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H.E. MR. ABDELLATIF FILALI
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF THE KINGDOM OF MOROCCO

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AT THE 46th SESSION OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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Mr. President,

Morocco attaches great importance to the action towards unity pursued by the five states of the Maghreb-Arab. Morocco is convinced that the setting up of a solid Maghreb structure - ambition of all the sons of the region who are linked by commun religious, languistic and historical ties as well as a shared destiny - has become today an absolute imperative if we want to mobilize all energies for the development, prosperity as well as well-being of the peoples of the Maghreb. It is also imperative to address the challenges of our time and to coordinate cooperation with other economic entities.

Thanks to the strong will motivating our countries to redouble efforts to reach the goals enshrined in the treaty of Marrakesh which set up the Union of the Maghreb Arab, important results were achieved when the 4th Maghreb summit conference took place in Casablanca on September 15th and 16th, 1991.

During this summit, the Union completed the setting up of its structures. This will no doubt enable us to realize a complete coordination and fruitful cooperation at every level whether cultural, social or economic as well as in the daily life of the peoples of the Maghreb.

Reaffirming the will of the Union to establish a constructive cooperation with other regional groups, the summit conference made recommendations for the pursuit of contacts and consultations with the Economic Community of West-Africa. Those contacts will allow a coordination between those two African groups from the Southern Hemnisphere, groups which feel the most urgent need to establish a dialogue among their countries.

Morocco, which is linked to many states of the North by strong economic ties has been among the first countries to call for the establishment of this kind of dialogue, being convinced that it represents the ideal tool for unifying the positions of the countries of the South and allowing them to defend their interest within the framework of North-South dialogue which we hope will be fruitful.

As for the steady contact established between the UMA on one hand, the E.E.C. and its members of the Western Mediterranean region on the other hand, we have noticed that it is making constant progress towards attaining its assigned goal : laying solid fondations for development, security and stability in the interest of all countries of the region.

It is an established fact that those two groups are linked by solid ties of history and geography which manifest themselves in political, economic, as well as cultural fields.

It is, however, regrettable that those relations witness from time to time some instability, a situation that requires the emergence of a commun political will capable of transcending arrogant attitudes and giving a new impetus to the relationship allowing it to live up to the expectations of our peoples and to match the commun principles and ideals we share.

This can only be reached by avoiding futile attitudes and focusing our attention on the pratical means capable of achieving a cooporation which insures to both shores of the Western Mediterranean the needed stability and security for a steady and beneficial dialogue.