

IRES

Seminar

“ROLE OF STAKEHOLDERS IN THE Moroccan DYNAMIQUE REFORM”

WORD OF INTRODUCTION

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Ladies and Gentlemen

It is with great pleasure that we welcome your presence today at IRES as part of the seminar devoted to the theme “the role of stakeholders in the Moroccan momentum reform”.

This topic is the subject of a detailed study conducted by IRES, which aims not only to identify the complexity of interactions between variables political, economic, social and institutional capabilities in terms of reforms conduct, but also to identify the factors that may hinder the effectiveness of such reforms. This study is distinguished by being a unifying theme since it is at the intersection of all the issues discussed within the Institute’s scientific program.

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is an undeniable fact that the reforms undertaken by Morocco have allowed to increase the pace of economic growth, improve social conditions and to consolidate the progress made by the country in respect of human rights and public freedoms. However, despite the many reforms adopted over nearly three decades, the impact of such reforms is far from optimal.

This finding was also confirmed at the first IRES seminar entitled “The reform process in Morocco: What coherence and what effect it has on the overall competitiveness of the country?” held in November 2010. As a reminder, the findings of that seminar can be summarized as follows:

- Reforms in Morocco do not obey completely to the criteria of simultaneity and interdependence between the political, economic, social and institutional spheres. However, this situation has slightly become less pronounced in the recent period.
- Lack of trust in institutions, including ancillary institutions (parliament, political parties, unions) explains the low adhesion of stakeholders in the reform process. Mistrust vis-à-vis institutions is due to a negative attitude of some public institutions vis-à-vis citizens. This situation affects the social and political bond.
- The system of governance, despite some progress, does not promote coordination between actors. In fact, it suffers from shortcomings at the level of the judicial system and concerns about corruption.
- Mechanisms to monitor and evaluate public policies are almost absent, because of several shortcomings in terms of planning, culture of evaluation and accountability obligation, especially at the local level.
- Sectoral strategies and public programs are designed by a vertical approach does not promote global coherence. Such strategies are also marked by a limited territorial variation. The latter reduces their impacts as instruments of correction of social and economic inequalities between regions.
- The long visibility in terms of funding public programs is not fully acquired due to exogenous hazards (higher oil and grain bill, increase of country risk premiums in connection with the global crisis, aggravated by effects of the Arab Spring, volatility

of FDI flows ...), and also endogenous hazards (shortness of tax revenues, more dynamic domestic investment provided by the public sector, etc.).

Ladies and Gentlemen

With the constitutional revision and implementation of the advanced regionalization process, Morocco is entering a new generation of reforms, with a global dimension and consistent territorial content. In this context, it is useful to consider the following:

- Which long-term vision of development should we develop so that the reforms are implemented in a consistent and articulated way around the future nodes (human capital, governance, territorial development ...)?
- What part of consistency we should put in place to ensure coordination, monitoring and evaluation of public policies? Will not This framework be appropriate to establish the public incentive system in terms of arbitrage objectives and to optimize the economic and social impact of such reforms?
- How can we promote the collective ownership of the major reforms? What degree of involvement of stakeholders should be promoted to loosen any possible resistance facing the changes introduced by the reform? what means should we adopt to make more effective mechanisms for negotiation and existing cooperation (political parties, civil society, trade unions, professional associations, etc.)?
- How to improve financial visibility of public programs and sectoral strategies? Which degree of balance should we give to potential resources available in terms of bilateral and multilateral cooperation?

Ladies and Gentlemen

Those are some points that will guide our debate today. Participation of parliamentarians, decision makers, private actors, representatives of civil society and academics will certainly make us deepen our understanding of relevant aspects related to the dynamics of reforms in Morocco and the role of different actors in the field.

I want to thank all the participants for accepting our invitation. I am confident that we will engage in a high-level debate, as it is customary to IRES.