

Kingdom of Morocco
Ministry of Energy, Mines, Water & Environment

Ceremony signing of The Agreement on Technical Cooperation in the
field of water

Between

the Kingdom of Morocco and the Republic of Turkey

Address of H.E Mrs Amina BENKHADRA, Minister of Energy, Mines,
Water & Environment

Your Excellency,
Mr Ambassador,
Distinguished members of the Turkish Delegation,
Ladies & Gentlemen,

I am very pleased to welcome your Excellency and the Delegation accompanying you in the Ministry of Energy, Mines, Water and Environment. I am sure that our meeting of today will give a fresh impulse to our mutual cooperation in a sector which is particularly crucial for the human and economic development in our two countries.

Our cooperation in the field of water will reinforce the already existing close relationship in different fields including environment, in accordance with the cooperation Agreement signed on the 16th of April, 2004 in Ankara and which involves several aspects of the environment protection.

Excellency,
Ladies & Gentlemen,

The relationship between Morocco and Turkey dates back several centuries during which our two nations set up human, cultural and commercial exchanges and our two peoples share today many common values.

From here in Morocco, we are following with admiration the efforts deployed by Turkey in the fields of environment protection and water resources. The steps accomplished by your country in these two sectors show perceptiveness and a good governance. We appreciate the expertise that your country has acquired in engineering, management and maintenance of big projects in the field of hydraulic works.

Morocco has also acquired a great experience in the water sector, notably in the field of the construction of dams where the avant-gardiste policy initiated by Late King His Majesty HASSAN the Second and continued by His Majesty King MOHAMMED the Sixth, has proved its efficiency. This policy allowed anticipating water problems, particularly during the long periods of draught that our country experienced in the eighties of the last century. It is in these circumstances that **King Hassan II Great World Water Prize** has been created by the World Water Council, in memory of Late King His Majesty HASSAN the Second for His actions in favour of the preservation of water resources and the development of international cooperation in this field.

We are currently building a renovated strategy for the water sector in order to optimize the management of this particularly scarce good and to face the growing threats in terms of hydrous deficit and the overexploitation of water tables. This strategy, integrated into a voluntary demand management is based on a portfolio of actions including the mobilization of water resources, water treatment, generalized access to drinkable water and sanitation, and the reconstitution of our water tables.

Excellency,
Ladies & Gentlemen,

Turkey will have the privilege of organizing the Fifth World Water Forum which will be hosted by the prestigious city of Istanbul next March. In this respect, I would like to congratulate your Ministry for the efforts you are deploying, notably in the framework of the regional process of this Forum in order to for the success of this imposing event.

The Agreement on technical cooperation that we are going to sign today will consolidate our cooperation and our partnership in order to take up the future challenges in connection with water scarcity and in

conjunction of the climatic changes impacts which negative effects constitute growing threats on the future of mankind.

To conclude my address, I would like again to welcome you Excellency and I hope that you will have a pleasant stay in Morocco knowing that you have a quite busy program during your stay.

Thank you very much.