



Agenda item: 7

General Debate

Statement by:

Morocco



KINGDOM OF MOROCCO



Statement by the Kingdom of Morocco

- H.E. Mr. Ryad Mezzour -

Ministerial Meeting of UNCTAD 16

16th Ministerial Conference

United Nations Trade and Development - UNCTAD

Geneva, 20–23 October 2025



***Mr. President,
Excellencies, Ministers,
Distinguished Guests,***

On behalf of the Kingdom of Morocco, I would like first to express our deep gratitude to the Government and people of Switzerland for the warm welcome extended to us here in Geneva — this emblematic city where it all began sixty-one years ago with the first United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

Allow me also to express my sincere appreciation to Her Excellency, the Secretary-General of UN Trade and Development, for her leadership and unwavering commitment to a fairer and more inclusive global development, as well as to the Secretariat for the organization of this important ministerial meeting.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As the world faces multiple crises and unprecedented economic disruptions, these challenges have revealed how deeply interconnected our societies and destinies are — but also how developing countries continue, despite their resilience, to be the most vulnerable to their devastating impacts.

Nowhere are these effects felt more acutely than in Africa. Despite its natural wealth, dynamic youth, and immense potential, our continent remains particularly exposed — bearing a disproportionate share of global economic crises, climate shocks, persistent inequalities, and the ongoing reconfiguration of global value chains.

In this regard, the analytical work of UN Trade and Development provides valuable insights into these dynamics and serves as a solid foundation to better guide our collective action. Building on these lessons, and in line with the “*Spirit of Speightstown*” and the “*Bridgetown Covenant*,” allow me to highlight some of these realities and present the Kingdom’s vision, structured around four key priorities:

1. **First: “Diversifying to Foster Renewal”:** Morocco has successfully transformed its economy by focusing on sectoral diversification and attracting strategic investments. Today, the Kingdom combines a dynamic industrial sector—led by automotive exports, aerospace projects that have positioned Morocco within the select circle of countries producing/assembling next-generation aircraft engines—high-value-added agricultural sectors, and rapidly growing services, notably tourism and offshoring.
2. **Second: “A Renewed Financial Architecture for Shared Development”:** The current financing gap for the Sustainable Development Goals, amounting to 4 trillion dollars, illustrates the urgency of a situation that can no longer be ignored. In light of this, we call for a reform of the global financial system to correct these persistent imbalances. Achieving this requires broadening access to affordable, innovative, and long-term financing. Ultimately, the economic transformation of our nations depends on our collective ability to make financing fairer, more sustainable, and truly inclusive.
3. **Third: “Making Sustainability the Pathway to Shared Prosperity”:** In the face of widening gender inequalities, digital divides, and carbon emissions, Africa remains particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, precarious employment, and infrastructure deficits. The major challenge now is to generate quality jobs by leveraging new technologies. Through its various strategies, Morocco has made sustainability and inclusiveness the cornerstone of its new development model — placing human well-being at the center of public policy.
4. **Fourth: “Strengthening Multilateralism through Regional and International Partnerships”:** Recognizing that the Global South now represents 55% of global GDP in purchasing power parity, the multilateral trading system as we know it must evolve. This reform should enable us to fully harness the opportunities of the current multipolar world, strengthen regional frameworks in a complementary manner, and preserve the existing multilateral architecture — one that is rules-based and essential for global economic stability.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

With its strategic location at the crossroads of Africa, Europe, and the Atlantic, the Kingdom of Morocco naturally positions itself as a bridge between North and South, while further consolidating South-South partnerships.

Firmly believing that trade must remain a driver of shared prosperity, Morocco is convinced that stronger, balanced, and mutually beneficial cooperation is the key to addressing global challenges — in a spirit of co-responsibility.

With the same conviction, Morocco believes in the power of African integration. Through the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area, we aspire to build a robust economic space — one that strengthens competitiveness, accelerates structural transformation, and enhances resilience to external shocks.

In this spirit, Morocco continues to pursue, with determination, a development path grounded in economic diversification, sustainability, and inclusion. Under the enlightened leadership of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, may God assist Him, the Kingdom has undertaken major structural reforms and launched large-scale projects across various strategic sectors.

Our country has emerged as a regional model in renewable energy, while becoming a competitive industrial platform, fully integrated into global value chains through high-performance ecosystems such as the automotive and aerospace industries.

Thanks to world-class infrastructure — including the Tanger Med Port, a true international logistics hub; the High-Speed Rail Line; and state-of-the-art industrial and logistics zones — Morocco is giving concrete form to its vision: to make the Kingdom a pole of stability, production, and innovation in the service of a resilient, integrated, and sovereign Africa.

This vision is also embodied in the Royal Atlantic Initiative, supported by the development of the Dakhla Atlantic Port, which aims to transform Africa's Atlantic façade into a space of shared growth, energy security, and sustainable connectivity between Africa and the rest of the world.

These achievements reflect not only national ambition but also our collective aspiration to build a better future for our continent — where trade truly becomes a driver of equity and prosperity.

Thank you.