



Address by the Minister of Economy and Finance - Celebration of King Charles III's Coronation and Birthday - June 22, 2023

Excellency, Ambassador Simon Martin & Mrs Sophie Martin

Excellences, ladies and gentlemen,

Assalam 'aliykoum, good evening,

I am particularly honored and delighted to join the celebration of the King's coronation and birthday, sharing all the best wishes for good health, happiness, and a prosperous reign. It is also an occasion to express our hopes for continued prosperity and progress for the people of the United Kingdom.

Indeed, the King's coronation in May marked a significant occasion, highlighting the global significance and influence of the United Kingdom across numerous countries and continents. It provided a splendid showcase of the well-preserved and renowned traditions and customs associated with one of the world's oldest and most illustrious nations.

The ceremonial grandeur and the presence of dignitaries from around the world, witnessed by billions through the live TV broadcast, were truly captivating. The British monarchy, with all its symbols, serves indeed, as a pillar of stability and continuity for the people of the Kingdom.

Similarly, the Kingdom of Morocco is fortunate to have a longstanding monarchy that has fostered ties between both countries. These ties span over eight centuries, highlighted by the Moroccan Embassy to Queen Elizabeth I in the end of the 16th century.

They continue to flourish in the current era, marked by close bonds of friendship and mutual esteem between HM Mohammed VI, May God Assist Him, and King Charles III, as well as between our two Royal Families.

HM Mohammed VI, May God Assist Him, has always prioritized strengthening relations between our nations since the beginning of his reign.

Allow me to emphasize the diversity of these longstanding and prosperous relations between our two nations. Our cooperation extends beyond political and diplomatic issues and encompasses various sectors such as the economy, culture, science, technology, and education.

We also take pride in the shared vision we have in several sectors, and sharing commitments to support global and regional issues, as the agenda of sustainable agriculture and food security in Africa.

Over the past few years, Morocco-UK relations have gained substantial momentum at all levels. Since 2018, four sessions of strategic dialogue have been held, and an association agreement was signed. The outcomes have been remarkably significant, as evidenced by the tripling of trade between our countries in the last three years.

As a former Minister of Tourism, I am thrilled to see that we now have over 50 weekly air links between Morocco and the UK, with the goal of attracting one million British tourists to visit our beautiful country each year.

In addition, our economic cooperation extends to new areas such as the green economy, renewable energy, and the digital economy. However, we firmly believe that there is **ample room for deeper collaboration,** with significant opportunities for both parties.

This ambition align with the government's ongoing structural reforms under the wise and far-sighted leadership of HM Mohammed VI, including the investment charter, the expansion of social protection, as well as education, administration, and healthcare reforms.

I believe firmly that a new and strong dynamic is ongoing, especially concerning economic opportunities. **Recently, during my participation to the London City Week, I had the opportunity to meet with UK officials and investment community** and to highlight Morocco's ongoing reforms and value proposition, which allowed me to witness the strong interest and the convergence of views with this community.

Excellency, allow me to conclude by emphasizing the tireless efforts of the British Embassy in fostering relations and promoting sincere dialogue, mutual respect, and understanding.

Thank you and thank you to your team for their hard work.

I wish you all a wonderful evening.