Parliamentary Forum for the Euro-Mediterranean and Gulf

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Region on July 11-12, 2024, in Marrakech. This prestigious event was held under the High Patronage of **His Majesty King Mohammed VI, may God Protect and Assist Him.**

The forum brought together over 350 participants, including representatives and presidents of regional and national parliamentary unions that are members and partners of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean, as well as delegates from Gulf countries. Among the distinguished attendees were Dr. Abdullah bin Muhammad bin Ibrahim Al-Sheikh, President of the Majlis Al-Shura of Saudi Arabia; Mr. Ahmed bin Salman Al-Musallam, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Kingdom of Bahrain; the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina; the Speaker of the Parliament of Mercosur (Parlasur); the Speaker of the Parliament of Central America (Parlacen); the Speaker of the Andean Parliament (Parlandino); the Speaker of the National Congress of the Republic of Honduras; the Deputy- Speaker of the Forum of Presidents of Legislative Institutions of Central America, the Caribbean Basin, and Mexico (FOPREL); and the President of the Network of African Parliamentarians for Development Evaluation. Also present were directors and experts from various specialized agencies, including the International Atomic Energy Agency, the World Bank, the World Trade Organization, and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, alongside representatives from the public and private sectors, business leaders from various countries, academics, and numerous invited personalities and delegations.

This forum served as a significant platform for addressing the most pressing economic, development, and environmental challenges facing the Euro-Mediterranean and Gulf regions. The event featured

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seven thematic sessions that explored a range of current issues on the regional and international agenda. These sessions covered topics such as macroeconomic prospects for the Euro-Mediterranean and Gulf regions, energy security and the green transition, financing for micro and small enterprises, digital entrepreneurship and the challenges of artificial intelligence, and the role of innovation in fostering inclusive prosperity and development, among other critical issues.

Participants in this edition expressed their admiration for the remarkable progress and prosperity that the Kingdom of Morocco has achieved under the Wise Leadership of **His Majesty King Mohammed VI, may God Protect and Assist Him**, across political, economic, and social spheres. They also commended Morocco's leadership role, under **His Majesty's** Guidance, in initiating and supporting development and solidarity initiatives aimed at strengthening South-South Cooperation.

Furthermore, participants conveyed their deep gratitude and appreciation to **His Majesty, may God Assist Him**, for the generous hospitality extended to them upon their arrival in Morocco and for the honor of receiving royal patronage for this forum. The event, which aims to bolster parliamentary cooperation and foster a more integrated and sustainable economic and financial zone between Euro-Mediterranean and Gulf countries, has, through its first and second editions, proven to be a valuable platform for parliamentarians and institutional partners of the The Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean to engage with political and economic actors from both the public and private sectors, as well as with academia and civil society.

One of the key highlights of the forum was the presentation of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean Excellence Award to the

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Bayt Mal Al-Qods Acharif Agency, the executive arm of the Al-Qods Committee, chaired by **His Majesty King Mohammed VI, may God Protect and Assist Him**. This recognition added exceptional value to the event. During the forum's plenary session, a video was screened, showcasing the agency's efforts to preserve the religious and cultural heritage of the holy city of Al-Qods, uphold its legal status, and implement numerous social projects in areas such as health, education, housing, culture, youth, and sports since its establishment.

In his opening remarks at the forum, the Speaker of the House of Councillors emphasized that this session was convened in an international, regional, and national context marked by multifaceted challenges and risks, driven by factors such as climate change, the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and escalating crises.

He underscored that the Kingdom of Morocco, aware of its strategic position as a crossroads between Africa, the Arab world, Europe, and Latin America, and committed to the principles of cooperation—especially South-South Cooperation as championed by **His Majesty King Mohammed VI, may God Protect and Assist Him**—has not only implemented effective national policies to address these challenges but has also taken the lead in proposing and spearheading regional initiatives aimed at achieving shared goals for global development, particularly in Africa.

In this context, the Speaker highlighted the significance of the Atlantic Initiative, launched by **His Majesty, may God Protect him**, which seeks to enhance the Sahel countries' access to the Atlantic Ocean. This initiative provides a unique framework for fostering multidimensional African cooperation and coordinating development efforts to realize a

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new era of prosperity and stability across the continent. He also noted that under the leadership of **His Majesty King Mohammed VI, may God Protect and Assist Him**, Morocco has been at the forefront of investing in sustainable solutions. Leveraging its strategic position and assets, the Kingdom has emerged as a global leader in financing and developing renewable energy projects, energy efficiency, and green hydrogen as part of its ambitious strategy to accelerate the energy transition and achieve carbon neutrality.

During this session, the **“Global South Parliamentary Observatory for Sustainable Development of the South-South Parliamentary Forum”** was also launched in partnership with the The Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean. This initiative is part of the implementation of the recommendations from the final declaration of the South-South Parliamentary Cooperation Conference, organized by the House of Councillors and the Association of Senates, Councils of the Shura, and Equivalents of Africa and the Arab World, under the presidency of Morocco. The conference, held in Rabat in February 2024, brought together representatives of senates, shura councils, and regional parliamentary unions from Africa, the Arab world, Latin America, and the Caribbean, who called for enhanced coordination, cooperation, and consultation through the establishment of permanent institutions.

Through this initiative, the House of Councillors aims to make the Observatory a dynamic and productive framework that supports the Marrakech Economic Parliamentary Forum for the Euro-Mediterranean and Gulf regions in achieving its objectives. The Observatory is intended to propose practical solutions and strategies that will empower parliamentarians from both regions to more effectively fulfill their shared

responsibilities.

The forum concluded with a series of key outcomes and recommendations, including:

- A call to expedite the implementation of the “Parliamentary Energy Community for Euro-Mediterranean and Gulf Regions” initiative to mitigate the impact of the energy crisis and ensure energy security across both regions.

- An emphasis on boosting financial investments, particularly through alternative financing instruments, and fostering cooperation to support small and very small enterprises. This includes promoting industrial policies that enhance financial inclusion and drive regional economic development.

- Recognition of the critical importance of strengthening parliamentary diplomacy and cooperation among forum members to address the challenges of water resource scarcity, improve water access, combat soil pollution, and advance the Sustainable Development Goals in the Euro-Mediterranean and Arab Gulf regions.

In addition, the Moroccan Parliament, through its two Houses, organized a Conference on the theme “Migration and Climate Change” in partnership with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. This conference, held during the significant visit of the Assembly’s President to Morocco, marked the conclusion of the Morocco-European Union-Council of Europe tripartite program, which aimed to enhance the Parliament’s role in strengthening democracy for the period 2021-2024.

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At the event's opening, the Speaker of the House expressed pride in the Moroccan legislative institution's rich history of organizing conferences and symposia in collaboration with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. These gatherings have addressed a wide range of topics and issues of mutual interest, including meetings of the Assembly's standing committees on matters related to the implementation of the 2011 Constitution, such as the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy, the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, and the Committee on Migration.

Furthermore, the Speaker highlighted the significance of past visits by the Assembly's presidents and various rapporteurs, as well as hearings with Moroccan officials on crucial topics such as human rights, migration, asylum, governance, and the pursuit of equality. These efforts reflect the Moroccan Parliament's commitment to fulfilling the 21 commitments outlined in the "Partnership for Democracy" resolution. Additionally, the active participation of Moroccan ministers and parliamentary leaders in the Assembly's plenary sessions in Strasbourg was acknowledged, particularly their contributions through presentations, interactive interventions, hearings, and exchanges of views with Assembly members.

III. Environmental Outreach and Energizing Societal Dialogue

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Building on its unique constitutional role within the national institutional framework, the House of Councillors, in close collaboration with the House of Representatives, remains dedicated to fostering “a space for constructive debate, competence, wisdom, and objectivity,” as envisioned by **His Majesty King Mohammed VI** during the legislative year’s opening on October 9, 2015. The House of Councillors has persistently advanced its communication efforts and its engagement with societal issues, particularly those that have previously been the focus of public dialogue.

This commitment was particularly evident in the organization of the fifth edition of the Regional Parliamentary Forum, an innovative institutional platform designed to embody the spirit of Article 137 of the Constitution. This article mandates that regions and other local authorities contribute to implementing the State’s general policy and developing territorial policies through their representation in the House of Councillors. Held on December 20, 2023, under the theme “The Region: A Key Player in Promoting Integrated and Sustainable Development,” this forum provided a crucial opportunity to discuss the necessary interventions and methodological, financial, and institutional mechanisms needed to accelerate the implementation of advanced regionalization while promoting the alignment of public authority actions.

The region, as the territorial unit best positioned to ensure the convergence of sectoral development strategies, remains central to harmonizing the efforts of all stakeholders involved in regional development. The forum’s preparation was organized into four regional thematic seminars, held in Dakhla-Oued Eddahab on January 26, 2023; Drâa-Tafilalet on October 5, 2023; Rabat-Salé-Kénitra on November 1, 2023; and Tanger-Tétouan-Al Hoceima on November 15, 2023.

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Between legislative sessions, the House of Councillors continued to engage with the concerns of citizens, leveraging its diverse and plural composition to serve as a forum for constructive and objective public discourse.

Under the High Patronage of **His Majesty King Mohammed VI, may God Protect and Assist Him**, the House of Councillors organized the eighth edition of the International Parliamentary Forum on Social Justice on Monday, February 19, 2024, around the theme “**Decent Work for Sustainable Development.**” This forum is in line with the royal directives that emphasize “*the close interconnection between economic growth, social justice, and social cohesion,*” and that “*the noblest form of social protection is that which comes through the creation of productive jobs that ensure dignity,*” and that issues of “*real equality and combating gender discrimination in the workplace, the effective elimination of child labor, ensuring decent working conditions for people with disabilities, and formalizing the informal sector to expand the fields and opportunities for decent work*” are at the heart of **His Majesty’s** concerns and our country’s constitutional and conventional commitments.

The forum featured prominent participation from Government officials, presidents and members of constitutional institutions, and a diverse representation from both Houses of Parliament. Attendees also included regional presidents, political party representatives, professional and trade union organizations, as well as presidents and representatives of national constitutional bodies, university presidents, deans, directors of higher education and scientific research institutions, foreign dignitaries, and representatives of international organizations and specialized Moroccan

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experts. The forum aimed to:

- Explore the state of decent work in Morocco and the various issues it raises, particularly its role in advancing the goals outlined in the national sustainable development strategy as defined by the National Charter for the Environment and Sustainable Development;
- Emphasize the significance that the legal framework on sustainable development places on decent work as a key factor influencing multiple sustainable development goals;
- Illuminate the challenges of modernizing the national economic system and fostering integration among its diverse productive sectors.

The House of Councillors reaffirms its commitment to establishing a Moroccan model of social justice by thoroughly examining various aspects of decent work in relation to sustainable development goals and considering innovative approaches to address these challenges.

In the context of the April 2024 session, and as part of its ongoing efforts to remain responsive to societal issues and oversee major reform projects led by **His Majesty**, while reinforcing its institutional role as an extension of local authorities, the House of Councillors has initiated preparations for the sixth edition of the Regional Parliamentary Forum. A regional thematic conference was held in the Fès-Meknès region on June 6, focusing on “Advanced Regionalization: Practical Challenges and Legislative Revision Requirements.”

This conference provided a platform for in-depth collective reflection on the key areas requiring change in the relevant legal framework, considering the constraints and challenges that have emerged in practice. These obstacles have impeded the effective exercise of specific and shared competencies by local authorities, particularly regions, and have

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hindered the optimal use of contractual tools to ensure the convergence of territorial public policies.

The discussions during the conference yielded significant conclusions and recommendations. These outcomes, along with those from the upcoming second regional thematic conference scheduled in the Marrakech-Safi region in October, will serve as a strong foundation for the discussions at the sixth edition of the Regional Parliamentary Forum in November 2024.

Additionally, to further the legislative institution's engagement with citizens, youth, adolescents, and educational institutions, the House of Councillors, alongside the House of Representatives, participated in the 29th International Book and Publishing Fair, held under the High Patronage of **His Majesty King Mohammed VI, may God Protect and Assist Him**, in Rabat from May 9 to 19, 2024.

This participation provided a valuable opportunity to engage with the general public. The 60th anniversary of Parliament was celebrated within the Parliament pavilion at the International Book and Publishing Fair. Approximately 13,000 visitors had the chance to explore Parliament's extensive documentary collection and various publications, including those related to its history, composition, and its roles in legislation, oversight, public policy evaluation, parliamentary diplomacy, and civil society engagement.

Moreover, 604 international organizations, 1,842 Moroccan university students, 1,920 schoolchildren and 714 civil society organizations were also received by the House of Councillors during this year.