

**Kingdom Of Morocco**

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**Prime Minister**

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**The Ministry Delegated to the Prime Minister in charge of Economic and  
General Affairs**

**The Rabat Declaration**

The government of the Kingdom of Morocco hosted the second meeting of the Ministers of the Economic and Social Council of the Arab Countries and Ministers in charge of Economic Affairs and related areas of the South American countries, gathered in Rabat on May, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, 2007, in compliance with the objectives and commitments agreed upon during the first meeting held in Quito on April, 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, 2006 with the purpose of approving the plan of action drafted by the Executive Committee meeting in Cairo on January, 30 and 31 2007.

**Taking into account**

- That the Brasilia Summit (May 2005) affirmed the importance of consolidating the political and economic ties between the two regions, and the Quito meeting (April 2006), that paved the way for economic cooperation through developing trade exchanges and promoting investment, as well as related fields, between the two groups;
- The necessity of supporting the economic ties through the implementation of the plan of action drafted during the Cairo meeting according to the mandate contained in the Quito Declaration;
- The assets and benefits of promoting of biregional trade and investment in different sectors with the aim of achieving sustainable economic, human and social development;
- The importance of the role played by the private sector, professional associations and development agencies and institutions in the implementation of the plan of action.

**Agreed on the following**

**First:** To consolidate the institutional framework of the development of economic cooperation between the two groups through the establishment of common

mechanisms aiming at the realisation of projects that materialise the objects of cooperation in numerous priority sectors, among which:

1. The creation of a Council of businessmen Unions in the two regions;
2. The creation of a Council of the General Union of the Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Agriculture and Services in the two groups;
3. The creation of a Council of Arab Union of Investors and their South-American counterparts;

**Second:** To entrust the competent institutions from both sides to undertake the following actions with regard to the plan of action:

- Organising field surveys to highlight cooperation, exchange and investment opportunities;
- Studying the customs systems and customs and non-customs barriers so as to promote trade exchanges;
- Studying the investment systems in both regions to promote a better mutual understanding, and endeavour to conclude bilateral agreements in the field of investment protection and promotion, and the avoidance of double taxation in accordance with national policies and legislation;
- Creating a cooperation framework between financial institutions;
- Promoting the development of human resources and capacity building in the economic field;
- Promoting mechanisms to facilitate the exchange of information in order to enhance the commercial investment flows between the two regions;
- Encouraging better coordination between the two groups within relevant international organisations
- Encouraging also countries in the two regions to conclude commercial agreements and welcome the progress achieved in the free trade negotiations between the GCC and the MERCOSUR, as well as the trade agreements concluded between the Arab Republic of Egypt and the MERCOSUR, and between the Kingdom of Morocco and the MERCOSUR.
- **Inviting** international financial institutions to assist in financing the objectives of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

**Third:** To facilitate contacts between businessmen through:

1. Facilitating the granting of business visas;
2. Encouraging trade and investment promotion campaigns in sectors like tourism, energy, mining, agriculture, sea fisheries, modern industries and new techniques;
3. Consolidating the air and maritime transport through opening additional direct lines between the two regions;
4. Encouraging south-south capital flows in order to promote financial cooperation between the two regions;
5. Consolidating cooperation between trade promotion centres and investment promotion agencies;
6. Creating networks between small and medium enterprises (SMEs)

Fourth: To take note with satisfaction of the positive outcome of the seminar on investment and trade exchange, hosted by the Kingdom of Morocco on the sidelines of the II Ministerial Meeting.

**Have decided the following**

- To approve the attached plan of action, hereinafter entitled the Rabat Plan of Action
- To call for the Executive Committee to monitor regularly the implementation of the Rabat Plan of Action
- To convene a Third Ministerial Meeting of the Ministers of the Economic and Social Council of the Arab Countries and Ministers in charge of Economic Affairs and related areas of the South American countries in 2009, to be held in a South American Country
- To thank the Kingdom of Morocco for the organisation of this Ministerial Meeting and for the hospitality extended to the delegations