

Crans Montana Forum concluded with the theme 'Africa, regional cooperation and South South Cooperation'

Posted: [5:14 pm, April 8, 2015](#) by [The Oslo Times](#) 



April 8, Dakhla: The 25th annual Crans Montana Forum concluded in Dakhla recently with the theme "Africa, regional cooperation and South South Cooperation".

The forum was attended by more than 800 participants, heads of international and regional organizations, economists, businesspeople, and scholars from more 112 countries (representing 36 African countries, 30 Asian Countries, 31 European countries, and 15 countries from the Americas, in addition to more than 20 international organizations).

The aim of the Forum was to create an opportunity for top-level Representatives of Africa and of the rest of the World, and the people of the Saharan provinces to interact and share projects and visions for the future.

The opening ceremony was marked by a message of HM King Mohammed VI to the participants, read out by Government Chief Abdelilah Benkirane.

"Having made South-South cooperation one of the pillars of its foreign policy, the Kingdom of Morocco has adopted a proactive policy to develop fruitful partnerships with its European, North American and Asian partners", the Sovereign said in his message.

Highlighting the main challenges that Africa has to take up (terrorism, organized crime, trafficking in drug and human beings and religious extremism), which call for transnational responses and underscore the need for collective and concerted reflection on the security issue, the Sovereign said that one of the reasons for hope, motivation and a firm belief in our common goals is that Africa today is the continent that has the most significant multi-dimensional assets to embody the future of the World.

For the Sovereign, Africa needs to develop and support win-win partnerships, bolster its share in the global wealth creation chain, push forward regional economic integration and develop common areas for shared prosperity that allow for the free movement of goods and people.

Africa also needs to invest massively in infrastructure and improve the living conditions of African citizens, as well as meet tremendous energy needs to support its development agenda successfully, the Monarch added.

To achieve this, Africa has huge potential for renewable energy production which should be tapped to promote sustainable development, the Sovereign said, adding that the “idea of a project devoted to renewable energy in Africa is especially pertinent, given the vast wind and solar energy production opportunities available in African countries bordering the Atlantic Ocean”

In this regard, the Sovereign noted that the underlying concepts of South-South cooperation should integrate new 21st century perspectives, given the significant impacts of globalization as a multi-faceted phenomenon.

Participants in the Forum launched their discussions over a variety of economic and developmental issues of Africa under such themes as “Economic Development in Africa: Promoting South-South Cooperation and Morocco’s African Cooperation Policy”; “Towards a Better Management of Natural Resources in Africa”; “Challenges of the Digital Revolution in the World and Africa”; “Developing Maritime Industries in Africa”; “Trans-border Diseases and Epidemics and their Threats to Public Health”; Developing Agricultural and Food Industries and Marine Fisheries in Africa”; “Developing the Financial and Banking Sector in Africa”; “Developing the Tourism Industry in Africa”; “Promoting Renewable Energies in Africa”; “Fostering Dialogue between Africa, the Maghreb Countries and Europe”; and “Issues of Education, Employability and Youth in Africa”.

The Crans Montana Forum, founded in 1986 in Switzerland, is an NGO aimed at promoting international cooperation and dialogue, growth and stability, peace and security across the World.

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