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Moroccan Youth Find Common Ground on Civic Participation

Youth leaders from across Morocco along with senior government officials and members of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) gathered in Bouznika, near Rabat, Morocco, on 18th April for a three-day conference on “Increasing Civic Participation among Marginalized Urban Youth in Morocco”.



The event brought together young men and women from across the country to celebrate the success of the first year of the “Increasing Civic Participation” project, supported by Search for Common Ground Morocco and USAID. The project aims to increase the constructive engagement of young Moroccans in local government, through the establishment and strengthening of youth councils. The conference served as an opportunity to reflect on the gains made over the past 18 months and plan for further progress in the future. Speaking at the conference, the head of USAID in Morocco, Dana

Mansuri, expressed her organization’s support for the youth in their efforts to effect positive change in society and further spoke of her pride in partnering Search for Common Ground on this youth development project.

Delegates were involved in-depth practical activities such as the finalization of the National Charter for Good Governance, which will serve as a guideline for youth councils when engaging with local

officials and creating sustainable partnerships within their communities. The youth delegates also proposed 12 mini projects, eight of which were shortlisted on day three of the conference and a total of five will be selected for implementation at the next national youth conference.



Looking back on the success of the project, SFCG Morocco Country Director, Noufal Abboud, commented that the project has so far given young people the opportunity to increase their participation and communication with groups and local elected officials, as

well as develop a win-win approach in a spirit of cooperation with all actors responsible for local affairs.

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