

IAPP Inaugurated Morocco in the Parliament of the Kingdom of Morocco in Rabat

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Rabat, Morocco -- On November 7, 2018 the president of the House of Representatives, Hon. Habib El Malki, chaired a special meeting in the Morocco Room of the Parliament of the Kingdom of Morocco to formally inaugurate the Morocco Parliament branch of the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP). In attendance were the vice president of the House of Councillors, Hon. Abdelhamid Souiri, and the leaders of each political group in the parliament, together with other members of parliament.

"Today's event is central to the spreading of peace as Morocco plays a key role in Africa and the Middle East," said the president. "One hundred years after the end of the First World War, nations and people all over the world are working hard for peace. Our goal is to spread and strengthen the culture of peace in all parts of the world."



Dr. Thomas Walsh, chair of UPF, expressed great respect for Morocco's efforts for peace, in particular for the work of King Mohammed VI in building good relations with neighboring countries. In its capacity as an NGO with general consultative status with the UN, UPF through its flagship program, the IAPP, hopes to encourage an enriching exchange of experience between parliaments and civil society.

Mrs. Erna Hennicot-Schoepges, co-chair of the IAPP in Europe and former president of the parliament of

Luxembourg, highlighted the role of parliamentarians as key to the link between the civil population and the legislature. She spoke of the challenges to democracy in Europe, pointing out the great need to address a loss of faith in democracy.

Following brief comments from others in the UPF delegation, including UPF Vice President Taj Hamad, Hon. El Malki spoke again of the importance of this meeting, emphasizing the need to defend representative institutions worldwide. "Our role -- together -- is vital for humankind. This meeting is a first step to defend peace and stability.... I hope this section of the IAPP will be an effective element for the expansion of the culture of peace."

When the speeches had concluded, Dr. Walsh presented Hon. El Malki with an Ambassador for Peace award.

Moroccan TV included 2.5 minutes of coverage of the meeting. The commentary concluded: "The Moroccan branch definitely will play an important role in cooperation and discussion among parliaments in order to support peace in the world and also to solve the problems of terrorism, fundamentalism and extremism, besides spreading the culture, values and principles of peace, society and equality between men and women and also human rights."

A. Al Maliki: Inauguration of the Moroccan Parliament Branch of the IAPP

Written by Hon. Al Habib Al Maliki, president of the House of Representatives, Morocco

Saturday, November 7, 2015

Speech given by Mr. Al Habib Al Maliki

Inauguration of the Moroccan Parliament Branch of the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace

Rabat, Morocco, November 7, 2018

Mr. Chair of the Universal Peace Federation,

Madam Chair of the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace for Europe,

Dear colleagues,

I am honored to open this meeting at which we are establishing the Moroccan Parliament branch of the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP). I would like to begin by welcoming our guests, most notably, Dr. Thomas Walsh, chair of the Universal Peace Federation (UPF), and Mrs. Erna Hennicot-Schoepges, co-chair of the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace in Europe, as well as the remaining guests from the federation and association whose presence confirms the appreciation they have for our country and its regional and global role in establishing peace and in defending the noble human values that the federation is defending.

We are launching the Moroccan branch of the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace in the context of what has concerned the world today that necessitates the establishment and stabilization of peace, tolerance, cooperation and justice, as well as what has concerned the defenders of these values and principles. It is an historical coincidence that the launch of the Moroccan branch is taking place at the same time as the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War. On November 11 in the year 1918, the World War came to an end, but peace was not established forever. Over the course of a century many great events and profound changes took place that transformed the face of the earth. World War II took place creating tremendous destruction, especially in Europe, and took the lives of nearly 60 million people. Many other devastating wars erupted, and colonialism ended, as did the Cold War.

Although the face of the earth was changed and peace fell upon many parts of the world, namely Europe, the continent that witnessed the First and Second World Wars, many other destructive wars and lasting conflicts are still undermining regional peace, causing thousands of deaths, migrations and group displacements, and impoverishing millions of people, thereby provoking other conflicts and new tragedies threatening stability in other countries.

Truly, the Cold War between the East and West ended in its first form; however, we are still living amidst cultural wars, or it is said wars of cultures and civilizations, fueled by ignorance of the culture of the other, as well as obsessive self-importance. These wars are also fueled by deadly sectarianism and the hatred of foreigners. These are phenomena and situations that try to find justifications through acts of violence and extremism committed in the name of a particular religion or culture.

These phenomena stir racist speech against the rights of migrants within recipient nations, and they are exploited in politics and elections, and become the basis for legislation that limits the entrance of foreigners and restricts their rights.

To face these tensions, we must reverse the equation by going to the roots of the world's dilemmas today. Migration and asylum are not merely an act of whim or an expression of the love of adventure; rather, they are a search for security which people are lacking in their countries; or the search for livelihood that they were unable to obtain due to drought, desertification, or floods; or the search for work that they were unable to find due to the limited resources of their countries and the lack of development; or the rights that are not available in a country whose government collapsed or whose institutions were weakened or were simply unable to support the rights of its people for expression, organization and structure. On the other hand, conflicts may arise from oppression, dominance or invasion, or be over the control of resources. In all these cases what is threatened is regional and global peace, the person, regardless of his or her nationality, color, religion, culture or belonging.

There is no doubt that the Universal Peace Federation and its parliamentary branch, the IAPP, play a decisive role in addressing these issues and in calling for peace and the resolution of conflict through peaceful means. There is also no doubt that it offers great contributions, whether through expertise or civil society involvement, in order to advance the creation of a universal front for peace and justice and the expansion of the circle of defenders of these values around the world, as an indispensable condition for development and progress.

There is no need for me to convince you that collaborating for the sake of development and facilitating the use of the progress that humanity is accomplishing through technological and business improvements and inventions (and in some way what it is creating in wealth) will support the efforts to bring about regional and global peace.

Dear chairs, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

I am convinced that your movement, as a central component in global diplomacy, will be strengthened through the launch of the Moroccan branch of the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace, which is considered a central pillar in Moroccan diplomacy. Our country's contribution has always been crucial in building world peace and in calling for moderation and resolving conflicts through peaceful means; opposing terrorism and extremism; and bringing victory for the values of peace, tolerance and coexistence. Through its notable participation in the peacekeeping work of the United Nations in various conflict regions and its embrace of conflict resolution initiatives, the Kingdom of Morocco was an important contributor in establishing the initiatives for alliance among civilizations that have been sponsored by the United Nations since 2005.

This is not unusual for our country due to its geographical location, deep rooted history, and the diversity of the fabric of its civilization. As was noted by the His Highness King Muhammad the sixth: "History is a witness that the open character of Morocco has made a renowned contribution in allowing the fertile and creative fabric of civilization to be transported through many channels towards three significant directions: the first towards Europe through the Iberian archipelago, the second towards the depths of Africa, and the third towards Latin America."

It is also an historical coincidence that the launch of the Moroccan branch is occurring as the Kingdom of Morocco celebrates the 43rd anniversary of the Green March, which was a march of peace for the unity of the land, and a message with great significance for the world.

Chairs, colleagues,

Parliaments are at the heart of the defense of peace and the requirements for peace, not simply because of their powers to legislate, scrutinize and represent, but because of the dynamic, energetic, independent parliamentary diplomacy they can achieve, as well as the networks they have access to.

When we defend peace, we are defending the future of humanity and the future of the world. Because of the nobility of this goal, your initiative will no doubt be noble.

Once again, I welcome you here, and thank you for your kind attention.