

# **Impact For Development**

## **Concept Note**

Development is the cornerstone of dignity, social justice, as well as, peace and prosperity for everyone.

The levels of development in our country, Morocco, do not meet today's ambitions. His Majesty King Mohammed VI declared that the current development model has become unable to respond to today's urgent demands, as well as the growing needs of citizens. Furthermore, this development model is unable to close the existing social gaps and achieve social justice. These shortcomings have been further emphasized by national and international studies, such as the reports of the United Nations Development Program, the former ranked Morocco 123 out of 189, when it comes to human development. In this context, His Majesty called for setting a much needed new development model with the involvement of all national institutions and actors, as the strong basis of a new and improved social contract.

The organization Impact for Development believes that success is dependent on collective engagement and mobilization through the development of means for the effective involvement of civil society in development. The latter derives its importance and power from a group of important factors, which include:

### **1. History/ Historical Accumulations**

In Morocco, civil society has carried out pivotal historical work. The latter started from the national struggle for independence, to the transition towards democracy and the consolidation of the principles of the rule of law and culture of justice. In this sense, development is not an exception, as civil society is an innate partner in the collective mobilization for the success of this work.

### **2. Legal and Institutional Acquisitions**

The Moroccan constitution stresses the participatory role of civil society in drafting, implementing and evaluating public policies through mechanisms such as: petitions, motions, public consultation and territorial consultative bodies.

Since July 2018, the Kingdom of Morocco has been an active partner in the Open Government Partnership. In this sense, the country has been working towards implementing its commitment. The latter consists of involving civil society in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of action plans related to transparency, accountability and civic participation.

### **3. Participatory Practices in Decision-Making**

Our country has accumulated important experiences in participatory practice, namely:

- Equity and Reconciliation
- Establishing an Open Consultation around the Constitution
- Establishing a Dialogue to Determine the New Roles of Civil Society
- Electronic Consultations around Draft Laws by the General Secretariat of the Government
- Exercising Citizenship Participation through Modern Legal mechanisms, as stated by the Constitution.

### **4. International Best Practices**

Previous international practices put an emphasis on the key role of civil society both in its interventions and methods of work, as well as in formulating policies and in tracking and evaluating their implementation. It is worth mentioning in this context that the United Nations relied on civil society's interventions and contributions in the process of defining and formulating the sustainable development goals.

Given the United Nations' strong confidence in the role of civil society, the latter's participation has been emphasized in order to achieve the development goals.

Based on the above and the organization's strong conviction that the work of civil society and all stakeholders bring valuable contributions and are imperative for the success of various national projects; and given the current orientation of the Kingdom of Morocco in this context which is based on royal directives and recommendations, public policies and laws; and in view of the international commitments, Impact for Development aspires to contribute, along with various civil society actors, to achieving a new dynamic in order to lead, in a pioneering manner, in various development related projects.

Impact for Development is convinced that development is a shared responsibility between various actors, from the public and private sectors to civil society, researchers and intellectuals. The association believes that achieving development indicators is dependent on:

- Foundations of Citizenship, Participation and Good Governance
- Effective and Practical Methods Constructed around Encouraging Innovation, Field work and Positive impact.

Impact for Development has built its strategy around a specific aim, which consists of developing appropriate mechanisms and utilizing them to properly carry out its work within the framework of civil society. In this sense, the association depends on:

- Carrying out field work at the local, national and regional levels.
- Promoting the culture of innovation and adopting scientific methods and new technologies. The association uses the latter as a mechanism to consolidate the actions of civil society and make it a partner in creating effective solutions.
- Urging official institutions to be more open and transparent regarding the various development related actions, projects and work.
- Carrying out studies and research to collect data for the purpose of monitoring, planning and building scientific bases for decision-making.
- Adopt an agile approach for monitoring and support in order to react to potential evolutions and changes.