

Moroccan Social Front FSMa



Press statement from the press conference of “The Moroccan democratic dynamic against the Summit of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, and against the participation of the Zionist Entity, in Marrakech”

under the slogan:

“The fight against tyranny and against imperialism is the same battle”.

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Marrakech, Sunday April 8, 2023

Ladies and gentlemen, representatives of the press and the media...;

Friends, men and women, representatives of political, trade unions, human rights and associative organizations; And...;

Firstly, on behalf of the National Secretariat of “The Moroccan Democratic Dynamics against the Summit of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank and against the Participation of the Zionist Entity, in Marrakech”, we cannot fail to renew our condolences and our unconditional solidarity with the victims of the earthquake which struck our country, Morocco, on the night of Friday September 8, 2023, in the provinces of Al Haouz, Chichaoua, Marrakech, Taroudant, Ouarzazate and Azilal...

What happened that night and what followed until today, has once again highlighted the living conditions of the region's inhabitants and the extent of marginalization, the poverty and isolation in which they live due to the policies followed in various areas in our country and due to the indifference of those in charge of our country towards the poor and workers of these regions.

Ladies and gentlemen

The National Secretariat of the “The Moroccan Democratic Dynamics against the summit of the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and against the participation of the Zionist entity, in Marrakech”, which was formed at the initiative of the “Moroccan Social Front”, which includes a number of political organizations, trade unions, human rights defenders and associations, as part of the counter-summit to the annual summit of the World Bank and the IMF in Marrakech.

We welcome you to this press conference dedicated to the presentation of the general context in which the meetings of these international financial institutions will be held in Marrakech from October 9 to 15, 2023, in the presence of a group of Finance Ministers, Central Bank directors and representatives of major companies from around the world, and with the participation of the Zionist entity.

This counter-summit is organized under the slogan: “The fight against tyranny and against imperialism is the same battle”.

The counter-summit of the annual meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund is an exceptional opportunity to raise our voices loud and clear to reject the colonial policies of these imperialist international financial institutions.

It is also an opportunity to launch a real dynamic against the debt which constitute the heart of the policy of these two financial institutions.

It is also an opportunity to oppose any form of normalization with the racist, colonial Zionist entity, and to denounce the presence of its representatives in our country at the Marrakech summit. In addition to pointing out the responsibility for the situation of our country, firstly on the officials of the State and the successive governments, and to express the rejection of the subordination of our country to these two colonial institutions which caused it to lose its sovereignty through its total submission to their commands and subversive recommendations and its implementation of economic and social policies, which only produces social destruction, aggravates poverty, misery, fragility, hunger, injustice and class and regional differences, and causes the exacerbation of unemployment and the collapse of the purchasing power of a large mass of people. It also exacerbates sexual inequalities and fuels numerous crises, unrest, protests, and wars...

Ladies and gentlemen,

The selection of Morocco to host the meetings of these two imperialist institutions after they were held for the first time in 1973 in Africa (in Nairobi, Kenya), and with the decision and blessing of the Bretton Woods institutions, confirms the link of the Moroccan state with these imperialist financial institutions. Institutions that, dominate Morocco's financial and economic policy. This expresses the status enjoyed by Morocco. Status given by these institutions to present an image of Morocco as having a strong economy and to show it among successful models of developing countries to drown them in neoliberal policy, at a time when our country is at the bottom of the list of countries in terms of poverty, lagging in education, health and distribution of wealth at the level of individual income according to the classifications of other international institutions, not to mention that Morocco is at the forefront of countries in terms of corruption and bribery...

The neoliberal policy of these imperialist financial institutions is based on:

1. The implementation of structural adjustment programs based on privatization, austerity, and the elimination of public social services, as a model of the famous PAS structural adjustment program of 1983 in Morocco, reducing the public wage bill and the establishment of educational and health officials and the rest of the public service, dismantling of the public service, commodification of services, privatization, liberalization of markets and continued plundering of wealth. ...

2. The sabotage and dismantling of basic public sectors: education, health, employment, housing, and others.

3. Incentivizing successive governments to continue to put an end to the gains of workers and the Moroccan people in general.

4. The reduction of social budgets devoted to education, health and social protection, and the reduction of jobs in the public sector.

5. The generalization of privatization to various areas and sectors, the liberalization of public finances and the opening of doors to private capital to invest in institutions and services.

6. The generalization of the vulnerability of different sectors and the establishment of contract work models in the public sector (more than a third of workers in the education sector are now under contract model, 140,000 out of approximately 320,000).

7. Control by transcontinental societies of various aquatic, forestry, underground and marine resources.

8. The abolition of the compensation fund and the encouragement of monopolists and speculators to double profits and prices of basic materials and services.

9. The growing debt of our country and its use as a pretext to impose more dependence and implement the same destructive policies, this is shown by figures published by the official Moroccan authorities indicating that at the end of 2022, the debt public sector amounts to 1,146 billion dirhams = 952 billion dirhams of Treasury debt (72% of gross domestic product) + 194 billion dirhams of debt to public establishments.

10. Our country's obligation to enter into unfair trade agreements.

11. The consolidation of class and regional differences.

12. The removal of certain UN institutions from their tasks and roles, while controlling them directly and indirectly, and introducing them into the neoliberal system.

13. The growing exacerbation of environmental degradation. -...

• **Public education:**

These international institutions, notably the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and the World Trade Organization, play a destructive role by moving towards the privatization of public social services, and weakening the national economy.

And in the education sector in Morocco, this is evident through the critical steps and decisions that followed, putting free education under attack, and pushing for its privatization under the pretext of diversification of financing and public-private partnerships PPP; Diversification of employment, attack on employment stability, and reduction of state public spending in the field of education...

This is mainly linked to the PAS structural adjustment program of 1983, the education and training charter of 1999, the system of regional education and training academies and the university higher education system 2000, the voluntary leave, the 2009-2012 emergency plan or program, the 2015-2030 strategic vision, the 2015 priority measures, the separation of training-employment and contractual employment 2017, the 2019 framework law, the new development model on the horizon 2035, the government program (2021-2026) and the 2022-2026 roadmap...;

• **Public debt:**

At the end of 2022, public debt reached 1,146 billion dirhams = debt of public institutions, which amounts to 194 billion dirhams, representing 86% of gross domestic product, after it did not exceed 0.9 billion dirhams, rising to \$12 billion in the early 1980s, or 12% of gross domestic GDP. Excessive debt is resorted due to the persistent deficit in the state budget resulting from several reasons, including high expenditure, insufficient revenue, low economic growth, looting and waste.

The debt prompts international financial institutions that lend to Morocco to interfere in public policies through their demands, their diktats and their projects, at the economic or even political level, knowing that Morocco strives to implement them. The aforementioned institutions imposed on Morocco what is called a "structural adjustment" between 1983 and 1993, according to which public finances were liberalized and the door was opened and encouraged for private capital to invest in institutions and services, which constitutes a renunciation of the State to its social responsibility, particularly in the education and health sectors.

• **Public health:**

The intervention of the World Bank in the health sector in Morocco has had a significant impact in reducing public health spending, as demonstrated by official figures. The budget of the Ministry of Health during the 1970s was of around 7.8%, falling to 2.3% with the launch of the structural adjustment plan. We are in 1983, and despite the financial circumstances that are opening, they do not reflect the extent of the shortage and the figures

announced, and they are not able to close the big gap, not to mention the serious shortage of health professionals in Morocco, attributed to immigration, resignations, voluntary leave, partial retirements, age limit and poor working conditions... This gives Morocco one of the lowest rates in health human resources compared to Algeria, Bahrain, Tunisia, Turkey, and similar countries. (Between 12 and 13% of healthcare professionals are expected to retire in 2025).

Morocco has on average only 1.51 medics per thousand inhabitants and, in some regions, the number does not exceed one medic per six thousand inhabitants, while the minimum necessary to achieve the Millennium Development Goals is 2.5 medics per thousand inhabitants.

In general, the offer proposed by Morocco does not exceed 6 medics per 10,000 citizens, compared to 12 medics per 10,000 citizens in Tunisia, and 12 medics per 10,000 citizens in Algeria and 51 medics in Spain per 10,000 Spanish citizens. These figures reveal the weakness of medical human resources.

The Moroccan state is working to get rid the health sector management by limiting its role to monitor, organize and give a hand to the private sector to supervise all public hospital facilities, from care to food through medications.

The “compulsory service bill” is a literal implementation of the commands of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund regarding the public sector, as it removes employment and integration in the health sector and replaces them with a system of subcontracting, dismantling the public sector which gives a direct gift to the private sector...

The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund have worked to drain certain UN institutions of their tasks and roles, while directly and indirectly controlling them and bringing them into the neoliberal system. For reference, the World Health Organization has not been able to give a definition of generic drugs, due to pressure from multinational companies linked to the Liberal International system.

• Privatization and disruption of water, electricity, water treatment (disinfection), and public lightning services:

The same neoliberal choices continued within successive governments: Law No. 83.21 creating regional multi-service companies to manage water, electricity, water disinfection, and public lightning services came into force, after its approval in Parliament, and therefore privatization. Drinking water, electricity, disinfection of water and public lightning will be generalized and subject to law. The market, which will constitute a new obstacle to citizens' access to these basic services, depriving most of them of the availability of health and education conditions for children, thus aggravating the reality of poverty and misery from which the villages and margins of Morocco suffer.

• Participation of the Zionist entity in the Marrakech Conference:

A delegation from the Zionist entity will come to Marrakech to participate in the annual meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund in Marrakech, at a time when the Zionist occupying forces continue their brutal aggressions and crimes against humanity and against the Palestinian people and also against Syria and Lebanon..., thus continuing the occupation and annexation of Palestinian lands and the demolition of buildings over the heads of its inhabitants, including children and the elderly, in addition to the arrest and assassination of thousands of members of the Palestinian movement of resistance and its attacks on Syrian and Lebanese lands.

Receiving the Zionist delegation in Marrakech is seen as a commitment to normalization and an encouragement to also adhere to the policy of occupation and racial discrimination against the Palestinian people.

The Zionist movement and state are closely linked to the development of world imperialism, as they have been linked to major colonial projects since its inception. The Zionist

entity is like a watchdog that protects the interests of Western capitalism, especially American capitalism, in our region.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The challenges posed to “The Moroccan democratic dynamic against the Summit of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, and against the participation of the Zionist Entity, in Marrakech” are embodied in the confrontation against the influence of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, in the face of imperialism and Zionist control, and recognize the legitimate right of the Moroccan people to independent development that meets their immediate and long-term interests.

“The Moroccan democratic dynamic against the Summit of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, and against the participation of the Zionist Entity, in Marrakech” calls for:

1) Establishing an international network that opposes imperialism and capitalism and rejects the tutelage of imperialist financial institutions led by the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the World Trade Organization; It calls for encouraging investment in public services.

2) The struggle to cancel debts of a colonial nature.

3) Protection and promotion of human, political, civil, economic, social, cultural, and environmental rights.

4) Impose reparations for environmental destruction, colonial policies, and decades of unequal trade.

5) Impose a monetary system freed from the trap of dollarization of the world economy.

6) Absolute rejection of normalization with the Zionist entity and opposition to all its forms.

7) Organize demonstrations, intellectual, and protest activities against the meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank in Morocco.

8) Expose and denounce the policies of these two institutions and highlight the harm they cause to people.

Creating awareness of the importance of common action and united struggle against imperialism, neoliberalism, illicit debts and the fight against neoliberal policies requires that the fighting forces gather their ranks and engage in struggle initiatives to rebuild common frameworks of fronts and coordination and create all the forms which allow the mobilization of forces and close ranks in order to strengthen and unify the struggle to confront the policy of dismantling of public service, of commodification services, privatization, liberalization of markets, continued plundering of people's wealth and destruction of the environment...

Ladies and gentlemen

This press release, insofar as it reflects a complex reality which demonstrates the power of these imperialist financial institutions and the tendency of dependent countries to implement their plans and recommendations which only produce social destruction, backwardness, and poverty... it presents, to all forces aspiring for liberation, progress, freedom, and emancipation major challenges and the responsibility to lead the struggle and battles against imperialism and Zionism.

National Secretariat of “The Moroccan Democratic Dynamics”.

Opposition to the International Monetary Fund and World Bank summit and the participation of the Zionist Entity in Marrakech.

Annex

Activities and events of the “Moroccan Democratic Dynamics against the summit of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, and against the participation of the Zionist entity, in Marrakech”, organized in Marrakech under the slogan: “The fight against despotism and against imperialism is a single battle”:

* Sunday October 8, 2023, 12 p.m. at the headquarters of the United Socialist Party in Bab Doukkala, Press Conference.

* Monday October 9, 2023, at 7 p.m., Bab El Jadid, Marrakech: A demonstration “No to the presence of the Zionist Entity, created by global financial and imperialist institutions”.

* Thursday October 12, 2023, at 9 a.m. at the Faculty of Law of Cadi Ayyad University in Marrakech: symbolic trial against the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

* Friday October 13 at 3 p.m., at the Faculty of Law of Cadi Ayyad University in Marrakech, a conference on the following themes:

- Human rights
- Women's issues
- Immigration issues.

* Saturday October 14, at nine o'clock in the morning at the Faculty of Law of Cadi Ayyad University in Marrakech: a conference around the following two themes:

- Trade Union actions
- Social protection.

*- Saturday October 14, at 7 p.m., in front of the headquarters of the Regional Directorate of Telecommunications of Morocco in Marrakech, organizing a demonstration on the occasion of World Poverty Day (October 17).

* Sunday October 15 at 11 a.m. (Determine the starting point and route.....)
Organization of a national protest march.