



**Speech by Dr Abdelkader AMARA**

**Minister of Energy, Mines, Water and Environment**

**On the occasion of the presentation of the**

**«NATIONAL ROADMAP**

**FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF GEOLOGICAL AND**

**GEOTHEMATIC INFRASTRUCTURE»**

**May 12, 2015**

**Ambassador of the People's Republic of China;**  
**Distinguished General Managers;**  
**Distinguished Deans of the Faculties of Sciences;**  
**Distinguished Directors;**  
**Distinguished previous Directors of Geology;**  
**Distinguished Representatives of Professional Associations;**

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

It is with pleasure and great interest that I performed today at the opening of the day of submission of the National Roadmap for the Development of Geological and Geothematic infrastructure of our country.

I would like first to welcome our guests who have shared with us this moment of rediscovery and revival of our National Geological Service, essential entity in all countries for the establishment of the geological and geothematic infrastructure.

This Roadmap is the result of the efforts made since 2013, for the revival of geological activity.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

Knowledge of the geology of a country going through a geological infrastructure especially developed in the form of geological maps, geophysical, geochemical and thematic maps at national and regional level.

This geological infrastructure is of major importance as the scientific plans and economic or technological.

First, it helps to develop the mineral and energy commodities, as well as rocks and essential industrial minerals for everyday life and economy.

It also allows the exploration and exploitation of water, a vital source for the population, fauna and flora.

It is necessary for the construction of engineering structures (roads, bridges, tunnels, dams ...) and for territory planning because of no construction can't be done without a prior study of the soil.

Geology also allows the prevention of risks and natural disasters (earthquakes, landslides ...) that could destabilize any type of work and those surrounding.

The availability of quality geological infrastructure is also an indispensable basis for each country to improve its geological attractiveness by highlighting its natural resources for investors, including national and international mining and oil companies to have appropriate information.

### **Ladies and gentlemen,**

The Geological Survey of Morocco lived glorious moments with the rule in the publication of geological maps as the first card 1 / 500 000 was presented at the International Geological Congress 1952, which had been a feat in this area. Similarly, in 1985, published the geological map at 1 / 1 000 000, which was also a first for the African level.

This momentum would be strengthened in 1996/97 with the launch of an ambitious program, namely the National Plan for Geological Mapping (Plan National de Cartographie Géologique: PNCG), whose objective was to perfect the geological coverage of the country.

This plan, which was accompanied by the training program "Géoforma" dedicated to departmental officials, helped to enhance the country coverage in geological and thematic maps and develop the Department's expertise in this field.

However, with the demise of the Directorate of Geology at the departmental reorganization carried out in 2005 and the significant decline in the budget that has been allocated, this plan has been egregiously shortcoming in its execution, resulting in a production rate very slow geological maps and therefore covers rate, hardly exceeding 36% in 2014 to the geology coverage, 42% for geophysical coverage and 8.15% for geochemical coverage, are levels below forecasts and our ambitions.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

Recognizing the key role of geoscience mapping for infrastructure development, this Department has included among its priorities the revitalization of the geological service in our country.

Our first action towards this goal was to reinstate the Directorate of Geology in the Department to ensure an adequate institutional framework for the fulfillment of this mission.

The second action was precisely the establishment of a national roadmap for the development of the infrastructure in question which has been designed on the basis of a global and rigorous diagnostic of the inventory focusing essentially on the carried out works, the human and material resources available, which helped establish targeted and achievable goals.

This roadmap, which will be presented today, was declined into operational action plans and into clear and precise objectives, taking into account the expectations and priority directions of various structural projects open throughout the Kingdom, both in the field of mining and oil exploration, as in other fields such as water resources exploration, territory planning, construction of dams, roads, and industrial platforms, etc.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

Regarding in particular the mining sector, whose revitalization is part of the Government Program, our target roadmap promising priority areas for mining potential and with low geological and geothematic infrastructure, it's:

- The mining area of Tafilalet and Figuig "CADETAF area";
- The Eastern Meseta;
- The Moroccan Central Massif;
- And the Mauritanides area in our southern provinces.

In fact, promoting, firstly, the CADETAF area which is currently being restructured in order to open to industrial operators and, secondly, of the Eastern Meseta which lives today some problems related to closure of ancient mines, can't be done without the availability of adequate geological infrastructure.

As for Mauritanides, this is a promising area but poorly covered by geological maps.

In addition to these mining areas, a program for the development of geological infrastructure of our Southern Provinces is one of the priorities of our roadmap and it focuses on the realization of geological maps at the Laayoune-Dakhla Basin.

This program will be accompanied by the computerization of geoscience data and the development of a Database and its exploitation through a Geographic Information System (GIS) as well as the implementation of a Geoportal of Geology for the public and operators interested in Geoinformation.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

The implementation of this action plan will be translated for targeted areas, by increased coverage rate by geological and geothematic maps percentages ranging up to 100% of map coverage.

Thus, the CADETAF area, for which we have established a restructuring plan for its integration into the development process that knows the national mining sector, will be fully covered by geological and geophysical maps.

The Eastern Meseta, which holds promising mining potential will be covered to over 86% by geological maps.

As for Massif of Central Morocco, containing a variety of mineral resources, it will be totally covered by geological and geophysical maps and to 78% by geochemical maps.

The Mauritanides area, known by its prospects of rare earths, basic and precious metals, will also be covered 100% by geological maps.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

The implementation of the action of the roadmap plan will appeal to internal resources, that we will ensure to strengthen in number and skills, as well as external resources through subcontracting or cooperation.

Financially, the projected investment is estimated budget of 220 million dirhams, or an annual average of about 18 million dirhams. It is possible, of course, that our objectives are revised upwards if other resources are mobilized in particular through cooperation.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

Morocco has geological structures and geological heritage both rich and varied. His Geological structures that extend from the Archean basement of our Saharan provinces to the alpine terrain of the Rif chain, retracing almost all ages of the geological history of our planet.

This variety of facies and ages of Moroccan geological formations was accompanied by an introduction of mineral and energy resources exploration and exploitation go far back in time.

This story continues in our country that has joined for the first time, the annual world ranking "The 2014 Global Survey of Mining Companies" by finishing in 4th place in the African and 40th largest in the world scale for countries the most attractive for mining investment.

This recent recognition is a challenge for Morocco called to maintain and advance in the rankings and challenges us to strengthen the geological attractiveness of our country which is one of the evaluation criteria in this ranking.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

Before concluding my intervention, I would like to announce that the Ministry of Energy, Mines, Water and Environment will organize from now and during the month of May each year, geological days of Morocco in commemoration that day.

Finally, I would like to thank His Excellency the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China, operators and partners of the Ministry of Energy, Mines, Water and Environment, university and academic researchers, who agreed to participate in this day.

Thank you.