

**INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION
ON THE ELIMINATION
OF ALL FORMS OF
RACIAL DISCRIMINATION**



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COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF
RACIAL DISCRIMINATION
Thirty-first session

CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS SUBMITTED BY STATES PARTIES
UNDER ARTICLE 9 OF THE CONVENTION

Seventh periodic reports of States Parties due in 1984

Addendum

MOROCCO 1/

[7 September 1984]

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1/ For previous reports submitted by the Government of Morocco, and for the summary records of meetings of the Committee at which those reports were considered, see:

- Initial report - CERD/C/R.33/Add.1 (CERD/C/SR.111-SR.112);
- Second periodic report - CERD/C/R.65/Add.1 (CERD/C/SR.188);
- Third periodic report - CERD/C/R.88/Add.6 (CERD/C/SR.327-SR.328);
- Fourth periodic report - CERD/C/18/Add.1 (CERD/C/SR.370);
- Fifth periodic report - CERD/C/65/Add.1 (CERD/C/SR.481);
- Sixth periodic report - CERD/C/90/Add.6 (CERD/C/SR.602-SR.603).

Introduction

1. In accordance with the provisions of article 9 (1) of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Kingdom of Morocco hereby submits its seventh periodic report.
2. The report deals primarily with questions raised by members of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination during the consideration of the sixth periodic report of the Kingdom of Morocco (CERD/C/90/Add.6).
3. During the Committee's consideration of the sixth report, the representative of the Kingdom of Morocco replied briefly to most of the questions raised. This report contains additional information relating particularly, as desired by the Committee, to articles 4 and 6 of the Convention, more detailed data on the implementation of the socio-economic development programme for the Saharan region, the establishment of Communal Councils and communal elections and, lastly, information concerning the application of article 7 of the Convention.
4. However, it should be pointed out, first of all, that there has been no change in Moroccan legislation with regard to the question of racial discrimination since the submission of the sixth report and that no violation of the Convention has been noted to date on Moroccan territory.
5. The Kingdom of Morocco wishes to state once again that one of the most characteristic features of Moroccan society is the total absence of racial discrimination. Distinctions, restrictions or preferences and other forms of discrimination based on race, colour and political or ethnic origin are therefore policies alien to Morocco, since, as has already been stressed on several occasions, they are incompatible with the precepts of Islam, which constitute the very foundations of the Moroccan State.

... INFORMATION IN RELATION TO ARTICLES 2 TO 7 ...

Article 4

6. The Moroccan legislature has never felt the need to enact rules of criminal law specifically punishing acts of racial discrimination, for the very simple reason that such discrimination is sociologically non-existent in Morocco, since it is automatically regarded as "indecent" and contrary to "morality", i.e. the very foundations of Moroccan culture and civilization, even before being "unlawful", i.e. constituting a violation of the legal principles that form the basis of public order in Morocco (see fifth periodic report of Morocco, CERD/C/65/Add.1).

7. Nevertheless, with a view to maintaining and ensuring the continuity of national unity, the Moroccan Criminal Code provides in article 201 that:

"Anyone committing an outrage in order to provoke civil war, by arming the inhabitants or inciting them to take up arms against one another, or to cause destruction, massacres and looting in one or more douars or townships, shall be guilty of violating the internal security of the State and shall be punished with death.

A conspiracy organized for the same purpose shall be punished by imprisonment for a period of from 5 to 20 years if it was followed by an act committed or initiated with a view to preparing the execution of the conspiracy.

If the conspiracy was not followed by an act committed or initiated with a view to preparing its execution, the sentence shall be imprisonment for a period of from one to five years.

A proposal made but not approved to organize a conspiracy shall be punished by imprisonment for a period of from six months to three years."

8. Furthermore, the Dahir of 3 Jumada I 1378 (15 November 1958), governing the right of association, amended by the Dahir of 6 Rabi' I 1393 (10 April 1973), states the following in article 3:

"Any association established to further a cause or objective which is illegal contrary to law or morality ... is null and void".

9. Article 17 of the same Dahir also states:

"Political parties and associations of a political character shall be lawfully constituted only if they are not void under the terms of article 3 and if, after giving the notification called for under article 5, they comply in addition with the following conditions:

(1) Membership must consist solely of Moroccan nationals and must be open to all our subjects, without any discrimination on the grounds of race, creed or the region from which they come;

(...)

(3) They must possess statutes entitling all members of the association to take an active part in its control;

(...)

(5) Membership must not be open to persons who have been deprived of civic rights or who have been punished in any other way for anti-national activities."

Article 6

10. Access to the courts of the Kingdom is open to all - Moroccans and aliens - on the same conditions.

11. The impartiality of judges is guaranteed by articles 76 and 79 of the Constitution, which affirm both the independence of the judicial authority from the legislative and executive powers and the irremovability of judges. These guarantees are supplemented by the power accorded to the Supreme Court to take over a case, irrespective of its nature or degree, on grounds of reasonable suspicion or public interest. (article 383 et seq. of the Code of Civil Procedure and articles 273 and 274 of the Code of Criminal Procedure).

12. With a view to guaranteeing the right to fair justice and to protecting the citizen against any abuses, the Moroccan legislature has provided the country with courts of several types.

13. The Dahir of 15 July 1974, which established the judicial system of the Kingdom of Morocco, lists the following courts:

Communal and district courts;

Courts of first instance;

Courts of appeal; and

A Supreme Court.

A. Communal and district courts

14. In these courts, whose structure, composition and powers are specified in another Dahir of 15 July 1974, cases are heard by a single judge, assisted by a clerk or a secretary.

15. The judges are appointed from among the magistrates in accordance with the statutes of the magistrature or from persons outside it.

16. The latter and their deputies (four judges and eight deputy judges, with two deputies for each judge) are chosen by a majority vote by an electoral college composed of 100 persons, for a period of three years.

17. The members of the electoral college and, consequently, the judges to be chosen must meet the following requirements:

They must be of Moroccan nationality;

They must be at least 40 years of age;

They must be of good morals and must not have been convicted of a crime or offence, with the exception of unintentional minor offences;

They must be actually domiciled in the commune;

They must enjoy all their civic rights; and

They must have the qualifications needed to perform the functions of a judge.

18. Active public officials - other than sitting judges - lawyers, wakeel (authorized defence counsel), udool (Muslim law notaries) and business agents may not be members of the electoral college.

19. Members of the electoral college are appointed by a commission comprising:

The President of the court of first instance in the area in which the commune (or district) is situated, acting as President;

A sitting magistrate and another representing the Public Prosecutor's Office of the same court, both appointed by the Ministry of Justice;

The caid (sub-prefect) or the khalifa (deputy sub-prefect) of the district;

A representative of the bar appointed by the bâtonnier;

The President of the Communal Council and a member elected that Council;

The President of the Chamber of Agriculture or the Chamber of Commerce, as appropriate.

20. This commission also has to set the limits of the territorial jurisdiction of each communal or district judge.

21. These courts hear minor civil and criminal cases (civil cases involving not more than 2,000 DH and criminal cases involving a fine of less than 800 DH, excluding any custodial penalty).

B. Courts of first instance

22. These courts comprise a President, judges and alternate judges. The Public Prosecutor's Office is composed of a King's prosecutor and one or more deputies.

23. These courts hear all cases concerning criminal, commercial, real estate, social, personal status and succession matters. Cases are heard by a single judge, assisted by a clerk. In social matters, however, the judge is assisted by four assessors, unless he is hearing cases involving work accidents or work-related illnesses.

24. The presence of the Public Prosecutor's Office is compulsory at hearings of criminal cases and of cases provided for by the Code of Civil Procedure.

C. Courts of appeal

25. They are collegiate in nature. They include, under the authority of the first President, a number of specialized divisions, including a personal status and succession division and a criminal division.

26. The Public Prosecutor's Office is composed of the King's prosecutor and his deputies.

27. These courts also include one or more examining magistrates, one or more juveniles' judges, a registrar and a secretary of the Public Prosecutor's Office.

28. Hearings are held and decisions are handed down by three judges, assisted by a clerk. The presence of the Public Prosecutor's Office is compulsory at hearings of criminal cases and of cases specified by the Code of Civil Procedure.

D. The Supreme Court

29. The Court consists of six divisions:

A civil division;

A personal status and real estate division;

An administrative division;

A criminal division; and

A constitutional division.

30. Hearings are held and decisions are handed down by five judges, assisted by a clerk; the Public Prosecutor's Office is represented by the King's prosecutor, assisted by attorneys-general.

31. The Supreme Court rules on:

Appeals lodged against final decisions and judgements handed down by courts and tribunals of all kinds;

Appeals against decisions by administrative departments on the grounds that they have exceeded their authority.

32. The Supreme Court also hears:

Appeals against decisions by which judges have exceeded their authority;

Cases of conflicts of jurisdiction between courts which have no higher common jurisdiction other than the Supreme Court.

33. Hearings in all these courts are public. However, if a court decides that public hearings would be prejudicial to public order or morality, it has the power to order the proceedings to be held in camera.

34. With regard to recourse procedures, every one whose rights have been violated or who considers that his rights have been infringed has a number of possible remedies, both ordinary and extraordinary.

35. Judgements rendered by courts of first instance in the case of minor punishable offences may be appealed against in the Criminal Appeals Division of the Court of Appeal. The judgement rendered there may be the subject of an application to the Supreme Court for annulment.

36. Article 134 of the Code of Civil Procedure of 28 September 1974 provides that:

"The right of appeal exists in all cases which are not expressly excluded by the law.

"Appeals against judgements by a court of first instance must be lodged within 30 days ...".

37. Furthermore, article 136 of the same Code provides that:

"The time allowed for lodging appeals is tripled in the case of persons who have no domicile or residence in the Kingdom."

38. It should be noted that the decisions of communal or district judges are not subject to any ordinary or extraordinary remedy.

39. However, the decisions may be referred, within three days from the date of their being handed down or notified to the court of first instance in the event that:

The judge has exceeded his competence;

The judge has taken a decision despite being the subject of a legitimate challenge by one of the parties;

The judge has taken a decision without first making sure of the identity of the parties;

The judge has sentenced the dependant without any proof of his having received the notification or summons.

40. Citizens also have other types of recourse against any administrative decision which has inflicted injury on them:

An appeal out of court to the person responsible for the decision;

An appeal to the next highest administrative authority;

An appeal against a decision by an administrative department on the ground that it has exceeded its power.

41. Article 360 of the Code of Civil Procedure provides as follows:

"Subject to the provisions of the following paragraph of this article, appeals against decisions by administrative departments on the grounds that they have exceeded their authority shall be lodged within 60 days from the date of publication or notification of the decision contested.

However, the persons concerned shall be entitled, before the expiry of the time-limit for the appeal to the Supreme Court, to appeal out of court to the person responsible for the decision or to lodge an appeal with the next higher administrative authority. In this case, the appeal to the Supreme Court may be lodged within 60 days from the date of notification of the decision expressly rejecting, either wholly or in part, the earlier administrative appeal."

Information on the activities and operation of the Communal Councils and the election of their members

42. With regard to the activities of local communities, it should be noted that the 1976 institutional reform - as already indicated in the sixth periodic report of Morocco - deals with all the technical, human and financial resources that enable the commune to play its full role at all levels.

43. The local communities had previously been excluded from economic activities, regarded as the preserve of the private and public sectors. The Dahir of 30 September 1976, which contains the Charter of the Communes, opened up broad prospects for participation by the communes in the national development effort.

44. The main objectives of the planning activities of local communities are as follows:

Construction of reception infrastructures;

Training of local administrators;

Training of those elected to manage public property;

Civic education and training of citizens;

Rationalization of the management of local public services.

45. Article 30 of the Dahir of 1976 provides - as stressed in the previous report - a genuine platform for economic action to enable the commune to take its place as a partner of the traditional economic agents (the State and the private sector).

46. The volume of investments borne by local communities (6.2 billion dirhams) illustrates the role assigned to them in the achievement of the objectives of the 1981-1985 five-year plan. To enable them to accomplish this task, considerable resources have been placed at their disposal, either independent funds, loans or subsidies from the State budget.

47. Furthermore, the Communal Development Fund (FEC) has been restructured during the three-year plan with a view to giving it an even more active role in financing local investment. It will finance 36.9 per cent of the investment of local communities under the 1981-1985 plan.

48. Capital transfers from the State budget through the Local Communities Development Fund will represent 32.1 per cent of investments to be made by these communities, under the 1981-1985 plan.

49. With regard to the operation of the communal system, chapter III (articles 15-29) of the Dahir of 1976 relating to communal organization, entitled "Operation", contains extremely full details on the matter (convening of sessions of the Council, preparation of the agenda, voting, public nature of discussions and decisions, etc.):

"Article 15. The Communal Council, which is convened by its President, shall meet four times a year, in regular session, during the months of February, April, August and September. The duration of each session shall not exceed 15 consecutive working days. This period may be prolonged by decision of the Governor, taken at the request of the President. When circumstances so require, the President shall convene the Council in extraordinary session, either on his own initiative or when the competent local authority or one third of the active members request him to do so in writing.

The Council shall meet, at the earliest, three full days after the notices of convocation have been sent.

Article 16. The President of the Communal Council, acting in co-operation with the Bureau, shall prepare the agenda of the sessions and the communication to the competent local authority, which shall have a period of eight days to include in the agenda any additional questions it wishes to submit to the Council for consideration.

Every councillor may propose to the President the inclusion in the agenda of sessions of any item within the competence of the Council.

The President shall then draw up the final agenda, which shall be sent to the competent local authority at least three days before the opening date of the session.

Article 17. The competent local authority or its representative attends the meetings. It does not take part in the voting. It may submit, at the request of the President, any useful comments relating to the Council's deliberations and, in particular, to the items included in the agenda in accordance with its request.

Article 18. Serving staff in the communal services who are summoned by the President of the Council either on his own initiative or at the request of the competent local authority shall attend the meetings in an advisory capacity and for questions coming within their competence.

Officials or agents of the State or public establishments who are serving in the territory of the commune may be called upon to participate, in an advisory capacity, in the work of the Council. They are notified through the local authority.

Article 19. The Communal Council shall conduct its deliberations in plenary session. It can hold valid discussions only if more than half of the members in office attend the meeting and can take up only the items included in the agenda. The President can object to the discussion of any item not included in the agenda.

If the second assembly has not succeeded in bringing together one third of the active members, there may be convened, in accordance with the procedures and time-limits indicated in the previous paragraph, a third assembly whose discussions shall be valid whatever the number of members present.

Article 20. Decisions are taken by an absolute majority of those voting, with the exception provided for in the third paragraph of this article.

Votes are taken by public ballot. Exceptionally, the vote is taken by secret ballot if one third of the members present so request or in the event of a nomination or presentation.

In the event of a nomination or presentation, the election is held in the conditions set out in the second and third paragraphs of article 2.

The names of those voting are indicated in the minutes.

If the vote is public, the vote cast by the President is decisive should the votes be equally divided, and the vote of each member voting is indicated in the minutes.

Article 21. The plenary meetings of the Communal Council are public. Their agendas and dates are posted at the communal centre. The President is responsible for maintaining order in the meeting. He can have any person who causes a disturbance expelled from the meeting. If the President is unable to ensure order directly, he shall call on the local authority.

At the request of the President, or of the competent local authority or of its representative or at the request of three of its members, the assembly may decide, without discussion, to hold a closed meeting. The competent local authority or its representative shall attend the meeting.

Article 22. Minutes are prepared for each meeting. The minutes are included in a numbered register and initialled by the President and the Secretary of the Council.

Decisions are signed by the President and the Secretary.

Article 23. Extracts of the decisions are posted within one week at the door of the communal hall; any voter or taxpayer has the right to see and to take a full or partial copy of the decisions. Any person may publish them on his own responsibility.

Article 24. Any member of the Communal Council who, without a reason recognized as legitimate by the Council, has not responded to three successive convocations or who, without a valid excuse, has refused to perform any of his duties under the texts in force, may, after having been invited to furnish an explanation, be declared to have resigned by a reasoned decision of the Minister of the Interior. The request for a declaration stating that the person concerned has resigned shall be sent by the President of the Council or the local authority with the reasons of the Council or, as appropriate, of the local authority or President, to the governor who is to transmit it to the Minister of the Interior. The person concerned cannot be re-elected before one year following the date of the decision unless there has previously been a complete change of membership of the Communal Councils.

Article 25. Voluntary resignations are sent to the governor, who transmits them to the Minister of the Interior. They become final upon acknowledgement of receipt by the governor or, failing such acknowledgement of receipt, one month after a further transmittal of the resignation certified by registered mail.

Article 26. The Council shall establish standing committees to consider the matters which are to be submitted to the plenary assembly. Each committee is presided over by the President of the Communal Council or his representative, who may be assisted by the competent local authority or its representative. At least two standing committees should be established to study financial and budgetary questions and economic and social questions, respectively.

Article 27. The committees may not perform any of the functions entrusted to the plenary council. The chairman of the committees is ex officio rapporteur of the work of the committee; he may call upon the staff employed in the communal services to participate in the committee's work in an advisory capacity. He may also summon for the same purposes, through the local authority, officials and agents of the State or of public establishments operating within the territory of the commune.

Article 28. Employers are required to allow employees of theirs who are members of the Communal Council the necessary time to participate in plenary meetings of the Council or its subsidiary committees.

The employees will not receive pay for the time they spend in the various meetings of the Council and its subsidiary committees. The time may be made up.

The work suspension provided for in this article may not be a reason for the employer to terminate the service contract, under penalty of damages for the benefit of the employee.

Article 29. The Council shall draw up its own rules of procedure."

50. With regard to the election of the Communal Councils, the Moroccan representative already replied briefly to this question during the consideration of the sixth report of the Kingdom of Morocco by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD/C/SR.602-SR.603).

51. It was stated that serious candidates for election to the Communal Councils could be put up by a political party or a professional association or stand as individuals.

52. Under Moroccan legislation, any person of Moroccan nationality without distinction of sex who is 25 years of age, is listed in an electoral roll and has never been sentenced to a custodial penalty may seek election with the exception of:

(a) Persons actually performing the following functions or having ceased to perform them less than six months previously:

Court judges;

Governors, secretaries-general, principal private secretaries of governors and other local officials (pashas or caids and their khalifas and shaikhs and muqaddameen);

(b) Military personnel of all ranks on active duty and members of the law enforcement services (gendarmarie, police, auxiliary forces);

(c) Naturalized Moroccans, for a period of five years following the date of their naturalization, unless they have a waiver issued in accordance with the provisions of article 17 of the Dahir of 21 Safar 1378 (6 September 1958), which contains the Moroccan Nationality Code;

(d) Communal councillors declared to have resigned in the conditions provided for in article 9 (1) of the Dahir of 28 Dhu'lhijjah 1379 (23 June 1960) on communal organization. They may not be re-elected before at least one year has elapsed unless there has previously been a complete change of membership of the Communal Councils.

53. Furthermore, "the following are ineligible within the commune in which they exercise their functions or have ceased to exercise them less than six months previously at the date set for the voting:

Communal officials or agents paid wholly or in part from the communal budget;

Communal auditors;

Concession-holders, directors or managers of public services managed, granted, leased or subsidized by the commune."

54. "From the time when the results of the vote are announced, persons referred to in the present article who are elected members of a Communal Council shall have a period of 10 days to decide whether to accept the mandate or to retain their employment. Without a declaration to the pasha or caid within this period, they will be considered to have chosen to retain their employment" (article 16 of the Dahir of 27 Safar 1379 (1 September 1959) concerning the election of Communal Councils).

55. The members of the Communal Councils are elected for a term of six years, by a relative majority in a single-round uninominal ballot with universal and direct suffrage.

56. It should be noted that the Kingdom of Morocco has six urban prefectures (five prefectures of the Wilaya of Casablanca and the prefecture of Rabat-Salé), 39 provinces, 131 districts and 346 communes (76 rural communes, 40 autonomous areas and 45 municipalities).

The programme for the socio-economic development of the Saharan provinces

57. In the previous report the Kingdom of Morocco furnished some information on the development of the Saharan regions.

58. In the spring of 1976, an emergency programme was launched to provide these regions, like those of central and northern Morocco, with all the infrastructure necessary to overcome their backwardness in respect of the facilities inherited from the colonial period and to permit their economic "take-off".

59. It has been noted that a national loan amounting to 1 billion dirhams (nearly \$US 220 million at the time) was floated in November 1976. This loan was in addition to the funds allocated by the Treasury and specialized financial institutions for the execution of various economic and social projects.

60. In view of the special importance which the Government attaches to promoting the development of the Saharan provinces, a national commission, responsible for co-ordinating the proposals of the various Departments and preparing a new development programme for those provinces, was established during the preparation of the 1981-1985 five-year plan. On the basis of the work of that commission, several projects have been adopted and integrated in the various programmes of the Ministerial Departments concerned.

61. The projects concern all sectors, more particularly the basic infrastructure (ports of Laâyoune and Boujdour, Laâyoune and Dakhla airports, telecommunications), housing, drinking water prospecting and production, education and vocational training and the transmission of radio and television programmes to the Saharan provinces.

62. The programme is estimated at 1,967 million dirhams (excluding 120 million dirhams earmarked under the Local Communities Development Fund). Another supplementary programme of 500.9 million dirhams has also been adopted under the 1981-1985 plan, i.e., a total amount of 2,587 million dirhams allocated for the socio-economic development of these provinces.

63. The following tables itemize expenditure under the 1981-1985 supplementary action programme for the Saharan provinces, in thousands of dirhams.

1981-1985 SUPPLEMENTARY ACTION PROGRAMME FOR
THE SAHARAN PROVINCES

Table 1

(thousand DH)

PROJECT	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	TOTAL 1981-1985
Sebkha Tah project (hydro-solar development)	-	20 000	6 000	15 000	15 000	56 000
Electrification	4 000	12 000	35 000	28 000	-	79 000
Housing	26 720	40 000	30 000	24 000	20 000	140 720
Extension of the Laâyoune prison administration	-	-	1 500	1 500	-	3 000
Smara Cultural Centre	1 000	-	-	-	-	1 000
Health						
Construction and equipping of a 30-bed hospital at Tarfaya	-	-	4 000	2 500	1 000	7 500

Table 2

(thousand DH)

PROJECT	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	TOTAL 1981-1985
Improvement and equipping of the old hospital at Laâyoune and the Nurses' Training School	-	-	5 000	-	-	5 000
Construction of 4 urban health clinics at Laâyoune	700	700	700	700	-	2 800
Construction of an Urban Health Centre at Laâyoune	-	1 200	-	-	-	1 200
Construction of 4 rural health clinics at Foum El-Qued, Dchaira, Boucraâ and Daoura	300	-	300	300	300	1 200
Equipping of the new hospital at Laâyoune	-	-	5 000	-	-	5 000

Table 3

(thousand DH)

PROJECT	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	TOTAL 1981-1985
Equipping of the new hospital at Smara	-	2 000	-	-	-	2 000
Equipping of the new hospital at Boujdour	-	-	1 500	-	-	1 500
Equipping of the new hospital at Dakhla	-	-	2 000	-	-	2 000
Construction of an urban health clinic at Dakhla	-	-	-	500	-	500
Education:						
Construction of 55 class-rooms	9 515	-	-	-	-	9 515

Table 4

(thousand DH)

PROJECT	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	TOTAL 1981-1985
Vocational training						
Construction of an Applied Technology Institute	13 850	-	-	-	-	13 850
Equipment						
Water prospecting	3 000	-	-	-	-	3 000
Drinking water supply and strengthening of the distribution network	20 900	-	-	-	-	20 900
Air and sea transport						
Regularization and acquisition of operational equipment for the ports of Tarfaya, Laâyoune, Dakhla and Tan-Tan, and study for the Laâyoune air terminal	72 015	-	-	-	-	72 015

Table 5

(thousand DH)

PROJECT	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	TOTAL 1981-1985
Construction of the Laâyoune air terminal	-	10 000	10 000	-	-	20 000
Information:						
Construction of a 600 kw) transmitter at Laâyoune)	48 000	-	-	-	-	48 000
Equipping of the TV station) at Laâyoune)						
Youth and sports:						
Construction of an Observation and Rehabilitation Centre	-	4 000	1 200	-	-	5 200
TOTAL PER YEAR (tables 1 to 5)	200 000	89 900	102 200	72 500	36 300	500 900

Article 7

Information on measures taken by the Moroccan Government to provide instruction concerning the objectives of the United Nations and other cultures and civilizations

64. The Moroccan representative replied to the first point during the Committee's consideration of the sixth periodic report.
65. It should, however, also be stressed that at the higher educational level, specialized courses on international institutions are given to students of law and economic sciences. Courses are also given on civil liberties.
66. With regard to the teaching of courses on human rights to the law enforcement forces, it should be noted that the police, gendarmerie and auxiliary forces receive, as part of their training, instruction on civil liberties, the fundamental rights of citizens, penal procedure, etc.
67. Furthermore, instruction concerning other cultures and civilizations forms part of school and university curricula. Courses on ancient and contemporary history and geography are given to students throughout secondary school. Specialization in these subjects is provided at the higher level.
68. Moreover, for the understanding of cultures and civilizations - African and other - the Ministry of Cultural Affairs organizes periodically, in co-operation with the embassies of the countries concerned, accredited to Morocco, "cultural weeks" characterized by theatrical performances, film shows, exhibits of books and paintings, etc.

69. The Ministry of Tourism, for its part, in co-operation with public and private bodies, organizes annually, for the same purpose, a great number of cultural and artistic festivals in all the major towns of the Kingdom. Some, including Marrakesh, for example, or those of the towns of El Jadida and Meknes are essentially Moroccan in character and do not involve foreign participants. The Saïdia festival of "gharnatie" Arabo-Andalusian music, held every August in the eastern province of Oujda, brings together, on the other hand, not only Moroccan artists and musicians but also Algerian, Tunisian and sometimes even Spanish artists and musicians.
70. Apart from the Saïdia festival, which is specifically regional in character, others, like those of Agadir and Asilah, which are frequently enhanced by the participation of foreign intellectuals and artists from all parts of the world, have acquired an international reputation and a universal cultural dimension.
71. By way of example, the fifth Festival of African Popular Arts of the town of Agadir (which is known throughout Africa by the name of "Moggar d'Agadir") brought together in 1981, in addition to Moroccan artists, more than 300 other African artists from Cameroon, the Ivory Coast, Gabon, the Gambia, Guinea, Burkina Faso, Liberia, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal, Tunisia, and Zaire.
72. Furthermore, the cultural festival of the town of Asilah is one of the most brilliant cultural events of the Kingdom. It provides an annual occasion for high-level international events in which well-known personalities in the fields of science, arts and letters from the five continents take part.
73. The creation of this "moussem" (festival) is due to the initiative of a group of local intellectuals and elected officials from this area in north-western Morocco who are members of the "Al Mouhit" (the ocean) Association. In less than three years following its creation, this "moussem" has become an established feature of the national and international calendar of major cultural meetings in the world.
74. It is to be stressed that at the fourth Asilah festival held in April 1981, an important Afro-Arab forum - the second - was organized with the participation of well-known personalities of the two communities, including the former President of the Republic of Senegal, Mr. Léopold Sedar Senghor, and Prince Hassan Ibn Talal of Jordan.
75. This year, from 15 July to 16 April 1984, the Asilah festival was marked by the holding within the framework of the above-mentioned Afro-Arab forum of a much discussed multidisciplinary seminar on "the situation of the Arabo-African family", with the participation of 22 intellectuals and experts from Morocco, the Arab world and Africa. The various participants in that cultural event held a very lively discussion aimed at finding ways and means of strengthening and promoting relations between the African and Arab societies, which is one of the main objectives underlying the establishment of the Asilah Afro-Arab forum.
76. Furthermore, with a view to bringing various cultures and civilizations even closer together, His Majesty the King of Morocco expressed the desire, when the Academy of the Kingdom of Morocco was established, that it should not, like other similar institutions, be exclusively national in character but should be characterized primarily by a universal outlook, comprising eminent personalities, both Moroccan and foreign, from the world of "philosophy, law, letters, the humanities, town planning, education, administration, health, sciences, applied technologies, defence, agronomy, industry, economics, folk-ways, international relations, etc."

77. This universal approach was highlighted in the preamble to the Dahir of 24 Shawwal 1397 (8 October 1977), which instituted the Academy of the Kingdom of Morocco, in the following terms:

"(...)

Considering the geographical situation of Morocco, at the crossroads of continents, which has determined its historic mission and requires it to play a permanent role of communication, liaison and synthesis between the peoples and civilizations of Europe and Africa, the Mediterranean world and the Atlantic world,

"(...)

Considering the advantages and peaceful benefits which continue to flow from exchanges of information between the leading representatives of different cultures and specialities;

"(...)

Noting all the benefits which our people as well as all peoples near or far to which it is linked by history, friendship or hope, can derive from the existence of a high-level institution which intrinsically and actively guarantees the above-mentioned principles;

Desiring that there should be associated, in equal number, men who in the various parts of the world, have rendered the most outstanding services to civilization and received the greatest honour from it."

78. The Academy of the Kingdom of Morocco is composed of more than 60 members, of whom some 30 are Moroccan citizens and some 30 foreign personalities belonging to the five continents, not including corresponding members.

79. Among the African personalities members of the Moroccan Academy, mention may be made of Mr. Léopold Sedar Senghor, former President of the Republic of Senegal, Mr. Amadou Mokhtar M'Bow, Director-General of UNESCO, Mr. Ahmadou Ahidjo, former President of the Republic of Cameroon, Mr. Lahbib Belkhodja Mufti of Tunisia, and Mr. Abdelkhalek Qaissouni, Egyptian economist.

80. Attention should also be drawn to the reception as a member of the Academy in 1982 of the well-known Afro-American writer Alex Haley, who, having acquired a property in Marrakesh, is a frequent visitor to Morocco, where he is preparing a sequel to his great historical African novel Roots.

81. It should also be noted that within the framework of Moroccan-African relations, the Kingdom of Morocco has signed co-operation agreements in the economic, technical, information, tourist, education and other fields. To refer to cultural agreements alone, as desired by the Committee during the consideration of the sixth report, it will be observed that Morocco has, in this field, concluded agreements with the following African countries: Algeria, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Ivory Coast, Egypt, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Equatorial Guinea, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, the Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, the Sudan, Tunisia, and Zaire.

82. Meetings of joint commissions composed of representatives of the Moroccan Government and each of these countries are held periodically to evaluate these relations and to make any changes deemed necessary for the improvement and development of these relations.

83. Furthermore, Morocco grants every year within the framework of these conventions or special agreements, a great number of fellowships to African students to prepare for diplomas in higher studies in Moroccan universities and grandes écoles. For example, nearly 350 fellowships for higher studies were granted to African students for the academic year 1982-1983 alone. For the current academic year, the number of Africans studying in Morocco is estimated at nearly 1,100 students and trainees.

84. An association known as "Association des Amis des Etudiants Etrangers au Maroc" was established a few years ago. Its purpose is to help to welcome students and trainees - Africans and others - and to resolve their material, social, health, moral, scholastic or academic problems.

85. The association, which has its headquarters at Rabat, is also entrusted with the organization of cultural and sports activities, seminars, conferences, excursions, exhibitions, and family exchanges. It meets as a general assembly at least once a year during the first quarter, and its officers meet at least once a month.

86. The following reflection by His Majesty the King of Morocco itself sums up all the preceding information concerning the cultural receptiveness of Morocco and at the same time the immemorial and enduring ties which bind it to the African continent and which, moreover, make Moroccan culture one of the most prestigious components of the common cultural heritage of African peoples:

"Morocco is like a tree whose feeder roots are plunged deeply in the soil of Africa and which breathes thanks to its foliage resting in the winds from Europe" ("Le Défi", p. 189, Ed. Albin Michel).