**Morocco, Madagascar Sign Several Cooperation Agreements**

Several cooperation agreements were signed on Tuesday in Marrakech at the first session of the Morocco-Madagascar Joint Cooperation Committee, which was co-chaired by Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Nasser Bourita, and his Malagasy peer, Andriantsitohaina Franck Michel Niaina.

The two sides have signed an agreement on decentralization, which is aimed at developing cooperation between the ministries of the Interior of the two countries.

Morocco and Madagascar have also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), which aims to establish a framework of cooperation between the two countries in the field of diplomatic training and international relations.

The two sides have also inked an agreement that aims to establish a framework of cooperation to promote gender equality in education and the labor market, fight violence against women and exchange experiences and information in this issue.

A protocol on cooperation in education and scientific research has also been signed between the two countries with the aim of strengthening cultural and scientific cooperation through scholarships, exchange of information, experiences and expertise and training.

The two parties also signed a MoU in the sectors of national spatial planning, urban planning, housing and urban policy. Its objective is to boost cooperation between the two countries with a view to developing a mutually beneficial partnership in these areas.

The two countries have also signed an action program in the fields of youth and sports for the period 2019-2021. This program will allow an annual exchange of youth groups to participate in cultural and artistic events and facilitate the access of Malagasy students and teaching staff to sports training institutes in Morocco.

A framework cooperation agreement on scholarships and internships in Morocco has also been signed between the two parties. This framework agreement aims to promote cooperation between the two countries in the cultural, scientific, technical and socio-economic fields through the exchange of students, scholarships, training and the exchange of experiences and information.

The two countries have also inked a protocol of cooperation in the field of medicinal and health products.

The Morocco-Madagascar Joint Cooperation Committee was also marked by the signing of a twinning and cooperation agreement between the University Hospital Center of Ibn Sina and the Joseph Ravoahangy Andrianavalona University Hospital in Antananarivo.

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