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Impacts and needs of civil society in Morocco

Conference paper by Heuda Guessous

Entrepreneurship is no longer a myth in Morocco, with the social society efforts and how it has been effective to influence the decision-makers into amending some laws and improving others.

The process is on-going, but in an ever-changing society, environment and business climate, there always will be things to be improved and changed. With the globalization and access to technology, the changes operating in different countries impact on international level, and adaptation of local laws and standards are a must to keep up.

The Moroccan civil society has had more impact in the past decade under the reign of the current king Mohammed VI. but still has a long way to go to consolidate efforts and find sponsors to achieve its goals. I speak from experience as a past president of a local chapter of the centre of young managers and can confirm that the lack of resources, mainly financial, can be a big obstacle to achieve greater impact. We rely mainly on yearly dues by members and since the chapter members were not many, we couldn't afford to hire a person to work on logistics and do the reporting and the administrative work that is required to help the members to focus on more important matters.

This is the case of many NGOs that I know about, and this could be a first form of aid that the G7 can help our civil society with. In addition to funding, training members of the civil society and maybe have an exchange program in place that people will learn from each other can help propose ways to be more effective and foster cooperation between the two regions and organizations.

And finally, I believe that with the G7 embassies or chambers of commerce located in Morocco, we can imagine a program of conferences, visits, road shows, showcases and other activities that will encourage talks, exchanges and education.

I do understand that what has been done in more developed countries took time and efforts and that these countries underwent political, social and economical reforms, but the exchange in experience and the training of the local civil society would help speed up the process and learn how to address the priorities to be able to create an entrepreneurial ecosystem, capable of creating value for the countries and the people.

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