

FOURTH GLOBAL FORUM
ON REINVENTING GOVERNMENT

**Citizens, Businesses and Governments:
Partnerships for Development and Democracy**

Aide-Memoire

Marrakech, Morocco - 11-13 December 2002

The Global Forum on Reinventing Government was initiated by the Government of the United States of America in 1999. The First Global Forum, which took place in Washington, aimed at facilitating the exchange of innovations and practical experiences in reinventing government and reinforcing democratic institutions. The Second Global Forum, organized by the Government of Brazil in 2000, focused on "The Democratic State and Governance in the XXI Century". The Italian Government hosted in Naples in 2001 the Third Global Forum, which was devoted to "Fostering Democracy and Development Through E-Government".

The offer made by the Kingdom of Morocco to organize the Fourth Global Forum was strongly supported in Naples by the Government of Italy, which announced that it would support this initiative by financing and organizing a Capacity Development Workshop for participants from developing countries as a preparatory activity to the Forum.

CONTEXT AND THEMES

Needless to say, the major problems facing humanity today and countries all over the world, either individually or collectively, are extremely complex, mainly because of their interaction. These problems can be summarized as follows.

- Economic and social consequences of uneven worldwide demographic trends. Population is rapidly increasing in developing countries -thus, aggravating the enormous social needs of such countries-, while it is decreasing in other countries, therefore, causing problems of a different nature;
- Unequal development and spread of poverty and exclusion, especially in developing countries;
- Widening technological and economic gaps between nations; and
- Political instability, protraction of armed conflicts, damages caused to the environment, massive legal and illegal migration waves, and rise of urban criminality and violence, which ultimately cause a serious problem for governance and democracy.

These challenges have been highlighted in the landmark United Nations Millennium Declaration and the Road Map towards its implementation, which defines the Millennium development goals and outlines a detailed action plan. Various United Nations conferences, including the conference on Financing for Development, have led to the identification of action plans to help countries face the above-mentioned problems.

In light of the above, the Kingdom of Morocco, under the HIGH PATRONAGE OF HIS MAJESTY KING MOHAMMED VI, is honoured to organize, in partnership with the United Nations and other international institutions, including the OECD and the World Bank, the Fourth Global Forum, which will be devoted to the theme: "Citizens, Businesses and Governments: Dialogue and Partnerships for the Promotion of Democracy and Development".

While stressing the importance of good governance in tackling these problems, the Forum sets as its major objective to explore new mechanisms that can lead to viable and innovative governance solutions based on the principles of dialogue and partnership. It is in the same

spirit that the Kingdom of Morocco has engaged in a process of respect for democratic principles and good governance, including political and trade union pluralism, the improvement of human rights, the integration of women in development, and the emergence of a fully active and responsible civil society.

The Fourth Global Forum will also provide Morocco and other countries with the opportunity to share their experiences and inspire policies that can help governments implement these reforms. Moreover, the Forum will foster the dissemination of a clear message of the belief in and commitment to good governance and to partnerships for democracy and development. This message can encourage other national and international institutions to move in the same direction. In this respect, the meeting of Marrakech will provide an opportunity for thought and action in line with the initiative in favour of a New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD).

Furthermore, this Forum intends to identify concrete measures for the redefinition of governance modes and the reinforcement of the ability of States to adapt to the dynamics of change at the national, regional and international levels. More specifically, the Forum will address the following themes and issues.

THEME I: STRENGTHENING PUBLIC POLICIES TOWARDS PARTNERSHIPS

i) How can citizens, civil society and the private sector be involved in the design and implementation of public policies? (ii) How can transparency in decision making processes be ensured? (iii) How can access to and sharing of information be guaranteed? In addressing these issues, different areas will be explored (e.g. policies concerning metropolitan management or alternative modes of delivery of public services) through the presentation of concrete experiences.

THEME II: REDEFINING THE ROLE OF THE STATE AND ITS REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

(i) How can the State be reformed to foster a healthy competition and a sustainable growth? (ii) How can partnerships improve regulatory mechanisms and support decentralization? How can partnerships help unleash the potential of new communication technologies in providing access to information and integrating remote areas in the development process? How can a balance between equity and efficiency be achieved in the provision of public services?

THEME III: PROMOTING LOCAL AND REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

(i) How can cooperation between governments, civil society and/or businesses facilitate the creation of local productive systems, (ii) guarantee a framework of integrated development and (iii) reduce regional disparities? (iv) This theme will also focus on how inter-business synergies can lead to similar results and (v) how businesses and NGOs can help widen the scope in particular decentralized cooperation.

THEME IV: RECONCILING LOCAL CULTURES AND UNIVERSAL VALUES

This theme will be devoted to exploring the following issues: (i) the impact of globalization on socio-economic development; (ii) the relationship between culture and development; (iii) the need to reconcile local cultural characteristics with universal values; and (iv) partnerships between governments, the private sector and civil society to face problems arising from the impact of culture.

In addition, the Fourth Global Forum will highlight the role that new information and communication technologies can play in improving various social areas in the developing world, including education, training and health. In other words, the question is how can new information and communication technologies allow developing countries to create shortcuts in the social domain?

The Forum will provide political leaders and decision makers the opportunity to discuss and think about the implementation of ambitious and courageous reforms; it will also provide large national and multinational businesses the opportunity to present and exchange their experiences, and organizations of civil society to share their experiences in participatory governance.

FORMAT OF THE FORUM

The Forum will take place in Marrakech at the "Palais des Congrès" on 11-13 December 2002. The morning of the first day will be devoted to the Opening Session that will be chaired by a moderator. The Global Forum will be organized in four parallel sessions including workshops, each with one or more secondary themes.

Participants, depending on their expertise and interests, will be asked to register for the panels during the first or second day of the Forum. Each session will be chaired by a high-level government official or by an eminent expert and will focus on topics related to the above mentioned themes. The workshops will be moderated by a co-chair person assisted by one or more rapporteurs.

The Closing Ceremony will be preceded by a plenary session in which rapporteurs of the various panels will present the main findings of the Forum and a final declaration.

SIDE EVENTS OF THE FORUM

The Global Forum will be preceded by two events:

- 9 to 13 December 2002: The grounds surrounding the "Palais des Congrès" will host an exhibition that will provide businesses and NGOs with the opportunity to present their practical experiences and most innovative applications in various fields, namely urban management; sanitary systems, and e-health; education and e-learning; water and electricity supply; telecommunications; and transportation facilities.
- 10 and 11 December 2002: A number of participants of the Fourth Global Forum, mainly from developing countries, will participate in advanced training workshops devoted to the exchange of experiences on themes related to the Forum. These workshops will be financed by the Government of Italy and organized by the United Nations with the support of other institutions and training organizations.

PARTICIPANTS

The Fourth Global Forum, which is expected to host approximately 2000 participants, is geared towards senior political and governmental officials, local leaders, CEOs, academics, representatives of civil society, NGOs, research centers and international organizations.

Participation in the Forum will be based solely on invitation. The Government of Morocco will send out invitations to delegations from all United Nations Member States who will decide on the composition of their respective delegations. Participants will be responsible for all travel and lodging expenses. However, delegates of developing countries can seek

financial support from a United Nations special fund and other international institutions, especially for the capacity-building workshops.

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

The official languages of the Forum will be Arabic, English, French and Spanish. Interpretation services will be provided during all the sessions of the Forum.