



UNITED NATIONS  
AFRICAN INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

High Level Policy Dialogue  
“Urbanization and Industrialization for Africa’s Transformation”

LINKING SPATIAL AND ECONOMIC PLANNING- SECTOR  
TARGETING AND SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES

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**SECTOR STRATEGIES:** The last NDP -2000-2004 proved to be not adapted to the institutional maturity of Morocco especially the growing role of territories, local government and civil society. The overall institutional effort and societal changes pushed the government to seek a development approach that can match with the population needs through participatory and efficient mechanisms. Economic sector strategies have thus been promoted since 2003 as a national level response that privileges inclusive growth leveraging strategic areas of vertical integrated industries with a mix of high tech and labor intensive manufacturing.

**URBAN UPGRADE:** Meanwhile basic infrastructure and educational institutions are established in all major cities and mid-sized urban centers. This urban upgrade is encouraged through an advanced level of decentralization that enables local governments – mainly urban communes – to leverage partially their financial resources and benefit from government technical and financial support while implementing and supervising directly the urban upgrade projects.

**INVESTMENT PROMOTION:** FDI is solicited with private sector partners playing an active role in site selection. Large-scale projects are negotiated directly by the central government with the participation of the local government authorities – primarily regions and communes in a second level.

**NATIONAL AND REGIONAL POLICY ALIGNMENT:** Once initial FDI is established, investments in additional specific infrastructure and education and policies are aligned to support it and enable clustering of FDI and national backward and forward linkages.

**REGIONAL COORDINATION:** obeys to the joint action of two authorities:

1. **WALIS – regional level- and GOVERNORS**, representing the state, who coordinate the development efforts of the different ministerial local representatives from the government perspective. However, they are not yet in a position of budget monitoring or strong decision-making capacity over the ministerial representatives. A devolution chart – Charte de la Déconcentration- is being prepared by the present Government to enable the WALIS and GOVERNORS a more active and central role vis-à-vis other ministerial department representatives at the regional and local level. This new chart is a key reform to enforce a strong leadership and coordinated intervention of the government regionally and locally.

2- **REGIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTED BODIES** mainly the Region and the Commune – Collectivités Territoriales Région et Commune-, who benefit from important competencies, own financial resources and autonomous local administration. The region has the competencies of economic development and regional land use framework along with professional training prerogatives and growing own financial resources.

Elected and non-Elected authorities – representing the government- coordinate their efforts in joint committees or through partnership arrangements that emphasize the nature of the role and financial contribution in the economic development effort especially in the case of FDIs.



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