MOROCCAN YOUTH COUNCIL FOR DIPLOMATIC
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

GENERAL SECRETARIAT - ARCHIVAL REFERENCE REPOSITORY

ARCHIVAL ROYAL MESSAGE - REPOSITORY REFERENCE COPY

# Full Text of HM the King's Message to Participants in International Symposium on African Football

ARCHIVAL REFERENCE

**RM-RM041-4B0E9E3C**

Recorded date: 18 July 2017

Source recorded in repository: La MAP

## ARCHIVAL PURPOSE

This institutional cover identifies the attached file as an archival reference copy made available through the MYCDIC public repository. The original document begins on the following page. Its text, sequence and original visual content have not been edited by this cover process.

## WHAT THE VALIDATION CONFIRMS

- The attached file was present in the MYCDIC repository when the institutional fingerprint was generated.
- The SHA-256 fingerprint detects subsequent changes to the archived digital file.
- The QR code opens the official MYCDIC repository location assigned to this reference copy.

## IMPORTANT LIMITATION

The General Secretariat signature validates only the MYCDIC repository record and the integrity fingerprint of this copy. It does not replace, certify or reinterpret the original issuing authority, and it does not alter the legal, historical or official status of the Royal Message.

SCAN TO OPEN ARCHIVAL RECORD

REPOSITORY INTEGRITY VALIDATION

**General Secretariat of MYCDIC**

Signature ID: GS-RM-1DD749CF45A0C0

Validation: HMAC-SHA256

Original fingerprint: SHA-256

1DD749CF45A0C03FDD4CC261F91BBFEA9E30E44A10026B422F676B068222EDD0



**HIS MAJESTY KING MOHAMMED VI**
**MAY GOD ASSIST HIM**

# Full Text of HM the King's Message to Participants in International Symposium on African Football

HM King Mohammed VI sent a message to the participants in the international symposium on African football, which kicked off on Tuesday in Skhirate (Rabat outskirts).

Here follows the full text of the Royal message, which was read out by Minister of Youth and Sports, Rachid Talbi Alami :

"Praise be to God

May peace and blessings be upon the Prophet, His Kith and Kin

Your Excellency Mr. Gianni Infantino, President of the Fédération Internationale de Football Association – FIFA,
Your Excellency, Mr. Ahmad Ahmad, President of the Confederation of African Football – CAF,
Your Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to Morocco, your home away from home, for this important symposium on African football.

ROYAL ARCHIVE DIGITAL RECORD | MYC-RM-041-D7B8C244 | SIG RSA-10DCFA61161A2D530D
SHA-256 FINGERPRINT 48F25D47293615A4ADFE45FE8A4A7AF377C9225C963BC8E11C7B6A84D0ED2D48

SCAN TO VERIFY

This constructive initiative is truly commendable. I see it as a suitable opportunity to diagnose, together, the current state of football on the continent, reflect on the progress made, take stock of the main challenges faced and propose a blueprint for a common vision towards the development of African football.

I was keen to grant my patronage to this major African event not just because Africa holds a special place in my heart, or because of the bonds rooted in brotherhood, solidarity and cooperation with African peoples, but also because I firmly believe that Africa’s future hinges on empowering our youths, on opening up prospects for them to showcase their skills and talents and on our ability to integrate young Africans.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Needless to say, Africa boasts significant natural resources. However, its foremost wealth is its young people: African youths account for two-thirds of Africa’s population. We believe they can play a key role in achieving the robust development we all yearn for, provided we bring about the conditions required for our young people to hone their skills and put them to good use.

Seen from this perspective, the practice of sport in general, and football in particular, is one of the main pathways to our young people’s fulfilment and their integration into the social and economic fabric. It is also a means to shield them against all forms of delinquency and extremism, and to spare them the risk of putting their lives and their future in jeopardy by resorting to illegal migration.

Football is more than just a sport or a means to achieve titles. It is about values and principles. It builds on sportsmanship, teamwork and fair competition. It contributes to promoting greater openness and understanding, in addition to fostering closer bonds between peoples.

ROYAL ARCHIVE DIGITAL RECORD | MYC-RM-041-D7B8C244 | SIG RSA-10DCFA61161A2D530D
SHA-256 FINGERPRINT 48F25D47293615A4ADFE45FE8A4A7AF377C9225C963BC8E11C7B6A84D0ED2D48

SCAN TO VERIFY

As you know, football is the most popular sport in Africa and the world. It is important in the lives of African populations and is deeply ingrained in society.

African football has a solid record in terms of achievement in various international events, as well as in terms of great football stars that perform brilliantly on the continent and in the greatest championships and clubs.

Nevertheless, African football today is called upon, more than ever, to rise to the challenge of modernization and to keep abreast of rapid developments in sports worldwide.

Such a goal cannot be achieved unless governing bodies commit to good governance and unless training is improved and infrastructure upgraded. Just as important, in this respect, is the need to meet requirements for professional careers, enhance the marketing of African football and strike a balance between the development of elite football and football for the masses.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have seen to it that Morocco regained its natural seat in African institutions, especially the African Union and the CAF Executive Committee, because I firmly believe in the need to work hand in hand with my brothers in these institutions so as to serve the causes of our continent and defend its interests.

We, in Morocco, are facing the same challenges as our brothers and sisters in the rest of Africa, and we also nurture the same ambition to develop and expand the practice of sport in general, and football in particular. We truly believe in the role sports can play in human development, in social integration and cohesion as well as in

ROYAL ARCHIVE DIGITAL RECORD | MYC-RM-041-D7B8C244 | SIG RSA-10DCFA61161A2D530D
SHA-256 FINGERPRINT 48F25D47293615A4ADFE45FE8A4A7AF377C9225C963BC8E11C7B6A84D0ED2D48

SCAN TO VERIFY

enhancing influence at regional, continental and international levels.

To give concrete substance to a policy rooted in solidarity with African countries, and consistent with a strong belief in the importance of inter-African cooperation, Morocco has been keen to put the experience it has gained in the sports sector at the disposal of our African brothers.

In this respect, the Royal Moroccan Football Federation has signed more than 34 agreements covering a number of areas, including infrastructure, sports medicine and the exchange of technical expertise, in addition to hosting training camps for the national teams of a number of African sister nations, all categories included.

Morocco is looking forward to the advent of a strong, cooperative, solidarity-based Africa that takes its rightful place in international institutions and forums, be it with regard to decision-making, participation or the legitimate right to organize world-class sporting events, particularly the World Cup.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Given the African football experts attending this important symposium, and their undisputed passion and sincere enthusiasm to uphold African interests, I am sure your meeting will manage to chart a course of action for the development of African football. It should be based on an objective assessment of football on our continent and should address the human and material resources needed as well as the organizational mechanisms that can help us rise to challenges and develop this popular sport to meet world-class standards.

Once again, welcome to Morocco. I wish you every success.
Thank you.

ROYAL ARCHIVE DIGITAL RECORD | MYC-RM-041-D7B8C244 | SIG RSA-10DCFA61161A2D530D
SHA-256 FINGERPRINT 48F25D47293615A4ADFE45FE8A4A7AF377C9225C963BC8E11C7B6A84D0ED2D48

SCAN TO VERIFY

Wassalamu alaikum warahmatullah wabarakatuh."

MAP 18 July 2017