

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
CONGRESS
30TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE WORLD ASSOCIATION OF
PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT SERVICES
WAPES

SPEECH

of

**The Director General
of the National Employment Fund**

Marrakesh 2018

- Minister of Employment and Vocational Integration of the Kingdom of Morocco
- Ministers
- President of WAPES
- Directors General of Public Employment Services
- Executive Secretary
- Mayor of the city of Marrakesh
- Dear participants of civil society in your recognised and respected ranks and grades
- Ladies and Gentlemen

I am delighted to speak at this important event that brings us together every three years. First of all, I would like to pay tribute and express our gratitude to His Majesty the King Mohammed VI, who wanted his country Morocco to host for the second time our General Assembly, our congress and especially the thirtieth anniversary of our association, which was created in 1988.

Morocco is thus honouring Africa for the second time by taking up the challenge of receiving the entire Public Employment Services family as well as many other stakeholders in the world's labour market who are with us. We are grateful for this, especially to yesterday's management team, Mr Anass Doukkali, now the Minister of Health, and Mr Noureddine Benkhalil, now the Secretary General of the Ministry of Employment and Vocational Integration. And also, our gratitude and thanks go to the new leaders of ANAPEC (the National Agency for the Promotion of Employment and Skills), who courageously accepted the challenge to welcome us here in Morocco.

So, many thanks to the President of the Government of Morocco, also President of ANAPEC's Board of Directors, thanks to the Minister of Employment and Vocational Integration and thanks to ANAPEC's Director General. We welcome you to the WAPES family and offer our best wishes for your mission. Thank you everyone for your warm welcome and the legendary hospitality whose secret Morocco holds.

We wish Morocco the best of luck in its bid for the upcoming World Cup in 2026; it already has great experience in hosting events at this level, such as COP 22 which recently took place in November 2016 in this very city of Marrakesh and it was a huge success.

Minister of Employment and Vocational Integration, Ministers, ladies and gentlemen.

As you can see, all members of the World Association of Public Employment Services meet every three years to evaluate the work accomplished by everyone in the fight against unemployment in the world and to learn about the best practices implemented for this fight in our countries in order to inspire everybody. We also meet to think about the future in terms of strategies/actions to adopt to be more effective in this everyday fight.

It is also the place where we renew the WAPES management team, adapt our constitutive texts and procedures, and reinvent the best possible processes for the smooth running of our Association.

I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate Turkey through you, Mr President, who has just taken on the heavy responsibility of the presidency of WAPES with great dedication and involvement. History will remember that it is your country that will have commemorated 30 years of WAPES. I cannot forget the Executive Secretary, the linchpin of the daily running of our Association. So I have a word of gratitude for the former Executive Secretary who has left us; Ms **Lenka Kint**. She has been validly replaced by an even more efficient and endearing person, Ms **Françoise Kuyl**, to whom I pay tribute, as well as to all her team and, particularly, **Christine Malecka Vlerick**, my friend, who it appears will be leaving the Executive Secretariat.

Minister, Ladies and Gentlemen.

For decades, the world has been facing the phenomenon of unemployment, which tends to become structural and endemic in certain regions, particularly in Africa and the Middle East. There are of course regions that seem less affected. This situation is characterised by a global unemployment rate of around 5.7%. Africa and the Middle East find themselves at the back of the pack with an unemployment rate of around 10%, almost double the global rate.

In recent years, unemployment has been added to a new challenge facing the world; the phenomenon of "migration" resulting from wars, insecurity and miserable living conditions for certain populations. No country is spared from this migration phenomenon and it raises the burning question of the inequalities and injustice of globalisation. This issue concerns us all, and there can be only one global solution to the misery experienced in most of the world. And this solution involves each citizen living in the world having a decent job.

The lack of decent work for all has led to another scourge linked to this instability, that of “poverty”, which is rife in one part of the world. The global poverty rate is estimated at about 10%. That of Africa is estimated at 35% and that of East Asia, 12%.

You might ask why I am drawing attention to these phenomena at a meeting of Public Employment Services.

It is because we too are greatly affected. Our daily work to help unemployed people into a job is decisive for the well-being of people.

Of course, we are not responsible for the Employment policies implemented by our governments. But being the main instruments for application of these policies, we must accomplish our task with efficiency and determination.

Thus, the more effective and efficient our Public Employment Services are, the more our States will be able to meet these challenges of unemployment, poverty and instability; and to bring to the people the happiness to which they are entitled.

The vision of the WAPES Founding Fathers, that we share our experiences and support one another, thus appears fair and wise in the face of an unstable and constantly changing environment. WAPES is right to seek this adaptation and to help each Member Country to find effective solutions to reduce unemployment in each country. The initiative we have taken to launch a project to reflect long-term on our action must be pursued with the greatest attention and determination because, this plan of action even in its simplified form, which is the flexible method of “Bench learning”, in four simple and precise points, will serve as a compass to orientate our national strategies and actions in the future. This project will be debated and enriched during this meeting in Marrakech.

Minister,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The world can be compared to a human body and there will never be one limb that is in pain while the whole body is in good shape and remains healthy.

WAPES must therefore be concerned about the misery, poverty and instability of certain populations in the world, and bring our share of actions and solutions.

We will do so better by not withdrawing into ourselves. We must open up and get closer to other international organisations and institutions. WAPES must fundraise to function at an optimum level and to develop useful activities for its members. We will never be able to make a great leap forward if we rely solely on membership fees that are constantly increasing. Lastly, WAPES was created by Directors General of the PES; very few of these Directors General are taking an interest in it now. I wish that they would get involved again and pursue the vision of a former President Ted Hanisch, who was committed to making this Association a forum of Directors General for strategic thinking, exchange of ideas, good practices and mutual technical assistance. Dear colleagues, without your presence on the Boards of Directors, the Executive Committees and the Workshops to discover other countries and experiences, our WAPES Association will not be this global partner that we hope it will be, that supports the search for global solutions to employment issues worldwide. I would urge those who will take responsibilities at the next Board of Directors and Executive Committee to think about this before committing themselves.

Happy anniversary and may there be good years ahead at WAPES.

Happy General Assembly, Happy Congress

Many thanks.