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CONFERENCE IN MARRAKECH

COP22 President holds first press conference during UN Climate Change Conference in Marrakech

Salaheddine Mezouar gave his first press conference today as COP22 President on the opening day of the UN Climate Change Conference in Marrakech.

The COP22 President highlighted the positive energy from the opening ceremony earlier in the morning that marked the transition from COP21 Presidency to COP22 Presidency and thanked outgoing COP21 President Segolene Royal for all of her collaboration over the past year in preparation for COP22.

Salaheddine Mezouar pointed to remarks from HM King Mohammed VI made on the anniversary of Morocco's Green March (November 6) in which he called for Marrakech to be the COP of action. The COP22 President emphasized that the Moroccan Presidency would be one focused on inclusiveness and transparency. According to Salaheddine Mezouar, "southern" countries have high expectations from the Marrakech conference in terms of climate finance, capacity building and technology transfer. He alluded to the fact that there would be several announcements made over the next two weeks particularly in the areas of capacity building and adaptation, including the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) Partnership designed to facilitate and strengthen capacity building support from developed countries towards developing countries

The question around finance was raised, especially as related to projects in Africa. The COP22 President emphasized that while the \$100 billion dollar climate finance roadmap by 2020 for developing countries is a great start to leverage private financing, more needs to be done. He was optimistic about the emergence of green finance, including the Green Fund and said that COP22 would also concentrate on finding ways to optimize climate friendly financing, especially towards adaptation projects. COP22 will be a COP of solutions, where partnerships, initiatives and projects will be made to reinforce capacity at the project level to help make them more "bankable." According to the COP22 President the key areas for climate finance to be addressed during COP22 are in renewable energies, water, agriculture forests and climate adaptation. He added that one of the major initiatives that will be focused on during COP22 would be Morocco's Adaptation of African Agriculture "AAA". This initiative is designed to drive climate finance and technology solutions to smallholder farmers across Africa in order to boost sustainable agriculture on the continent.

COP22 President Salaheddine Mezouar will conduct daily press conferences during the Marrakech Climate Change Conference (November 7-18) that can followed live on: bit.ly/2fTGRAR

