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Note for the file:
Meeting between the High Commissioner and
the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Morocco, H.E. Dr. Saad Dine El Otmani.
New York, September 24 2012

Participants: HC, Morocco MFA, PR (+ staff), Giorgia Passarelli, Ann Syauta

1. The MFA acknowledged the HC's excellent work at the international level, which Morocco fully supported, as its involvement in the Syrian and Libyan crisis had exemplified. The MFA was satisfied of the **long-standing cooperation and partnership with OHCHR** and wished the HC all the best in her honorable mission. Efforts to improve the human rights situation in Morocco continued (e.g. the place of human rights in the new Constitution and the establishment of an independent *Conseil National des droits de l'homme*). More could be done with OHCHR's assistance. Efforts had been made to fulfill international obligations, including Morocco's engagement with human rights mechanisms (3 recent SRs' visits and on-going discussions relating to the Treaty Bodies reform). Morocco was proud of the cooperation with OHCHR, which was key to improve the human rights situation in the country.
2. The HC thanked the MFA for his support, while acknowledging that Morocco had always been a key player on the international scene, including in its capacity as SC member, and as a strong supporter of OHCHR, including financially. The HC fully supported the reforms initiated by the King and commended Morocco for receiving three **Special Procedures**. She also congratulated Morocco for going through the **second UPR cycle** and highlighted the main recommendations that had resulted therefrom, the implementation of which OHCHR was ready to support. She noted the need to complete **ratification of OPCAT and CED**. The MFA noted that all recommendations would be considered responsibly and that the GoM would do its best to implement them.
3. The HC thanked Morocco for sharing the **Strategic Plan of Action of the Inter-ministerial Delegation for Human Rights for 2012-2016** and noted that OHCHR would provide comments thereon. She also commended Morocco for its role on **TB strengthening** and for its cooperation with OHCHR, as exemplified by the **Regional Workshop on torture prevention in the context of transitions** (Rabat, June 2012). She also noted that Rabat would be hosting a very timely seminar dealing with **incitement to religious hatred**, the fifth in a series of regional events. The MFA noted Morocco's interest in this issue and the need for dialogue to ensure freedom of expression while preventing hatred and discrimination. The HC noted that the event provided an opportunity for the MFA to make a strong statement, as it was important to hear leaders' voices at a time when there were so many emotions on the streets.