

**Aligning and Exploring Education Strategies for
Peaceful Societal Transformation and Democratic
Consolidation in TJ Contexts with Agenda 2063**

**8th Edition of the African Transitional
Justice Forum**

Port Louis, Mauritius

11-13 September 2024

Remarks of Ms. Amina Bouayach

Chairperson of Morocco's NHRI

@CNDHMaroc

#HumanRightsMorocco

Good morning from Morocco

Thank you, Moderator, for the introduction

Distinguished guests,

Dear colleagues,

Let me first begin by thanking the organizers, our partners at the African Union Commission and the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation, along with the people of Mauritius, for hosting us today.

I would have loved to be with you in person for this edition of the Forum. I wanted to continue the discussions we began here in Rabat, last year during the 7th Edition of the Forum. I look forward to making our collaboration stronger and lasting, and hopefully meet all of you in the next Forum or in other African initiatives.

Distinguished participants,

Last year, in Rabat, we discussed participation and inclusiveness.

We also explored equality and socio-economic justice, and the various processes of African transitional justice.

This year, we are gathered in Port Louis to address another important priority in transitional justice... which is equally essential and deeply connected to last year discussions.

Education is, in large part, about youth and children. Inclusiveness and participation are meaningless and hollow, if they don't include youth and children.

As I understand, some of the panels in this Forum are led by youth. I want to note that this is something I am keen to promote and implement as part of our broader strategy to effectively protect and promote human rights in Morocco.

May I call, on this occasion, all African stakeholders to implement stronger and ambitious strategies for the effective participation of children and youth.

There is a huge difference between (1) working on youth or children, as a topic, as a priority, which often limits the focus to their rights and their concerns, and (2) working with youth and children, not only on specific matters, but on each and every right.

Their voices and contributions must be heard and considered in each and every matter that affects them or affects their communities.

As a national human rights institution, we have played a central and fundamental role in Moroccan transitional justice – a very unique and an unprecedented experience for a national human rights institution... It's one of the best practices, Morocco has contributed to the processes of transitional justice in Africa and beyond.

Let me explain that it was Morocco's NHRI that recommended the establishment of the Moroccan transitional justice experience and provided expertise, along with technical and logistical support to the commissions.

Since 2006, Morocco's NHRI has been responsible for following-up on the implementation of the truth, equity and reconciliation recommendations, which have led to major reforms, including entrenching these recommendations in the Constitution, as integral part of the national bill of human rights, provided for in the Supreme Law.

Ladies and gentlemen,

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world,” Nelson Mandela once said.

I totally agree with this idea,

This does not apply only to achieving sustainable development, fighting climate change, promoting equality and human rights or building a better future, but also to maintaining peace and preventing atrocities and violations.

Education, ladies and gentlemen, is particularly crucial also in preserving collective memories... Thus, contributing to the very essence of transitional justice. It's the best way to connect the past with the future...

It's the ideal way to bridge the past to empower the future.

Some of the pictures I shared with you in this presentation are of youth and children visiting the permanent exhibit at Morocco's NHRI, as part of the Twentieth Anniversary celebration of Truth, Equity, and Reconciliation in Morocco. From the different parts of Morocco and from abroad as well.

In addition to the regular annual visits, lectures and engagement with youth, schools and universities, to mainstream human rights in general, we have planned weekly visits and direct interaction with students, youth and children, throughout the year.

We have also offered the space of the exhibit to young people as a theatre platform, where they performed plays about transitional justice.

The objective is, precisely and explicitly, to engage them in transitional justice. It's part of our strategy, as a NHRI, to inform youth and children about the past and educate them for the future.

Let me conclude by saying that the success of any transitional justice experience lies in the inclusivity of various societal stakeholders, learning to resolve conflicts through dialogue, acquiring the ability to find consensus, adopting legislations to prevent repetition of grave violations, and promoting a culture of human rights, including through education.