



Kingdom of Morocco  
Ministry of National Education, Vocational  
Training, Higher Education and Scientific Research

**ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENT**

**ON MARINE RESEARCH  
AND INNOVATION COOPERATION**

**BETWEEN**

**THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

**AND**

**THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL EDUCATION,  
VOCATIONAL TRAINING, HIGHER EDUCATION  
AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH  
OF THE KINGDOM OF MOROCCO**

The European Commission and the Ministry of National Education, Vocational Training, Higher Education and Scientific Research of the Kingdom of Morocco (hereinafter referred to as Sides) intend to foster cooperation in the framework of the “Agreement on scientific and technical cooperation between the European Community and the Kingdom of Morocco” signed on 26 June 2003 and entered into force on 14 March 2005, the “Joint Declaration by the European Union and Morocco for the fourteenth meeting of the Association Council” adopted on 26 June 2019, and also in the context of “Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Kingdom of Morocco”, its “Implementation Protocol” and the exchange of letters between the European Union and the Kingdom of Morocco accompanying the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Kingdom of Morocco, signed on 14 January 2019 and entered into force on 18 July 2019.

The Sides take note of the key role that the Ocean and Seas play in developing national and regional economics, contributing to achieving sustainable development goals and addressing climate change, biodiversity and food security.

The Sides take note of the mutual benefit that would accrue from linking research activities in the different countries bordering the Atlantic coast so as to fully seize the opportunities of international cooperation within an All-Atlantic Ocean context.

Against this background, the Sides intend to sign this Administrative Arrangement to foster cooperation on marine science, technology and innovation and have reached the following understandings:

## **I. Objectives**

The Sides intend to cooperate on marine science, research and innovation aiming to:

- Improve the understanding of complex interrelations between various maritime activities and the marine environment with a view to sustainable use of marine resources and valorising the diversity of marine life;
- Further develop a common understanding and deepen knowledge of marine ecosystems and the link between the Atlantic Ocean and climate change and its impact on citizens and economies;
- Encourage and support the development of relevant technologies and research related to the sustainable management of fisheries and the potential of aquaculture;
- Increase operational efficiencies by optimising the use and, as appropriate, sharing of research infrastructures, and access to and management of data and platforms;
- Facilitate human capital development, research training and scientific exchange, promoting Morocco’s role as a regional and continental hub in this regard;
- Explore international opportunities for sustainable marine cooperation.

## **II. Areas of cooperation**

Both Sides intend to encourage cooperation for a coordinated and partnership approach based on mutual benefits in key common areas of interest, such as:

- Climate variability and ecosystem approaches;
- Ocean observation (including seabed mapping), forecasting and monitoring processes and systems;
- Food security, fisheries management, aquaculture, and biodiversity;
- Ocean technology;
- Marine pollution;
- The interrelations between the ocean and climate change, ocean and food, and ocean and energy systems, as well as the dynamics of the Atlantic Ocean and its interconnected Circulation Systems from Antarctica to the Arctic and with the Mediterranean Sea.

### **III. Forms of cooperation**

Cooperation under this Administrative Arrangement may include the following forms:

- The development of networks between researchers of both Sides, exchange of scientific information and engaging in mutual cooperation actions;
- The organisation of/and participation in seminars and colloquia on topics related to the areas described in Section II;
- The organisation of awareness-raising and citizens science activities and events aiming at the promotion of ocean engaged citizens, including through ocean literacy and outreach with a particular focus on Youth;
- Actions to promote skills and competence development related to Blue Economy, to facilitate human capital development, research training and promote gender equality;
- Optimising the use and sharing of research infrastructures as well as access to and management of data and platforms. This is subject to applicable rules and regulations of each Side, aiming at increasing operational efficiencies and better monitoring and forecasting capacities.

### **IV. Technical working meetings**

The Sides intend to have technical working meetings aiming at operationalising this Arrangement. These meetings are expected to take place once per year with the participation of two representatives from each Side.

### **V. Non-Binding Commitment**

This Administrative Arrangement is not intended to create rights or obligations under international or domestic laws, and it has no financial implications.

## VI. Duration

Cooperation under this Administrative Arrangement is intended to commence from signature by both Sides. It may be discontinued by either Side at any time. The Sides intend to inform each other 6 months in advance.

Signed in *Rabat* on *8 December 2020* and in \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ duplicate in the English language.

For the European Commission

For the Ministry of National Education,  
Vocational Training, Higher Education and  
Scientific Research - Kingdom of Morocco



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