

**Summary of the work of the 9th session of the Strategic Orientation Council held on October 14th 2020**

The Strategic Orientation Council (COS) held its ninth session on Wednesday, October 14, 2020, at 10 a.m., under the chairmanship of the Minister of Economy, Finance and Administrative Reform, Mr. Mohamed Benchaâboun.

The agenda for the session was as follows:

1. Approval of the minutes of the 8th session of the Strategic Orientation Council (COS) of MCA-Morocco Agency, held on July 28th, 2020;
2. Presentation of the state of play of the Compact implementation since the COS session of July 28th, 2020;
3. Presentation of the Government Commissioner Report for the 3rd year of the Compact;
4. Approval of the activity report for the 3rd year of the Compact;
5. Approval of the reviewed and updated Fiscal Accountability Plan;
6. Approval of the Anti-Fraud and Corruption Plan;
7. Approval of an amendment to the Procedures Manual of the "Education for Employability Partnership Fund";
8. Approval of Amendment No. 2 to the Procedures Manual of the "Results-Based Financing (RBF) Employment Program";
9. Approval of the draft of the Implementing Agreement to be concluded with the Directorate General of Civil Protection;
10. Approval of partnership agreements and amendments to agreements concluded by the MCA-Morocco Agency within the framework of the Compact implementation;
11. Approval of amendments to contracts aimed at increasing the duration and/or amount of the contract by more than 50%;
12. Presentation of the list of purchases made under the "Shopping" simplified procedure since the COS session on July 28th, 2020, for information;
13. Draft resolutions.

At the opening of the session, the COS Chair, Mr. Benchaâboun, welcomed the progress made in the implementation of the projects, and particularly the rate of commitment of funds which had exceeded the forecasts, while inviting the Agency to make an additional effort to improve the rate of disbursement.

Mr. Saaïd Amzazi, Minister of National Education, Vocational Training, Higher Education and Scientific Research, Government Spokesperson, stressed the importance of the Compact's “Secondary Education” project as a lever to improve the quality of the education system and called for the experience to be evaluated with a view to its generalization. He also called for an accelerated pace of implementation, particularly for the rehabilitation of schools in the other two beneficiary regions (Fez-Meknes and Marrakech-Safi).

For his part, Mr. Richard Gaynor, MCC's Resident Director, expressed his satisfaction with the pace of progress of the projects and the positive impact that the projects produce, which was visible during his field visits. While expressing satisfaction with the funds commitments, he also called for an accelerated pace of disbursements.

Mr. Gaynor also pointed out that the Orientations of the speech of His Majesty the King at the opening of the current parliamentary session, which had focused on good governance, vocational training reform and rural development, among others, once again testified to the relevance of the Compact's projects.

Subsequently, Ms. Malika Laasri, Director General of the MCA-Morocco Agency, gave a presentation on the state of play of the Compact implementation since the COS last session on July 28, 2020.

The floor was then given to the representative of the Government Commissioner for the presentation of the annual report for the year 2019. The observations and recommendations raised in this report are detailed in the presentation attached to these minutes.

After the presentations, the COS Chair opened the debate for the interventions of the COS members.

In his intervention, the representative of the private sector, Mr. Mohammed Fikrat, stressed the need to document the good practices developed within the framework of the Compact. He also asked to label the "Lycée Attahaddi" model tested at the level of the 90 establishments within the framework of the Compact as well as that of the pilot industrial sites, in order to facilitate the replicability of these pilot experiments and benefit from the feedback. He also called for the contribution of the private sector in the implementation of compact projects to be highlighted.

Also, he expressed his strong wish that the request to extend the duration of the Compact be accepted since it will make it possible to make up for the delays related to the COVID health crisis.

The representative of the Ministry of the Interior, Mr. Haddou Laabari, reiterated the Ministry's readiness to complete the rural land project and to work with the other parties involved to examine the outstanding issues and consider possible solutions, in accordance with the texts in force.

Ms. Sabah Chraïbi, the representative of women's organizations working in sectors related to compact projects, recalled the importance of women's access to all types of land, otherwise they would not be able to use the knowledge and know-how they were acquiring, hence the risk of losing investment in women's training. She also welcomed the constant commitment of institutional stakeholders that is beginning to reap its fruits, and stressed that this experience will be a vehicle for transmitting to ministerial departments the integration of gender in the various projects they undertake.

Mrs. Chraibi also mentioned the risks of a rapid shift pushing women into the informal sector due to the impact of Covid-19, asking that in-depth studies be devoted to this phenomenon in order to be able to remedy it.

The Director of the AREF of Marrakech-Safi, Mr. My Ahmed Karimi, wanted to testify to the positive effects that the "Lycée Attahadi " model experience is producing on its environment. He also reported on the efforts made by the AREF to accelerate the pace of the project and prepare the conditions conducive to the execution of the rehabilitation works of the establishments concerned with greater diligence.

At the end of that session and after deliberations, the Board approved the following resolutions:

**Resolution No. 1:**

The Board approves the minutes of the 8th session of the Strategic Orientation Council (COS) of the MCA-Morocco Agency, held on July 28th, 2020.

**Resolution No. 2:**

The Board approves the Agency's activity report for the 3rd year of the Compact.

**Resolution No. 3:**

The Board approves the revised and updated Fiscal Accountability Plan.

**Resolution No. 4:**

The Board approves the Anti-Fraud and Corruption Plan.

**Resolution No. 5:**

The Board approves the amendment to Article 2.2 of the Procedures Manual of the Education for Employability Partnership Fund.

**Resolution No. 6:**

The Board approves Amendment No. 2 to the Procedures Manual of the "Results-Based Funding (RBF) Employment Program".

**Resolution No. 7:**

The Board approves the draft of the Implementing Agreement to be concluded with the Directorate General of Civil Protection within the framework of the "Industrial Land" activity.

**Resolution No. 8:**

The Board approves the following agreements:

1. - Agreement with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) relating to the implementation of a technical assistance and capacity-building program on industrial land.
2. - Agreement on the payment of penalties and care and other related costs for the benefit of ONEE and RADEEC, under the pilot industrial zone projects.

3 - Agreement relating to the realization of the service "Design and implementation of training within the framework of the "Lycée Attahadi" Model.

**Resolution No. 9:**

The Board approves:

1. - Amendment No. 3 to the Partnership Agreement concluded with the "Education for Employment" Foundation, within the framework of the Education for Employability Partnership Fund;
2. - Amendment No. 3 to the Partnership Agreement concluded with the CODESPA-ATIL consortium, within the framework of the Education for Employability Partnership Fund;
3. - The Partnership Agreement, cancelling and replacing the agreement of December 5, 2017, concluded with the Moroccan Foundation for School Support (FMSS), with effect from September 2, 2019. The renewed Convention will be closed at the end of phase 1 of its implementation.

**Resolution No. 10:**

The Board approves the updated Procurement Program of the Agency.

**Resolution No. 11:**

The Board approves amendments to the following contracts: EW-08-B (Amendment No. 4); ME-01 (Amendment No. 5); LR-01 (Amendment No. 1) and LI-13 (Amendment No. 5).

The Board meeting was concluded at 11.50 a.m.