

## Territorial Communities and the Activation of Water Policy

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### Abstract:

This article aims to highlight the role of territorial communities in activating and implementing Morocco's water policy to rationalize the use of water reserves. It also examines the legal protection of water resources and the mechanisms for consolidating water policy in Morocco. Morocco faces increasing challenges in water security, having transitioned from a state of relative water abundance to one of scarcity and drought. The article reviews the constitutional and regulatory framework of water policy, including the role of royal speeches, the 2011 Constitution, the organic laws governing territorial communities, and Water Law No. 36.15. It also discusses the constraints facing water policy in Morocco, such as increasing water demand and worsening water pollution, and reviews the measures taken to strengthen water policy, such as dam construction, seawater desalination, and wastewater reuse, as well as measures to preserve groundwater and surface water resources. The article concludes that water security represents an escalating challenge that requires strengthening legal frameworks, activating the role of water police, adopting multi-dimensional approaches, and increasing public awareness.

**Keywords:** Territorial Communities, Water Policy, Morocco, Water Security, Water Law, Sustainable Development, Water Scarcity, Water Pollution, Dams, Seawater Desalination.

### Introduction:

Water is a natural resource essential to the life of humans, animals, and plants. It constitutes a fundamental element upon which economic and social activities depend. It is characterized by irregular availability across time and space and is affected by human activities. Moreover, water has been a driving force behind the emergence of civilizations, as many ancient civilizations developed along riverbanks and near watercourses. Referring to the Holy Qur'an, water is described as the source of life, a Qur'anic guidance that embodies profound wisdom. Human need for water is comparable to the need for oxygen; however, water grants life in a broader sense, as it ensures a dignified standard of living and preserves the sustainability of ecosystems. It is considered one of the most important inputs contributing to the support of decent livelihoods. From a legislative perspective, Moroccan law defines water in Article 3 of Law No. 36.15 on Water as: "A vital substance composed of oxygen and hydrogen in its three forms: liquid, solid, and gaseous. It constitutes public property that is not subject to private ownership or commercial transactions by sale or purchase, except as provided for in Section Two of Chapter Two of this law." Morocco has shown sustained interest in water resources, whether under the traditional system based on Islamic Sharia, customs, and traditions, or within the framework of the modern legal system whose foundations were laid during the French Protectorate. The 1914 Dahir on public property was the first law to establish the principle of public water ownership, making water state property. Subsequently, the legislator sought to regulate, plan, and protect its use in order to ensure adequate water reserves capable of meeting the Kingdom's economic and social needs. Furthermore, the Constitution of the Kingdom, promulgated by Dahir No. 1.11.91 of July 29, 2011, as the supreme legal document, stipulates in Article 31 that: "The State, public institutions, and territorial communities shall mobilize all available means to facilitate equal access for citizens to the right to:— access to water and to live in a healthy environment,..." The Moroccan legislator has granted territorial communities broad powers to organize and manage urban affairs in a manner that ensures effective solutions to the challenges posed by rapid urban development, particularly in the environmental field. Article 134 of Organic Law No. 113.14 on territorial communities assigns to inter-municipal cooperation institutions responsibilities related to environmental protection, especially waste management, liquid and solid sanitation, and wastewater treatment plants. The importance of this topic lies in the fact that water scarcity has become a global issue rather than merely a national one. Morocco, like many countries worldwide, has transitioned from a state of relative water abundance to one of scarcity and drought. Accordingly, this presentation aims to shed light on the role of territorial communities in activating and implementing the water policy adopted by Morocco to rationalize the use of water reserves. It also examines the legal protection of water resources and the mechanisms for consolidating water policy in Morocco. This leads to the following central question: To what extent has the Moroccan legislator succeeded, through the modern legal framework, in achieving effective legal protection of water resources? From this main issue stem the following subsidiary questions: • How do territorial communities contribute to the activation of water policy? • What are the laws governing water resources? • What are the challenges of achieving water security in Morocco in light of current constraints? Given the nature and specificity of the topic, this study adopts primarily a content analysis approach alongside a descriptive methodology. To address these questions, the study is structured as follows:

- Section One: The role of territorial communities in activating and implementing environmental policy
- Section Two: The reality of water policy in Morocco and the feasibility of an effective strategy for territorial communities

### Section One: The Role of Territorial Communities in Activating and Implementing Environmental Policy

Environmental protection is not only a local or regional issue but also a central one, owing to the proximity of territorial authorities to environmental realities and local specificities. Since environmental protection is governed by a set of general and specific laws, responsibility for preserving the environment has been entrusted to various sectors and institutions at both the central and territorial levels. As embodiments of territorial decentralization, local communities are among the institutions closest to sites of environmental imbalance. They play a prominent role in regulating local environmental conditions and meeting citizens' needs in this regard, especially following the clear constitutional will that established a supreme legal framework placing environmental concerns at the heart of public debate. Accordingly, this section will first examine the reference framework of water policy (Subsection One), followed by an analysis of territorial communities as an effective mechanism for activating and implementing water policy in line with local specificities (Subsection Two).

### First Requirement: The Constitutional and Regulatory Framework of Water Policy

Morocco has been actively engaged in the global momentum toward environmental protection, the preservation of natural resources, and the integration of the environmental dimension into public policies since the Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. This engagement was reinforced through participation in subsequent international environmental conferences and through the adoption of sustainable development declarations within the national agenda. These commitments have been translated into a comprehensive body of environmental legislation, including the regulatory texts governing territorial communities, given their close proximity and direct interaction with the environment as a living framework and with its constituent elements as human rights, public services, and public facilities that require protection and enhancement. In this regard, the approach based on integrating territorial communities is considered one of the most effective, as it relies on a bottom-up governance model. The year 2011 marked a qualitative turning point in this field, with the constitutionalization of the right to water, a healthy environment, and sustainable development. Morocco had previously adopted a National Charter for the Environment and Sustainable Development as a framework law, and more recently approved a National Strategy for the Environment and Sustainable Development as an integrated approach to environmental protection and promotion.

### Paragraph One: The Constitutional Framework of Water Policy

Royal speeches have played a significant role in strengthening water policy (First), as has the 2011 Constitution, which holds a central position in consolidating this policy (Second).

**First: The Role of Royal Speeches in Strengthening Water Policy** On the occasion of the opening of the first session of the eleventh legislative year, His Majesty King Mohammed VI delivered a speech to Parliament in which he stated: "Water is the source of life. It is a fundamental element in the development process and essential for all projects and productive sectors..." This vision culminated in the launch of the National Priority Program for Water (2020–2027), which provides for the construction of more than 50 dams, including large and medium-sized ones, in addition to 20 dams currently under construction. It is self-evident that His Majesty the King plays a pivotal role in shaping the general orientations of water policy. Aware of the vital importance of water for life and for the success of the New Development Model, the 2018 Throne Speech emphasized the economic and social role of water in achieving development and stability. Based on these royal orientations, the Interministerial Water Commission convened on October 18, 2017, and decided to establish a technical

committee composed of representatives of various institutions tasked with preparing an emergency program for the supply of drinking water and irrigation water. In this context, Article 52 of Dahir No. 1.11.91 of 27 Sha'ban 1432 (29 July 2011), promulgating the Constitution, stipulates that: "The King may address the Nation and Parliament. His address shall be read before both Houses, and its content may not be subject to any debate within them." It can be inferred from this provision that royal speeches are not subject to debate, as they emanate from His Majesty the King. This differs from the British system, where royal speeches may be debated because they are drafted by entities other than the monarch, whose role is essentially ceremonial.

**Second: The Role of the Constitution in Activating Water Policy** The Constitution of the Kingdom, through Article 31, provides that: "The State, public institutions, and territorial communities shall mobilize all available means to facilitate equal access for citizens to the right to... access to water, to live in a healthy environment, and to sustainable development." This article constitutionally guarantees citizens' right to water, to a healthy environment, and to sustainable development, and entrusts the facilitation of access to and enjoyment of these rights to territorial communities alongside the State and public institutions. Furthermore, the Constitution devotes Chapter Eleven to the Economic, Social, and Environmental Council as a constitutional consultative body vested with environmental competences and tasked with integrating the environmental dimension across all fields.

**Paragraph Two: The Legal and Regulatory Framework of Water Policy**

Discussing water policy in Morocco necessarily requires an examination of the organic laws governing territorial communities (First), followed by a more detailed analysis of the provisions of the Water Law (Second).

**First: The Regulatory Framework of Territorial Communities in Activating Water Policy**

1 Organic Law No. 113.14

Dahir No. 1.15.85 of 20 Ramadan 1436 (7 July 2015) promulgated Organic Law No. 113.14 on municipalities. In relation to the subject under consideration, Chapter Two on municipal own competences, under the heading of public facilities and equipment, provides in Article 83 that: "The municipality shall establish and manage public facilities and equipment necessary to provide proximity services in the following fields: – distribution of drinking water and electricity..."

Subject to the provisions of Article 110 of the same organic law, the President of the Municipal Council exercises administrative police powers in the fields of public health prevention, hygiene, public tranquility, and traffic safety. This is carried out through regulatory decisions and individual police measures in the form of authorizations, orders, or prohibitions. In particular, the President is responsible for:

"... ensuring the cleanliness of watercourses and drinking water, and guaranteeing the protection and monitoring of water points designated for public consumption and bathing waters."

2 Organic Law No. 112.14

Dahir No. 1.15.84 of 20 Ramadan 1436 (7 July 2015) promulgated Organic Law No. 112.14 on prefectures and provinces. These entities play a major role in activating public policy within territorial communities through the relevant legal framework. According to this law, the Prefectural or Provincial Council, during its first ordinary session after approving its internal regulations pursuant to Article 33, establishes at least three standing committees entrusted with examining, inter alia, the following issues:

Budget, financial affairs, and programming;

Rural and urban development, investment promotion, water, and environmental energy.

Moreover, Book Three of the organic law, entitled "Shared Competences," stipulates in Article 86 that these councils contribute to:

"... the supply of rural areas with drinking water and electricity."

3 Organic Law No. 111.14

Dahir No. 1.15.83 of 20 Ramadan 1436 (7 July 2015) promulgated Organic Law No. 111.14 on regions. Chapter One, devoted to regional development, notably Article 82, provides for:

"... the development of a regional strategy for energy and water efficiency."

Article 91 of the same organic law, under shared competences, further stipulates:

"... the generalization of access to drinking water and electricity and the reduction of isolation..."

Based on the principle of subsidiarity, the law also determines the areas of competences transferred from the State to the region, which include in particular energy, water, and the environment.

**Second: Law No. 36.15 on Water** Dahir No. 1.16.113 of Dhu al-Qi'dah 1437 (10 August 2016) promulgated Law No. 36.15 on water. This law is considered one of the key legislative texts concerned with environmental protection, as it regulates and safeguards the right of access to water and the right to live in a healthy environment, while establishing liability for damage to water resources within the framework of protecting the aquatic environment and promoting the sustainable development of water resources. The Water Law enshrines several fundamental principles, including: public ownership of water resources; the right of access to water and to a healthy environment; water governance based on participation and consultation with various stakeholders; integrated and decentralized water resource management with the consolidation of the principle of territorial solidarity; protection of the natural environment; the promotion of sustainable management; and the adoption of a gender-sensitive approach in relation to water resources. Article 1 of Chapter One, entitled "General Provisions," states that this law aims to establish rules for the management, use, and preservation of water resources, both in terms of quantity and quality, as well as the protection of aquatic ecosystems and public water property in general. It also seeks to regulate water-related risks and to establish planning mechanisms and rational, sustainable management of water resources, including wastewater reuse and desalinated seawater, with the ultimate objective of enhancing national water potential.

**Second Requirement: Territorial Communities as an Effective Mechanism for Activating and Implementing Water Policy**

The Moroccan legislator has granted territorial communities broad powers to organize Moroccan cities and manage their affairs in a manner that ensures effective responses to the challenges posed by rapid development, particularly in the environmental field. This is achieved through highlighting the competences of the municipal council and its president under the Municipal Charter (Paragraph One). Moreover, territorial communities play a crucial role by virtue of their position within society, as they constitute the institutions closest to individuals, directly addressing citizens' needs, engaging with their daily problems, and providing essential life services at close range (Paragraph Two).

**Paragraph One: The Competences of Territorial Communities in Environmental Protection and the Achievement of Water Security**

The Moroccan legislator has endowed territorial communities with extensive competences to organize and manage urban affairs in ways that ensure effective solutions to the problems arising from rapid urban growth, especially in environmental protection and the achievement of water security. Subsequently, Law No. 78.00 of 3 October 2002 strengthened the powers of municipal councils in the field of environmental protection and management. A review of the Municipal Charter reveals that the legislator detailed these competences within the framework of own powers (Articles 35, 36, 38, 39, 40, and 44), transferred powers, and advisory powers, notably Article 43. The adoption of the 2011 Constitution represented a qualitative leap in the field of territorial governance. The Constitution introduced provisions aimed at reinforcing the role of territorial communities in promoting comprehensive development and ensuring the proper performance of their administrative and managerial functions. It sought to enhance their performance in line with the challenges entrusted to them, in light of the competences they enjoy, thereby consolidating the cumulative achievements of previous reforms that contributed to improving their legal and procedural status.

Referring to the organic laws governing territorial communities—namely Organic Law No. 111.14 on regions, Organic Law No. 112.14 on prefectures and provinces, and Organic Law No. 113.14 on municipalities—it is evident that the Moroccan legislator has entrusted territorial communities with a wide range of environmental competences.

Territorial communities are required to mobilize all available means to facilitate equal access for citizens to the right to:

- health care and medical treatment;
- social protection and health coverage, as well as mutual or State-organized solidarity;
- access to water and the right to live in a healthy environment;
- sustainable development.

From this perspective, the environment becomes a fundamental dimension that must be taken into account in all development plans. This dimension, particularly when understood in its broadest and most comprehensive sense and over a sufficient time horizon, constitutes the cornerstone of what is agreed upon as sustainable development.

### **Paragraph Two: The Role of Territorial Communities in Activating the National Environmental Vision at the Territorial Level**

Territorial communities have been granted new competences in the management of environmental domains, particularly under the current Municipal Charter. This orientation aims to strengthen and consolidate their role in environmental protection and preservation, as well as in the rational management of local natural resources. Among the positive aspects of the current Municipal Charter is the integration of economic and social planning as a tool for achieving local development objectives. Environmental fields, which lie at the heart of municipal action, are therefore central to planning and programming processes. As for the role and powers of municipal councils under environmental legislation, they are numerous, especially given that environmental legal texts are abundant and fragmented. These include, inter alia: the National Charter for the Environment and Sustainable Development; laws governing institutions responsible for environmental protection; water legislation; hunting control; environmental protection and rehabilitation; environmental impact assessments; air pollution control; quarries; mines; coastal areas; protected areas; the National Office for the Sanitary Safety of Food Products; the prohibition of the manufacture, import, export, marketing, and use of plastic bags and the monitoring of their production and marketing; organic agricultural production; plant protection; the transport of hazardous goods by road; waste management; pastoral mobility; and the development and management of pastoral and forest grazing areas. In this regard, Law No. 99.12 establishing the National Charter for the Environment and Sustainable Development was enacted. Article 3 thereof provides that: "Every citizen has the right to live and grow in a healthy and high-quality environment that preserves health, enables cultural development, and ensures the sustainable use of heritage and resources; to access accurate and appropriate environmental information; and to participate in decision-making processes likely to have an impact on the environment." Furthermore, Article 20 of the National Charter for the Environment and Sustainable Development sets out the obligations of the State, territorial communities, public institutions, State-owned enterprises, private companies, civil society organizations, and citizens, stipulating that: "Regions and other territorial communities shall ensure the integration of the principles and objectives set forth in this framework law into planning mechanisms and development programs, each within its territorial jurisdiction." They are also committed to guaranteeing the participation of their populations in decision-making related to the preservation of the local environment and the sustainable development of their territories, as well as ensuring access to local environmental information related to these fields. Adjacent regions and other neighboring territorial communities are likewise required to adopt integrated and coordinated local public policies when establishing facilities and infrastructure related to environmental protection and sustainable development. Article 25 of the same Charter further provides that: "The State, regions, territorial communities, public institutions, and State-owned enterprises may organize public dialogues on the environment and sustainable development." These dialogues are to be conducted with local populations and the relevant economic and social stakeholders at both the central and territorial levels.

### **Section Two: The Reality of Water Policy in Morocco**

Despite the efforts made in the water sector in Morocco, many regions continue to experience water scarcity, while others are witnessing a decline in groundwater levels and the persistence of the negative impacts of natural and human constraints on water security. Moreover, the separation of water issues from environmental issues has led to increased intellectual and theoretical attention to water. The concept of water sustainability has thus gone beyond its traditional meaning associated solely with human needs and ecological balance, expanding its ontological scope to include other entities that coexist with humans.

#### **First Requirement: Constraints Facing Water Policy in Morocco**

Despite the continuous efforts to rationalize water management by the competent authorities, significant shortcomings persist due to the growing demand for water and the worsening phenomenon of water pollution (Paragraph Two). Therefore, it is first necessary to examine the increasing needs for access to water and the ongoing impacts related to natural factors (Paragraph One).

#### **Paragraph One: Growing Water Needs and the Persistence of Natural Constraints**

The constraints facing the national policy for rational water management at the national level can be grouped into two main aspects:

**First: Growing Demand for Water** Frequent water supply interruptions undermine social stability in regions particularly affected by water scarcity and threaten Morocco's water security. Statistics recorded in 2017 indicate that out of 681 centers and cities where the National Office of Electricity and Drinking Water manages drinking water supply services, 37 experienced interruptions in water supply. Several regions across Morocco also witnessed protests due to difficulties in accessing drinking water and enjoying the right to water, with citizens expressing dissatisfaction over the inequitable distribution of water resources. Among the areas most affected by water scarcity are Sefrou, Zagora, Chefchaouen, Azilal, and Ouezzane. Consequently, the shortage of water resources or the deterioration of their quality poses a serious threat to social peace and social justice.

**Second: The Persistence of Natural Factors and Their Impacts** Morocco's climatic and hydrological system is characterized by spatial and temporal irregularity, with alternating rainy and dry periods that may sometimes last for years. Rainfall generally occurs in two main seasons, autumn and winter, with an estimated average of 30 rainy days per year in southern regions and about 70 days in northern regions. Morocco's water security is heavily influenced by climatic and environmental characteristics, particularly given the country's hydrographic profile, which is marked by water scarcity. The 1980s and early 1990s were characterized by severe droughts that had negative repercussions on agricultural seasons, notably in 1994–1995. These phenomena have become defining features of Morocco's climate. As a result, the country is experiencing a significant water deficit, with per capita water availability steadily declining from 1,000 cubic meters in 2000 to 750 cubic meters in 2016. This situation requires Morocco to adopt all necessary anticipatory measures to confront the worsening water crisis.

#### **Paragraph Two: Rising Water Demand and the Aggravation of Water Pollution**

Addressing the increase in water demand and the worsening of water pollution requires, first (First), an examination of rising demand in the face of limited water supply, followed by (Second) an analysis of the growing phenomenon of water pollution.

**First: Rising Water Demand Versus Limited Water Supply** In addition to natural constraints, Morocco faces human-induced constraints, including population growth and a lack of awareness regarding the importance of water conservation. Population growth inevitably leads to increased water demand, resulting in expanding and renewed needs in contrast to largely non-renewable water resources. This situation exacerbates the water crisis, as pollution and scarcity intensify with demographic growth, further aggravated by the absence of a culture of responsibility toward water resources. To address these challenges, the National Water Strategy and the National Water Plan include provisions aimed at developing water supply capacity to meet the growing demand. In this regard, Article 124 of Chapter Nine, Section Two, entitled "Water Shortage," stipulates that: "In the event of drought, the river basin agency shall establish a water shortage management plan in consultation with the administration, public institutions, territorial communities, and the relevant prefectural or provincial water committees. This plan shall include pre-established measures according to the degree of shortage, integrate all water-using sectors for interactive shortage management, and determine the modalities for the preparation and revision of the water shortage management plan by regulatory text." **Second: The Aggravation of Water Pollution** Water resources have become increasingly exposed to pollution resulting from industrial and agricultural activities, as well as from domestic and industrial wastewater. Urban domestic wastewater is estimated at approximately 500 million cubic meters annually, of which 370 million cubic meters are discharged into the sea, while the remaining 130 million cubic meters are released into rivers, watercourses, or agricultural land. Such domestic wastewater poses a serious threat to water resources due to its high pollutant content, thereby exacerbating environmental risks and undermining sustainable development objectives.

#### **Second Requirement: Measures Adopted to Strengthen Water Policy**

This requirement examines the policy of dam construction, seawater desalination, and wastewater reuse (Paragraph One), as well as the measures adopted to preserve groundwater and surface water resources (Paragraph Two).

#### **Paragraph One: Dam Construction Policy, Seawater Desalination, and Wastewater Reuse**

With regard to water infrastructure, the late King Hassan II decided in 1986 to build one dam per year until 2000 in order to strengthen water resource mobilization. This period witnessed the realization of major structural projects, including the Al Wahda Dam in Ouezzane Province, which is the largest dam in Morocco and the second largest in Africa, with a storage capacity of 3.8 billion cubic meters. By 2020, Morocco had 145 large dams and 130 small dams in operation. In February 2021, construction was launched on five large dams with a total capacity of 525 million cubic meters and an overall financial cost of 4.8 billion dirhams. Morocco aims to exceed a total storage capacity of 27 billion cubic meters upon completion of these projects. Aware of the importance of dams in ensuring water security, the Moroccan legislator enacted Law No. 30.15 on dam safety, providing a legal framework to protect people and property from risks associated with these infrastructures. A report by the committee evaluating the National Water Strategy, issued in January 2021, highlighted these efforts. Nevertheless, despite these achievements, feasibility studies conducted by the competent authorities in selecting dam construction sites remain of paramount importance. It is essential to avoid building dams in areas vulnerable to soil erosion in river basins, which leads to siltation at dam bottoms and results in significant losses in storage capacity. Seawater desalination has become a necessary alternative in several regions of Morocco, particularly

in Agadir, which is a leading agricultural production area, as well as for supplying drinking water to southern provinces and meeting their growing needs. This approach is facilitated by Morocco's extensive coastline. Several desalination plants have been established in Tan-Tan, Laayoune, and Boujdour, with a combined production capacity that may reach 17 million cubic meters. Another major project is underway in the Chtouka area, implemented jointly by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Rural Development and Forests, and the National Office of Electricity and Drinking Water, with a substantial overall capacity. In addition, Morocco has adopted another policy to address water-related challenges through the National Program for Liquid Sanitation and Wastewater Treatment. This program aims to confront threats to water security and meet the growing demand for water. In some regions, such as Midelt, treated wastewater is used for agricultural irrigation, while in others it may be reused for the production of drinking water.

#### **Paragraph Two: Measures Adopted to Preserve Groundwater and Surface Water Resources**

Like many other countries, Morocco seeks to make use of the latest technologies and to adopt all possible measures to preserve both groundwater and surface water resources. Among the key mechanisms put in place are the systems of administrative authorization and concession for the use and exploitation of water resources. In this regard, paragraph one of Article 24 of Law No. 36.15 provides that: "Authorizations and concessions relating to public water property shall be granted after the conduct of a public inquiry. Fees corresponding to the examination of the related applications shall be paid for such authorizations and concessions."

Article 28 of the same law further specifies the operations subject to the authorization regime. As for the concession regime, Article 33 of the Water Law determines the operations that fall under this system. From these provisions, it is evident that the legislator has established penalties for any violation of the rules governing the concession regime. Article 140 of Water Law No. 36.15 provides for imprisonment ranging from one to three months and/or a fine ranging from 10,000 to 500,000 Moroccan dirhams for such violations. In addition, the former Law No. 10.95 had already strengthened the protection of water resources by establishing a Water Police body, although this mechanism was only effectively implemented following the enactment of the new Law No. 36.15. In this context, Article 131 of the same law stipulates that: "The recording of violations of the provisions of this law and its implementing texts, and the drafting of the corresponding reports, shall be carried out by agents of the judicial police, agents of the administration, and agents of public institutions specifically authorized for this purpose." Referring to the 2017 report of the Economic, Social, and Environmental Council, specifically page 97, it is noted that the exercise of duties related to detecting water-related violations and drafting the corresponding reports effectively began in 2018. Furthermore, Law No. 36.15 on water sets out the various water-related offences that constitute the legal framework within which the Water Police carry out their duties. A distinction is made between two main categories of offences: those relating to the use of public water property, and those linked to the conditions governing the use of public water property as stipulated in a concession decision or contract. The law also covers other offences prohibited under regulatory texts relating to public water property.

#### **Conclusion**

Based on the analysis and discussion of this topic, it can be concluded that water security constitutes an escalating challenge. Water resources are experiencing continuous scarcity, and despite the proactive nature of water policy, both human and natural constraints persist, revealing the limitations of the measures adopted to ensure water security. At the same time, societal needs continue to grow in parallel with demographic expansion, while pressures linked to natural and human factors remain unabated. In this context, the role of the legislator is essentially to establish an appropriate legal framework for the protection and preservation of water resources in a manner that guarantees Morocco's water and food security. This objective has been embodied in Law No. 36.15 on water. However, a purely legal approach is insufficient on its own. It is therefore necessary to strengthen the judicial and water police bodies with the necessary mechanisms to enable them to effectively carry out their duties, detect water-related violations, and draw up the relevant reports, while addressing the issue of water through multiple approaches—political, social, environmental, and human rights-based. Finally, awareness-raising and public sensitization remain of paramount importance in supporting and ensuring the success of governmental measures and strategies in the water sector, particularly in light of the significant quantities of water that continue to be wasted through irrational and irresponsible practices.

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