Towards social protection and inclusiveness in Morocco

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Your Excellency, Mr Mustapha JEBARI, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco to Côte d’Ivoire,

Mr Abdelmajid MELLOUKI, Executive Director for Morocco, Tunisia and Togo,

Distinguished Guests,

Dear Colleagues,

It is a pleasure to welcome you for the signing ceremony of the Loan Agreement for the Social Protection Governance Support Programme. This programme further strengthens the long collaboration between the Kingdom of Morocco and the Bank.

This new loan for approximately USD 135 million, aims to improve social protection for the population of Morocco, especially women and persons in situations of vulnerability. For us, it is very much a part of one of the 'High 5s' of the Bank – the one that is aimed at improving the quality of life for the people of Africa.

The programme is ambitious. Its objective is to improve social protection coverage, improve the quality of social protection services and provide value for money – and it reflects the priority that is given to social expenditures in the Government’s budget.
- As a result of this program, approximately 250,000 workers and their dependents, as well as 288,000 students, will be enrolled in medical insurance programs;
- 40 centers that specialize in providing assistance to women in distress will be established;
- Government subsidies will be reprogrammed, which will allow Government to allocate an additional 1 billion Dirhams per year to the Ministry of Health, to be used for improving health services;
- And the program will boost human capital creation by supporting Government in enrolling 50% of the children in pre-school education by 2020.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the exemplary collaboration between the Government of Morocco and the Bank in designing the programme. The rapid signature of this loan document, just approved two days ago, is a clear demonstration of this spirit of collaboration. This collaboration now needs to be maintained throughout the implementation of the programme in order to see tangible improvements in the lives of the most vulnerable segment of the population of Morocco.
The Bank will continue to be a reliable partner to the Government of Morocco to help make this programme a success and to support the Kingdom’s development.

Thank you.