

The Government of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau reiterates its support for the Moroccanity of the Sahara and the territorial integrity of the Kingdom, said Mrs. Suzi Carla Barbosa, Foreign Minister of Guinea-Bissau on Wednesday 21st October, 2020, in Rabat during a working visit to Morocco.

Speaking at a press briefing following talks with her Moroccan counterpart, Mr. Nasser Bourita, the Guinea-Bissau Minister said that the Government of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau reiterates its support for the Moroccanity of the Sahara and the territorial integrity of the Kingdom.

Mrs. Barbosa expressed her country's support to the efforts of the United Nations to achieve a lasting solution to the dispute over the Moroccan Sahara.

"Morocco can count on the support of the Government of Guinea-Bissau in international and African fora, including the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)," said Mrs. Barbosa, who welcomed the excellent relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries, "which are each time getting stronger."

Mrs. Barbosa also thanked His Majesty King Mohammed VI, for the humanitarian and medical assistance provided by the Kingdom to her country in this difficult period marked by the spread of the coronavirus pandemic.

For its part, Mr. Bourita indicated that these fruitful talks with Guinea-Bissau Minister are part of the regular and sustained consultations between the two countries. "We discussed various bilateral and regional topics of common interest. We have seen a total convergence of views," the Minister noted, adding that Mrs. Barbosa's visit to the Kingdom reinforces the deep friendship between the two countries.

Mr. Bourita also stressed that the visit of His Majesty King Mohammed VI to Guinea-Bissau, in 2015, has given a qualitative impetus to these relations. It has indeed enabled to launch concrete cooperation between the two countries on several social and economic projects in various sectors, including health, drinking water and agricultural development.

Morocco, a long-standing credible partner of Guinea-Bissau, has played a role in supporting the efforts for peace, stability and development in the country, he added, stressing the Kingdom's readiness to accompany Guinea-Bissau in its

development, peace-building and stability process.

Mr. Bourita also thanked Guinea-Bissau for its support for the Moroccanity of the Sahara and for Morocco's autonomy initiative as the only solution to the artificial regional dispute over the Sahara.

Following these talks, the two Ministers inked four cooperation agreements in the fields of industry, tourism, transport, energy and logistics, aimed at further strengthening the exchange of experiences and expertise between the two countries.

The signing of these agreements reflects the will of both countries to further strengthen their cooperation, particularly in economic areas, Foreign Minister of Guinea-Bissau told reporters following talks with her Moroccan counterpart.