

**Under the High Patronage of is Majesty King Mohammed VI, may God assist Him**



**The House of Councillors,  
In partnership with the Economic, Social and Environmental  
Council,  
Organizes  
The 8th International Parliamentary Forum on Social  
Justice  
on the theme  
“Decent Work for Sustainable Development”**

**Monday, February 19, 2024**

**Concept Note**

Providing decent work for all, and for the youth in particular, is a crucial conducive factor to social peace and stability. It is also regarded as a key vector of productive investment and a prerequisite for economic, social and environmental development.

Ensuring decent work, both in terms of quality and quantity, is a sine qua non condition for consolidating social justice and fostering the pillars of a just State in compliance with the **High Royal Directives** in this regard. In His Throne Day Speech (on July 29, 2023), **His Majesty King Mohammed VI, may God assist Him**, called for “**pressing ahead with our development agenda to achieve economic advancement and promote justice at social and territorial levels**”. His Majesty, may God glorify Him, reiterated that “**As the pillar of a full-fledged system, seriousness requires that managers and public office holders be held to account, and that the principles of good governance, hard work, merit and equal opportunity be upheld**”. The need for seriousness was stressed with the view of scaling up our development process to a new phase and opening up new horizons for reforms and major projects that are well deserved by Moroccans. **His Majesty, May God assist Him**, stressed, on Friday October 30, 2023, in His Speech to members of Parliament on the occasion of the first session of the ongoing legislative year, the importance of such endeavors, and mainly the social protection project, referring to it as “**a key component of our social and development model**”.

In the same context, the House of Councillors recalls in this regard, **His Majesty’s Speech** of July 29, 2018, on the occasion of the commemoration of the nineteenth anniversary of **His** accession to the throne, in which **His Majesty** said that “**the best social protection comes from the creation of productive jobs that guarantee a dignified life**”. The same speech provides that “**Jobs cannot be created, nor can a proper, modern social system be set up without a qualitative leap in investment, and without support for the nation’s productive sector**”.

In this respect, decent work plays a pivotal role in ensuring economic, social and environmental development in our country. Hence, as it makes sure to demonstrate its ongoing engagement and interaction with the social fabric, the House of Councillors organizes the Eighth International Parliamentary Forum on Social Justice on the occasion of the celebration of the World Social Justice Day that coincides with February 20 of every year. The House of Councillors is thus reaffirming its responsible institutional commitment to consolidating a Moroccan model to social justice through a participatory approach. Ultimately, the House of Councillors seeks to leverage the proceedings of the eighth edition of this forum to scrutinize the different dimensions of decent work against the backdrop of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This forum will also represent an opportunity to brainstorm on innovative and collective approaches to deal with the issue at hand.

It is worth mentioning that international organizations, and on top of which the International Labor Organization, attach great importance to the issue of decent work, and define it as "work that takes place under free and equitable conditions" and that preserves the "security and human dignity" of workers. Similarly, decent work lies at the core of relations between employers and employees and their representing institutions on the basis of "respect of fundamental principles and rights". By the same token, all parties abide by the ethical considerations and advantages of "social dialogue". In this sense, these parties are in a constant quest for "widening the scope of social protection" and ensuring a "sufficient income for women and men alike without any form of discrimination."

One might argue that implementing decent work on the ground may be a hard task, given its nature, the typology of its dimensions as well as its characteristics. Accordingly, modern communities and States generally face, at different levels, real challenges in translating labor and social policies into concrete actions in compliance with the norms and standards set by international conventions relevant to decent work.

Similarly, designing public labor policies and job creation through the lens of SDGs remains a challenge faced by the relevant authorities and stakeholders. Surely, sustainable development can only be achieved through advanced social awareness of the importance of the issue, good governance and via the reliance on a long-term accurate anticipatory approach.

Thus, the proceedings of Eighth International Parliamentary Forum on Social Justice will put to the fore the intricacies between decent work and sustainable development in our country, in light of SDG8 that highlights the intimate link between economic, social and environmental policies on one hand and full employment and decent work on the other.

By organizing this forum, the House of Councillors, in partnership with the Economic, Social and Environmental Council, strives to make these proceedings a space to study the reality of decent work in our country along with the different challenges that surround it. Special emphasis will be put on the extent to which decent work contributes to meeting the goals of the National Sustainable Development Strategy as provided for by the National Charter for the Environment and Sustainable Development. This gathering will also be an opportunity to demystify the major prospects offered by the interweaving afore-mentioned dynamics relevant to the labor ecosystem as well as the development initiatives that were launched in our country in the fields, inter alia, of renewable energy, green economy and circular economy. The innovative measures taken, within the framework of sustainable development, in order to fight the spoliation and overexploitation of natural resources (most notably water resources) will also be addressed in these proceedings.

In a nutshell, the key questions that need to be addressed are as follows:

- What is the exact share occupied by decent work in the labor market fabric in Morocco? And what is the nature of the efforts deployed by public authorities for implementing the principles and mechanisms of decent work?
- How can the efforts made by the different enterprises and businesses be supported and leveraged in order to develop decent work and ensure its attractiveness? Therefore, how can enterprises be accompanied so that they overcome the hurdles that impede their efforts?
- What are the public policies that should be reconsidered for the sake of adapting them to the requirements of decent job creation for the maximum number of young unemployed job seekers?

- To what extent are economic and social actors aware of the importance of SDGs for their individual and collective decisions and negotiations in their respective fields of work?
- To what extent does the legal ecosystem take into account the SDGs? and how does the relevant legal ecosystem (to sustainable development) regard and perceive decent work, knowing that it is a determining factor in meeting SDGs?
- What efforts are made by public authorities in order to identify the points of inter-complementarity and convergence among the actors in the fields of decent work and sustainable development? What is the nature of these efforts? How important are they? And what is their impact?
- To elaborate elements of a collective institutional response to these questions and explore innovative solutions to address the various relevant problems, the Eighth International Parliamentary Forum on Social Justice will revolve around two main axes as follows:
  - **The first axis-** Decent work and sustainable development: Complementarities and synergies from the perspective of the national and international standards system;
  - **The second axis-** Decent work and the challenges of economic reconstruction and integration.