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Genève, le 07 juillet 2014

**Monsieur le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères
et de la Coopération**

Destinataires : Cab/MD/SG/DG8.3.

Objet : Lettre de Mme Navy Pillay à Monsieur le Ministre.

J'ai l'honneur de vous informer que le Haut Commissariat aux Droits de l'homme vient de faire parvenir à cette Mission, la lettre de remerciements, ci-jointe, que Mme Navy Pillay, Haut Commissaire aux Droits de l'Homme adresse à Monsieur le Ministre, suite à sa récente visite au Maroc.

Très haute considération

Le Chargé d'Affaires ai
Hassane BOUKILI

NATIONS UNIES
HAUT COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME



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Excellency,

I have the honour to thank you for our fruitful discussion during my official visit to the Kingdom of Morocco. I would also like to warmly thank you for your kind hospitality and gracious gifts. Our exchanges on a wide variety of issues of common interest and concern were valuable in allowing us to reflect on some of the challenges faced and laws and practices being developed by the Kingdom in the field of human rights.

It was heartening for me to hear from you that there is a fundamental and important role for women in Moroccan society. I look forward to being informed of progress with respect to gender reforms that are currently taking place and I am hopeful that the draft law on gender based violence will be passed by Parliament very soon. More importantly, I hope that the enabling legislation will see a change in protection for women in Morocco, both in the public and private sphere.

I appreciated your frankness in discussing Morocco's position on Western Sahara. I appreciate that His Majesty and all levels of Government have reiterated to me the importance that the protection and promotion of human rights is carried out equally in Morocco and Western Sahara.

In my press statement and my meetings with your Government, I have acknowledged the enormous efforts that Morocco has made in undertaking development projects and investment in Western Sahara. I also acknowledged the positive role played by the regional commissions of the *Conseil national des droits de l'Homme* (CNDH) in Laâyoune and Dakhla. However, I note that challenges remain in terms of their capacity and their ability to fully discharge their mandate.

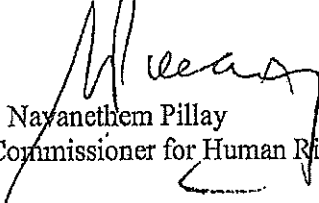
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H.E. Mr. Salaheddine Mezouar
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation
Kingdom of Morocco

You will recall that we discussed the possibility of my Office carrying out more frequent visits to both Morocco and Western Sahara, namely, to continually assess progress while also providing technical assistance to the CNDH and civil society. You will also recall the advice you gave me on how best to pursue this goal. I am now requesting my staff to be in contact with your Ministry to come up with a mutually agreeable framework. I count on the full support of your Government in this regard.

Finally, I wish to congratulate you on the exemplary way the Kingdom of Morocco has engaged with the international human rights mechanisms. As your country continues its efforts to promote and protect human rights, my Office stands ready to provide support.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration



Nayanethem Pillay
High Commissioner for Human Rights

