

**SPEECH OF DR. ABDELKADER AMARA, MINISTER OF EQUIPMENT,
TRANSPORT, LOGISTICS AND WATER**

**MARRAKECH INTERNATIONAL SUMMIT ON WATER SECURITY
'FOR PARTICIPATIVE AND INNOVATIVE BASIN MANAGEMENT'**



30 September – 3 October 2019,
Marrakech, MOROCCO

Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Partners,

Water security is a major challenge for socio-economic development and social peace on a global scale. Indeed, the close relationship between Water Security and Food Security has a major impact on poverty reduction, economic growth and, therefore, on social and political stability.

Conscious of these stakes, several countries have developed policies and actions aiming to secure the water supply by widening the offer of it, through the development of hydraulic structures and demand management to improve the equitable distribution of water resources.

The Kingdom of Morocco is part of that dynamics with a rich experience in water management, which has taken a decisive turn since the launching of the visionary dam policy in 1967 by **His late Majesty King Hassan II, God have his soul**. This water policy will reach its full extent under the smart Orientations of **His Majesty King Mohammed VI, May God Assist him**, who made it a major priority and one of the main levers of economic and social development of the country.

Moreover, and for the implementation of this policy, the river basin is in this respect the most suitable geographical unit to promote the decentralized and participative management of water. Indeed, basin organizations provide a platform for water stakeholders to collectively, collaboratively and sustainably address the issue of water planning and management, thereby improving coordination and governance of water resources.

The Marrakech International Summit on Water Security under the theme: "for a participative and innovative basin management", organized from the 1st to the 3rd October 2019 by the Ministry of Equipment, Transport, Logistics and Water of the Kingdom of Morocco, in partnership with the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO) and the Global Institute for Water, Environment and Health (GIWEH), is an appropriate opportunity that will not fail to contribute to these vital issues, enhancing the involvement and commitment of stakeholders in water security, and reaffirm the need for a permanent and open dialogue with all stakeholders, in order to implement the necessary and appropriate solutions to address the challenges of water security.

This Summit, which is part of the process of the preparatory events for the 9th World Water Forum (March 2021, Dakar, Senegal), and also encompassing the holding of the 11th INBO General Assembly, aims to mobilize more than 500 national and international experts from the public and private sectors in the field of water, including, among others, political, institutional, financial stakeholders and representatives of the civil society, to discuss and exchange on the various aspects of water, on a local, regional and global scale. This will inevitably allow considering innovative solutions able to face the challenges related to this problem.

The Summit will be preceded, on 30 September 2019, by the meetings of the INBO regional networks and INBO World Liaison Bureau.

During this Summit, it is also planned, and this is a novelty, to organize an African ministerial session that will pay special attention to the water security challenges facing the African continent.

The choice of the city of Marrakech for organizing this International Summit, has several meanings. It embodies a strong symbolic value, not only due to the rich history of water resources management of this ancient city, but also because it recently hosted the 22nd Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. (COP 22), during which, for the first time, a day was dedicated to the theme of water as part of the Global Climate Action Agenda (GCAA).

Our action favouring the cause of water only makes sense if it allows responding concretely to the challenges facing it. The Kingdom of Morocco, with the support of its partners, is determined to win this bet. We have all the assets to stimulate and accompany this transformation through a collective mobilization, and this in accordance with the **High Orientations announced by His Majesty the King MOHAMMED VI, MAY GOD GLORIFY HIM**, in his address to the Nation on the occasion of the 19th anniversary of the Sovereign's accession to the Throne of His glorious ancestors: *"Our constant concern to improve the general social situation and to meet the economic challenges is matched only by our active commitment to preserving and enhancing the strategic resources of our country.. In this respect, water plays a key role in the dynamics of the development and preservation of stability "*

Our warmest thanks go to the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO), the Global Institute for Water, Environment and Health (GIWEH) and to all those who contribute directly or indirectly to the success of this important event