

## **ROYAL INSTITUTE OF STRATEGIC STUDIES**

### **ROLE OF ACTORS IN THE DYNAMICS OF REFORMS**

Reforms are various and actors are so varied, and the problem is so vast. I would rephrase my statement, and reflect on the dynamics of reforms in Morocco, the mechanisms that ensure the success and the obstacles that slow down the effect.

#### **Why reforms?**

Global economies have experienced major upheavals, despite the considerable technological advances, and in particular the radical transformation of the means of communication and transport, and on the front of the stage, the dominance of finance and complication macroeconomic managements, the plethora of production of goods and services, and the emergence of new economies.

Any economy that does not opt for openness and integration into the globalized context of Nations and does not drain its share of investment flows is doomed to suffocation.

The Barcelona Declaration has initiated the construction of a zone of prosperity and a common area of peace and stability on both sides of the Mediterranean. The Global Euro-Mediterranean Partnership has created a multilateral framework; associating economic and security aspects and including a social, human and cultural dimension. The process provides a substantial increase financial assistance, which must promote an endogenous and sustainable development and the mobilization of economic and social actors. It encourages FTAs and recently the advanced status which requires the harmonization of all our institutions and legal arsenal.

#### **Who are the actors?**

The main actor is the Moroccan citizen who is supposed to benefit from the results of these reforms. He cannot be a passive actor in this process. The people, in principle, if it adheres to the process should express themselves through their vote. For if it finds these sanctions by the polls truncated or ineffective, it tend to express themselves spontaneously outside traditional political structures.

The monarchy is the other major player. His Majesty initiates reforms and establish performance and monitoring structures.

Of course the economic actors, trade unions, civil society, the media... have their role to play.

External actors are important. They participate in the construction of the zone of stability and regulate their financial aid depending on the orientation of reforms.

#### **What reforms?**

Morocco has undertaken several reforms sets.

The first set of reforms aims at integrating the individual, to relieve his sense of exclusion and to improve its relationship with the government. :

This is the new concept of authority which rearranges the relationship between the citizen and authority which was proclaimed by His Majesty since his enthronement.

The Family Code gave a more dignified position to women in society.

The Equity and Reconciliation Commission condemned the abuse of the principle of human rights and rehabilitated those who thought otherwise.

The National Initiative of Human Development aims to integrate the poor and relieve their suffering..

The second set of reforms relates to the structures and operation of the authority and includes the economic reforms, the press code, the judicial reform, the political and parliamentary reform, the project of regionalization.

### **How to undertake reforms?**

Political reforms are unlikely to succeed in a disadvantageous economic environment, but many countries gave priority to economic reforms by completely closing the political field (Egypt and Tunisia).

Morocco took a different approach and started simultaneously political and economic reforms. Political reforms give more chance for success of economic reforms and on the other hand the success of economic reforms improves the effectiveness of policy reforms.

The openness of Morocco, its alternating experience and its opening on Islamists not reject democratic rules, has probably helped Morocco to avoid real unrest in the current Arab context, authorizing a quiet revolution.

But economic reforms, however, did not give tangible results and the country continues to experience significant unemployment rates and did not improve significantly the poverty index.

Reforms in key institutions, those that give the individual the means to participate in the construction of the future, have, failed due to the lack of means or poor governance.

I mean of Education, Health, Justice and Education.

### **The current situation**

In the current configuration, including the situation in the Arab world, and the Royal speech of March 9, the reform process in Morocco has been accelerated.

The pace of political reforms will increase; reforms will no longer be only initiated from the top of the hierarchy, but also claimed by the base that wants to appreciate the immediate effects.

Risks will be greater and the role of actors will be more important than ever and the success of our new process will depend on:

- The dynamics of the ideas expressed by the actors and the strength of synthesis of the body responsible for their collection and compilation.
- The sense to make Moroccans express their claims and their involvement in the expression of their choices by votes.
- Listening to claims and direction of reforms in the interest of the greatest number.
- The pre-eminence of law by the building of a judiciary organ in the service of freedoms but also security, capable of preventing, deterring but also punishing without abuse, and detaining in dignified conditions.
- Monitoring for an equitable distribution of wealth.

Of course there will be a lot of resistance to the implementation of these reforms, especially from those who will lose certain privileges they hold of favoritism, insider trading, bribery or rent.

Morocco is to be vigilant against this resistance by demonstrating its determination and accelerating the pace, in such reforms that are latent for several years as those of the compensation fund that is too expensive, but ineffective for those who need it, or that of retirement in the interests of future generations.

Morocco has also the opportunity to provide the world a model if designs properly and managed its reforms. It can serve as the locomotive for Arab countries and pave the way for peace and prosperity in the region.

This role model, in which Tunisia is its rival, could drain political and financial support of Western powers.