Marrakech Declaration on Sustainable Development in Africa

We, African ministers and officials in charge of environment and sustainable development, finance and economic development, social development, statistics, and science and technology and representatives of intergovernmental organizations, parliaments, the private sector and civil society of the member States, meeting at the fifth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, held on the theme “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality”, co-hosted by the Kingdom of Morocco and the Economic Commission for Africa, under the high patronage of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, in Marrakech from 16 to 18 April 2019,

Expressing our gratitude and appreciation to His Majesty King Mohammed VI for the high patronage that he has bestowed upon the Forum, thereby ensuring the necessary conditions for the success of its work, which was characterized by fruitful and rich discussions regarding the monitoring and assessment of the progress accomplished, the exchange of experience in the area of sustainable development in Africa and the formulation of recommendations with the aim of accelerating implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the regional level, in preparation for the meeting of the high-level political forum and the World Summit on Sustainable Development to be held in New York in July and September 2019, respectively,

Do hereby state that:

We reaffirm our commitment to implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and our adherence to the guidelines set out for implementation of the 2030 Agenda by the regional meetings, of a general or sectoral nature, and also the key messages adopted at the current fifth session of the Africa Regional Forum in 2019;

We call upon all African countries to strengthen South-South cooperation and the sharing of experience among African countries with a view to tackling the multiple and complex challenges and building the multi-stakeholder partnerships, plans and programmes of action at the regional and subregional levels that are needed to ensure the desired development that leaves no one behind;

We welcome, in this regard, the initiatives launched at the first Action Summit convened by His Majesty King Mohammed VI on the sidelines of the twenty-second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change, including the establishment of the Congo Basin Climate Commission chaired by the Congo, the Sahel Climate Commission chaired by the Niger, and the Island States Climate Commission chaired by Seychelles, validated by the African Union;
We also welcome the efforts made by the African States to ensure the implementation of these initiatives;

We reaffirm the urgent need to take appropriate measures swiftly to bring the consequences of global warming under control, limiting it to a level not exceeding 1.5°C, in accordance with the recommendations of the latest report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change;

We emphasize the interdependence of peace, security and sustainable development, and recognize the progress that has been made by African countries in that regard;

We reiterate the strategic importance of mobilizing adequate, predictable and additional financial resources to accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa, urge member States to establish effective financing strategies and call upon our development partners to meet their respective commitments in support of Africa;

We highlight the difficulty faced by a number of African countries in reporting on the Sustainable Development Goal indicators and call for the establishment of a solidarity fund for statistical development, designed to support African countries in the collection of the necessary statistical data;

We call for efforts to foster and promote innovation and technology to fill the gaps in data needed for the preparation of national and regional development policies;

We also call for the strengthening of the role of stakeholders, in particular parliamentarians, in the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals;

We call, lastly, on all countries to implement the key messages of the Forum and we request the Kingdom of Morocco to present these messages on behalf of Africa to the high-level political forum on sustainable development to be held in New York from 9 to 18 July 2019 and the United Nations summit on the Sustainable Development Goals, to be held in New York on 24 and 25 September 2019.