

## The Crans Montana Forum in Dakhla has kept all its promises

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Proceedings of the 5th Annual Crans Montana Forum, held March 14-17 in Dakhla, ended on Sunday, having gathered nearly 1,200 participants from 110 countries and initiated fruitful debates on South-South cooperation for the future of Africa.

After four days of meetings, plenary sessions and events and side events, this new edition of the Forum, the fifth consecutive in the pearl of the South of the Kingdom, has met all expectations with the participation of a hundred celebrities of high level having discussed in depth the concerns, the concerns but also the ambitions of an African youth increasingly demanding.

Held under the patronage of King Mohammed VI, this high mass was marked by the participation and invaluable contribution of influential personalities such as the Vice President of the Republic of Guatemala, Mr. Jafeth Cabrera, the Liberian Vice President, Jewel Taylor, former German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder, Prime Minister of Haiti, Jean-Henry Céant, Gambia's First Lady, Ms. Fatoumata Bah Barrow, Vice President of The Gambia, Mrs. Isatou Touray, First Lady of Guinea, Hadja Conde Djéné Kaba, Deputy Prime Minister of Equatorial Guinea, Alfonso Nsue Mokuy, President of the National Assembly of the Central African Republic, Laurent Ngon Baba, and Speaker of the Parliament of the Economic Community of African States West (ECOWAS), Moustapha Cissé Lo.

As evidenced by the theme chosen for this year, "Building a Powerful and Modern Africa at the Service of Youth," this edition gave voice to African youth. A Declaration of Young African Leaders culminated the first day of the work of this Forum which notably called for the economic empowerment and social inclusion of African youth to face the different forms of radicalization in society and the rise of radical extreme right and the scourges of violence and terrorism.

Representatives of national youth councils, entrepreneurs and young leaders from different backgrounds also advocated the promotion of job creation and youth entrepreneurship, the involvement of young people in development projects and programs and the setting up youth empowerment funds in the different countries of the continent.

Furthermore, they welcomed the organization of this forum, expressing their gratitude to King Mohammed VI for his efforts and support, as well as to the Kingdom for pledging to deepen the discussion on the issue of youth.

As in previous editions, this event has also given pride of place to other topics as diverse as energy security, environmental requirements, the digital economy, public health, sustainable agriculture, the promotion of entrepreneurship and female leadership.

As a space for dialogue, debate and reflection, the Crans Montana Forum in Dakhla will have kept all its promises, once again making a significant contribution to pan-African debates on development, regional integration and South-South cooperation.