

(Translated from French)

MOROCCO

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Summary

Action

Morocco ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 1995 and the Kyoto Protocol in 2002, and hosted the seventh Conference of the Parties in Marrakech.

It submitted its first national communication in 2001 and is currently preparing its second.

Its first national communication showed that Morocco is very vulnerable to climate change, particularly in two key sectors of the domestic economy - water resources and agriculture.

A dozen adaptation projects were identified in the communication. Some are now being implemented, while others are in search of funding.

Morocco was one of the first countries to show faith in the Kyoto Protocol.

For the benefit of its own sustainable development and in order to contribute to industrialized countries' mitigation efforts under the clean development mechanism (CDM),

Morocco has met all the requisite conditions and has a portfolio of CDM projects that will lead to significant reductions in greenhouse gases. It also cooperates closely with various developed countries to enable the objectives of the multilateral convention to be attained by means of stronger bilateral relationships.

Expectations

Like all members of an international community that is increasingly aware of the dangers of climate change, Morocco believes that the steps taken so far fall short of what is needed to guarantee peace of mind about the future of our planet.

The discussions at this seminar should shed some light on the future of the process we are now involved in. The international community expects a multilateral response that will speed up the reduction of greenhouse gases while building on the gains and experience of the Kyoto Protocol.

On the basis of the various scientific conclusions reached by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Morocco will support any proposal designed to significantly curb global warming, and believes it is time to reflect on how to achieve that. Given the historical responsibility of the industrialized countries, and to ensure that achieving this objective does not damage developing countries' development prospects, a strong commitment by the industrialized countries - all the industrialized countries - would be desirable. And the sooner the better.

Serious concerns have been expressed by representatives of the business world about the future of their economic and financial activities in a globalized world disrupted by climate change. To succeed, we need to make business our ally. For this reason, it would be a great help to have economics ministers more closely involved in the next stages of the process.

We should also make the process less complicated and less onerous. The initiative taken at the tenth Conference of the Parties to improve the way the Convention works should be pursued so that we have a more flexible, less arduous system that takes more account of the concerns and expectations of developing countries.

In this connection, CDM procedures would benefit from being simplified. Our designated national authority has great difficulty explaining these procedures and getting

Moroccan partners interested in them. The executive board urgently needs to improve the way it works, now that it is at the centre of growing economic and financial interests. Similarly, and in the interests of greater fairness, a more balanced regional distribution of designated operational entities would be desirable, as would capacity-building for experts from developing countries in relation to the clean development mechanism.

The period that lies ahead of us should be a time of greater efforts in the field of adaptation. It is vital to pay more attention to the projects identified in the first national communications of developing countries. In this respect, we support the Buenos Aires plan of action and hope to see its guidelines in this area further developed and acted upon. We also believe that the funds already set up to oversee this work should become quickly operational and should be adequately financed.

Starting at this seminar, our Governments need to begin sketching in the broad outlines of their future collective action, so as to produce a clear political vision. This is the only way to mobilize all social and economic actors in our efforts to combat climate change successfully.

Paper presented by Morocco

Since the 1992 Earth Summit, Morocco has been actively involved on a regular basis in international efforts to protect the Earth's climate. It ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 1995 and the Kyoto Protocol in 2002, and hosted the seventh Conference of the Parties in Marrakech.

Since ratifying the Convention, Morocco has made institutional arrangements to deal with climate change. It prepared its first national communication and submitted it at the seventh Conference of the Parties.

The results of the greenhouse-gas inventory show that Morocco's contribution to worldwide greenhouse-gas emissions is very small (less than 2 TEQ CO₂ per inhabitant per year), but this has not stopped Morocco from taking practical steps to mitigate greenhouse-gas emissions through energy-saving projects, projects to control energy use and the promotion of renewable energy sources.

However, its first national communication showed that Morocco is very vulnerable to climate change and needs a strong adaptation policy. Its vulnerability was highlighted in two key sectors of the domestic economy - water resources and agriculture.

The climate-change scenarios for Morocco produced using the methodology of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and presented in the communication are particularly harsh. If no global action is taken, the annual average temperature in Morocco will rise by between 0.6 and 1.1° C by 2020, and annual rainfall will drop on average by 4 per cent as compared with the figures for 2000.

The potential impact of climate change on water resources in 2020 would be an average countrywide reduction of 10-15 per cent and on agriculture a fall in cereal output of 50 per cent in a dry year and 10 per cent in a normal year.

A dozen adaptation projects were identified in the first national communication. Some are now being implemented, while others are in search of funding.

Under the terms of the Convention, Morocco is required to report regularly and continuously to the international community on action taken to comply with its obligations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Accordingly, Morocco began preparing its second national communication in April 2005. This communication will help strengthen Morocco's technical and institutional capacity to tackle climate-related concerns in national and sectoral development priorities. It therefore follows on from the steps already taken to produce and refine studies on vulnerability and adaptation and to assess the potential for mitigating greenhouse-gas emissions.

Morocco was one of the first countries to show faith in the Kyoto Protocol. The Marrakech Accords, reached in a difficult political context, paved the way for the entry into force of the Protocol. History will recall in particular the decisions that contributed to the rapid introduction of the clean development mechanism (CDM), a prime example of a North-South partnership for sustainable development.

For the benefit of its own sustainable development and in order to contribute to industrialized countries' mitigation efforts under this mechanism, Morocco has met all the

requisite conditions and has a portfolio of CDM projects that will lead to significant reductions in greenhouse gases. It also cooperates closely with various developed countries to enable the objectives of the multilateral convention to be attained by means of stronger bilateral relationships.

Expectations

Like all members of an international community that is increasingly aware of the dangers of climate change, Morocco believes that the steps taken so far fall short of what is needed to guarantee peace of mind about the future of our planet.

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Serious concerns have been expressed by representatives of the business world about the future of their economic and financial activities in a globalized world disrupted by climate change. To succeed, we need to make business our ally. For this reason, it would be a great help to have economics ministers more closely involved in the next stages of the process.

We should also make the process less complicated and less onerous. The initiative taken at the tenth Conference of the Parties to improve the way the Convention works should be pursued so that we have a more flexible, less arduous system that takes more account of the concerns and expectations of developing countries.

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