

## AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

### Morocco Monthly Briefing September 2022

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#### Morocco Summary 23 September 2022

*The Haut Commissariat au Plan (HCP) (high commission for planning) reports on 21 September that Morocco's inflation rate increased to 8% in August from 7.7% recorded in July. The rise in inflation is due to a 14.1% increase in the index of food products and a 4% increase in the index of non-food products. Morocco's Office National des Hydrocarbures et des Mines (ONHYM) (national hydrocarbons and mines office), Nigeria's National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPC) and the Economic Community of Western African States (ECOWAS) sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) that brings closer to reality a long-standing proposal for a gas pipeline between the two countries. France's President Emmanuel Macron (2017-present) states on 27 August that he will visit Morocco in October to address the ongoing diplomatic rift over France's decision to restrict access to visas for Moroccan nationals. The world's largest phosphate mining and leading fertiliser company, state-owned OCP Group, reports in a press statement on 5 September that it recorded turnover of nearly MAD 56.02 billion (\$5.29 billion) at the end of June 2022, a 72% increase year-on-year. The largely positive financial results reveal that the company has remained resilient amid ongoing worldwide market disruptions due to the Ukraine conflict and Covid-19. The ministry of health announces on 5 September that it is planning to launch a new vaccination campaign to prepare for an expected fifth wave of Covid-19 infections during the winter season.*

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#### Morocco's inflation increases to 8% in August...

According to the latest data released by the **Haut Commissariat au Plan (HCP)** (high commission for planning) on 21 September, **Morocco's** year-on-year inflation rate increased to 8% in August from 7.7% recorded in July.<sup>1</sup> On a monthly basis, consumer prices rose by 0.3%, after increasing by 0.9% in the previous month.<sup>2</sup> The HCP attributed the rise in inflation to a 14.1% increase in the index of food products and a 4% increase in the index of non-food products.<sup>3</sup> The hike in food products registered between July and August primarily resulted from a 9.6% increase in the price fruit, 2.2% in fish and seafood, and 1.4% in milk, cheese and egg prices.<sup>4</sup> This is in addition to a 1.1% increase in the prices of vegetables, coffee, tea and cocoa, 1.0% in meat, 0.5% in oils and fats and 0.4% in sugars, jams, honey, chocolates, and sweets.<sup>5</sup> Financial statistics site **Trading Economics** noted the price increases in various indices in August versus July:

*"Upward pressure came mostly from prices of food & non-alcoholic beverages (14.6% vs 12.4% in July), transport (12.7% vs 18.3%), furnishings & household equipment (6.2% vs 6%), clothing & footwear (5.8% vs 5.4%) and recreation & culture (5.5% vs 5.4%)."*<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Haut Commissariat au Plan, 21 Sep 2022

<sup>2</sup> Trading Economics, 21 Sep 2022

<sup>3</sup> Morocco World News, 22 Sep 2022

<sup>4</sup> Haut Commissariat au Plan, 21 Sep 2022

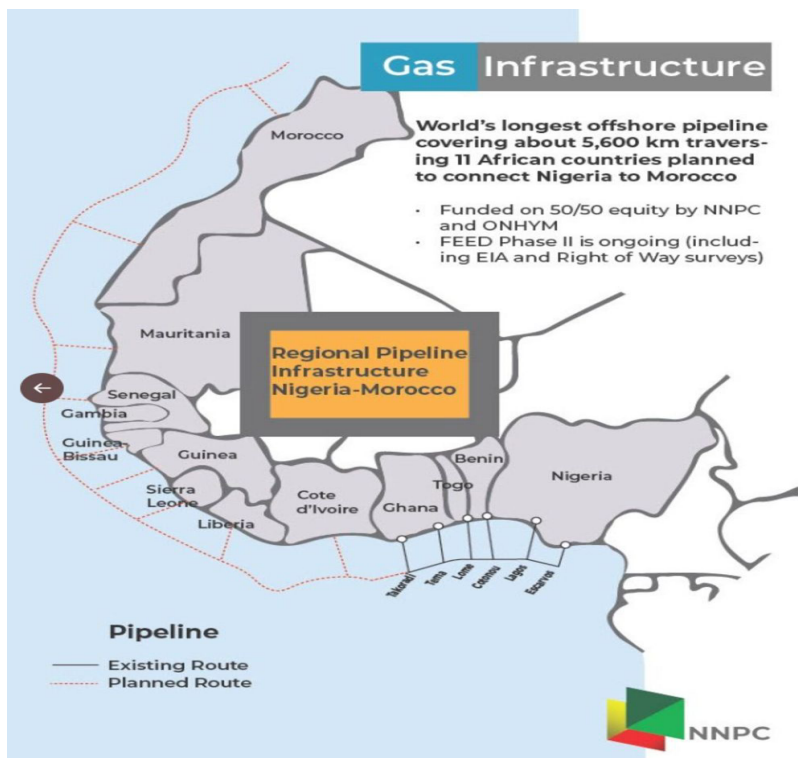
<sup>5</sup> Morocco World News, 22 Sep 2022

<sup>6</sup> Trading Economics, 21 Sep 2022

The HCP said that the largest increase in the CPI was observed in **Beni-Mellal** (1.3%), with 1.1% increases in **Al-Hoceïma** and 0.9% in **Agadir** and **Safi**.<sup>7</sup>

### Nigeria-Morocco pipeline inches closer to realisation...

The **Office National des Hydrocarbures et des Mines (ONHYM)** (national hydrocarbons and mines office), **Nigeria's National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPC)** and the **Economic Community of Western African States (ECOWAS)** signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on 15 September bringing closer to reality a long-standing proposal for a gas pipeline between Nigeria and Morocco (see *ARC Briefing Nigeria Sep 2022*).<sup>8</sup> The deal, signed in Morocco's capital, **Rabat**, raises the possibility of a new energy-supply route for **West Africa** and **Europe** as European countries push for alternative sources of energy to wean themselves off **Russian** supplies.<sup>9</sup> The 5,600-kilometre supply line along West Africa's coast would provide gas to the 15-member ECOWAS and permit fuel to be shipped to **Spain** as well as the rest of Europe.<sup>10</sup>



While the project is expected to cost billions, Nigeria's deputy oil minister, **Timipre Sylva**, said in June that the final price tag will not be determined until the project is designed.<sup>11</sup> The **Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Fund for International Development** and the **Saudi Arabia-based Islamic Development Bank** have pledged nearly \$60m to fund feasibility and engineering studies for the pipeline, which could be one of the longest ever built.<sup>12</sup> If the pipeline progresses, it will take decades to complete. Both governments noted in 2018, when signing a previous agreement, that it could take 25 years to complete. Currently, it is not confirmed where the rest of the investment will come from. A local source told **Africa Risk Consulting (ARC)** that the pipeline deal is crucial but so is security:

<sup>7</sup> Morocco World News, 22 Sep 2022

<sup>8</sup> Nigerian National Petroleum Co, 15 Sep 2022, Bloomberg, 15 Sep 2022

<sup>9</sup> Bloomberg, 15 Sep 2022

<sup>10</sup> Bloomberg, 15 Sep 2022

<sup>11</sup> Further Africa, 20 Sep 2022; Bloomberg, 15 Sep 2022

<sup>12</sup> Bloomberg, 15 Sep 2022

*“The government and foreign investors have to look into ways to deal with security because we may be witnessing another upsurge in militancy as is the case in Nigeria presently.”<sup>13</sup>*

### Macron announces plan to visit Morocco in October

France’s President **Emmanuel Macron** (2017-present) said on 27 August that he will visit Morocco in October to address the diplomatic rift over France’s decision to restrict access to visas for Moroccan nationals.<sup>14</sup> Upon his return to **Paris** from a 25-27 August visit to **Algeria**, Macron reportedly told a passer-by in **Touquet** (France) in response to a question about Algeria that he was going to visit Morocco,

*“You know all the problems. I am going to Morocco in late October.”<sup>15</sup>*

The “problems” to which Macron was referring date back to September 2021 when the French government announced it would cut the number of visas issued to Moroccans by 50% due to Morocco reportedly being “unwilling” to cooperate on the extradition of Moroccans illegally residing in France.<sup>16</sup> The visa rift intensified in early August when reports emerged that French consulates in Morocco had slashed visa issuances by at least 75%, much higher than the 50% Paris had announced.<sup>17</sup> According to local Moroccan reports, French authorities have systematically rejected visa applications from Moroccans who meet all requirements and pose no risk of overstaying.<sup>18</sup> This reportedly includes members of parliament, high-ranking officials in private and public companies, successful business people and former ministers. The reports drew fierce criticism from Moroccans, with thousands rebuking France’s “unjustified” measures. Several local NGOs have also launched legal action in the **European Court for Justice** against European consulates, mostly French, for the unjustified and systematic visa refusals.<sup>19</sup>

French publication **L’Opinion** reported on 26 August that Rabat views Macron’s visit to Algeria as an attempt to marginalise Morocco (*ARC Briefing Algeria Sep 2022*).<sup>20</sup> The newspaper noted that in his 20 August speech, Morocco’s King **Mohammed VI** (1999-present) referred to France when demanding that traditional partners demonstrate a clear position on the **Western Sahara** issue by supporting Rabat’s self-governance proposal to resolve the conflict.<sup>21</sup> Paris was reportedly surprised by the criticism, given that all French presidents have supported Morocco’s demands in the Western Sahara dispute (see below), which has led to confrontations with Algeria and the **European Union (EU)**.<sup>22</sup> However, local publication **Morocco World News** reported on 12 September that France’s parliament on 10 September hosted members of the separatist **Polisario Front**, further lending credence in Rabat to the notion that Paris is increasingly showing hostility toward Morocco’s territorial integrity.<sup>23</sup>

### OCP records turnover of \$5.29 billion in first half of 2022

The world’s largest phosphate mining and leading fertiliser company, state-owned **OCP Group**, reported in a press statement on 5 September that it had recorded turnover of nearly MAD 56.02 billion (\$5.29 billion) at the end of June 2022.<sup>24</sup> The OCP said the turnover represents a

<sup>13</sup> ARC Source, local resident

<sup>14</sup> Morocco World News, 28 Aug 2022; Hespess, 2 Sep 2022

<sup>15</sup> Morocco World News, 28 Aug 2022

<sup>16</sup> Hespess, 2 Sep 2022; Morocco World News, 28 Aug 2022

<sup>17</sup> Morocco World News, 28 Aug 2022

<sup>18</sup> Morocco World News, 28 Aug 2022

<sup>19</sup> Hespess, 2 Sep 2022

<sup>20</sup> L’Opinion, 26 Aug 2022

<sup>21</sup> Middle East Monitor, 27 Aug 2022

<sup>22</sup> Middle East Monitor, 27 Aug 2022

<sup>23</sup> Morocco World News, 12 Sep 2022

<sup>24</sup> OCP Group, 5 Sep 2022

72% increase in comparison to the same period last year.<sup>25</sup> The largely positive financial results reveal that the company has remained resilient amid the ongoing worldwide market disruptions due to the **Ukraine** conflict and **Covid-19**.<sup>26</sup> OCP also highlighted that it had recorded turnover of MAD 30.69 billion (\$2.85 billion) against MAD 18.19 billion (\$1.69 billion) in the same period in 2021, an increase of 69%.<sup>27</sup> The company attributed its performance to good market conditions, including a notable increase in fertiliser prices.<sup>28</sup>

In recent related developments, “*fertiliser diplomacy*” was reportedly behind new **Kenyan** president **William Ruto** (2022-present)’s **Sahrawi** gaffe just one day after being sworn in (see *ARC Briefing Kenya Sep 2022*). Taking to social media platform **Twitter**, Ruto revoked Kenya’s long-standing recognition of the **Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR)**, hours after meeting with Morocco’s foreign minister, **Nasser Bourita**, at **State House** in Nairobi.<sup>29</sup> Ruto made the surprising announcement a day after Sahrawi president and Polisario Front leader **Brahim Ghali** attended his inauguration, and was publicly recognised before dignitaries and attendees at the event. In his original Tweet, Ruto said:

*“At State House in Nairobi, received congratulatory message from His Majesty King Mohammed VI. #Kenya rescinds its recognition of the SADR and initiates steps to wind down the entity’s presence in the country.”*<sup>30</sup>

The Tweet caused an immediate uproar online as well as a diplomatic furore, leading Ruto to delete it. Ruto issued a more reserved Tweet on the same day stating:

*“Kenya supports the **United Nations** framework as the exclusive mechanism to find a lasting solution of the dispute over Western Sahara.”*<sup>31</sup>

Ruto’s failure to explain his reason for posting the initial Tweet has caused major confusion regarding Kenya’s policy on the Morocco-Saharawi stalemate. Morocco claims as its own the territory in Western Sahara that the SADR has claimed since 1975 after **Spain** vacated its former colony (see *ARC Briefing Morocco Mar 2022*).<sup>32</sup> The **United States (US)** became the first country to recognise Morocco’s claim under the administration of former US president **Donald Trump** (2017-2021) in December 2020.<sup>33</sup> Analysts in Kenya have suggested that Ruto’s promise to deal with Kenya’s high cost of living by lowering prices for fertiliser may have been the reason for rescinding recognition of the SADR.<sup>34</sup> Morocco is one of the world’s largest producers of fertiliser and is important to Kenya, as it has the ability to offer much-needed supply to local farmers at a cheaper price.<sup>35</sup> Ruto has become the first Kenyan president since independence in 1963 to have announced an end to the decades-long policy of supporting Sahrawi’s right to self-determination through a referendum.<sup>36</sup> Kenya also is the first **African** country to do so publicly.

<sup>25</sup> OCP Group, 5 Sep 2022

<sup>26</sup> Morocco World News, 6 Sep 2022

<sup>27</sup> Morocco World News, 6 Sep 2022

<sup>28</sup> OCP Group, 5 Sep 2022

<sup>29</sup> Africa Report, 15 Sep 2022

<sup>30</sup> President William Ruto Twitter Page, 14 Sep 2022

<sup>31</sup> Africa Report, 15 Sep 2022

<sup>32</sup> Africa Report, 15 Sep 2022

<sup>33</sup> Al Jazeera, 11 Dec 2020

<sup>34</sup> The East African, 14 Sep 2022; Africa Report, 15 Sep 2022

<sup>35</sup> The East African, 14 Sep 2022; Africa Report, 15 Sep 2022

<sup>36</sup> The East African, 14 Sep 2022; Africa Report, 15 Sep 2022

## Health ministry to launch new vaccination campaign

The ministry of health announced on 5 September that it is planning to launch a new vaccination campaign to prepare for an expected fifth wave of Covid-19 infections during the winter season.<sup>37</sup> The campaign aims to speed up delivery of Covid-19 vaccination, which is reportedly taking place at a diminishing rate.<sup>38</sup> Adding that it also expects a large-scale spread of the seasonal flu virus and related respiratory illnesses in the upcoming winter season, the ministry said that it has so far secured about 13 million doses of the Covid-19 vaccine.<sup>39</sup> Of these, 11.6 million doses are of the **Chinese** manufactured **Sinopharm** and 1.2 million of the **US-German** made **Pfizer** vaccine.<sup>40</sup> The ministry noted that the vaccines currently available in Morocco are only effective in preventing the development of severe Covid-19 symptoms and reducing mortality rates. Government expects the current interval of vaccinations to be used to attain a herd immunity rate of 80%.

According to the last official update on 22 September, the health ministry had fully vaccinated 23,398,624 Moroccans against Covid-19 since beginning its vaccination campaign at the end of January 2021, representing 64.2% of the population.<sup>41</sup> At least 24,903,414 people, representing 68.3% of the population, have received a first dose and 6,803,879 have received a third or booster dose, representing 18.2% of the population. At least 47,866 have received a fourth dose.

Health officials did not exclude the possibility that the expected winter infection surge will be initiated by new mutations of the **Omicron** variant.<sup>42</sup> The mutations are expected to be similar to the prevalent sub-mutants **BA.4** and **BA.5** that are currently spreading. However, international health experts have not announced any new mutations. The omicron variant is still the dominant mutation worldwide, reported in 99% of confirmed positive cases, while the BA.5 mutations dominate the sub-mutants by 74%.<sup>43</sup> As of 22 September, Morocco had recorded a total of 1,264,840 cases in its population of 36.4 million, with 1,248,402 recoveries and 16,278 Covid-19-related deaths.<sup>44</sup>

A state of health emergency has been in place in Morocco since 20 March 2020 and has been extended through 30 September.<sup>45</sup> 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.<sup>46</sup> 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.

All arriving travellers to Morocco over 18 years old must present valid proof of vaccination or a negative polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test taken no longer than 72 hours before boarding.<sup>47</sup> Valid proof of vaccination must contain proof of three doses of a Covid-19 vaccine. However, two doses will be accepted if no more than four months have passed since the second dose was received.<sup>48</sup> One dose of a US-made **Johnson & Johnson (Janssen)** Covid-19 vaccine is equivalent to two doses of other vaccines.

<sup>37</sup> Ministère de la Santé, 5 Sep 2022

<sup>38</sup> Morocco World News, 5 Sep 2022

<sup>39</sup> Ministère de la Santé, 5 Sep 2022

<sup>40</sup> Ministère de la Santé, 5 Sep 2022

<sup>41</sup> Covid Maroc, 23 Sep 2022

<sup>42</sup> Morocco World News, 5 Sep 2022

<sup>43</sup> Morocco World News, 5 Sep 2022

<sup>44</sup> Covid Maroc, 23 Sep 2022

<sup>45</sup> DFA, 23 Sep 2022

<sup>46</sup> Crisis 24 Garda, 18 May 2022

<sup>47</sup> DFA, 23 Sep 2022

<sup>48</sup> DFA, 23 Sep 2022

## Planner

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

11 to 13 Oct 2022 **Casablanca (Morocco) OCP Group** and the **African Development Bank Group (AfDB)** to jointly host **Africa Fertilizer Financing Forum**;

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

26 to 28 Oct **Tangier (Morocco) 7th edition of the Automobile Meetings Tangier-Med (AMT)**

Oct 2022 **Rabat (Morocco) France's President Emmanuel Macron** to visit Morocco.

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**;

13-15 Dec 2022 **Washington (United States) Africa-US Leaders' Summit**;

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

## Chronology

21 Sep 2022 **Rabat (Morocco) Euro News**. **Russian** authorities have released 10 foreign prisoners, including Morocco's **Ibrahim Saadoun**, following mediation by **Saudi Arabian** crown prince **Mohammed bin Salman**;

20 Sep 2022 **Rabat (Morocco) Morocco World News**. **Tangier** to host the 7th edition of the **Automobile Meetings Tangier-Med (AMT)** from 26 to 28 October, with the goal of reviving Morocco's automotive industry;

19 Sep 2022 **Rabat (Morocco) Reuters**. Morocco's imports of soft wheat from **France** are projected to stand at 4.5-5 million tonnes in 2023 to offset the sharp drop in the domestic cereal harvest;

19 Sep 2022 **Rabat (Morocco) Morocco World News**. Morocco's former ambassador to **Kenya, El Mokhtar Ghambou**, confirms that the **East African** country will soon receive batches of Moroccan fertilisers to boost its agricultural output;

18 Sep 2022 **Rabat (Morocco) North Africa Post**. Prince **Moulay Rachid** arrives in **London (United Kingdom)** to represent King **Mohammed VI** at the funeral for the late Queen **Elizabeth II**;

17 Sep 2022 **Rabat (Morocco) Morocco World News**. The ministry of urbanism and housing launches a project of "*social dialogue*" on urbanism and housing aiming to boost citizens' access to housing;

15 Sep 2022 **Lima (Peru) Arab News**. **Peru's** foreign ministry announces it is resuming diplomatic ties with the **Polisario Front** and withdrawing support for **Morocco's** autonomy plan, following the resignation on 9 September of Peruvian foreign minister **Miguel Angel Rodriguez Mackay**, who cited disagreements with President **Pedro Castillo** over the **Western Sahara** dispute;

16 Sep 2022 **Rabat (Morocco) United States (US) Embassy in Morocco**. **United States (US)** embassy in Morocco announces the arrival of 51 **Peace Corps** volunteers, the largest number in any country in the world, resuming US Peace Corps service after a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic;

15 Sep 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. Morocco is reportedly negotiating medium-term LNG contracts with international partners;

15 Sep 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Bloomberg*. **Morocco's Office National des Hydrocarbures et des Mines (ONHYM)** (national hydrocarbons and mines office), **Nigeria's National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPC)**, and the **Economic Community of Western African States (ECOWAS)** sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for the Morocco-Nigeria gas pipeline project;

15 Sep 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Renault Tangier*. **French** car manufacturer **Renault** announces plans to launch its first electric car manufacturing line in 2023;

15 Sep 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. A survey by Morocco's **Economic, Social, and Environmental Council**, has established that 81.6% of Moroccans favour remote working, considering it the best way to save time and money on commuting;

14 Sep 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Chainanalysis*. Blockchain analysis firm **Chainanalysis** ranks Morocco 14th in worldwide crypto adoption in its 2022 Global Crypto Adoption Index, the highest ranking for any country in the **Middle East and North Africa (MENA)**, and second only to **Nigeria** in **Africa**;

14 Sep 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Middle East Monitor*. **Israeli** foreign affairs ministry has decided to replace the former envoy **David Govrin** with **Alona Fisher-Kamm** after Govrin was recalled amid sexual misconduct allegations;

14 Sep 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. The **European Investment Bank (EIB)** announces a technical assistance deal with **Credit Agricole Maroc** to boost climate financing in Morocco;

14 Sep 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *President William Ruto Twitter Page*. **Kenya's** new president, **William Ruto**, endorses and then revokes support Morocco's position in the **Western Sahara**;

13 Sep 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Ministère de l'Équipement et de l'eau*. Latest figures from the ministry of water and logistics reveal that dam water levels across Morocco have decreased to 25% so far this year, compared to nearly 40% at the same time last year;

12 Sep 2022 **Geneva (Switzerland)** *Morocco World News*. Thirty-five countries have renewed their support for **Morocco's** territorial integrity and sovereignty over **Western Sahara** at the 51st session of the **United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)** in **Geneva**;

12 Sep 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco Ministry of Economy and Finance*. Economy and finance minister **Nadia Fettah** and **World Bank** vice president for the **Middle East and North Africa (MENA)** region, **Ferid Belhaj**, sign a MAD 2.5 billion (\$231.2m) loan agreement to finance Morocco's **North-East Economic Development Project**;

12 Sep 2022 **Casablanca (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. Phosphate and fertiliser giant **OCP Group** and the **African Development Bank Group (AfDB)** will jointly host **Africa Fertilizer Financing Forum** in Casablanca from 11 to 13 October;

12 Sep 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Sprott Equity Research*. **Canada**-headquartered mining company **Aya Gold & Silver** announces that it has signed a \$6.5m investment deal with the **Office National des Hydrocarbures et des Mines (ONHYM)** (national hydrocarbons and mines office);

12 Sep 2022 **Tarjal (Morocco)** *Schengen Visa Info*. The **Spanish** government agrees to install a new entry and exit control system (EES) at the **Tarjal** border, separating **Ceuta** and Morocco.

12 Sep 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. **International Investors Forum** announces that it will host its first edition on September 18 and 19 in the southern Moroccan city of **Dakhla**;

12 Sep 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Jeune Afrique*. King **Mohammed VI** will personally take part in the **Arab League Summit**, set to be held in **Algeria** on 1 and 2 November;

10 Sep 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. **France's** parliament hosts members of the separatist **Polisario Front**, further lending credence to the emerging notion that **Paris** is increasingly showing hostility toward Morocco's territorial integrity;

10 Sep 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. **United States (US)** congressman **Randy Feenstra** is advocating for cutting tariffs on Moroccan fertiliser exports to the US, arguing that this would help bring down costs for American farmers;

9 Sep 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Ministère de l'Agriculture, de la Pêche Maritime du Développement Rural et des Eaux et Forêts*. The ministry of agriculture and fisheries announces that the volume of its exports has increased by 13% in the 2021-2022 season, noting that tomatoes and berries, in particular, have increased by 19% and 18%, respectively;

9 Sep 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. Trade minister **Ryad Mezzour** says Morocco is set to double its production of electric cars in the next two years;

9 Sep 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. **United States (US) State Department** lists Morocco among its Financially Transparent Countries;

9 Sep 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *United States (US) State Department*. **United States (US) State Department** announces that diplomat **Puneet Talwar** is its new ambassador to Morocco;

9 Sep 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Maroc*. King **Mohammed VI** has offered his condolences to King **Charles III** on the death of his mother, Queen **Elizabeth II**, and describes her as a "special great friend";

8 Sep 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. **United Nations (UN)** personal envoy for the **Western Sahara**, **Staffan de Mistura**, says he hopes to see all parties to the dispute involved in "deep consultations" as part of the UN-led political process to find a mutually acceptable and agreed-upon solution;

7 Sep 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Chariot*. **United Kingdom**-headquartered **Africa**-focused energy group **Chariot** announces signing a "tie-in" agreement with Morocco's **Office National des Hydrocarbures et des Mines (ONHYM)** (national hydrocarbons and mines office) to transport gas from the **Anchois** wells off the coast of **Larache** to several potential buyers via the **Maghreb-Europe gas pipeline**;

6 Sep 2022 **Cairo (Egypt)** *Morocco World News*. **Morocco's** foreign minister, **Nasser Bourita**, reaffirms in **Cairo** that Morocco's position on what it calls **Tunisia's** "serious and unacceptable" reception of separatist **Polisario Front** leader **Brahim Ghali** "remains unchanged";

6 Sep 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Times of Israel*. **Israel's** economy minister **Orna Barbivai** announces her country's plans to open a trade mission in Morocco next year;

6 Sep 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Radarr Africa*. **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)** executive board has approved a new cooperation program with Morocco for the period 2023-2027;

6 Sep 2022 **Cairo (Egypt)** *Morocco World News*. Speaking at the 158th Ministerial Meeting of the **League of Arab States** in **Cairo**, **Morocco's** foreign minister, **Nasser Bourita**, says the upcoming **Arab Summit** has to be held “on a foundation of responsibility, and away from any narrow calculations or outdated logic”;

6 Sep 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *OCP Group*. State-owned **OCP Group**, the world's largest phosphate mining and leading fertiliser company, reports that it had a turnover of nearly MAD 56.02 billion (\$5.29 billion) at the end of June 2022;

6 Sep 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Times of Israel*. **Israel's** foreign ministry has recalled the head of its liaison office in **Rabat**, **David Govrin**, amid allegations of “irregularities” and sexual misconduct;

5 Sep 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Africa Business*. State-owned phosphate and fertiliser giant **OCP Group** joins the **Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI)**, a global coalition of governments, as a supporting company;

5 Sep 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Ministère de la Santé*. The health ministry announces that it is planning a new vaccination campaign against the **Covid-19** virus to prepare for an anticipated fifth wave of infections;

4 Sep 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. **United States (US)**-based consultancy group **McKinsey & Company** lists Morocco among 11 **African** countries with significant potential to become future fintech hubs;

4 Sep 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. **Russia's** trade representative to Morocco, **Artyom Tsingamzvrishvili**, says exports to Morocco doubled in the first six months of 2022 to over \$950m, with Morocco currently **Russia's** third-largest trading partner in **Africa**, following **Egypt** and **Algeria**;

4 Sep 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *North Africa Post*. Morocco welcomes the appointment of **Senegal's** **Abdoulaye Bathily** as the new special representative of the **United Nations (UN)** secretary-general for **Libya**;

2 Sep 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *North Africa Post*. **Japan's** minister of foreign affairs, **Hayashi Yoshimasa**, expresses his regret about Morocco's absence from the **Japan-Africa** summit in **Tunis (Tunisia)**, stating that his country wants to consolidate bilateral cooperation with **Rabat**;

1 Sep 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. Morocco's automotive exports reached MAD 59.6 billion (\$5.6 billion) at the end of July 2022, an increase of 31.6% compared to a year earlier;

1 Sep 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. The **Moroccan Association for Human Rights** has sent a strongly-worded letter to **France's** President **Emmanuel Macron** to denounce recently imposed visa restrictions;

1 Sep 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Morocco World News*. Morocco's government announces it is raising the minimum wage for both industrial and agricultural workers;

27 Aug 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Hespress*. **France's** President **Emmanuel Macron** announces that he will travel to Morocco in October, in an apparent bid to address the ongoing scandal over France's decision to restrict access to visas for Moroccan nationals;

26 Aug 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Hespress*. Two Moroccan-**Italian** associations announce that they are filing a lawsuit before a **European** court against **European Union (EU)** embassies in Morocco over recently imposed visa restrictions on Moroccan nationals;

26 Aug 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Le360*. Foreign affairs minister **Nasser Bourita** has cancelled a meeting that was scheduled for September with **European Union (EU)** high representative **Josep Borrell**, reportedly due to Borrell's remarks concerning the **Western Sahara** when he claimed that the **Spanish** government's position "*was, and is, that of the EU, that is defending the holding of a consultation so that it is the **Sahrawi** people who decide how they want their future to be*";

25 Aug 2022 **Rabat (Morocco)** *Map News*. Morocco recalls its ambassador to **Tunisia** after the country's president, **Kaïs Saïed**, received **Polisario Front** leader **Brahim Ghali**;

### About Africa Risk Consulting:

**Africa Risk Consulting (ARC)** is a pan-African consulting company that provides timely, relevant information and advice that enables its clients to take informed investment decisions and to safeguard their reputations.

**ARC's** core consulting services include integrity due diligence and corporate investigations, political advisory and country assessments, opportunity monitoring and reputation risk management. Most relevant to private equity firms is ARC's integrity due diligence and corporate investigations capability. Specifically, ARC offers pre-deal integrity checks to highlight red flags before negotiations start; full detailed multi-jurisdictional reputation due diligence; and supplier and senior hire vetting and repeat due diligence for compliance programmes. ARC is unique in that it offers a 10-day delivery for a routine integrity due diligence. ARC also offers a suite of corporate investigations services from immediate investigation, evidence gathering, e-discovery, forensic accounting and whistleblower support on one end to crisis media management and regular monitoring on the other.

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### About ARC Briefing:

**ARC Briefing** is ARC's essential business information service.

Companies at any stage in their Africa expansion, whether building or communicating an Africa strategy, investing directly, expanding current operations, financing other investors, doing the legal leg-work or researching the Africa growth trend, need ARC Briefing.

**ARC Briefing** is an information service keeping you:

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### Getting in touch

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