

AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

Morocco Monthly Briefing October 2021

Morocco Summary 19 October 2021

King Mohammed VI (1999-present) chairs the inauguration ceremony of Morocco's newly formed government, led by Aziz Akhannouch, and a council meeting discussing a preliminary draft of the 2022 financial bill. Morocco's unemployment rate increases to 12.8% in the second quarter of 2021, a 0.5% increase compared to the second quarter of 2020 and the highest unemployment rate since 2001. The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) holds a closed-door meeting on the Western Sahara as part of consultations prior to adopting a new resolution to renew the mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO). The government launches a campaign to administer third dose "booster shots" of Covid-19 vaccines to citizens and residents.

Mohammed VI installs new government...

King **Mohammed VI** (1999-present) chaired the inauguration ceremony on 7 October of **Morocco's** newly formed government, led by **Aziz Akhannouch**, and launched the legislative year of parliament on 8 October.¹ The new government of 24 departments includes some ministers from the former cabinet in either the same position or assuming new duties. Women will lead seven ministries, including the ministries of health, economy and finance, and energy transition and sustainable development.

Morocco's general elections on 8 September delivered a stunning upset to the political status quo (see *ARC Briefing Morocco September 2021*). Akhannouch's **Rassemblement National des Indépendants (RNI)** won 102 of the 395 seats in parliament, while the **Parti de la Justice et du Développement (PJD)**, in power since 2010, secured only 13.² Akhannouch formally became Morocco's new prime minister on 11 September.

Morocco's new government, as of 8 October 2021	
Head of Government	Aziz Akhannouch
Interior	Abdelouafi Laftit (maintains role)
Foreign affairs	Nasser Bourita (maintains role)
Islamic affairs	Ahmed Toufiq (maintains role)
Secretary General of the Government	Mohamed Hajouil (re-appointed)
Minister Delegate to Head of Government in charge of the national defence administration	Abdellatif Loudiyi (maintains role)
Justice	Abdellatif Ouahbi
Economy and finance	Nadia Fettah Alaoui
Minister Delegate to the finance minister	Fouzi Lekjaa
Agriculture and fisheries	Mohamed Sadiki
Water and equipment	Nizar Baraka

¹ Morocco World News, 7 Oct 2021

² Morocco World News, 12 Sep 2021

Tourism and handicraft	Fatim-Zahra Ammor
Transport and logistics	Mohamed Abdeljalil
Economic inclusion, small business, employment and skills	Younes Sekkouri
National education, preschool and sports	Chakib Benmoussa
Higher education, research, and innovation	Abdellatif Miraoui
Youth, culture and communication	Mehdi Bensaid
Women, family and social integration	Aawatif Hyar
Housing	Fatima Ezzahra El Mansouri
Health	Nabila Rmili
Energy transition and sustainable development	Leila Benali
Minister delegate to the Head of Government in charge of digital transition and administrative reform	Ghita Mezzour
Delegate minister to Head of Government in charge of investment, convergence and evaluation of public policies	Mohcine Jazouli

In his speech to parliament, Mohammed VI highlighted Morocco's most important accomplishments, urging the government and parliament to intensify efforts and assume responsibility for the country's development.³ He also expressed satisfaction with the economic growth that Morocco has recorded throughout the **Covid-19** pandemic.

... and chairs Council of Ministers on 2022 Financial Bill

King Mohammad VI chaired Morocco's first post-PJD council on 17 October, focussed on discussing a preliminary draft of the 2022 financial bill.⁴ The financial legislation represents the first major objective for the new government and will focus on implementing the new development model, generalisation of social protection, and improving early schooling among children.⁵ Newly appointed economy minister **Nadia Fettah Alaoui** noted the need to strengthen inclusion mechanisms and implement social protection as a priority project. 2022 will mark the launch of the second phase of generalisation of the social protection project, which aims to benefit vulnerable and disadvantaged people benefitting from the state's medical assistance plan, **Régime d'Assistance Médicale (RAMED)**:

*"Special attention will be paid to the social integration of people with disabilities, in addition to establishing the promotion of gender equality in different economic and social fields among the priorities of government action."*⁶

The bill will focus on reforming the public sector by strengthening governance mechanisms through the acceleration of the implementation of the *"advanced regionalisation"* project. The finance bill also aims to prioritise acceleration of the reform of public administration through activation of the charter of public services; simplification of administrative procedures; consolidation of the bases for the revival of the national economy to allow various sectors to regain dynamism and improve their capacity to preserve and create jobs and generalisation of the digital administration.⁷ The government has until 20 October to agree on the fiscal bill for the next year.

³ Morocco World News, 8 Oct 2021

⁴ Royal Cabinet Communiqué, 17 Oct 2021

⁵ Morocco World News, 17 Oct 2021

⁶ Morocco World News, 17 Oct 2021

⁷ Royal Cabinet Communiqué, 17 Oct 2021

Morocco records highest unemployment rate since 2001

Morocco's unemployment rate increased to 12.8% in the second quarter of 2021, a 0.5% increase compared to the second quarter of 2020 and the highest unemployment rate since 2001, according to the **Haut Commissariat au Plan (HCP)** (planning commission).⁸ In April, Morocco's unemployed population stood at 1.6 million, an increase of 128,000 since April 2020.⁹ The Covid-19 pandemic and associated containment measures have led to significant job losses, which may have contributed to the PJD's September electoral loss (see above). The handicraft sector, one of the worst performing sectors, lost 53,000 job positions. However, the construction, agricultural and services sectors registered increases in employment of 108,000, 318,000 and 40,000 respectively.¹⁰

Despite higher unemployment numbers, Morocco recorded gross domestic product (GDP) of MAD 1,12 trillion (\$124 billion), an increase of 10.45% from 2020.¹¹ Real GDP, accounting for inflation, reached MAD 294.4 trillion (\$32.4 billion).¹² The inflation rate is 0.8%, below the 2% inflation rate recommended by economists. According to the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**, Morocco's economy contracted by 5.9% in 2020 due to the stringent three-month lockdown and the drought that impacted the agricultural season and rural incomes.¹³

UN Security Council holds closed-door meeting on Western Sahara

The **United Nations Security Council (UNSC)** held a closed-door meeting on the **Western Sahara** issue on 13 October. UNSC consultations are being held prior to adoption of a resolution to renew the mandate of the **United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO)**, the UN's peacekeeping operation in the region.¹⁴ Moroccan forces and the **Polisario Front**, an armed group demanding independence for Western Sahara, have been fighting for decades over the vast disputed territory, bordering Morocco, **Mauritania** and **Algeria**, which was previously under **Spanish** control.¹⁵ The UNSC received a briefing from the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for the Sahara, **Alexander Ivanko**, and the assistant secretary-general for **Africa** in the UN Secretariat's department of political affairs, **Martha Pobee**.

The consultations were held amid threats from the Polisario Front, reportedly continuing to agitate for war despite repeated warnings from the UN.¹⁶ While the separatist group welcomed the appointment of **Staffan de Mistura** as UN secretary general **Antonio Guterres'** personal envoy for the Western Sahara, it demanded total Moroccan surrender as a condition to restart negotiations. Polisario Front leader **Brahim Ghali** said on 13 October that "*war will not stop*" and that "*renewed war*" between the Polisario Front and Morocco "*will affect the entire region*" should the UN continue to "*manage the conflict instead of resolving it*".¹⁷

Ghali's statement came days after the UNSC urged all parties to the conflict to show restraint and avoid any escalations that might derail the political process for a compromise-based solution to the conflict. On 4 October, the UNSC confirmed the Polisario Front's violations of the military agreement, particularly in **Guerguerat** near the Moroccan-Mauritanian border, after a MINURSO reconnaissance mission identified the separatist group in the buffer zone.¹⁸ The

⁸ Haut Commissariat au Plan (HCP), 3 Aug 2021

⁹ Haut Commissariat au Plan (HCP), 3 Aug 2021

¹⁰ Morocco World News, 12 Oct 2021

¹¹ Morocco World News, 12 Oct 2021

¹² Morocco World News, 12 Oct 2021

¹³ Morocco World News, 12 Oct 2021

¹⁴ Morocco World News, 14 Oct 2021

¹⁵ Al Jazeera, 11 Dec 2020

¹⁶ Morocco World News, 14 Oct 2021

¹⁷ Morocco World News, 14 Oct 2021

¹⁸ Morocco World News, 14 Oct 2021

report stated that MINURSO observers had identified “*eight military vehicles, two of which were equipped with heavy weapons*” in the buffer zone.

Many observers expect that the diplomatic impasse will impact the future of the **Maghreb-Europe** gas pipeline.¹⁹ The 1,400-km pipeline is a system of high-pressure gas pipelines carrying natural gas from the wells in **Hassi R'Mel** (Algeria) to Spain and **Portugal** via an underwater section in the **Strait of Gibraltar**.²⁰ The pipeline contract expires in October, but Morocco has said it is in favour of maintaining the pipeline.²¹ Algeria's President **Abdelmadjid Tebboune** (2019-present) said on 12 October that his country will supply Spain with gas through **Medgaz**, a submarine pipeline directly connecting Algeria to Spain. Algeria, which supports the Polisario Front, announced on 24 August its decision to sever all diplomatic ties with Morocco, accusing **Rabat** of committing “*hostile acts*” and colluding with “*terrorist groups*” to undermine Algerian interests (see *ARC Briefing Morocco September 2021*).²²

Tension between Algeria and Morocco dates back to 1976, after **Algiers** started supporting the Polisario Front.²³ Recent tensions stem from the recognition on 10 December by the administration of former US president **Donald Trump** (2017-2021) of Moroccan sovereignty over the Western Sahara, when the US became the first country to recognise Morocco's claim and reaffirmed its proposal to grant limited autonomy to Sahrawis under Moroccan control.²⁴

Government approves Covid-19 booster shots

The government officially launched on 4 October its campaign to administer third dose “*booster shots*” of Covid-19 vaccines to citizens and residents.²⁵ The campaign aims to strengthen public immunity against the virus and is expected to initially target those who have been fully vaccinated for at least six months.²⁶ Approved booster shot vaccines will be independent of the type received in the first two doses or the single dose of US-based pharmaceutical company **Johnson & Johnson's** single dose **Janssen** vaccine.²⁷

Morocco has vaccinated over 60% of its population and its epidemiological situation seems to be improving even after easing of Covid-19 restrictions.²⁸ The country appears to be on target to fully vaccinate 80% of its population by the end of the year. To reach its target, it will have to inoculate 33 million people by 31 December.²⁹ According to the health ministry's update on 16 October, it has fully vaccinated 20,908,945 of its 36.4 million citizens against Covid-19 since beginning its vaccination campaign at the end of January.³⁰ At least 23,230,919 people have received a first dose and 644,722 have received a third dose. The health ministry announced that Morocco had recorded 417 new cases throughout the country on 17 October and a further 269 cases on 18 October.³¹ The seven-day average as of 17 October is 417 daily cases.³² As of 18 October, Morocco had recorded a total of 942,280 cases, with 921,980 recoveries and 14,561 Covid-19-related deaths.³³

¹⁹ EFE, 6 Sep 2021

²⁰ [Europe Maghreb Pipeline Ltd](#) website, accessed 17 Sep 2021

²¹ Morocco World News, 27 Aug 2021

²² Morocco World News, 9 Sep 2021

²³ Morocco World News, 9 Sep 2021

²⁴ Al Jazeera, 11 Dec 2020

²⁵ Africa News, 5 Oct 2021

²⁶ Africa News, 5 Oct 2021

²⁷ Morocco World News, 3 Oct 2021

²⁸ Morocco World News, 3 Oct 2021

²⁹ Morocco World News, 3 Oct 2021

³⁰ Liqah Corona, 16 Oct 2021

³¹ Johns Hopkins University Center for Systems Science and Engineering, 19 Oct 2021

³² Johns Hopkins University Center for Systems Science and Engineering, 19 Oct 2021

³³ Worldometers, 19 Oct 2021

Health officials have stressed the need for citizens to continue to follow the precautionary measures set by the health ministry.³⁴ The government has extended its health state of emergency through 31 October.³⁵ Security services will allow movement across the country without restrictions if travellers present their vaccination pass or a movement permit signed by authorities.³⁶ Restaurants, cafes, public baths, gyms and stores are allowed to operate until 11pm daily at up to 50% capacity.³⁷ Public transport may operate at a maximum of 75% capacity. Domestic flights and public transport, including bus and rail service, are in operation but private and public gatherings are banned.

For Covid-19 tracking and monitoring purposes, government has classified areas in the country as either “Zone-1” or “Zone-2” regions based on their local levels of Covid-19 activity. Restrictions in Zone-1 areas have been eased due to lower disease activity and residents can leave their homes without special permits; however, they must carry national identity cards at all times.³⁸ Establishments in Zone-1, such as restaurants, beaches, hotels, cafes and all businesses, can only operate at 50% capacity and must adhere to social distancing guidelines. In Zone-2 areas, government has eased only some restrictions and residents may not travel outside their municipalities of residence without special permits.

For entry to Morocco, government classifies countries into “List A” and “List B”. List A includes countries with positive indicators regarding their control of the Covid-19 epidemiological situation. Travellers from such countries, whether Moroccan or foreigners living there, can enter Morocco subject to providing a vaccination certificate or a negative polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test taken 72 hours before departure.³⁹ List B includes countries experiencing a spread of variants or lacking precise Covid-19 case statistics. Travellers from these countries must obtain exceptional authorisation prior to travel, present a negative PCR test result taken less than 48 hours prior to arrival, and undergo mandatory quarantine on arrival. Unvaccinated or partially vaccinated individuals traveling from List B countries are required to undergo a mandatory 10-day quarantine period at a government-designated facility at their own expense. Travelers from List B countries presenting a certificate of full vaccination against Covid-19 are exempt from quarantine requirements. In the most recent update to Morocco’s travel restrictions published on 4 October, the foreign ministry announced that Moroccan residents will be able to self-isolate for five days at home upon arriving from a List B country.⁴⁰ The foreign affairs ministry updates the countries on List A and List B regularly and at least twice a month.

³⁴ Garda, 4 Oct 2021

³⁵ Garda, 4 Oct 2021

³⁶ Morocco World News, 3 oct 2021

³⁷ Garda, 4 Oct 2021

³⁸ Garda, 4 Oct 2021

³⁹ Garda, 4 Oct 2021

⁴⁰ Garda, 4 Oct 2021

Planner

Oct 2021 **(Morocco)** Scheduled joint Morocco-**United Kingdom** military exercise

Oct 2021 **(Morocco)** Scheduled release of Moroccan-led **United Nations (UN)** fact-finding mission to **Libya** report on the Libyan crisis;

Oct 2021 **(Morocco)** Expiry of **Maghreb-Europe** gas pipeline contract;

Dec 2021 **(Morocco)** Scheduled start date for **Sothema** laboratory to begin manufacturing the **Sinopharm** Covid-19 vaccines;

2021 **(Morocco)** Scheduled construction of five new dams;

2021 **Oued Zem (Morocco)** Scheduled opening of automotive testing centre;

Q4 2021 **Marrakech (Morocco)** 24th **General Assembly of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)**

2022 **Marrakech (Morocco)** **International Monetary Fund** and **World Bank** annual meetings to take place in Morocco;

Chronology

18 Oct 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *El Al. Israeli* airline **El Al** will increase its flights to a biweekly frequency in the **Marrakech-Tel Aviv** route;

18 Oct 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. Government announces that **Covid-19** vaccination passports are mandatory for transportation and to access public spaces from 21 October;

17 Oct 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. King **Mohammed VI** chairs cabinet meeting on the 2022 finance bill which will focus on implementing the new development model, the generalisation of social protection, and improving early schooling among children;

15 Oct 2021 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *African Union*. The **African Union (AU)** selects Moroccan politician and economist **Fathallah Sijilmassi** to become the first director general of the **AU Commission**;

15 Oct 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Bank Al Maghrib*. Central bank **Bank Al Maghrib** announces at its quarterly council meeting that economic growth forecasted to reach 5.3% in June has been revised upwards by 0.9 points, reaching 6.2%;

14 Oct 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Bank Al Maghrib*. Central bank **Bank Al Maghrib** expects remittances from Moroccans residing abroad (MREs) to reach MAD 87 billion (\$9.6 billion) in 2021;

14 Oct 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. Morocco's epidemiological situation is improving with over 60% of its population vaccinated;

14 Oct 2021 **New York (United States)** *Morocco World News*. The **United Nations Security Council (UNSC)** holds closed-door meeting on **Western Sahara** prior to adoption of a new resolution that will renew **MINURSO**'s mandate in Western Sahara;

13 Oct 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Telereport*. Automotive manufacturer **Opel**, a subsidiary of **Stellantis**, is reportedly considering relocating some of its operations to Morocco from **Russelsheim** in **Germany**;

13 Oct 2021 **London (United Kingdom)** *Ernst & Young*. A global ranking report from **United Kingdom**-headquartered audit firm **Ernst & Young (EY)** places Morocco as the most

attractive location for renewable energy investments in the **Middle East and North Africa (MENA)** region;

13 Oct 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. Experts predict that Morocco's automotive sector will contribute 24% to the Moroccan GDP by 2022;

12 Oct 2021 **Cairo (Egypt)** *Morocco World News*. The embassy of **Russia** in **Egypt** has requested the postponement of the 6th **Russian-Arab Cooperation Forum** scheduled to take place in **Morocco** on 28 October;

12 Oct 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Haut Commissariat au Plan (HCP)*. Morocco records its highest unemployment rate since 2001 with unemployment rising to 12.8% in the second quarter of 2021, a 0.5% increase compared to the second quarter of 2020;

12 Oct 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. Months after recalling its ambassador from Morocco, **Algeria** has officially ended the functions of its diplomatic representative in **Rabat**;

12 Oct 2021 **New York (United States)** *Morocco World News*. **United States**-based international credit ratings agency **Fitch Ratings** says credit fundamentals of Morocco's banks are slowly recovering from the unprecedented effects of the global Covid-19 crisis;

12 Oct 2021 **Algiers (Algeria)** *Echoroukonline*. **Algeria's** President **Abdelmadjid Tebboune** says his country will supply **Spain** with gas through **Medgaz**, a submarine pipeline directly connecting Algeria to Spain;

11 Oct 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. Prime minister **Aziz Akhannouch** declares that his government is committed to promoting Moroccan labels nationally and internationally by enacting strategic protectionism;

11 Oct 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. Prime minister **Aziz Akhannouch** presents the main goals of his new government during a plenary session held by both houses of parliament;

11 Oct 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Maroc*. Foreign minister **Nasser Bourita** hosts his **Malian** counterpart, **Abdoulaye Diop**, in **Rabat** to discuss vital issues currently impacting both countries. Diop says the Malian government is committed to "doing everything possible" to find the murderers of two Moroccan truckers in Mali;

11 Oct 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Africa News*. Moroccan candidate **Abderrazak Rouwane** is elected to one of the five vacant seats of the **United Nations (UN) Committee Against Torture** for the 2022-2025 period;

11 Oct 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. **Israel** officially appoints its charge d'affaires in **Rabat**, **David Govin**, as its ambassador to Morocco;

11 Oct 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Flight Global*. **Royal Air Maroc (RAM)** and **Israel's EL AL** sign a cooperation agreement that will allow the two airlines to explore the possibility of codeshare services;

10 Oct 2021 **Paris (France)** *Morocco World News*. **France** moves Morocco to its amber list of **Covid-19** travel amid the remarkable improvements the North African country's epidemiological situation has seen in recent weeks;

10 Oct 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Ministère des Affaires Étrangères*. The ministry of foreign affairs officially unveils the country's investment and export brand "**Morocconow**", on the sidelines of the kingdom's participation in **Expo 2020 Dubai**;

- 10 Oct 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. The embassy of **Russia** in **Rabat** announces it will expatriate its citizens from Morocco;
- 9 Oct 2021 **London (United Kingdom)** *Morocco World News*. **British** luxury travel magazine **Conde Nast Traveler** ranks **Marrakech Menara Airport** seventh best in the world and first among **African** airports;
- 8 Oct 2021 **London (United Kingdom)** *United Kingdom Government*. The **United Kingdom (UK)** government announces that Morocco's **Covid-19** vaccination certificate is now recognised and accepted for travel to the UK;
- 8 Oct 2021 **Almeria (Spain)** *Morocco World News*. About 200 farmers from the **Spanish** city of **Almeria** and representatives of fruit and vegetable companies lead an agricultural strike demonstrate against Moroccan agricultural products;
- 8 Oct 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. King **Mohammed VI** addresses parliament, highlighting Morocco's accomplishments including economic growth throughout recent tough times;
- 7 Oct 2021 **Washington (United States)** *World Bank*. According to a **World Bank** report, Morocco will record the highest GDP in the **Middle East and North Africa (MENA)** region due to sustainable performance of its agricultural sector, rather than a general increase of economic activity;
- 7 Oct 2021 **Fez (Morocco)** *Africa News*. King **Mohammed VI** chairs the inauguration ceremony of Morocco's newly formed government;
- 7 Oct 2021 **Madrid (Spain)** *Morocco World News*. Spain's foreign affairs minister, **Jose Manuel Albares**, emphasises his country's determination to build "*stronger*" diplomatic relations after months of political stalemate;
- 7 Oct 2021 **Western Sahara (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. **Polisario Front** responds to appointment of Special Envoy **Staffan de Mistura** by demanding total Moroccan surrender as a condition to restart negotiations;
- 6 Oct 2021 **Washington (United States)** *State Department*. **United States** Secretary of State **Anthony Blinken** conveys his country's satisfaction with the appointment of a new personal envoy for **Western Sahara**;
- 6 Oct 2021 **Berlin (Germany)** *North Africa Post*. **Moroccan** diplomat **Mustapha El Yamli** is the new head of the **Arab League** office in **Berlin** after his nomination by fellow members of the regional organisation;
- 7 Oct 2021 **New York (United States)** *The Arab Weekly*. **United Nations Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres** officially appoints **Italian-Swiss** diplomat **Staffan de Mistura** as his new personal envoy for **Western Sahara**, nearly two and a half years after the post became vacant;
- 6 Oct 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. The **Moroccan Association of Exporters** warns that **France's** decision to cut by 50% the number of visas issued to Moroccans could significantly affect Morocco's foreign exports;
- 6 Oct 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. The **Association of Vehicle Importers** in Morocco releases statistics highlighting the rapid growth of the local automotive industry by 12.64% in 2021;
- 6 Oct 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Royal Air Maroc*. Flagship domestic carrier **Royal Air Maroc** has cancelled flights to **Russia** and is offering passengers refunds or change in flight itinerary;

5 Oct 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Haut Commissariat au Plan (HCP)*. The **Haut Commissariat au Plan (HCP)** (planning commission) foresees 4.3% economic growth in the fourth quarter of 2021, as opposed to a 5.1% decline during the same quarter in 2020;

5 Oct 2021 **Luxembourg City (Luxembourg)** *Morocco World News*. The **Mediterranean Chamber of Fisheries** is the latest organisation to voice opposition to the recent decision of the **European Court of Justice (ECJ)** to annul fisheries and agriculture agreements between Morocco and the **European Union (EU)**;

4 Oct 2021 **New York (United States)** *United Nations*. Moroccan ambassador to the **United Nations (UN)** **Omar Hilale** assumes presidency of UN **General Assembly** 1st committee that oversees disarmament and international security, the first time that Morocco assumes the presidency of the committee;

4 Oct 2021 **New York (United States)** *Morocco World News*. **United Nations (UN)** secretary-general **Antonio Guterres** confirms the **Polisario Front**'s violations of the military agreement, particularly in **Guerguerat**;

4 Oct 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Daily Morocco*. According to **Skytrax Groupe**, Morocco's flagship carrier **Royal Air Maroc** ranks 81st in the world's 100 airlines, climbing 11 spots;

3 Oct 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Ministre de la Santé*. Government approves administration of a third **Covid-19** vaccine dose;

2 Oct 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. **United States** electric car manufacturer **Tesla** has installed its first charging stations in Morocco, the first in **Africa**;

2 Oct 2021 **Tripoli (Libya)** *Morocco World News*. The **United Nations (UN) Support Mission in Libya** expresses gratitude for Morocco following talks marked by a "positive atmosphere";

2 Oct 2021 **Algiers (Algeria)** *Morocco World News*. **Spain** sends a pre-emptive diplomatic mission to **Algiers** in response to the looming energy crisis in **Europe**; **Algeria**'s liquefied natural gas (LNG) production supplies Spain with half of its LNG imports;

2 Oct 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Ministre de la Santé*. The health ministry recommends a third vaccine "booster" shot to fight **Covid-19** and its many variants;

1 Oct 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. Morocco is participating in the **Expo Dubai 2020**, spanning from 1 October to 31 March, to share its strategic vision for a more sustainable global future;

1 Oct 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Haut Commissariat au Plan (HCP)*. The national economy experienced a growth of 15.2% in the second quarter of 2021, as opposed to a drop of 14.2% during the same period in 2020;

30 Sep 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Ministre de la Santé*. The health ministry announces that Morocco will adopt new measures to ease its current Covid-19 restrictions;

30 Sep 2021 **Luxembourg City (Luxembourg)** *European Commission*. The **European Commission** emphasises the importance of partnership with **Morocco** in the wake of the **European Court of Justice** ruling against the EU-Morocco fisheries and agriculture agreements;

30 Sep 2021 **Brussels (Belgium)** *Morocco World News*. Morocco and the **European Union (EU)** will begin dismantling tariffs on 1 October under an agreement on reciprocal liberalisation measures relating to agricultural products, processed agricultural products, fish, and fishery products;

30 Sep 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Ministère de l'Education Nationale*. Morocco will adopt in-person education for the 7.5 million students returning to school in the 2021-22 academic year amid projections that it is on track to reach its **Covid-19** vaccination goals by the end of the year;

30 Sep 2021 **Madrid (Spain)** *Map News*. The government of **Spain** expresses support for the continuation of the EU-Morocco fisheries agreement after the **European Court of Justice (ECJ)** ruled to annul the deal;

29 Sep 2021 **Luxembourg City (Luxembourg)** *European Court of Justice*. The **European Court of Justice (ECJ)** rules to annul the fisheries and agriculture agreements between **Morocco** and the **European Union (EU)**; The EU and Morocco have two months to file their appeal following the ruling;

29 Sep 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. New tobacco reforms in Morocco will enter into force in 2024, aiming to align domestic tobacco manufacturing with international standards;

28 Sep 2021 **Paris (France)** *Africa News*. **Moroccan** foreign minister **Nasser Bourita** says **France's** decision to reduce the number of visas granted to citizens from **Morocco, Tunisia, and Algeria** is 'unjustified', citing insufficient consular cooperation;

27 Sep 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. Officials cite 'health situation' as **Israeli-carrier El Al** suspends **Morocco-Israel** flights;

25 Sep 2021 **Ottawa (Canada)** *Morocco World News*. **Canada** announces that its current suspension of flights from **Morocco** in response to the kingdom's **Covid-19** situation will be extended until 29 October;

24 Sep 2021 **Agadir (Morocco)** *Morocco Latest News*. **Agadir** municipal council appoints prime minister **Aziz Akhannouch** as mayor of the city;

23 Sep 2021 **Tangier (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. **Tangier Med Port** is ranked 25th worldwide, surpassing other large ports of the **Mediterranean** such as the **Piraeus Port** in **Greece**, and the ports of **Valencia** and **Algeciras** in **Spain**;

23 Sep 2021 **Washington (United States)** *Morocco World News*. The **United States (US)** state department describes Morocco as a "close partner", stressing that the two countries regularly discuss a variety of topics, including **Rabat-Washington** cooperation and advancing King **Mohammed VI's** reform agenda;

22 Sep 2021 **Abuja (Nigeria)** *Morocco World News*. **Nigeria's** energy minister, **Tembri Salva**, confirms that the Nigeria gas pipeline is set to pass through **Morocco** to reach **Europe**;

19 Sep 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Matzav Review*. Morocco's central bank, **Bank Al-Maghrib**, will purchase foreign currency surpluses in auctions from 20 September to absorb current surpluses;

17 Sep 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. **L'Office National des Pêches** (national fishing office) reports that the quantity of marketed coastal and traditional fishing products increased by 34% in 2021;

16 Sep 2021 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Office National Des Aéroports (ONDA)*. The **Office National des Aéroports (ONDA)** (national airports office) announces that 16 Moroccan airports have received the "Airport Health Accreditation" from the **International Council of Airports (ACI)**;

15 Sep 2021 **Rabat (Morocco) Ministre de la Santé**. As 15 September, over one million students aged 12 to 17 have received their first dose of a **Covid-19** vaccine across Morocco.

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