



Rabat, June 25, 2013

The Rabat Declaration

The member parties of the Arab Social Democratic Forum (ASDF), hosted by the Socialist Union of Popular Forces of Morocco (USFP), convened in Rabat on June 24-25, 2013 in accordance with the Cairo declaration of January 20, 2013, which stipulated the convening of the Forum in the nearest opportunity to discuss and approve the political framework and the statutes in addition to establishing the Women and Youth committees of the forum.

We are thrilled and proud of the senior representation of the twelve socialist and social democratic parties from the Arab world that met in Rabat, marking an historical event in the course of our common struggle towards a united front of social democrats of the Arab world.

We also value the deep and responsible deliberations, which led to the improvement and approval of the proposed political framework, statutes and bylaws, and the structuring of the Women committee and the Youth union.

We reassert that our initiative to establish the ASDF has been inspired by the Arab peoples mobilization and revolutions seeking freedom, dignity, and democracy; the same principles upon which this Forum was founded.

We bow in homage and reverence to our martyrs who lost their lives struggling against authoritarianism and tyranny and we declare the continuation of our engagement in this movement by establishing a coalition of the social democratic and socialist parties in the Arab world. This coalition will work to fulfill the demands of our people by creating a new vision, practical strategies, and political programs based on our common values and principles, open to cultural diversity and political pluralism within our diverse region that will strengthen the role of law and establish the principles of citizenship and human rights.

In this context, the ASDF approved its political framework, adopted its statutes and bylaws, that ordered the formation of a Council (the Forum Council) consisting of the twelve participating parties and an Organisation Committee, and endorsed the recommendations of the Women committee and the Youth union that announced their organizational structure.

In the framework of the Forum's activities, a seminar discussing the situation of Jerusalem was organized, which revealed the atrocious practices and the apartheid regime of the occupying Israeli forces aiming at the de-Arabization of this Palestinian city. As a response to the call of the Secretary General of the USFP to adopt methods of civil struggle, develop innovative strategies to resist these practices, and reaffirm the identity of Jerusalem as an open Palestinian city, the meeting adopted boycott, divestment, and sanctions against Israel.

The ASDF decided to hold its next meeting in occupied Jerusalem and delegated the task of arranging this upcoming meeting to the Organisation Committee.