

Address by
His Majesty Mohammed VI
King of Morocco

At the dinner given in His Majesty's honour by
His Majesty Akihito, Emperor of Japan

Tokyo, 28 November 2005

Praise be to God

Peace and blessings be upon the Prophet,
His Kith and Kin

**Your Majesty the Emperor,
Your Majesty the Empress,
Your Highnesses,
Mr. Prime Minister,
Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I should like to tell Your Majesty how happy I am to visit your great country, at the kind invitation of your esteemed government. I also wish to express my sincere thanks to you for the warm welcome and generous hospitality extended to me and the delegation accompanying me. This visit brings back memories of the first one I paid to your country, back in 1987, and which gave me a chance to admire the progress accomplished by Japan.

In meeting today, we are showing our keen desire to enhance our fruitful cooperation and its mechanisms, expand its scope and increase its tangible programs. In this respect, I should like to call on the Moroccan and Japanese business communities to promote and boost investment, thereby matching the dynamism of the public sector. I would also like to commend your government for actively supporting development projects in my country.

Furthermore, I wish to pay tribute to Japan for the generous assistance it is providing for the development of African peoples. My country has been doing all it can to improve African peoples' living conditions and is ready to contribute to the setting up of a trilateral Moroccan-Japanese-African cooperation mechanism, as part of an effective partnership and within the framework of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development, and to develop a trilateral cooperation framework enabling our two countries to pool their resources and potentialities for the benefit of African peoples, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa.

At the international level, I am pleased to note our countries hold similar views on matters of common interest and are effectively engaged in international efforts to fight the scourge of terrorism and to consolidate security and stability, by ensuring the United Nations plays an enhanced role in addressing disputes and tensions worldwide. I truly believe that given its capabilities, your great

nation is entitled to play a more prominent role in the efforts exerted by the United Nations to address regional and international issues and to devise peaceful solutions to them in keeping with international legality.

In this respect, I want to reaffirm Morocco's keen desire to find a peaceful, negotiated solution to the artificial dispute concerning the question of the Moroccan Sahara, through the establishment of self-rule. My country is seeking a final, equitable UN-endorsed solution which guarantees that the inhabitants of the Sahara will manage their own regional affairs, within the framework of the national unity and territorial integrity of the Kingdom of Morocco. Such a solution will also make it possible to build the Maghreb Union.

As Chairman of the Al-Quds Committee, I reiterate that we will continue to be involved in the international efforts designed to find a just, comprehensive and lasting solution to the Palestinian-Israeli dispute, through optimal implementation of the Road Map. I also confirm, once again, that we stand by Iraq for the recovery of its stability, unity and sovereignty, and condemn the scourge of blind terrorism, which causes innocent victims.

Your Majesty,

Your kind words of friendship and consideration towards me and my people, the Japanese government's understanding regarding issues of concern to my country, its support for Morocco's development efforts, as well as our deep commitment to our respective identities and our open attitude towards modernity and universal values, constitute a strong incentive for us to further consolidate our special ties and make them develop into a model, multidimensional partnership.

**Your Highnesses,
Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

May I now ask you to rise in honour of Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress. Long live the Moroccan-Japanese friendship.

Thank you.

Wassalamu alaikum warahmatullah wabarakatuh.