

## 'Youth for Democracy' event draws future leaders to Rabat

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More than 150 young people from Morocco and other Arab countries gathered in Rabat at the weekend for a three-day exercise in governance. NGO "Mediator for Democracy and Human Rights" launched the initiative, in partnership with the United Nations Democracy Fund. The "Youth for Democracy" event, which wrapped up Sunday (January 5<sup>th</sup>) at the International Youth Complex of Bouznika, aims to develop citizenship and strengthen the capacity of youth in political participation.

"The meeting is a preparatory station for young people, providing them with tools to assess public policies," said Amina Boughalbi, a project co-ordinator and member of the youth-led February 20 Movement (M20F). "Activities focused on several topics, including the constitution, the organisation of the authorities, parliament and its powers, participatory democracy and governance, as well as mechanisms for the protection of human rights," she told Magharebia.

Speakers at the meeting "shed light on many issues that concern young people and their relationship with politics", Boughalbi added. Despite their overwhelming response and curiosity for more political knowledge, "Arab youths do not generally participate in politics due to their frustration because political parties exploit them when seeking votes in the elections and then neglect their opinions and ideas," the activist said.

Mohamed, a young participant, said that the first "Youth for Democracy" university seminar was for him the opportunity to meet young people and share ideas. He said he would participate in the upcoming elections and not boycott them like many who shunned politics and the political game. The first day saw an intervention on the theme of participatory democracy led by Abderrahmane Amrani. "The deterioration of political parties in performing the roles assigned to them in terms of political training and political elites development, contributed significantly to the decline in the participation of young people who represent the backbone of Moroccan society," he said. "This is what made civil society so often play a strategic role in the manufacture of public opinion and in the evaluation of public policies, and even direct them at other times after the failure of political parties to do so," he noted.

For her part, university professor and human rights activist Latifa Albohsini addressed the agreements signed by Morocco in the field of women's rights and also spoke about the new government's plan to apply parity. A second "university" will be held during spring break in mid-March, which will focus on "the evaluation of public policies". The same young forum participants will work on preparing reports on public policies adopted by governments.



AFP/AbdelhakSenna] "Arab youths do not generally participate in politics due to their frustration because political parties exploit them when seeking votes," an activist said.

**I COMPREHENSION (16 POINTS)**

**{BASE ALL YOUR ANSWERS ON THE TEXT}**

**A Are these sentences TRUE or FALSE? JUSTIFY your answers. (3pts)**

- 1 At the weekend, just Moroccan youths gathered in Rabat for the exercise in governance which lasted 3 days.  
.....
- 2 The university seminar hasn't convinced any Moroccan youth to participate in the next elections.  
.....
- 3 The event which occurred on Sunday January, 5<sup>th</sup> was the first and last meeting for young people.  
.....

**B Answer these questions. (3 pts)**

- 1 What were the two objectives of the meeting of the 150 young people from Morocco and other Arab countries?  
.....  
.....
- 2 Which body played a decisive role in shaping public opinion?  
.....  
.....
- 3 Who will write reports and evaluate the public policies adopted by Arab governments?  
.....  
.....

**C Find in the text words or expressions that mean the same as the following. (4pts)**

- 1 finished (para1) .....
- 2 clarified (para3) .....
- 3 avoided (para4) .....
- 4 equality (para 5) .....

**D What do the underlined words in the text refer to? (3 pts)**

- 1 she (para2) .....
- 2 them(para3) .....
- 3 who(para 4) .....

**E Complete the following sentences. (3pts)**

- 1 "Arab youths do not generally participate in politics although .....
- 2 The participation of young people who represent the backbone of Moroccan society in politics declined since ...
- 3 Latifa Albohsini addressed the agreements signed by Morocco in the field of women's rights as well as .....

**II LANGUAGE (14 POINTS)**

**A Rewrite these sentences beginning with the words given. (2pts)**

- 1 Bob had a cup of tea. Then, he started work.  
Before .....
- 2 The population was largely Chinese; and yet English became the official language for business.  
In spite of .....

**B Put the words between brackets into the correct form. (2pts)**

- 1 Swimming is a very (enjoy) ..... way of staying in shape.
- 2 They gave a (true) ..... magnificent performance.
- 3 Everyone in the audience burst into (laugh) .....
- 4 These types of question clearly (angry) ..... him. So, don't ask him.

**C Rewrite the following sentences using the connectors between brackets. (4 pts)**

- 1 She will come early. We can show her the house. (**so as**)  
.....
- 2 You'd expect people to drive more slowly. There are many hazards on this road. (**because of**)  
.....
- 3 I don't really want to go. Besides, it's too late now. (**not only ... but ... also**)  
.....
- 4 I went to see a doctor because the scar was still painful. (**therefore**)  
.....

**D Put the verbs between brackets into the correct form. (4pts)**

- 1 While I (shop) ..... yesterday morning, I (run) ..... into an old friend of mine I (not see) ..... for years.
- 2 We needn't (take) ..... a taxi. The theatre (be) ..... just round the corner.
- 3 Many old buildings (restore) ..... in the medina since last year.
- 4 At the moment, a foreign NGO (to prepare) ..... a huge project which aims at (develop) ..... rural areas in Morocco.

**E Fill in the blanks with the right preposition. (2 pts)**

at                      from                      to                      in                      with                      on                      of

- 1 She started a degree but dropped out ..... university after only a year.
- 2 He started playing the piano ..... an early age.
- 3 People are becoming more sensitized ..... the dangers threatening the environment.
- 4 She's never satisfied ..... what she's got.

**III WRITING (10 POINTS)**

Sustainable development is a term that can be defined in many different ways. However, the most widely recognized definition is found in the Bruntland Report. Titled “Our Common Future”, the report defines sustainable development as “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

Which problems are the impact of the traditional way of development in Morocco?

And how do you think they can best be tackled to make development in our country sustainable?

***(Approximately 200 words)***

A vertical line on the left side of the page is followed by 20 horizontal dotted lines, providing a template for writing the answer.