

PAM 10th Plenary Session

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Statement by H.E. Mr. Abdelkader Amara, Minister of Energy, Mines, Water and Environment of the Kingdom of Morocco - Interpreters` Audio Transcript

First and foremost, President of PAM, allow me to extend my own congratulations for the constructivism shown in this Plenary Session. And I would like to congratulate you all for the efforts to favour the exchanges in the Mediterranean.

As you are all aware of, the Mediterranean area is in the crosscuts of civility and it faces several challenges. The challenges are articulated around economic, social, migratory, financial and others related issues and are also related to climate change and sustainable development. In particular, the utilization of natural, agricultural and human resources to the benefit of sustainable development is in our forefront. All these challenges cannot be coped with without having a sustainable development, a fully operational and balanced cooperation to enable transfer of technology to pave the way to industrial partnerships, to mobilise investments, to give a boost to economic development and to build human capacity as well. So a major challenge for our region, which is a challenge for the rest of the world as well I believe, is climate change. We are all convinced that our region has the choice to be part of the international efforts targeted at a carbon-free world, to reduce the greenhouse gases as well as to achieve the objective of reducing the temperature of the planet by 1.5 degree. So the energy issue is related to climate change and the energy production is responsible for the emission of 2/3 of the greenhouse gases which is a challenge for the countries in the future.

Ladies and Gentlemen, allow me just to say a couple of words about the approach of Morocco. We are committed to a sustainable development policy that dates back half of a century ago. In the field of water through building dams and agricultural land by having the green Morocco plan in place in the fishery and maritime resource use. Recently the Kingdom of Morocco has been transformed into an energy example, one of the models of the energy transition in the world and we are a role model for many countries. The energy transition in Morocco recognizes a huge development. The declaration in Paris talks about the use of renewable energy from 22% to 52% by 2030. So for the first time in history we will have a mixture of electricity production which uses renewable energy sources whereas in 2009 this level was much lower than it is as we speak. This can be utilised through wind energy, which is assessed at the capacity of 2500 mega offshore, so the potential is much higher than that. In Morocco from 2030 we are going to plan an additional capacity for energy production from renewable energies of which 4200 are going to be produced from wind energy. So we are planning to have an increase by 20% by wind and solar energy. The global investment in the energy system from 2016 to 2030 will be about 40

billion dollars, of which 20 billion from renewable energy sources. It is thought of providing new opportunities for the private sector development. This growth or increase of renewable energy is going to provide our country with favourable conditions to reduce the greenhouse gases. It is important to highlight that these projects have been designed in contact with important institutional and legal projects. I would like to greet at this occasion the contribution of the Moroccan parliament, when it comes to the swift and quick approval of the reforms.

I would like to refer to the norm on renewable energy that has paved the way for the private sector for trading electricity generated from renewal resources with an access to the national network of high precious and very vital resources by using all the technical resources. In the electricity field, at the same time, we aim at using the combined capacities which will avoid the emission of 4 million of carbon gases. In addition to meeting the needs for energy in the future we through the ambitious renewable energy projects aim at having promising approaches through the local industrial integration resource development and improvement of technologies for renewable energy. Another field of the strategy is the energy efficiency. Our objectives are that we increase 12% the economy by saving energy. Morocco is passing an important stage for the elimination of the public subsidies for liquid fuels and from December 2015 the fuel crisis has been liberalised. This decision shows in itself the will of Morocco to encourage the development of a carbon free economy.

We are all aware of the fact that the energy system of the Mediterranean is based on fossil fuel energy, so the energy mix as it is today cannot be maintained according to the same structure if we take into consideration our commitments and our responsibilities in the context of climate change vis-à-vis the international bodies.

We have additional sources as well, for instance there is craftsmanship, qualified human resources, particularly in renewable energy and energy efficiency, whereas in the south, in addition to the hydro carbon resources, there is a considerable renewable energy potential. This potential, if managed properly, will not simply provide more safeguards in the long term electricity revision but at the same time it will put the vision in the first plan as the world provider and transform that in one of the basis for future growth.

In this context, the Mediterranean countries are increasingly invited to foster an operational cooperation, to provide diversification and to provide safer markets when it comes to provision of electricity. The electric integration of the resources in some countries deserves special attention by the political decision makers. It asks for a harmonization of the legal and vital framework, technical coordination so as to enable coordination of electricity production approaches and close cooperation in order to establish regional electricity cooperation. Morocco dedicates all its attention to the European integration; as a matter of fact it considers it a passage because of the infrastructures that it has in place with the neighbouring countries. With Spain for instance we have developed the network of 1.400 mega watts and we are planning additional

capacities with Portugal, with Spain and others countries. Feasibility studies need to be conducted in order to see how the model would work with Italy.

Ladies and Gentlemen, allow me to conclude by saying that the participation of the States parties in the Convention and in the event organized in Marrakech, serves to show the commitment of Morocco in the field of environment. COP22 will be an important conference for development of human kind. One of the major objective goals of COP22 is to continue the commitments as agreed upon in Paris and there is no doubt whatsoever that the foreseen safeguards made for this program , started from 2020 will start from that conference. Therefore, Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to invite you to take part at this conference that will be organized in Marrakesh in 2016. Marrakesh is renowned city of Morocco, it has been established in 1071 and I invite you once again for taking part in this activity.