

## **DES' Closing Remarks**

### **Fifth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development**

**Marrakech, 18 April 2019**

**- Honorable, Nezha El Ouafi, Secrétaire d'Etat chargée du développement durable du Maroc**

**- Honorables Ministres**

**- Distingués Délégués**

C'est un jour très heureux pour moi car je suis convaincue que cette cinquième session du Forum régional africain sur le développement durable – sous le haut patronage de sa Majesté le Roi Mohammed VI – a été un grand succès au niveau organisationnel et au niveau de la richesse du contenu et des discussions. En effet,

- Le Forum a accueilli plus de 800 délégués de 51 pays différents, dont 45 pays africains.
- Une participation record de 22 Ministres et Secrétaire d'Etat
- Des messages clés solides adoptés sur chacun des thèmes à l'examen;
- Une participation large et active de diverses parties prenantes.
- Un nombre record de 28 événements parallèles et des lancements de nouvelles initiatives. Entre autres, le premier Forum sur la science, la technologie et l'innovation et le lancement national du Fonds africain pour les femmes leaders,

Avec le progrès et le succès de ce Forum réalisés ici à Marrakech, je suis très confiante que toute l'Afrique portée par le Maroc, Président du Forum 2019, ira au Forum politique de haut niveau 2019 avec une

seule voix forte et fière de son propre leadership pour présenter les messages clefs issus de ce Forum afin d'avancer son agenda pour le développement durable

Pour nous, à la CEA, le succès de ce Forum est le résultat d'une collaboration étroite entre les organisations des Nations Unies, la Commission de l'union Africaine, la Banque Africaine de Développement et les partenaires et avec le gouvernement du Maroc.

J'espère que les relations et la confiance que nous avons bâties continueront dans notre volonté avec tous les efforts nécessaires pour atteindre les objectifs de l'Agenda 2063 et du programme de 2030 pour le développement durable.

**In recognition of these great achievements** at the 5<sup>th</sup> Session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, **let me on behalf of the ECA, regional entities, UN partners, Civil Society and indeed on my own behalf, thank all of you for this great success.**

Most of all, **on our collective behalf, allow me to give a big thank you to our host country the Kingdom of Morocco for a very successful Forum.**

Join me to **also appreciate the support and hospitality** extended to us by our host, the significant investment made to ensure we had a successful meeting in a friendly environment. **We can truly say we had a royal reception!**

**Please join me to give Morocco a big applause.**

I also wish to thank all the support of various colleagues, technical and logistic teams, **interpreters**, rapporteurs, reporters, and indeed everyone who has contributed in any way to making this Forum a success.

Let me **also thank ministers, members of parliament, senior government officials and distinguished delegates** that took time to be present here with us for the entire three or more days, and also for

**leading and steering diligently discussions in the various sessions, plenaries and side events.** The Forum could not have been successful without these inputs.

Let me **also thank immensely the Bureau of the 5<sup>th</sup> Session of the Forum**, under the Chair of Morocco, **for having steered us so well to go through the Forum** in such a diligent and effective way.

We look forward to **working with the Bureau to take to the High Level Political Forum the outcomes of this session of the Forum**, in collaboration with our sister agencies and partners.

We also look forward to **working with the Bureau to ensure that we work beyond the 2019 High Level Political Forum to provide support to member States in their VNR processes, particularly for those 18 countries still to take part in the process. Time is not our side and the need the close to poverty gap has never been stronger than now, especially given our growing youthful population.**

Ladies and gentlemen,

This is a **watershed moment for the continent**: challenges and opportunities present themselves to us in equal measure.

During the Forum **we learned of the many initiatives and programmes that governments, civil society, private sector and UN agencies are implementing to empower our people and institutions and to build fair, inclusive and equitable continent.**

I **trust that this Forum has energize of all to be bold** as we return to our various destinations and work places to engage in supporting attainment of the continent's development agendas **so that when we meet again in 2020**, we would discuss measurable progress towards the SDGs.

As many of you have said during this Forum, let's move from policies and strategies to implementation and execution. It's also, a call to all

governments and their partners to put the means, mobilize and allocate adequate resources in support of these SDGs and Agenda 2063.

Thank you and **I wish you all safe travel** to your various destinations!

**CHOUKRANE**