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The Bank Al-Maghrib (BAM) (central bank) announces it will maintain interest rates at 1.5%, bucking global trends in a move it describes as “accommodative stance of monetary policy”. The World Bank in its latest “Global Economic Prospects” report anticipates that Morocco’s gross domestic product (GDP) growth will slow down significantly in the upcoming months to a modest 1.1%, citing the conflict in Ukraine as the major reason for the decline. Energy minister Leila Benali says Morocco succeeded for the “first time in its history” in accessing international liquefied natural gas (LNG) and will soon sign its first purchase contract to meet its energy demands amid the global energy crisis. Morocco’s Forces Armées Royales (FAR) (royal Moroccan armed forces) are participating in the United States (US)-led African Lion 2022 joint military exercise from 20-30 June across Morocco in Kenitra, Agadir, Tan, Taroudant and Mahbes. The government extends the country’s state of emergency (SoE) until 31 July as an increase in Covid-19 cases in Morocco marks the start of new wave.

Morocco keeps interest rates unchanged despite macroeconomic pressures...

Morocco’s central bank, the **Bank Al-Maghrib (BAM)**, announced on 21 June that it would maintain interest rates at 1.5%, going against global trends of increasing interest rates to address rampant inflation.¹ The BAM described its decision to keep interest rates unchanged as “*accommodative stance of monetary policy*” in the face of lingering **Covid-19**-induced economic disruptions and spillover from the **Russia-Ukraine** conflict. The BAM claims that the prevailing inflationary pressure are external in nature, resulting from the international economic and geographical situation.² The central bank highlighted that sanctions on Russian imports and increasing demand from **China**’s recovering economy are causing the surge in energy and food prices.

The BAM expects that consumer prices will continue to rise in the near term.³ Inflation in Morocco is expected to reach an annual average of 5.3% in 2022. However, the BAM expects it to decelerate in 2023, dropping to a yearly average of 2%.⁴

Assessing the overall performance of the local economy, the BAM noted that the 69% decrease in cereal output due to adverse weather is expected to bring agriculture’s added value down by 15% this year.⁵ Non-agricultural activities are expected to perform better, anchored by easing Covid-19-related restrictions. Following 3.8% growth this year, BAM expects Morocco’s non-agricultural activities to return to their pre-pandemic level next year. A report released by the **Haut Commissariat au Plan (HCP)** (high commission for planning) on 3 June indicates that Morocco’s economy grew by 7.9% in 2021, following the 2020 Covid-19-related economic crisis that saw it shrink by 7.2%.⁶ The HCP attributes the rapid growth in 2021 to a great year for Moroccan agriculture, which grew by 17.6%, despite facing high inflation and difficulties

¹ Morocco World News, 23 Jun 2022

² Bank Al-Maghrib (BAM), 21 Jun 2022

³ Morocco World News, 23 Jun 2022

⁴ Bank Al-Maghrib (BAM), 21 Jun 2022

⁵ Morocco World News, 23 Jun 2022

⁶ Haut Commissariat au Plan, 3 Jun 2022

garnering international financing. The central bank expects the national economy to grow at a rate of 1% in 2022 before accelerating to 4% in 2023.

The **World Bank**, in its new “*Global Economic Prospects*” report published on 8 June, similarly expects Morocco’s gross domestic product (GDP) growth to slow down significantly in the upcoming months, to a modest 1.1% after registering a growth of 7.9% in 2021.⁷ First quarter growth is estimated to be 1.2%.⁸ The World Bank notes that with agriculture accounting for 10% of Morocco’s GDP and a third of its employment, an unprecedented drought in **North Africa** affecting agricultural output is the main reason for the slowing down in growth.⁹ Rampant inflation and surging prices of essential goods have also eroded real income levels in Morocco. The report cited the conflict in Ukraine as the major reason for the decline, arguing that in addition to causing most of the world’s skyrocketing fuel and energy prices, it has significantly exacerbated food security in **Africa** and the **Middle East**.¹⁰ The World Bank notes that the global setbacks from the Russia-Ukraine conflict and the impact from the pandemic outweigh the domestic service sector’s recovery.¹¹ Oil importing countries such as Morocco will have to subsidise energy costs for their citizens, which the World Bank notes as another factor for Morocco’s deteriorating fiscal figures.¹²

Rising inflation has led to skyrocketing energy and food prices and social unrest in Morocco. The professional association for wholesale distributors of butane gas cylinders announced on 20 June a two-day strike to protest the overwhelming increase in energy costs.¹³ The association said that the national strike will take place from 29-30 June following “*the enormous increases experienced by energy materials in Morocco recently, particularly diesel*”.¹⁴ The association said it is “*impossible*” for it to continue its distribution activities amid the current circumstances and warned it would extend the strike if necessary. Less than two months after recording unprecedented increases, fuel prices in Morocco were increased again on 15 June. Diesel now costs MAD 15 (\$1.49) per litre, while gasoline prices have reached nearly MAD 18 (\$1.79) per litre. The government has attributed the skyrocketing prices to the global context.¹⁵

Despite the impact of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, **Denmark**-based non-profit organisation **Alliance for Democracy** in its **Democracy Perception Index** published on 30 May, revealed that while most Moroccans hold favourable views of the **European Union (EU)** and the **United States (US)**, most are against cutting economic ties with Russia.¹⁶ Of the 758 Moroccans surveyed for “*the world’s largest annual study on democracy*,” the report showed that 37% of citizens want to maintain economic relations with Russia. In contrast, only 14% want to cut ties.¹⁷ The report also revealed that 30% of Moroccans held positive views about Russia, a close tie with the 26% that had a negative perception of **Moscow**.¹⁸ Morocco has adopted a position of “*neutrality*” in the Russia-Ukraine conflict despite significant sanctions and condemnation from the US and EU.¹⁹ Some observers say that Morocco’s choice of neutrality is part of a global trend

⁷ World Bank, 8 Jun 2022

⁸ Morocco World News, 18 Jun 2022

⁸ World Bank, 8 Jun 2022

⁹ World Bank, 8 Jun 2022

¹⁰ Morocco World News, 18 Jun 2022

¹¹ World Bank, 8 Jun 2022

¹² Morocco World News, 18 Jun 2022

¹³ Morocco World News, 20 Jun 2022

¹⁴ Morocco World News, 20 Jun 2022

¹⁵ Morocco World News, 15 Jun 2022

¹⁶ Alliance of Democracy, 30 May 2022

¹⁷ Alliance of Democracy, 30 May 2022

¹⁸ Alliance of Democracy, 30 May 2022

¹⁹ Morocco World News, 31 May 2022

led by China, where global south countries navigate their national interests in the face of a new iteration of the **Cold War**.²⁰

Morocco to sign first purchase contract for liquefied natural gas...

Energy minister **Leila Benali** told parliament on 20 June that Morocco succeeded for the “*first time in its history*” in accessing international liquefied natural gas (LNG) and will soon sign its first purchase contract to meet its energy demands amid the global energy crisis.²¹ Benali said Morocco had received “*dozens of offers*” and that government will set up an ad-hoc committee to examine the proposals through an “*accelerated procedure of review and negotiation with international companies*”.²²

Responding to parliamentarians’ questions on the government’s plans to manage the energy crisis, Benali said Morocco has put in place emergency plans to meet its electricity supplies, which require half a billion cubic metres of natural gas per year in the short term.²³ Benali said Morocco’s overall capacity for petroleum products is 1.8 million tons, covering 57 days of national consumption.

Benali also highlighted that **Algeria**’s decision to terminate the contract for the **Maghreb-Europe** gas pipeline had no impact on electricity production and did not cause any shortage in Morocco’s electricity portfolio. In October, **Algiers** decided to suspend the pipeline a few months after its government chose to halt all diplomatic relations with Morocco. Algeria’s government on 8 June announced the suspension of a two-decade-old treaty with **Spain**, raising uncertainty over energy supplies for the **European** country, in an apparent expression of its displeasure with **Madrid**’s recent shift on the **Western Sahara** dispute.²⁴ State-owned **Algerian Press Agency (APS)** said Algeria had decided to immediately suspend “*the Treaty of friendship, good-neighbourliness and cooperation that it concluded with Spain on 8 October 2002*, citing Madrid’s “*violation of international legality*” in the Western Sahara.²⁵ Diplomatic tensions between Algeria and Spain began when Spain’s prime minister, **Pedro Sanchez**, officially endorsed Morocco’s autonomy plan for the Western Sahara on 18 March as “*as the most serious, realistic and credible basis for settling the dispute*” (see *ARC Briefing Algeria Apr 2022*).²⁶ Morocco considers the Western Saharan territory as its own; however, the Algeria-backed **Polisario Front** movement demands a sovereign state.²⁷

Benali revealed that the energy ministry has also been monitoring and accelerating the implementation of projects scheduled by private operators to attain an overall storage capacity of 777,000 cubic metres for petroleum products, with an investment of MAD 2.7 billion (\$269.64m) by 2023.²⁸ She also said Morocco plans to establish a new management mechanism to ensure more reserves within the framework of the public-private partnership. The government has been reaffirming its commitment to strengthening gas infrastructure to meet local demand.²⁹ Government plans to improve its infrastructure including gas pipelines, ports, storage, and re-conversion units for LNG. While highlighting the importance of building sites to reconvert liquefied gas into natural gas, Benali has previously called for authorities to perform financial and economic studies to determine optimal areas to host gas conversion units.³⁰ The

²⁰ The Conversation, 30 Mar 2022

²¹ Morocco World News, 21 Jun 2022

²² Morocco World News, 21 Jun 2022

²³ Morocco World News, 21 Jun 2022

²⁴ Bloomberg, 11 Jun 2022

²⁵ Morocco World News, 12 Jun 2022

²⁶ Reuters, 18 Mar 2022

²⁷ Reuters, 18 Mar 2022

²⁸ Morocco World News, 21 Jun 2022

²⁹ Morocco World News, 21 Jun 2022

³⁰ Morocco World News, 21 Jun 2022

ports of **Nador** and **Mohammedia** are reportedly the most suitable sites to receive LNG, store and convert it into natural gas.

African Lion military exercises to kick off in Morocco...

Morocco's **Forces Armées Royales (FAR)** (royal Moroccan armed forces) are participating in the US-led **African Lion 2022** joint military exercise from 20-30 June across Morocco in **Kenitra, Agadir, Tan Tan, Taroudant** and **Mahbes**.³¹ The African Lion, the largest annual military exercise organised by the US **Africa Command (AFRICOM)**, is being held for the 18th year and according to experts, represents "a show of strength in military cooperation between the US and Morocco" in the face of "malign activity in North Africa and Southern Europe".³²

Morocco officially launched preparatory training sessions for Moroccan and foreign military personnel on 6 June. The FAR noted that African-Lion 2022 would train 7,500 military members from nearly 20 countries with the multinational partners working to share techniques on land, air and sea strategy.³³ Participating nations are also trained to respond to global conflicts such as cyber warfare, terrorism and chemical attacks. The **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)** reveals that Morocco buys 90% of its weaponry from the US, 9.2% from **France** and only 0.3% from the **United Kingdom (UK)**.³⁴ According to the 2022 Global Firepower ranking, Morocco is ranked 55th out of 140 countries in terms of military power globally.³⁵

Increase in Covid-19 cases in Morocco marks start of new wave...

The government on 23 June extended the country's state of emergency (SoE) until 31 July. The government has been extending the measure since March 2020 in a bid to contain the spread of Covid-19.³⁶ Prime minister **Aziz Akhannouch** (2021-present) chaired the weekly cabinet meeting in which the government decided to lengthen the SoE, which was set to expire on 30 June. Under the SoE, the government updates its preventive measures depending on the epidemiological situation.

In recent weeks, Morocco has witnessed a surge in Covid-19 cases, sparking frustration among health authorities. On 22 June, the health ministry confirmed 3,141 new Covid-19 cases, one of the highest numbers in months.³⁷ Officials are concerned that infections and Covid-19-related fatalities will further increase in the coming weeks, undermining Morocco's health system. A Moroccan doctor and researcher in health policies and systems, **Tayeb Hamdi**, warned on 22 June that the latest surge in cases marks the beginning of a new wave.³⁸ Hamdi blamed the epidemiological situation on a lack of respect for health protocols and preventive measures and called on Moroccans to receive their booster shots of a Covid-19 vaccine, emphasising the importance of a potential fourth shot for those suffering from chronic diseases and aged 80 and older.³⁹

Omicron remains the dominant Covid-19 variant in the country as of 17 April. Between 10 June and 23 June, Morocco recorded 22,945 cases of Covid-19,⁴⁰ while between 10 and 23 May, it

³¹ Morocco World News, 20 Jun 2022

³² Morocco World News, 5 Jun 2021; EFE, 19 Jun 2022

³³ Morocco World News, 20 Jun 2022

³⁴ Morocco World News, 20 Jun 2022

³⁵ Morocco World News, 20 Jun 2022

³⁶ Morocco World News, 23 Jun 2022

³⁷ Ministère de la Santé, 22 Jun 2022

³⁸ Morocco World News, 22 Jun 2022

³⁹ Morocco World News, 23 Jun 2022

⁴⁰ Johns Hopkins University Center for Systems Science and Engineering, 24 Jun 2022

recorded 1,433 cases.⁴¹ On 23 June, Morocco registered 3,086 new cases of Covid-19,⁴² compared to a month earlier on 23 May when it registered 88 new cases.⁴³ As of 24 June, Morocco had recorded a total of 1,195,883 cases in its population of 36.4 million, with 1,164,321 recoveries and 16,094 Covid-19-related deaths.⁴⁴

According to the last official update on 23 June, the health ministry had fully vaccinated 23,336,111 Moroccans against Covid-19 since beginning its vaccination campaign at the end of January 2021, representing 64.1% of the population.⁴⁵ At least 24,851,910 people, representing 68.2% of the population, have received a first dose and 6,529,015 have received a third or booster dose, representing 17.9% of the population.

Akhannouch announced on 17 May the government's decision to cancel with immediate effect mandatory polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests for all vaccinated travellers entering Morocco.⁴⁶ Akhannouch said the decision took into account the improved epidemiological situation in Morocco. Prior to government's change in policy, all travellers to Morocco had to present a negative PCR test and a Covid-19 vaccination pass. Travellers over six years of age who are not vaccinated against Covid-19 continue to require a negative PCR test performed fewer than 48 hours prior to departure to enter Morocco.⁴⁷ National carrier **Royal Air Maroc (RAM)** announced on 18 May that unvaccinated travellers over six years of age can enter Morocco with a negative PCR test, with immediate effect.⁴⁸ Before check-in procedures, passengers must fill out a passenger health form, which can be found online (www.onda.ma/form.php). Parents or guardians will need to fill out the form for children under six years of age, although they are not required to present proof of Covid testing or vaccination.

Although there are no restrictions on inter-state or inter-city travel, several domestic restrictions remain in place nationwide. Vaccination certificates are required to enter most public and private spaces, including hotels, restaurants, cafes, gyms, public baths, grocery stores, and to use public transport.⁴⁹ Cafes, public baths, public swimming pools, gyms, sports facilities and stores can operate with up to 50% capacity. Public and private gatherings are limited to 50 people. Wearing a facemask is mandatory in public spaces.

⁴¹ Johns Hopkins University Center for Systems Science and Engineering, 23 May 2022

⁴² Johns Hopkins University Center for Systems Science and Engineering, 24 Jun 2022

⁴³ Johns Hopkins University Center for Systems Science and Engineering, 23 May 2022

⁴⁴ Worldometers, 24 June 2022

⁴⁵ Covid Maroc, 24 May 2022

⁴⁶ Government statement, 17 May 2022

⁴⁷ Morocco World News, 18 May 2022

⁴⁸ Royal Air Maroc, 18 May 2022

⁴⁹ Crisis 24 Garda, 18 May 2022

Planner

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

23 May-3 Jun 2022 **Tunis (Tunisia) Phoenix Express** 2022 military exercise;

24-26 Oct 2022 **Marrakech (Morocco) Airports Council International (ACI)** conference;

17 Nov 2022 **Marrakech (Morocco)** Annual business forum jointly organised by **Israeli** newspaper **The Jerusalem Post**, the **United Arab Emirates' (UAE) Khaleej Times**, and Morocco's **GMH Media Group**;

2022 **Dahkla (Morocco) Morocco-Caribbean Community (CARICOM)** forum

Chronology

22 Jun 2022 **Rabat (Morocco) Morocco World News**. Moroccan doctor and researcher in health policies and systems **Tayeb Hamdi** warns that the latest surge in **Covid-19** cases marks the beginning of a new wave;

21 Jun 2022 **Rabat (Morocco) Abraham Accords Peace Institute**. **Israeli** interior minister **Ayelet Shaked** visits Morocco, planning to meet foreign minister **Nasser Bourita** and other high-ranking Moroccan officials;

21 Jun 2022 **Algiers (Algeria) AA.com**. **Algeria's** tourism ministry has urged Algerian travel agencies to cut all ties with **Spain** and cancel all flights scheduled between the two countries;

20 Jun 2022 **Rabat (Morocco) Morocco World News**. Energy minister **Leila Benali** says Morocco will soon sign its first purchase contract for liquefied natural gas (LNG) in a bid to meet its energy demands amid the global energy crisis;

20 Jun 2022 **Rabat (Morocco) Morocco World News**. Survey on the **Middle East and North Africa (MENA)** region's job trends finds that approximately 42% of Morocco's labour force plan to move abroad in the next 12 months to look for better job opportunities, above the 33% average in the MENA region;

20 Jun 2022 **Rabat (Morocco) United States Africa Command**. The **2022 African Lion** officially kicks off in several regions across Morocco, including **Kenitra, Agadir, Tan Tan, Taroudant** and **Mahbes**;

20 Jun 2022 **Rabat (Morocco) Morocco World News**. King **Mohammed VI** says the **Nigeria-Morocco** gas pipeline is among the most notable investment projects through which Morocco hopes to help **Africa** achieve financial independence;

20 Jun 2022 **Rabat (Morocco) Morocco World News**. Moroccan federations in the agrifood and packaging sectors agree to cut the country's reliance on imports and create 7,500 direct job opportunities by 2060;

20 Jun 2022 **Rabat (Morocco) Morocco World News**. The professional association for wholesale distributors of butane gas cylinders announces a two-day strike to protest the overwhelming increase in energy costs;

19 Jun 2022 **Rabat (Morocco) Off-Shore-Technology**. According to a press release, **British Africa**-focused energy group **Chariot** has awarded a feasibility study tender on the **Anchois** gas field in Morocco's **Larache** to a consortium of two companies, **French** oilfield services company **Schlumberger**, and **Luxembourg**-based offshore company **Subsea 7**;

19 Jun 2022 **Paris (France) Morocco World News**. A **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** symposium in **Paris** showcases a number of

significant archaeological findings from **Morocco**, including the oldest Homo Sapiens in the world;

18 Jun 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. Morocco has improved its ranking in the **Global Peace Index**, with the country ranking 74th this year, up from 65th position in the previous ranking;

18 Jun 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Ministère de l'agriculture*. The agriculture ministry assures citizens that food prices will remain stable ahead of **Eid AL Adha** celebrations, which usually see increased spending on such products;

18 Jun 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. Joint police and intelligence director **Abdellatif Hammouchi** makes a state visit to **Spain** aimed at strengthening bilateral cooperation between Morocco and **Madrid's** security and intelligence services;

18 Jun 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Ministère de la Santé*. Morocco reports 1,734 new **Covid-19** cases over the prior 24 hours, up from 1,090 one week ago, with severe cases more than doubling;

17 Jun 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. In a bid to tackle unfair competition and crack down on an illicit trend of online shopping, the **Administration of Customs and Indirect Taxes** announces the decision to impose by next month new import tariffs on all products purchased online from abroad;

17 Jun 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Newswall*. **Spanish** interior minister **Fernando Grande-Marlaska** has described Morocco as a “*strategic and trustworthy*” neighbour;

16 Jun 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *World Bank*. The **World Bank** has approved a \$500m loan to Morocco to assist with the protection against health risks, human capital losses during childhood, poverty in old age, and climate change risks;

14 Jun 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. A study by Moroccan marketing firm **Sungeria Groupe** and media outlet **L' Economiste** reports that Moroccans hold positive views on locally made products, with 60% of Moroccans preferring local products to foreign brands;

16 Jun 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Arab News*. King **Mohammed VI** personal doctor **Lahcen Belyamani** announces that the monarch has tested positive for **Covid-19**;

15 Jun 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. Less than two months after recording unprecedented increases, fuel prices in Morocco are expected to rise again, with diesel currently at MAD 15 (\$1.49) per litre and gasoline at MAD 18 (\$1.79), but gasoline prices are expected to exceed MAD 18.27 (\$1.81) per litre on 16 June, while diesel prices will rise to MAD 15.5 (\$1.54) per litre;

15 Jun 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. Morocco's finance ministry and the **African Development Bank Group (AfDB)** have signed two loan agreements for a total of MAD 953m (\$95m) to finance the extension and modernisation of the **Nador West Med** port complex and the **Rabat-Sale** airport, with the AfDB investing more than €12 billion (\$12.5 billion) in support of Moroccan reform efforts;

14 Jun 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Ministère de la Santé*. The health ministry says the monkeypox situation is “*still under control*” with Morocco so far having confirmed only one case while seven suspected cases have tested negative;

12 Jun 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. Morocco has received parts and equipment for the vaccine manufacturing unit set to be established in **Benslimane**, a

province in the **Casablanca** region, and aiming to meet Moroccan and **African** vaccine demands;

12 Jun 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. Morocco is reportedly shifting its focus from **Ukraine** and **Russia** to other markets, notably **Brazil** and **Argentina**, to secure much-needed wheat supplies;

10 Jun 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Map News*. **United States (US)** secretary of state **Antony Blinken** welcomes Morocco's efforts in embracing diversity, combating racism, and promoting interreligious dialogue;

10 Jun 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. **German** database **Statista** estimates Morocco's gold reserves at 22.12 metric tonnes (mt), the fifth largest in **Africa**, behind **Algeria** with 174 mt, and **South Africa**, **Libya** and **Egypt**, which have discovered gold reserves of 125 mt, 117 mt, and 80.73 mt, respectively;

9 Jun 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy and the Columbia University Earth Institute*. Morocco ranks 160th out of 180 in the global **Environmental Performance Index (EPI)** with a similar overall score as **China**, earning 28.6 out of 100 points;

9 Jun 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. **United Kingdom**-based **Africa**-focused energy group **Chariot**, which is in charge of the **Anchois** offshore gas project in Morocco, announces it has raised MAD 39 m (\$4m) to finance the project;

9 Jun 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. A **Mexican** parliamentary delegation is expected to pay a working visit to Morocco on 10 June, to consolidate bilateral relations in the management of migration flows and climate change as well as address questions of shared interest;

9 Jun 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *United Nations Conference on Trade and Development*. **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)** reports that foreign investment flows to Morocco increased by 52% in 2021, to reach a total of MAD 22 billion (\$2.2 billion) while the overall flow into **North Africa** fell by 5%;

8 Jun 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. **Cape Verde**'s foreign affairs minister, **Rui Alberto De Figueiredo Soares**, announces that his country will open a consulate general in **Dakhla**, in southern Morocco;

8 Jun 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *World Bank*. **World Bank** says Morocco's growth is expected to slow down significantly in the coming months to a modest 1.1%, after growth of 7.4% in 2021, while the country's growth during the first quarter is estimated to be 1.2%;

8 Jun 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. **Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC)** reports that Morocco has "vast potential floating offshore wind offers" that can help it cut reliance on fossil fuel and reach net zero by 2050;

8 Jun 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Reuters*. **Algeria**'s government announces the suspension of its friendship treaty with **Spain** in an apparent expression of its displeasure with **Madrid**'s recent shift on the **Western Sahara** dispute;

7 Jun 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. **Togo**'s minister of foreign affairs, **Robert Dussey**, announces the upcoming opening of a general consulate in **Dakhla**, southern Morocco;

7 Jun 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Elcora Corp*. **Canada**-headquartered mining company **Elcora**, specialising in mining and refining battery materials, has announced acquiring seven new research licences for Vanadinite, a rare mineral with a wide range of industrial applications;

7 Jun 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Ministère de la Santé*. Health minister **Khalid Ait Taleb** calls for collective vigilance as Morocco puts in place measures to fight monkeypox;

6 Jun 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. Morocco launches preparatory training sessions for Moroccan and foreign military personnel ahead of the 2022 **African Lion** joint military exercise, which the **United States (US) Africa Command (Africom)** says aims to counter “*malign activity in North Africa and southern Europe*”;

6 Jun 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. Moroccan businesses working in the hospitality sector, including hotels, are now receiving funds from the MAD 2 billion (\$202m) the government has dedicated to supporting the tourism sector;

6 Jun 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Atalayar*. **Spain** and Morocco will meet on 7 June to discuss the complete reopening of the Moroccan borders with the Spanish enclaves of **Ceuta** and **Melilla**;

6 Jun 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. The **United Nations (UN)** is planning to cut by 50% food rations directed to **Sahrawis** living in the **Polisario**-run camps in **Tindouf**, the westernmost province in **Algeria**;

4 Jun 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Arab World News*. **Saudi Arabia**'s interior ministry has launched the “**Makkah Route**” initiative to assist Moroccan pilgrims in completing their **Hajj** procedures for this season;

4 Jun 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Map News*. This year's edition of the annual **Operation Marhaba** campaign will start on 5 June, “*under the high instructions*” of King **Mohammed VI**;

4 Jun 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Ministère de la Santé*. New daily cases of **Covid-19** have doubled for the second week in a row, with 425 new cases detected on 3 June, up from only 20 at the end of May;

4 Jun 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. **General Directorate of Meteorology** will open tenders for a study on setting up a tsunami warning system on 21 June, accepting bids from experts and consultants from Morocco and abroad, with the study estimated to cost around MAD 1.5 million (\$152,000) and expected to take 14 months;

3 Jun 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Haut Commissariat au Plan*. The **Haut Commissariat au Plan (HCP)** (high commission for planning) indicates that Morocco's economy shrank by 7.2% after the 2020 **COVID-19**-related economic crisis, but grew by 7.9% in 2021, due to growth in the agriculture sector of 17.6%, despite facing high inflation and difficulties to garner international financing;

3 Jun 2022 **Washington (United States)** *Morocco World News*. **United States (US)** secretary of state **Antony Blinken** says Morocco is among the countries that have experienced “*significant progress*” in regard to religious freedoms;

3 Jun 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. Morocco's **Cannabis Regulation Agency** is officially operational and will regulate cannabis-related economic activities in the country;

3 Jun 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Ministère de la Santé*. Seven suspected monkeypox cases have been confirmed to have tested negative in Morocco as of 2 June;

3 Jun 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. Morocco's tourism revenues have risen to MAD 14.62 billion (\$1.5 billion) during April, more than double the total of MAD 6.54 billion (\$668m) during the same period in 2021;

3 Jun 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Atalayar*. King **Mohammed VI** is reportedly visiting **France** on a private trip;

2 Jun 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. Government suspends oil seed import duties amid rising prices, and is also subsidising gas and grains as global supply chain issues, **Covid-19** disruptions and conflicts have caused prices to soar;

2 Jun 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Ministère de la Santé*. The health ministry confirms Morocco's first case of the monkeypox virus and says it was most probably imported from abroad;

2 Jun 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. The director of the **Maroc e-ID** programme at the **Direction Générale de la Sûreté Nationale (DGSN)** (general directorate of national security) **Mouhcine Yejjou** says all government services and procedures in Morocco will be available online by 2030;

2 Jun 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Africa News*. The **Nigerian** government has authorised a proposal for the construction of the Nigeria-Morocco gas pipeline;

2 Jun 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. Airport workers affiliated with Morocco's **Confédération Démocratique du Travail (CDT)** (democratic confederation of labour) are set to carry out a five-day nationwide strike across the country's airports, demanding better pay and working conditions;

1 Jun 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Motoring Matters*. **Czechian** car manufacturer **Skoda Auto** announces its plans to increase cable harness production in the Moroccan cities of **Kenitra** and **Tangier** to fill the production gap caused by the war in **Ukraine**;

1 Jun 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. Money transfers from Morocco's diaspora reached MAD 30.56 billion (\$3 billion) at the end of April;

30 May 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Zawya*. Morocco is reportedly considering the construction of a nuclear reactor plant in line with the country's strategy to transition to greener modes of energy and improve its energy sovereignty;

29 May 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. **Israel's** envoy to Morocco, **David Govrin**, says he hopes that Morocco can play the role of mediator between Israel and **Hamas**;

27 May 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Diplomatie*. Morocco has been elected to the **World Health Organization (WHO)**'s executive board as a representative of the **Eastern Mediterranean Group** for the term 2022-2025;

26 May 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. Morocco's **Tanger Med** port has ranked 6th (out of 370) in the global container port performance index (CPPI), making it the most efficient port in **Europe** and **North Africa**;

25 May 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. Foreign affairs minister **Nasser Bourita** says Morocco's southern city of **Dakhla** is set to host the **Morocco-Caribbean Community (CARICOM)** forum later this year;

24 May 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. **Polisario Front** leader **Brahim Ghali** issues a warning to the **Spanish** government, saying that it has "*pending bills that one day you will pay*".

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Getting in touch

Please contact us by email info@africariskconsulting.com or call + 44 (0) 20 7078 4080

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