

## Cooperatives as a mechanism for achieving integrate economic growth and social welfare -a case of Morocco

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### **Abstract:**

the social and solidarity economy has gained increasing importance over the past twenty years and Morocco like the rest of the world, has experienced a wide development in social and solidarity economic, it represents an opportunity for economic growth and social inclusion, and likewise the Morocco authorities have become aware of their importance due to the inevitable role they play in creating job opportunities and added value, in combating fragility vulnerability and social exclusion and in completing various sectoral strategies and programs

**Keywords:** social and solidarity economy-social and solidarity economy in Morocco

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**Introduction**

The social and solidarity economy has witnessed a remarkable development in Morocco in recent years due to its importance and decisive role in contributing to job creation and added value, in combating fragility, vulnerability and social exclusion and in completing the various sectoral strategies and programs, the need for an appropriate strategy that puts individuals at the heart of All interests in order to contribute to the overall development

There is a widespread awareness of the urgent need to reduce the rate of instability and poverty in the country, reduce unemployment and informal employment by improving working conditions and standard of living, overcoming the phenomenon of over-abundance in schools, addressing illiteracy and developing legal access to health services, education, training and infrastructure and in facing these challenges inclusive growth,

The private sector and the public sector find themselves unable to effectively intervene at this level. In other words, they have reached their limits. A new economy capable of providing adequate responses to these challenges has called for a new participant capable of making a significant contribution to solving both problems associated with inequality. And the challenges of social and economic integration, and thus to inject and create a new breath for the performance of economic growth

Therefore, we discussed in this article the contribution of cooperatives as a mechanism of social and solidarity economy in achieving integrated economic growth through what is related to wealth creation and combating existing inequalities, relying on the Moroccan experience, and we decided to identify the research problem that was raised in the following question: What is the contribution of cooperatives as a mechanism of Social and solidarity economy in achieving integrated economic growth and social welfare ? and how can it be supported in Morocco?

**Study Objectives:** This study aims to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of cooperatives as a mechanism for the social and solidarity economy in Morocco by determining the extent of their success in achieving their established goals through:

- Shedding light on cooperatives as an effective and organized strategy capable of playing a full role in combating poverty, instability and economic and social exclusion alike.
- Strengthening and harmonizing public action in Morocco for the benefit of the social and solidarity economy (cooperatives) and developing knowledge and visions on the subject.
- This topic was addressed through the theoretical exploitation that spread over many previous theoretical writings, where a literature review was conducted, which we thought presented the most important results in each of the following:
  - The growing role of associations and non-governmental organizations as an essential partner and an alternative to countries in creating development opportunities and helping the people, based on new approaches that interfere with development and employment within the framework of what is known as the social and solidarity economy - Magda Sawab, Bouchta

El Khazzan, 2014, Microcredit associations in Morocco and their role in Social and Solidarity Economy Development, University of Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdallah, Fez, Morocco

- The organizations of the social and solidarity economy form a practical and scientific triangle consisting of social goals and economic and environmental sustainability, which leads to creating development with multiple levels of opportunities, empowerment and protection for the human being, as well as creating trust and social capital, which in turn may encourage the implementation of interrelated projects - Aziz Mahjoub, 03 March 2018, Social Solidarity Economy in Morocco from traditional forms to modern organizations (cooperatives as a model), Journal of Social Sciences, international scientific journal, Arab Democratic Center for Strategic, Political and Economic Studies, Berlin, Germany.

### **I. Social and solidarity economy, cooperatives, integrated economic growth, general concepts**

in this part, we will discuss general concepts related to all study terms,. social and solidarity economy, cooperatives...

**I.1 Social and Solidarity Economy, General Concepts:** This economy is not a new born... It is added to the economic equation consisting of two only types, namely, the liberal economy or the market economy and the public economy, which means state ownership of the means of production.

**I.1.1 Definition of Social and Solidarity Economy:** Social and solidarity economy expresses the sum of economic and social activities that are organized in the form of a structure or gatherings of personal or legal persons, with the aim of achieving the collective and societal interest, which are independent activities subject to democratic and participatory measure in which participation is free. (CESE)

**I.2.1 Characteristics of the social and solidarity economy:** With the widening gap between the capabilities of the state and population growth and the widening of the economic and social aspirations of peoples, the importance of the social and solidarity economy and its various organizations has emerged to bridge this gap.

The social and solidarity economy and its various organizations are characterized by intrinsic characteristics and differ in their objectives from others. We can summarize the most important of them in the following: (Abouh, solidarity economy and social development, possibilities and reality, 2014/2015)

Democratic management: strategic decisions (fateful and important) are taken collectively, regardless of their participation (involvement of the beneficiary individuals).

**Individual non-profit:** This characteristic does not negate the law of profit - cooperatives, and some associations provide significant surpluses.

**The collective benefit of the project:** meaning that the project serves the community and not a project run by an individual for his personal interest.

- **Mixed and hybrid resources:** In terms of the source, the resources of this field are multiple, they may be private, public or mixed. As for hybrid, it means market resources through

products for sale, non-market resources through redistribution from the state, non-monetary resources from personal commitments or lending.

**I.3.1 Foundations and Principles of Social and Solidarity Economy:** These values and principles can be summarized in the following figure:

<b>Share</b>	-Democratic governance is one of the core values of the social and solidarity economy. -Participation of those concerned with this economy, including users and beneficiaries, in decision-making.
<b>Solidarity and innovation</b>	-an innovative alternative to traditional models. - One of the inclusive economies that benefit the most disadvantaged, marginalized and poor groups
<b>Voluntary and independent participation</b>	-voluntary and independent in nature and voluntarily participates in the institutions of the social and solidarity economy. - Giving communities opportunities to create projects and obtain skills, resources, job opportunities and benefits.
<b>Public interest</b>	- The main objective is the growth and well-being of all without detracting from the well-being of individuals within the group.

**Source: Social and solidarity economy as a tool for achieving social justice, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, United Nations, Public Policy Series, No. 4, p. 2.**

**I.4.1. Objectives of the social and solidarity economy:** The objectives of the social and solidarity economy are multiple, according to the spread and comprehensiveness of its organizations

- **Social Objectives:** Human development through: Spreading the principle of solidarity and establishing strong social cohesion.

- **Economic objectives:** they can be limited to different levels of development as follows (Al Amin Al wad Hajj Ahmed, 2008):

Developing the local community by consulting local citizens to help themselves by developing their skills in organizations that facilitate the process of solidarity participation through work patterns of empowerment and social action that are used as part of development strategies.

- Participatory development: It is based on the participatory approach and the central principle is the sharing of knowledge and the authority to make decisions. This means that the success of development depends on the availability of a democratic climate, the active role of local organizations, impartiality of management and respect for individual rights.

- The economic role of the social and solidarity economy is increasing, as the latter provides basic services to individuals in various fields and regions that the state does not reach or the private sector refrains from. Perhaps the most important of these areas are:

- Providing basic services: Social and solidarity economy organizations support disadvantaged groups and regions by providing a range of basic services such as connecting infrastructure facilities such as water, electricity and sanitation.
- Strengthening social justice: Social and solidarity economy organizations partly contribute to the process of redistributing incomes and wealth among different social classes by receiving donations and directing them to spending.
- Providing employment opportunities: Social and solidarity economy organizations provide various employment opportunities, whether within their institutional structure or through economic program projects that they sponsor.

### **I.5.1. The main (historical) actors in the social and solidarity economy:**

There are many parties to the structure that make up the social and solidarity economy. It consists of a set of various activities, projects and initiatives. In addition to the associations and synergies that the international community has recently focused on, many studies that have attempted to approach the social and solidarity economy and diagnose its reality and conditions reveal that it is generally based on cooperatives, Mutual associations, associations in addition to social projects.

**-Cooperatives:** It is an independent association composed of people united together and voluntarily to achieve their common economic, social and cultural needs and aspirations through a collectively owned facility. Cooperatives have principles defined by the international cooperative movement, namely: voluntary membership open to all, members' exercise of democratic authority, members' economic participation, independence education, training, cooperation between cooperatives, and concern for the local community (organization)

**-Mutual benefit societies:** They are a moral person subject to private law. They have a non-profit purpose. They include people who choose to collectively distribute the costs of prevention and repair of the risks to which they are exposed. The principle of Mutual benefit societies is solidarity where a social mutual can consist of wage workers in institutions, departments and public bodies, Public or private contracting, or from persons practicing an activity for their own account. It can also be made by retired persons or pensioners under the title of social solidarity (labour).

**-Associations and community-based organizations** are defined as “non-profit social organizations and work in them is based on a voluntary basis and aims to provide many and varied services needed by the community, and members of these associations and people are allowed to participate in all stages of work in them (Nasr, 2007).

**-Social enterprises** is a relatively recent concept and a powerful emerging phenomenon in both Europe and North America in the context of the crisis in the late 1970s as a response to unmet social protests and the inability of traditional social and employment policies to address the economy and create jobs for people who were excluded from the labor market. The traditional and excluded by entrepreneurs who wanted to run the business but for clear purposes, and social enterprises are organizations that search for practical solutions to social

problems, and social enterprises differ from the other types described above because their ownership is not necessarily collective and they also differ from non-profit enterprises, but they seek Also to generate social benefits by virtue of the type of its products or services that are marketed (Asia).

**-Public benefit institutions or charitable foundations:** They are institutions that do not want to make profits, but are looking for goals of public values and therefore serve the interests of society.

**I.2 Combined Economic Growth:**

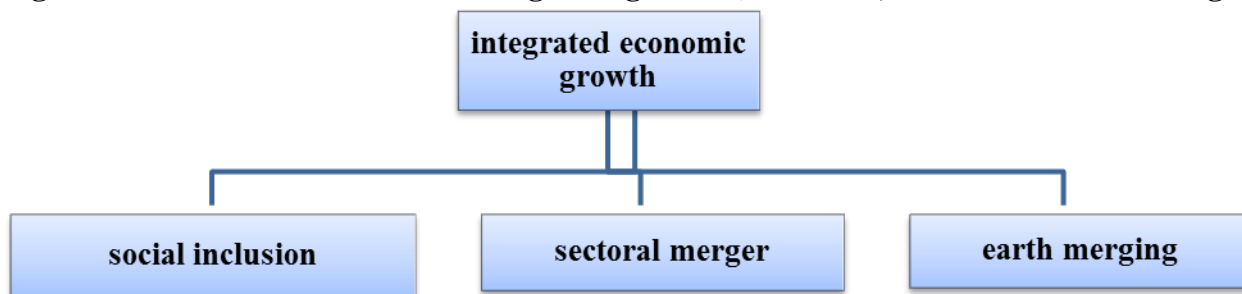
Looking at the new challenges of development, integrated growth directly meets the Millennium Development Goals, and aims to improve economic, social and spatial cohesion. Hence, we are talking at the same time about social inclusion, economic inclusion and spatial inclusion.

Although the concept of integrated growth has been widely used by specialists, it does not have a unified, agreed upon definition. “Integrated growth is growth that not only creates economic opportunities, but also guarantees equality for all segments of society, especially the poor, in accessing these services.” opportunities’ (encyclopedia).

**I.2. 1Dimensions of integrated economic growth:**

This growth aims to enhance social cohesion, and it is important to ensure that all regions, including the most remote regions, benefit from the positive results of economic growth. In order to enhance regional cohesion, all should be empowered with opportunities and future prospects.

**Figure 1: shows the dimensions of integrated growth (territorial, sectoral and social integration)**



**source: the social and solidarity economy and the challenges of inclusive growth, the site [www.CESE.org](http://www.CESE.org) the date of the visit 20/10/2018.**

For its part, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Economic Development considers blended growth as economic growth that provides job opportunities and distributes the bounties of increased prosperity, whether financial or non-financial, to all members of society in a fair manner. Moreover, the work of this organization focused on three aspects that worked to unify Embedded economic growth concept.

- **Multidimensional Character:**

This is because economic growth is in large part concerned only with achieving economic well-being and does not pay attention to important dimensions that are no less important to

society, such as education, health and security, as adopting a multi-dimensional approach to integrated growth would help achieve a significant improvement on the level of new dimensions that are important for citizens. And for the economy.

- **Redistribution Effect:**

Combined growth tends to provide the same opportunity for all individuals in order to contribute to the process of economic growth.

- **Purpose of work:**

Embedded growth should propose concrete actions that link sectoral policies with the financial and non-financial dimensions chosen. Moreover, according to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the dimensions of integrated growth differ according to the level of development of each country.

### **I.3 Cooperatives**

As a result of the breadth, enormity and abundance of social and solidarity economy organizations, we decided to focus in this section on cooperatives as the most widespread and effective organizations in order to highlight the role they play through the current concept and remarkable achievement.

#### **I 3. 1 History of the formation of cooperatives:**

The first spark for what is called cooperative thought was set off by Robert Owen (1771-1858), who tried to implement his reformist ideas by intensifying the efforts of cooperative workers. And improving its condition by reducing working hours and raising wages, and in the year 1834 four workers from Paris founded the Christian Association for the workers of the gold jewelry industry with a capital of 600 francs, and the project succeeded with great success and the number of its branches in Paris alone reached eight branches and this project continued until the year 1873 and this was The first project in production cooperative (Rifai, 1964).

#### **I 3. 2 Cooperatives: Concept, Forms, Values and Principles**

The statement of the International Cooperative Alliance at its centenary conference held in Manchester, United Kingdom in September 1995 on the identity of cooperatives included a set of guiding references based on a philosophical perspective based on full respect for every human being, and on reliance on his ability to improve himself economically and socially with mutual self-help. The statement adopted a definition of cooperative, which states that a cooperative is an independent association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social and cultural needs, to achieve their aspirations through a jointly owned enterprise that is democratically controlled. Cooperatives are based on the values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, justice and solidarity. Cooperative members believe, according to the traditions of their founders, in the moral values of integrity, openness and social responsibility.

#### **Concept, values and principles:**

Cooperatives are defined as organizations consisting of a group of people who have agreed to join each other in order to work collectively in order to meet their economic and social needs in accordance with the basic values and principles of cooperation recognized globally. The cooperative fabric is the main component of the social and solidarity economy, given the size of its contribution to economic development and its ability to integrate socially.

According to the International Alliance of Cooperatives, the cooperative has principles that are guidelines to achieve its values, including (nations, 2012):

- **Voluntary and Open Membership:** Cooperatives are voluntary organizations and are open to all persons who are qualified to benefit from their services and who are willing to accept the responsibilities of membership without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.
- **Democratic management of members:** Cooperatives are democratic organizations run by their members and actively participate in setting their policies and making decisions. The men and women members who act as elected representatives are accountable to membership. At the level of basic cooperatives, members have equal voting rights “one member one vote”
- **Economic participation of members:** members contribute equitably to the capital of their cooperative and they administer it democratically, usually at least part of the capital is collectively owned and members usually receive a limited reward for the capital they contribute as a condition of membership
- **Self-will and independence:** Cooperatives are self-help organizations with independent administration managed by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or obtain funding from external sources, they do so according to conditions that guarantee the democratic management of their members and maintain cooperative self-management.
- **Education, Training and Information:** Cooperatives provide education and training to their members, elected representatives, director, and employees so that they may contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives.
- **Cooperation between cooperatives:** cooperatives serve their members effectively and enhance the cooperative movement by engaging in joint work.

### I 3 3. Forms and types of cooperatives

Cooperatives vary in their forms, shapes, and types from one country to another according to the type of activity they undertake, and they can carry out all economic activities in a person's life from birth to death. Common forms of cooperatives are as follows (organization t. A., 2010):

- **Non-monetary cooperatives:** they perform similar services to property services and volunteer workers in maintenance work and provide a service or commodity, as they lend equipment (such as bicycles and agricultural tools) in order to rationalize consumption and achieve sustainable development



- **Retail cooperatives:** They are sometimes called secondary cooperatives or marketing cooperatives and bring together small business owners, as they serve their access to large discounts, such as owners of groceries, spare parts and pharmacies.
- **Employees cooperatives:** They are owned and managed by their members and there are no other members, but sometimes they allow membership to consumers or from the local community or owners of capital without having shares.
- **Volunteer cooperatives:** They are managed by and for the benefit of a network of volunteers in order to benefit the members or achieve the public interest.
- **Social cooperatives:** These cooperatives provide care services for children and the elderly and provide job opportunities for those wishing to do so.
- **Consumer cooperatives:** They are owned by consumers and workers can become members of them. They are also active in providing services along with goods and can be a union between them.
- **Operating business cooperatives:** a branch of workers cooperatives, and represent a new approach in providing support to carry out new business.
- **Housing and construction cooperatives:** a mechanism that enables those wishing to obtain housing units through the use of their savings.
- **Public Utility Cooperatives:** It is a type of consumer cooperative that provides public utility services such as electricity distribution.
- **Agricultural cooperatives:** They serve agricultural businesses, provide requirements for agricultural production, and market farmers' products.
- **Cooperatives of fishermen and aquatic resources:** they provide fishing services from the requirements and marketing of fish production.
- **Cooperatives of craftsmen or production cooperatives:** They include craftsmen who work in traditional sectors such as the clothing industry, metalworking and home furnishing. They also provide production services, such as transportation.

### I 3. 4 Economic and Social Impact of Cooperatives:

Cooperatives have a prominent presence in many sectors, including agricultural and food industries, banking and financial services, insurance, consumer and retail goods, industry and public utilities, health and social care, information technology and handicrafts.

In addition to their quantitative effects, cooperatives contribute to development in several ways:

-Their ownership structures and objectives are different from what they are in projects owned by investors, which enables cooperatives to play an important role in reducing market deficiencies by contributing to improving the competitiveness of markets, which in turn prevents the formation of monopolies and reduces retail prices and provides opportunities for innovation and limits information asymmetry (nations f. a., 2012):

- Cooperatives focus on producing goods and services to meet the needs of the population they serve;

-Cooperatives adopt a long-term perspective, which is needed to increase investment in the long term;

-Cooperatives contribute to the distribution of income in a fair manner, which helps reduce poverty and inequality.

The social and economic impact of cooperatives emerges in times of multiple social crises, which may qualify agricultural cooperatives, for example, to play a critical role in improving food security, as well as to have a vital role in sustainable agricultural practices in the context of environmental crises, and cooperatives improve agricultural production for farmers and facilitate access to markets and savings Credit, insurance and technology.

The 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development recognized the role of cooperatives in contributing to social inclusion and poverty reduction, in particular in developing countries (General Assembly resolution 66/288) and that cooperatives empowered people while protecting the planet (one of the goals of the post-2015 development agenda) and were found to be Inclusive and sustainable, cooperatives provide many business jobs around the world, and these jobs include members of cooperatives as well as workers in companies that provide goods and services to them, and in 2008, the top 300 cooperatives were responsible for total sales of \$1.1 trillion, which is equivalent to The size of the tenth largest economy in the world Canada at that time (united nations general assembly, 2013).

### **3. 5 Cooperatives as a mechanism for social and economic inclusion**

Cooperatives contribute to providing a variety of social services such as cultural, health and other services, which contributes to community development and social inclusion. These organizations help provide a better political life for citizens by strengthening the principles of democracy in society and also help in eliminating monopoly and exploitation.

**The role of cooperatives in reducing inflation** (Fattah, 2010): The cooperative movement can participate in reducing inflation by affecting the supply and demand sides and the general level of basic commodity prices. This influence depends on the size of the cooperative movement, its spread and the effectiveness of this movement.

- If the cooperative movement produces the commodity itself or seeks to provide it, then it reduces the circles of intermediaries and therefore the amount of margins charged to the commodity will be limited, and then it can provide commodities to the public dealing with it in general at a price close to the cost, knowing that the legitimacy of consumer cooperatives, for example, in the eyes of Its members are based on the fact that its selling prices are significantly lower than those of competitors.

-The cooperative movement in this sense can constitute a ready-made social alternative to the role of the state in direct support of consumer goods, by sacrificing a part of the profit margin charged by others, if other distribution organizations charge margins sometimes uncontrolled on the basis of market susceptibility to it (why represented by a monopolistic situation sometimes), the cooperative movement cannot do that because it is governed by its basic law, which prohibits the principle of selling at the maximum possible profit.

-The cooperative movement's role of support can free the state's general budget from this burden, while directing this support in the form of increasing cash incomes for the lower-income groups or spending it as unemployment benefits for university and higher institute graduates, which can stimulate consumer demand and reduce stagnation, which was in itself, it is one of the causes of inflation by its effect on the production base and then the supply.

-The cooperative movement's undertaking of distributing goods, whether they are locally produced or imported, and whether they are provided by the public or private business sector, or imported at a certain price, with the setting of a single social price for these goods throughout the country, represents with the spread of the cooperative movement an increase in the real incomes of the general public. Citizens and eliminates the phenomenon of growth of parasitic incomes.

**The role of cooperatives in reducing poverty and promoting citizenship** (organization A. l., 1994):

-Cooperatives bring together members of local communities, regardless of their ethnic, sectarian, linguistic or political affiliation, in an effective form of social support, either as producers, none of whom has the ability to produce on their own (handicraft, agricultural and fisheries production cooperatives) or as consumers, none of whom can within the limits of their limited purchasing power To deal with the normal market and its high prices (housing cooperatives, consumer goods and services), and then cooperatives create income-generating activities or maximize the use of the purchasing power of members, and in both cases, they contribute effectively to reducing the phenomenon of poverty and mitigating its effects (Magda Sawab, 2014).

-Cooperatives provide part of the surplus they achieve to the local environment in order to raise its economic and social level.

-The ability of cooperatives to reach the poor in their different areas, as it brings together individuals, none of whom is able to solve their problem on their own. While companies, public authorities and organizations have not been able to reach these poor people because the official presence is almost non-existent in the slums and while the private sector does not find its profit incentive to work In these areas the importance of cooperatives, whether in the field of goods or services, is the only logical mechanism.

-Cooperatives, which are not profit-oriented, maximize the purchasing power of their clients and thus provide them with one form of support.

Cooperatives provide areas for selling the products of poor families and provide them with stability as a source of livelihood. They also provide support for projects based on micro-loans or micro-loans that suffer from severe marketing problems. Cooperatives find an outlet for them to solve this problem.

All regions need cooperatives in the field of various services, such as educational services, health services, environmental services, and transportation services. Without these cooperatives, the need of these communities for those services remains unsatisfied.

**-The role of cooperatives in combating unemployment** (Arab labor conference, 2008):

The cooperative approach in dealing with the problem of unemployment is clearly visible in production cooperatives, whether it is commodity or service production, as cooperatives are based on mobilizing and assembling efforts that none of them can individually carry out an activity that generates revenue for him, he cannot work for himself either due to the lack of his financing capabilities or The activity to be entered requires more than one individual in order to achieve its goals, and therefore the cooperative approach is not limited only to the existing organizations in the form of associations or federations, nor is it limited to the areas covered by these organizations However, it is a method that can be used in all areas of service and commodity production, and it does not stand on an equal footing with the private or general method.

-Cooperatives can introduce manufacturing industries in agricultural production areas, which leads to increasing the operation of the existing facility and creating new job opportunities.

-Cooperatives establish cooperative societies in the field of services, environment, educational services, cultural services and other services that absorb a large number of workers and this reduces the problem of unemployment.

-Cooperatives market rural products, especially agricultural products, which leads to the protection of the product from intermediaries and provides protection to the city consumer in obtaining products at reasonable prices, as well as activating the cooperative movement in its various sectors in remote areas, through consumer cooperatives as well as housing cooperatives and service cooperatives.

**-The role of cooperatives in supporting the efforts of small projects** (Duquerougwen, 2009):

Small and medium enterprises are considered an effective way to reduce unemployment and youth employment, as they do not need large funding, are not complicated by technology, do not need large management or costly accounts, but rather highlight the efficiency and qualifications that keep the project owners away from the adventure that is not guaranteed results and that establishes the concept of self-work and initiatives Individuals, and cooperatives play a major role in helping small projects, including:

-Cooperatives follow the approach of integration among them at the local level, as this would accelerate growth rates and provide job opportunities.

-The trend towards entering into new cooperative areas and establishing non-traditional cooperatives such as health and pharmacy cooperatives and others...

Cooperatives prepare an objective study of the nature of the small project that is being established in their area of work, indicate its feasibility and the need for it, and set sound criteria for its selection before starting work with it.

**II. The cooperative sector in light of the national strategy for the social and solidarity economy in Morocco**

The social and solidarity economy has witnessed a remarkable development at the level of Morocco, especially after the increasing interest in it internationally. A national strategy for the social and solidarity economy was allocated for the period 2010-2020, before it was

reviewed and replaced by a new strategy and work program for the period between 2020 and 2028, in line with the requirements of sustainable development, On the other hand, the growing interest in the social and solidarity economy in Morocco is also evident at the level of government engineering, where a ministry specialized in social and solidarity economy has been created, and the interest in the subject has increased among a number of constitutional institutions, especially the Economic, Social and Environmental Council, which dedicated its self-referral No. 19/2015 to the topic Social and Solidarity Economy.

**II .1 The vision and the axes of Morocco’s strategy in the field of social and solidarity economy:** The social and solidarity economy in Morocco needed a new dynamic that would allow the creation of an appropriate environment for the creation of a new generation of institutions characterized by the following (konrad):

- Economic activities for the production of goods and services can be found in profitable activities, as well as in unprofitable activity.
- Giving women an opportunity to contribute to an active economic life by engaging in income-generating work.
- Encouraging the entry into the market of goods and services produced by social and solidarity economy institutions and developing their attractiveness.
- Accompanying the institutions of the social and solidarity economy and developing their mode of management and means and methods of production.

In fact, the government has given a privileged position to the development of the social and solidarity economy, and intends to make it one of the pillars of the local economy and a locomotive for the development of income-generating activities throughout Morocco. To achieve these goals, the strategy is formulated around 7 main axes:

**Figure 2: Illustrating the strategic axes for strengthening the SSE initiative in Morocco**



**Source: Social and Solidarity Economy in Morocco, for human development based on social justice, publications of the Studies Center for Research in Parliamentary Affairs with the support of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, Kingdom of Morocco**

The Moroccan government is also working to establish an effective and organized social and solidarity economy capable of playing its full role in combating poverty and vulnerability through the following (finance):

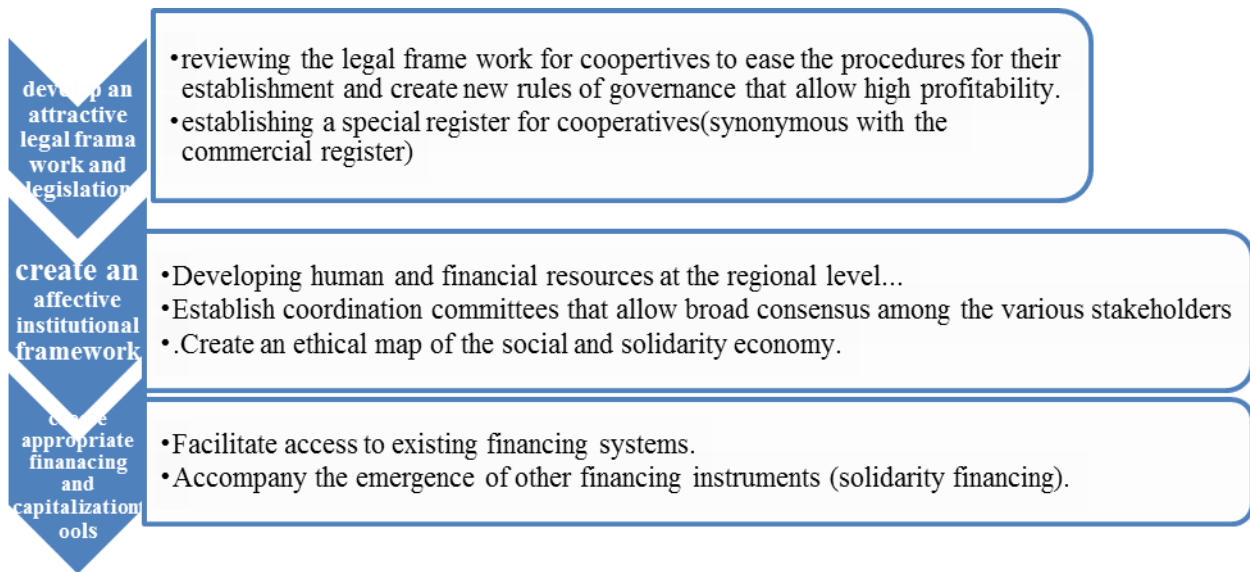
- Encouraging networking between actors in the social and solidarity economy sector.
- Contribute to the development of an integrated field based on rational exploitation and valorization of local wealth and energies.
- Improving the vision and knowledge of the social and solidarity economy in order to create jobs and maintain their sustainability.

**II.2 Cooperative sector:** Cooperatives have their own legal framework in Morocco, Law No. 12-112\*, which defines cooperatives and defines their legal status. It is also noted that the number of cooperatives in 2013 reached a total of 12,022 cooperatives comprising 440,372 cooperators.

Morocco has identified some measures with regard to cooperatives, including (Hafsa, 2018):

- Improving the legal framework, and here it is necessary to clarify provisions related to the transformation of the cooperative into a company, the threshold set for appointing managers, and the compensation of members of the Administrative Council as a permanent manager, as well as determining responsibilities in case of mismanagement.
- Improving governance and this is because most cooperatives suffer from a lack of governance, a deficiency mainly related to the level of human resources.
- Improving the competitiveness of cooperatives, taking into account the following (Mahjoub, 2018):
  - Horizontal integration and vertical integration.
  - A more favorable tax system, support and improved access to finance.
  - Searching for new markets and sectors, both at the national and international levels.
- Creation of a brand "Solidarity Product" and the establishment of a social welfare system for the benefit of cooperative members and family helpers.

**Figure 3: shows Morocco's strategy for creating an enabling environment for cooperatives to operate**



**La source : ministère délégué chargé des affaires économiques et générales, novembre 2011, stratégie de l'économie sociale et solidaire 2010-2020, royaume du Maroc.**

In addition to the support measures that directly affect the actors, the development of the social and solidarity economy undoubtedly requires the creation of a global environment conducive to the emergence and development of local initiatives on all fronts, especially institutional, legal and financial, In this context, the strategy plans to create an attractive legal framework, in particular by reviewing the legal framework for cooperatives with the aim of reducing administrative procedures and introducing new governance rules that allow for better profitability and diversification of legal frameworks for social and solidarity economy institutions, The number of cooperatives in Morocco has developed as the most widespread model for this type of economy, as the number of newly created cooperatives at the end of 2018 exceeded a total of 20,000 cooperatives, including about 2,677 women's cooperatives, and about 67 percent of cooperatives are interested in the activities of the agricultural sector, while 16 percent are active In the handicraft industry and 6% in the field of housing, while the number of those involved in cooperatives exceeded half a million cooperators, an effective institutional framework was established, a national committee was established to coordinate the social and solidarity economy, and an ethical charter for the sector was established to develop financing tools that best suit the characteristics of the social and solidarity economy (Morocco).

### **Conclusion:**

The capabilities of the social and solidarity economy can contribute effectively to achieving rapid growth, as it provides a wide range of forms of cooperation, solidarity and collaboration at all levels, and in various situations, it has been able to meet many of the needs of society and reduce many differences, and the empirical evidence abounds in the north, south, east and west .

Cooperatives, as one of the organizations of the social and solidarity economy in Morocco, constitute a scientific and practical pyramid consisting of social goals and economic and environmental sustainability, leading to the creation of multiple levels of opportunities,

empowerment and protection for humans. Social policy limits social problems resulting from capital accumulation and ensures the continuation of the process of economic growth in addition to the function of distributing fruits Growth and high productivity

Based on value concepts such as social rights, which have become part of the law of human rights and the concept of social justice, and the provision of equal opportunities to all citizens, which emphasizes the need to support the social and solidarity economy in all its mechanisms and forms and in all ways, whether those related to material, legal and administrative support...etc. .

It seems that the Moroccan government is giving increasing attention to the social and solidarity economy through legislative texts and government programs that support cooperatives, associations and cooperatives, with the aim of meeting social needs, while ensuring limited economic profitability, giving central importance to overcoming the problems of unbalanced development between the center and the periphery, and helping the various social strata that suffer From fragility, and the lack of basic services, which leads in the last analysis to the “humanization” of the economy.

There are two keys to the successful implementation of the strategy for the social and solidarity economy in Morocco:

- ❖ Consultation and coordination with all stakeholders in the field of social and solidarity economy.
- ❖ Determining the obligations of each stakeholder as well as the means to be implemented in the program contracts or the partnership agreement.

Recommendations: The essence of the problem related to the advancement of this type - social and solidarity economy in Morocco - lies in the absence of a legal framework regulating this concept developed in the economic field. Therefore, it is suggested in this regard:

- Preparing a law related to the social and solidarity economy that includes, in addition to definitions and goals, a detailed definition of those involved in the field of this economy, whether on the part of actors or on the part of institutions, with an accurate definition of the limits of the powers of each party separately.

-Strengthening the system of governance of the social and solidarity economy through the creation of a body for the social and solidarity economy that has external regional interests entrusted with the supervision and direction of the work of the structures of the social and solidarity economy, whether it is related to cooperatives, cooperatives associations or others.

-The university's interest and openness to the social and solidarity economy by encouraging scientific research in the field.

finally, the social and solidarity economy is an opportunity to mobilize all social energies through its various mechanisms and multiple interests for social progress and change for the better, taking into account the specifics



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