

Kingdom of Morocco



**Ministry of National Land Management,
of Urban Planning, Housing and City Policy**

**Speech of Her Excellency Mrs. Nouzha BOUCHAREB
Minister of National Land Use Planning, Urban Planning, Housing
and City Policy**

Kingdom of Morocco

39th Annual General Meeting of Shelter Afrique

Nairobi, September 17, 2020

- **Distinguished Ministers, Mr. Ambassador of Morocco
and Heads of Delegation,**
- **Mr. Chairman of the Board of Directors**
- **Mr. Managing Director of Shelter Afrique,**

➤ **Ladies and Gentlemen Directors**

➤ **Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen**

Allow me first of all to have a thought for the direct and indirect victims of Covid-19. On this occasion, we express all our compassion and solidarity with the governments and populations of the world.

I would also like to extend my thanks to His Excellency the President of the Republic of Kenya and the Government of the Republic of Kenya for hosting this General Assembly.

I would also like to welcome all shareholders, delegates, observers, members of the Board of Directors and Management to the 39th Annual General Meeting of Shelter Afrique which is being held this year in part, virtually due to the current pandemic situation.

The solemn opening of this respectable assembly gives me the opportunity to express, once again, my deep gratitude for the confidence placed in our country Morocco to preside over the 38th Annual General Assembly of this honorable pan-African institution.

This strategic choice bears witness to Morocco's commitment to act for the development of the countries of the African

continent, within the framework of South-South partnership, under the far-sighted vision of His Majesty the King, Mohammed VI May God assist him, which further strengthens the bonds of fraternity between our countries.

I would also like to pay tribute to the Managing Director and the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Shelter Afrique for all the efforts made in favor of affordable and decent housing.

I associate this tribute to the entire team of Shelter Afrique who worked with courage and self-sacrifice in extremely difficult conditions, particularly in fundraising.

This session opens in a very difficult and unstable international context that is also in constant and rapid change, marked by multiple threats and many challenges.

Faced with this situation, the populations of the World and of the African Continent in particular, have their eyes turned to governmental measures and actions to reassure them and give them more confidence and hope in the future.

This hope cannot be reborn without real reforms as part of the break and paradigm shift. These reforms should be inclusive, shared, sustainable and based on the search for innovative, adapted solutions that will enable the populations to be much more resilient to the transformations and various mutations that our continent is undergoing.

This General Assembly must fully fulfill the role assigned to it by the statutes. It is, therefore, urgent and crucial that this honourable pan-African institution can be a lever in the search for new responses to the challenges posed by the economic situation, particularly for affordable housing.

And rightly so, I recall that Shelter Afrique through its Strategic Plan 2019-2023 has launched several initiatives, those ensuring the basis for its growth and sustainability, major projects of decent housing to support the rapid urbanization of Africa, 3 821 homes were delivered in 2019 with 15 284 direct jobs and 11 463 indirect jobs created.

This performance has had an impact on economic and social development. Indeed, the delivery of decent housing units as well as the creation of jobs show the alignment of Shelter Afrique's activities with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2030, in particular, SDG11, target 11.1: **by 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and secure affordable housing and basic services, and clean up slum neighbourhoods.**

The Company's cash flow has increased compared to 2018. This reflects the impact of capital subscriptions received during the year.

We are therefore pleased with the performance and progress recorded during this mandate by Shelter Afrique.

We therefore call on all members to review the priorities for program implementation to strengthen its role as a financial partner and technical assistant to African countries, with a view to meeting the increasingly present and pressing demand for affordable housing.

We also call for the strengthening of Shelter Afrique's territorial presence. Morocco is part of this vision of establishing a Shelter Afrique Regional Office in Morocco which could constitute a new regional platform for technical and financial assistance for the development of affordable housing.

Morocco remains committed to working for the promotion and development of Africa in order to meet current and future challenges, particularly by improving the resilience and living environment of the population through the promotion of affordable and quality housing.

Proud of its belonging to Africa, the Kingdom will continue to encourage all initiatives aimed at the development of our continent. This is a strategic choice that stems from the enlightened vision of His Majesty King Mohammed VI that God assists him.

These have been translated into numerous royal visits to Africa which have resulted in the conclusion of more than 600 cooperation agreements in various fields with more than 40 countries since 2000. These concrete actions constitute, therefore, a strong signal from Morocco regarding its irrevocable commitment to a multidimensional, sustainable and mutually beneficial partnership, integrating public and private actors.

I would also like to recall that the Moroccan Government has developed numerous programs to make suitable housing available to households of all categories, including the middle class. These programs have presented a diversified supply and have reduced the estimated housing deficit from 1.24 million units in 2002 to about 420,000 units at present. For our part, we have reviewed the entire approach taken over the past few years, which has yielded positive results so far, but change and urban mutations require us to refresh our strategies, all the more so as we are on the verge of completing most of the housing programs.

This review of public policy in the area of housing is in line with government orientations and is essentially based on rebalancing aid by supporting households with the aim of triggering a new market dynamic for a sustainable revival of activity.

This new logic requires support instruments in financial, legal, institutional and other terms, as well as the unfailing mobilization of partners who are called upon to play their role as a force for proposals and above all as operators in the field.

Morocco continues its efforts through the improvement of the supply of social housing in terms of quality, density and surface area, aiming to meet the demand for housing which reaches nearly 2 million applicants in the case of Morocco, and requiring the strengthening of the implementation of **affordable housing** programs.

This type of housing primarily targets households with modest or middle incomes.

As such, we are ready to share our vision and good practices with our sister countries.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We must act quickly on the search for new solutions to fight against unhealthy housing.

The feedback resulting from Tuesday's Symposium was rich and fruitful and was able to fuel our vision.

Of course, this crisis is not going to divert us from our priorities and objectives. On the contrary, we will have to take all

measures to intensify our efforts again and again and translate them into opportunities, allowing us to improve the living environment, particularly the built environment, taking into account the specificities of each territory. We must work together fully to develop appropriate solutions.

It is, therefore, crucial that Shelter Afrique focuses its efforts on the mobilization of the necessary expertise to assist African countries to first stabilize the gap and subsequently reduce the housing deficit through new products in quality and affordable housing.

There is a need to rethink our living spaces and make them much more suitable from an architectural design point of view and to improve the targeting of the population concerned. Without forgetting to point out that the housing sector should be considered not only as a social sector, but also as a producer of wealth and a cornerstone of economic recovery in Africa, in view of its great potential for job creation and its ripple effect on national economies.

Once again, I would like to congratulate

- the new Chairman of the 39th AGM, the Honourable James Macharia, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure, Housing and Urban Development of the Republic of Kenya,

- the First Vice President, the Honourable Mrs. Célestine KETCHA, Minister of Housing and Urban Development of the Republic of Cameroon, and
- the Second Vice-President, the Honourable Daniel Garwe, Minister of National Housing and Social Amenities of the Republic of Zimbabwe.

I salute their commitment and the work they have done in the Bureau of the 38th AGM.

I would also like to reiterate my thanks to the members of the AGM for their cooperation and also commend the efforts of Shelter Afrique in promoting affordable housing in Africa.

I would like to conclude with a quotation from His Majesty King Mohammed VI, God help him: **"We, the peoples of Africa, have the means and the genius; and together we can realize the aspirations of our populations".**

Thank you for your attention.