68th Session of the General Assembly
2nd Committee
Statement by the Moroccan Delegation
Agenda item 21 (d)
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Mr. Chairman,

I will deliver this statement on the agenda item 21. (d) on Culture and Development.

I would like to express the appreciation of my delegation to Mr. Francesco Bandarin, Assistant Director General for Culture of UNESCO, for introducing the report A/68/266 on culture and development.

The inclusion of the topic of culture and development in the agenda of the Second Committee is a clear indication and recognition of the contribution of culture to the achievement of the development objectives.

Mr. Chairman,

The adoption of resolutions 65/166 and 66/208 have given great impetus and visibility for culture as means that contribute to achieve development, in the discussions at the international, regional and national levels.

The organization, in June 2013, by the PGA of the thematic debate on culture and development as well as the inclusion of culture in the theme of the annual ministerial review of ECOSOC of July 2013 were also important steps toward reinforcing the idea about Culture as enabler and driver of sustainable and inclusive development.

The outcome document of the 2010 Summit on the MDGs and the Rio+20 outcome document emphasized the importance of culture for development and its contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals as well as the role that cultural diversity plays for sustainable development.
All the above mentioned activities show clearly the importance that the international community is given to the issue of culture and the need for its mainstreaming in development strategies and policies.

The post-2015 development agenda, should be an important opportunity to consolidate the contribution of culture and cultural diversity to the achievement of the development goals.

Culture is of course an essential aspect of people-centered approach of development.

The respect for local heritage, culture and environment is indeed the essence of sustainability and ownership of the process of development.

Education as part of the cultural development of any given society is a powerful tool to foster innovation and creativity for development and the stimulation of economic growth.

Cultural activities as an economic sector contributes greatly to the eradication of poverty and the empowerment of the poor, through job creation and income generation.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Cultural dialogue encourages peaceful relations and mutual respect between peoples and nations.

Moreover, experiences of cooperation for development show that cooperation and partnership based on shared culture and values have delivered better results for development.

Globalization and the revolution of information technology which facilitated connections between people across the world, represent an important opportunity for the promotion of cultural diversity and dialogue.

They could represent in the same time a challenge for diversity.

This revolution in information technology should be manage in way to foster mutual dialogue and respect between culture and the development and promotion of all cultures.

**Mr. Chairman,**
Morocco gives special attention to its cultural heritage as vehicle to economic and social development, which was reflected in many development policies and activities, especially the National Initiative for Human Development launched in 2005.

During the 65th and the 67th sessions of the General Assembly, Morocco introduced the resolution on the "Promotion of ecotourism for poverty eradication and environment protection".

The resolution emphasized the role of ecotourism as a tool to encourage local communities and tourists alike to preserve and respect the natural and cultural heritage.

It also highlighted the need to fully respect and promote indigenous cultures, traditions in ecotourism policy development and initiatives.

In closing, my delegation would like to commend the work of UNESCO in consolidating and repositioning culture in development and call for further mainstreaming of culture and development in the work of the United Nations System.

I thank you.