

Hizb al-Nahda wa'l-Fadila (Party of Renaissance and Virtue), Morocco, 2011, Translated by Fadi Alkhabbaz, Edited by Brandon Gorman, Translated for the Islamic Political Party Platform Project, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, <http://kurzman.unc.edu/islamic-parties>, [5/21/14].

## **The Renaissance and Virtue Party**

In the name of God, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.

((Verily God does not change the state of a people until they change themselves)) Quran-Sura Al-ra'd, verse number: 11.

### **Introduction:**

Al-nahda wa al-fadila Party is running for the elections of June 12<sup>th</sup> 2009. It is the first test for the Party at the local level. It participated in the legislative elections of September 7<sup>th</sup> 2007 as a first step in participating in the country's democratic transition.

The Party confirms the continuation of the struggle to serve the citizens and achieve their aspirations and it confirms the reform project in the framework of the **National Salvation Project** which aims to promote wider solutions than other 'piecemeal solutions'. Among the party's goals is to usher in a renaissance that raises the country to the level of the societies where social justice prevails, so that all Moroccans live equally in terms of their rights and duties and they enjoy legislative, executive and administrative institutions which provide them with their needs and help them achieve a decent life, where they live peacefully without poverty, unemployment, exclusion and marginalization.

Morocco has worked, since independence, to develop a local representative system makes local participation the essential core for establishing a decentralized political and administrative structure based on promoting the participation of citizens in managing their local and national affairs and enabling them to participate in establishing democracy and a state based rights, law, and institutions through a national governing system which guarantees the rights and gives equal opportunities for everyone to develop their financial and moral standard of living.

The experience throughout the last five decades has proved that our country still needs more than encouraging speeches and nice words. All indicators point to slow development, or even no development, as well as declining growth rates, an increasing deficit, and political underdevelopment in the representative institutions that are supposed to showcase the level of democracy that the country has reached. Many deficiencies, obstacles, and political, administrative and moral violations limit the effectiveness of collective management and create negative factors that may derail the democratic project and halt our desired development. This would result in the loss of the credibility of the democratic process in the eyes of the citizens, who may reject the democratic process by boycotting it or, at least, hesitate to participate in it. Especially damaging in this regard is

the political stalemate that we are in. We can see the result of this in the vast boycott of the elections of September 2007, where a great proportion of citizens expressed their lack of trust in the country's institutions and they refused the current approach of the social, economic, and political management of the country because of the spread of financial and administrative corruption and the weak tools for countering them. These situations will not improve except by making fundamental changes in the management mechanisms of national and local governance and looking for effective solutions to overcome the state of weakness which we are currently witnessing. This must be through punishing manipulators of the country, and cutting the road for the corruption lobbies, and encouraging serious programs and fair and qualified administrators.

Therefore the elections of June 12<sup>th</sup> are a decisive date to correct the situation which has led to making the Moroccan citizens choose apathy, indifference, and lack of participation. This choice puts the basics of governance and democracy in Morocco at the forefront of historical responsibility, which requires a complete re-orientation, reconsideration of the public interest, reforming the political institutions at the national and local levels, and endowing all regions with transparent political, organizational, and developmental institutions that eliminate the manipulation and domination practiced by some forces against the will of the Moroccan people. This will open the field for change.

#### **About the slogan of change:**

Consistent with the Islamic view considering 'change' a fundamental element of God's plans for the universe, Al-nahda wa al-fadila Party will participate in the elections of June 12<sup>th</sup> 2009 under the slogan of '**Change**'.

We chose 'change' as a basic value and principle, not as an empty exaggeration or metaphorical speech. It is an original choice of Al-nahda wa al-fadila Party, that is ambitious to participate in changing the current political practices and the forms of dealing with the citizens' demands and needs.

The rule of Islam in change is to begin with people until change becomes a reality in their social, political, and economic situations. God said in Quran: ((Verily God does not change the state of a people till they change themselves)). It is a divine rule - if it happens, the situation will improve and we will change from closed present to an effective and open future.

It is a slogan that means we are against the culture of despair and the condition of weakness and apathy which our parties, institutions, and elections have reached. We are with change that goes along with the real steps of development and democracy and in a way that connects Moroccans to their religion, values, ethics and their historical and civilizational inheritance.

Change, in our perspective, is to change ourselves. This includes things like protecting positions of power, striving after profits, giving priority to personal interests while ignoring the public interest, ignoring citizens' demands, neglecting public services, lying to them, and giving false promises. False promises create only illusions and are based only on dreams - the ones who give such promises are just adding to the terrible list of lying, looting, and scam.

The Moroccan citizens have become more aware of their political, economic and social surroundings, more informed about what is going on, and more concerned with not repeating the previous experiences which have proved tangibly that Morocco has wasted a lot of chances to change and progress. Moroccans have become fed up because of these experiences, such as financial and administrative corruption and bribery. Thus the main demand of the Moroccan people today is for new political elites who are close to their concerns and needs and more capable to respond to their aspirations and ambitions.

The change which Moroccan citizens seek is to practice democracy as a real fact and to find it in the basic services that are provided to them, the public facilities which are open for them, the public funds which are spent for the sake of their comfort and luxury, and the productive development programs that will help them move from the darkness of ignorance and illiteracy to the light of knowledge and science, from the poverty and need to a decent and sufficient life, and from unemployment and bad conditions to a developed Morocco full of projects that enhance local and regional development.

As our slogan in the last legislative elections was "Morocco is honest". We believe that honesty, trust, and loyalty to the higher interests of the Moroccan nation are required to change our current reality, which everyone agrees is deteriorated and dark.

All of this will not happen except with the active participation of the citizens in conducting public, local, and national affairs and making the citizens aware of all details related to development and training programs. Since comprehensive development for all Moroccans is the goal of this comprehensive development process, they truly must be the most important partners in it.

Based on what we have mentioned, the slogan of 'change' which leads us in the current elections is the common slogan among us within Al-nahda wa al-fadila Party and among all Moroccans, whom we consider as our first and strategic partners, with no exceptions. We are committed, God willing, to taking the clear, right path. Together we will face all of the forces that resist change and seek to keep Morocco as a prisoner to backwardness and deterioration.

### **A community of citizenship and independence**

The program of ‘**the list of change**’, the electoral list of Al-nahda wa al-fadila Party, does not believe in developing local institutions without allowing local groups to enjoy full independence, absent any forms of guardianship that hinder their creativity and competitiveness. Collective development is the result of two wishes; the first one transparency of elections and the second is effective participation of voters. Those who wish to implement these reforms face many obstacles, including political ones that refuse to liberate local groups from their guardianship and legal ones in the election laws which need a lot of review and reform. In addition to that, we suffer from the weakness of the training of local consultants and their mismanagement of local resources, not to mention the phenomena of opportunism, violating the law and manipulating the public fund which belongs to all citizens.

All of these problems and others limit the effectiveness of the local work and reduce the opportunities of its effectiveness, and tangible results for the population and their conditions of living and basic services. This includes cases of deadlock, lack of transparency, and exaggeration, all of which were caused by the exploitations of some heads of local groups for their own gain. This shows a feudal mentality where the heads of the groups consider the land of the group and its public fund as a part of their own property and spend it in bribes, gifts and commissions while other officials exploit their administrative relationships to the group councils by looting their resources and benefiting from their revenue. This corruption surely affects the productivity of local groups and team-work.

#### **The general pillars of the program for the ‘list of change’**

- **Moralizing public life according to Islamic references and standing against corruption.**
- **Creating a civil society association to enhance the people’s role in collective action and help citizens participate civil society groups.**
- **Being just in distributing the fruits of growth among all regions of the country.**
- **Developing the quality of services provided to citizens through creating ‘the only window’.**
- **Just distribution of basic social support without leaving room for manipulating these funds.**
- **Creating a Zakat local fund to support poor families, those without income, the unemployed, weak classes of people, old people, and the disabled in the framework of social solidarity.**
- **Establishing specialized free health centers in underprivileged areas and providing them with the most advanced medical and preventive equipment that are necessary to fight the chronic diseases and urgent epidemics.**

- **Creating income-generating projects on the level of neighborhoods for women.**
- **Helping needy families and people with low-income to get decent accommodation.**
- **Creating the employment institutes specialized in searching for job opportunities and promoting the group-benefit employment.**
- **Increasing the size of the financing credit allocated for the support of the youth organizations, associations, and youth houses' councils.**
- **Creating the male and female student centers to help with academic achievement and provide books and courses to needy students.**
- **Updating the infrastructure: paving roads and eliminating the isolation of the villages, especially the mountain areas, and spreading access to drinking water and electricity.**

### **Moralizing public administration**

The moral deep defects in the management of public life is one of the essential hindrances to national reform efforts and implementing our economic and social development programs.

**Therefore, we call for moralizing the public work at the local level.**

**What we mean by moralizing the public administration:**

- Establishing the real values of citizenship based on commitment to the principles of our tolerant religion, Islam, which are the principles that urge honesty and justice and forbid manipulation, bribery and dishonesty.
- Stopping corrupt officials and lobbies who want to sell, as well as anyone else who is willing to stop the wheel of the democratic development in the country.

The continuation of the lack of services due to the neglect of local officials and the lack of their commitment to their tasks toward their electors, in addition to the serious phenomena of bribery, consumer thinking, nepotism and circumventing the law - all of this violates the required earnestness of those who conduct public affairs and bear the burden of serious responsibility. This responsibility is respected by Islamic law and the current laws, and it includes managing services and the high interests of citizens.

The local counselors are entrusted by their electorate to do their job: communicate with and represent the population, enumerate the list of their demands and express the interests of their social classes. In other words, the relation between citizens and their local council is like proxy and authorization. According to that relation, the representatives of the population have to know the demands and needs of the population. The counselors, according to the relation of authorization, have, first of all, to set aside their personal

interests and be devoted to responding to the citizens' daily needs and raising their applicants and complains to the appropriate bodies and institutions.

The program of Al-nahda wa al-fadila Party is the program of change and hope. It gives the utmost importance to the moral matters, as these are at the core of the problems experienced currently by our country's institutions. Morocco is not in need of natural resources or human qualifications – our problem is the disease of administrative and financial corruption that has permeated our institutions at the hands of the mafias, benefiting from spreading the vices of treachery and dishonesty.

Success in this central challenge will increase surely the effectiveness and productivity of the decentralized administration, will revive the trust of the citizens, will improve the investment climate, will preserve the resources of the state, will stop the continuous 'bleeding' within the state, and will enable the good use of financing for reform and development projects.

All that will happen especially if the counselors conduct the country have, in addition to cultural and intellectual abilities, a religious and moral sense that comes from their Islamic background which, for the 'list of change', is the reference of the whole Moroccan nation.

The candidate of 'the list of change' is ready, before anyone else, to set aside his own interests before serving the group responsibly.

### **Involving citizens in collective conduct**

We are convinced that citizens are partners in the political process and a main part of it and that the ultimate goal of the local councils, regional councils, and cities' administrative units is to serve the citizens and provide their needs, to provide them with the ability to live in a society of dignity and plenty, a the state of law and institutions. Therefore, we believe that it is time to eliminate administrative habits that are based on exploiting the citizens' feelings financial needs in order to achieve temporary benefits without any attention to the benefits of the country and the people as a whole.

For us, the citizens have the initiative in decision-making and executing. They have the most important role in moving the electoral process forward and making it succeed, as well as in selecting candidates. Therefore, it is the citizens' right to have the opportunity to express their views through consultation and 'listening cells' within each group and office in order to find practical approaches for the daily problems of the population. Each of these institutions should have the means to communicate, supply programs, and the power to take action on behalf of the citizens, which is the true objective of the 'closeness policy.

### **Therefore...**

We suggest to creating citizens' councils at each electoral level. We will call them 'Civil Councils' and the goal of creating them is to move the citizens from apathy to active participation. They will give the population the chance to follow up and supervise local administration and social, economic, and developmental policies at the local level. This will raise citizen awareness, which is importance since they are financial participants in all of these through the taxes they pay, and tax incomes should be used for the public benefit.

In our perspective, the Civil Council is a popular consulting and supervising body – open to all citizens, but not an alternative to the collective council. The Civil Council is tasked in helping the collective council to more deeply understand the problems of the population and their aspirations. Governance at all levels will from citizens' proposals and opinions.

The suggested civil council will consist of local scholars, Imams of the mosques, heads of neighborhoods, representatives of associations, local traders, and entrepreneurs. It will oversee and supervise regional and local councils, assess the performance of these institutions, and create a closer relationship between the electors and all of their representatives.

If sufficiently trained and given the proper legal powers, civil councils might be able to participate in electing the head of the collective council. This will make the elections more transparent and achieve local democracy in its political and philosophical meanings.

'List of change candidates' want to transform the local municipality from a mere administrative tool to an institution that coordinates the political, social, cultural, and developmental interests of the public in an interactive way. It must adhere to a Charter of Honor that connects it to the citizens through the civil councils to guarantee that it embodies the values of cooperation and assistance between the electors and their elected representatives in both public and private issues. It will also increase transparency in the implementation of national and local development plans.

The civil councils, according to this perspective, become a real example of the people's participation and a framework that ensures the streamlining of political relations through local democracy, balance among the local communities' needs, and a mechanism for good governance and decentralized administration.

In order to facilitate the tasks of these civil councils, they need to have the means and tools available to perform their role, including:

- **Enabling them to have the documents, information and databases related to the collective councils' deliberations.**
- **Providing them with the summaries of the accounts' data and the details of deals and contracts.**
- **Their presence in the various sessions and discussions that have a vital nature.**
- **They have to promote and involve the wide participation of citizens in their local councils.**
- **Making periodic surveys of the opinions and aspirations of the citizens in order to create harmony between conflicting needs and to involve the population in managing public affairs.**
- **Issuing a communicative newsletter to make others aware of the work they are doing.**

### **The battle of development and the struggle against poverty**

Developing the local communities is the ultimate goal of development. Thus, local groups are the main means for achieving and managing development. The national initiative for human development, which was launched 2005, is one of the most important workshops opened by the state to achieve the goal of development.

It is an initiative that was intended to raise social and economic development. The local groups were the most important partners in it, making local and suggesting projects that target the most affected groups of poverty, unemployment, frailty and marginalization in various fields of education, health, social housing, village development, programs of social support, and income-generating activities.

The initiative created a new dynamic in the development field and mobilized a lot of capacities of the Moroccan people and the bodies of the civil society, but it soon turned into a tool for corruption and a source of ill-gotten gains. This is on top of the lack of oversight and transparency, all of which limited the extent to which it could benefit citizens from its development programs. A lot of resources and funds for financing the projects were lost in the hands of corrupt administrators, and many projects did not achieve their goals and desired results. There were vast regional differences in planning these projects; some regions and areas have benefited while others have not. Some political parties have exploited the noble goals of the initiative themselves in elections. Likewise, the public authorities have interfered, directing and implementing the projects in a way that has made the national initiative for human development lose its focus on public participation. Instead, resources were allotted to certain associations and bodies according to 'consumer' logic. Thus nepotism increased and the spirit of initiative and competition disappeared in creating and implementing the projects. Development cannot

be achieved except through economic governance based on the transparency, competition, honoring public funds, and holding accountable those who steal them.

Poverty is one of the black points in the social and economic scene in the country, as wide sectors of the population still live under the poverty line and the situation is becoming worse in the villages while the social differences are becoming wider. The group of rich people is becoming richer while the living capacities of the most affected groups are becoming weaker and poorer.

These differences vary across the different regions and areas in the Kingdom, so at the time some certain cities, areas and regions enjoy increasing attention and developmental work while some other areas suffer from total exclusion, injustice, and marginalization.

This situation is a result of long years of mismanagement and it is the same situation that has created a scary amount of problems such as unemployment, fragility, backwardness and lack of training. In order to overcome this situation, we need a strong political and moral will that deals strictly with the reasons of the structural deficit that our country faces in terms of development. We also need to re-specify our concepts and responsibilities, giving priority to establishing a local developmental renaissance. In our program of change, we believe that this comprehensive and permanent renaissance starts at the local level, which is the base of the developmental pyramid. Thus, developing Moroccan society should start from the local group, which is the core of constructing a strong country that enjoys real decentralized democratic governance and effective institutions supported by the presence of citizens and their participation. This will not be achieved except via:

- **Fair distribution for the fruits of growth among all the regions of the country.**
- **Lifting the tutelage of the central authorities from the development field.**
- **Extending the circle of stakeholders in the different developmental initiatives, adopting an approach that encourages participation, and extensive dialogue to resolve the development dilemma.**
- **Holding national debates among the local groups periodically and institutionally, and seeing that their needs are met.**
- **Holding a national debate over development to estimate the developmental situation and open the field for the greatest amount of ‘suggesting powers’.**
- **Creating a supreme independent body oversee local development projects. It must have means to investigate corruption and the theft of national wealth.**
- **Simplifying the procedures for dealing with the local groups and eliminating mediations in the fields of economic, social, and cultural development in order to attract development projects.**

- **Adopting strategic planning in a partnership with the experts in all fields in order to raise the effectiveness of the development process.**

Due to the link between the local development and public affairs and in order to integrate Moroccan citizens with local development, we must work on:

- **Creating a local Zakat fund to support the needy, families without income, the unemployed, and the weak classes in addition to the old and disabled.**
- **Fair distribution of basic social support, making sure they are not subject to corruption or manipulation.**
- **Regulating the unstructured trade sector by allocating commercial centers and spaces for crafters and artisans.**

### **Facilitating administrative services**

Citizens face many administrative and bureaucratic obstacles when attempting to get administrative documents from local administrative units. This hinders promoting citizens' interests and deepens the bureaucratic nature of local administration. Some of the officials working in local administration are still treating citizens as if they were giving them gifts by providing services, and these officials see their job as a way of illegitimate gain through bribery. The reality is that acting on the administrative documents, requests, or files is one of the citizens' rights and it is a duty of the officials.

In order to avoid this negative situation and to provide services for the beneficiaries on time and in the right place and with the appropriate quality, the program of the list of change would apply the following procedures:

- **Re-training and re rehabilitating public employees morally and functionally.**
- **Increasing the quality of services provided to citizens by adopting 'the only window' in getting the documents and licenses.**
- **Simplifying administrative samples and publishing and clarifying them to the citizens.**
- **Reforming human resources and promoting them to ensure moving forward with automated services.**
- **Rehabilitating the employees and officers working at the local level, and not leaving them at the mercy of administrative reforms.**
- **Giving authorizations to the employees and qualified competences in all the administrative facilities at the local level in order to avoid the accumulation of requests and files.**
- **Providing working hours during holidays and vacations in order to facilitate citizens' receipt of administrative documents.**

- **Facilitating permission forms to use public lecture halls for civil society associations and political actors.**
- **Enabling local groups with sufficient resources to meet the daily needs of citizens in a timely fashion.**

### **Managing public services**

Managing public services is one of the main concerns of Moroccan citizens and is vital to the future of our country. The goal of public services is to provide economic, social, and developmental benefits through public institutions entrusted in organizing the access of citizens to services and infrastructure. This includes institutions that deal with water, electricity, transportation, housing, telecommunications, media, health, education, trade, and other services aiming at meeting the social needs of the population.

Despite the great importance for the state and its institutions to manage public services, the country has witnessed for a long time the ‘authorized conducting’, privatization, and missed opportunities public institutions, which has harmed the purchasing and consuming power of the citizens and has created a situation of confusion and chaos in public facilities. All of this indicates the failure of the state, and through its local institutions, in managing public affairs, and it indicates their inability to respond to the needs of citizens and their aspirations. Thus, the national and international private sectors were authorized to participate in public administration to correct this problem despite the deep financial deficits from which these institutions suffer. Continuing along this path would damage the basics of the social economy, which is the most important economic program since independence.

### **Developing the health services**

The program of the list of change in the field of managing the health sector is based on stopping ‘improvisation’ in providing health services. It is also based on ending the neglect of healthcare institutions and public health facilities, where citizens wander to and fro in the corridors of facilities which have become like semi-rigid administrative institutions, full of complication and bureaucracy.

In order to stop this dire situation in the health sector on the national level, the program of the list of change suggests:

- Establishing free health centers in each region and providing them with the most modern medical and preventive equipment necessary to fight against chronic diseases and combatting new epidemics and hiring highly qualified teams to conduct these centers and take care of the patients.

- Periodic check-ups on the students in schools, institutes, and universities, as well as the employees and workers of the administrative and industrial institutions with the partnership of the Ministry of Health.
- Creating a communication pathway to the citizens as well as administrators in order to raise the awareness of the risks of diseases and epidemics and the need to prevent them.
- Organizing medical campaigns and convoys with the partnership of the concerned institutions locally, nationally, and internationally.
- Working on eliminating drug addiction of all kinds, as it causes many problems, especially with young people.

### **For a clean society**

In the fields of public prevention, cleanliness and preserving the environment, it is necessary, according to our program, to accelerate the activation of the following procedures:

- Developing a program for public cleanliness and all types of waste management through balanced partnerships with state agencies or national companies and institutions.
- Preparing public landfills to have the capacity for waste and preparing waste treatment centers.
- Making sure that waste management is conducted in such a way where local groups can avoid a lot of expenses. That way, citizens will not need to pay the direct and indirect taxes related to this precautionary measure.
- Constant renewal of the drainage channels and the hot valley.
- Organizing periodic awareness campaigns in the field of cleanliness in the streets, alleys, beaches, and public places in a partnership with civil society actors.
- Periodic review of the requirements of the conventions under which the authorization in the field of cleanliness was entrusted to foreign or national private companies especially regarding to the ‘notes of commitments’.

### **Environmental preservation**

Preserving the environment is an essential part of preserving life which is one of the most important goals of the Sharia. Therefore, our program in this field aims at:

- Opening the way for the extension of the green areas and the natural spaces and parks, especially in urban areas which need the green spaces due to urban sprawl caused by the greed of real estate speculators and the mismanagement of the public spaces.

- Strengthening participation with the national private sector and the associations of the civil society in reducing the accumulation the waste and contaminated materials and in making permanent awareness campaigns in this regard.
- Making local plans for tree-planting in urban areas and expanding the forest cover in the rural areas.
- Doubling the efforts to combat desertification and drought in the desert and semi-desert areas. Making regular cleanliness campaigns on the beaches, resorts and public parks.

### **Resolving the problems of roads and transportation in the rural and urban areas**

One of the measures of the progress and flourishing of any nations and peoples is to have sufficient road networks, as roads are the lifeblood of civilization. Transportation links the country's regions and facilitates transporting goods, properties, and people.

Therefore, repairing the roads in the urban and rural areas is essential in the concerns of the program of the list of change. Here are some of the mechanisms we propose:

- Working in coordination with specialized security authorities to make our roads safe from thieves.
- Encouraging foot travel by building public squares, developing passages, and placing road signs.
- Reconsidering the measures in the field of public parking and the ways of developing and organizing them.
- Creating more private parking in the areas next to crowded streets in order to avoid hindering traffic in the alleys and close to the sidewalks.
- Making special parking for taxies and organizing their movement in a way that does not hinder traffic. Paving sidewalks periodically and making special passages for disabled people.
- Repairing the roads, streets and alleys with many holes and pitfalls.
- Widening the main streets in the cities to ensure the flow of traffic and the other streets linking villages to each other.
- Opening new roads in difficult terrains, especially in the mountains, in order to ease their isolation and facilitate communication.

### **Industry in the localities**

Industrial areas occupy great spaces within the major cities and urban inhabitants benefit from them as they absorb a good amount of the labor and contribute effectively to reducing the intensity of unemployment and poverty.

Poor distribution of industrial areas, in the center of the cities or in residential areas, causes chaos, traffic jams, and polluting the environment with the solid and liquid wastes,

smokes, gases and the rest of industrial materials which threaten residential areas and the health, safety and comfort of the citizens. Many urban and rural local groups do not have the minimum amount of industrial units, thus they are in a serious need of industrial activity which will enable their inhabitants to have more resources and commerce related to industrial activities. This requires immediate activation of the following procedures:

- **Adopting and activating a national plan to redistribute the industrial areas, specifying an industrial area for local region. Each industrial area should have been prepared in accordance with the preventive international standards.**
- **Creating industrial cooperatives linked to the activities of the population.**
- **Promoting the creation of more farmers' cooperatives in the rural areas so that all farmers benefit from them. This will make them partners and participants in productivity instead of being exploited by the brokers and speculators.**
- **Creating industrial cooperatives in the urban areas under the supervision of the collective council. These cooperatives embrace the small and middle-sized enterprises and develop them into complete industrial incubators so that they can employ recent graduates and young people who have the abilities of creativity, invention and renewing.**
- **Creating income-generating projects on the level of neighborhoods for the benefit of women, which would be in the fields of traditional industries such as embroidery, sewing, and traditional weaving so that women can have, in each neighborhood, small workshops supplied by the local administration. This will help us achieve the high objectives of the National Initiative for the Human Development.**
- **Working on making prevention and safety in the industrial areas a top priority so that disasters like the huge fire at Lisafah which killed dozens of workers and displaced hundreds of families will not be repeated.**

### **Housing and construction**

Despite the efforts made to reduce the spread of shantytowns and squatter settlement, the pace of this reform is slow and riddled with obstacles. It is a duty for local groups to contribute to accelerating in providing solutions and appropriate proposals to apply the National Plan in the field of housing and construction through:

- **Utilizing the available real estate amounts of the State's lands in distributing the offered size of the economic housing.**
- **Halting the manipulation of some companies and real estate speculators in this area.**

- **Opening the way for a huge amount of specialized traders in the field of housing and construction in order to contribute to reducing the intensity of the crisis and eliminating inappropriate housing.**
- **Adopting participation forms to solve the problems of ramshackle housing, especially in the old cities and villages, to avoid disasters such as what has happened in many areas in Morocco after the rains in this season.**
- **Adopting transparency and justice in distributing land and social housing.**

### **Developing education and disseminating knowledge**

One of the greatest obstacles which our country faces in the current times is the problem of education and knowledge. The huge proportion of illiterate Moroccans has barely changed over the years, especially among women. This weakens the possibilities of uneducated citizens to participate in development projects, not to mention their ability to understand documents and speeches released by the state, political parties, or civil society. Ignorance is the enemy of progress, movement and change, thus we believe that promoting literacy, developing the educational process, and constructing a society of knowledge is one of the most urgent priorities for our local groups. No renaissance without sciences, no virtue without knowledge. We will achieve this goal through the following steps:

- Building model schools for literacy in the deserts and urban areas in a partnership with the Ministry of National Education and economic and civil actors.
- Involving private educational institutions in integrating dropout students, relinking these students with their education, and combatting school dropout.
- Creating a network of professional training institutes in various specialties to meet the urgent needs of labor market as well as the requirements of the modern economy.
- Creating public libraries in the urban and village groups and reviving the libraries of neighborhoods.
- Providing networks of information available for the public, especially in the rural and isolated areas, to spread modern culture and the spirit of democratic open-mindedness and the society of knowledge.

### **Making an artistic and cultural renaissance**

The task of culture and educated people in civilized societies is to illuminate the way toward a comprehensive renaissance and to turn minds and knowledge into the energy of construction and creating so the society becomes dynamic... Culture is like the compass that determines the real direction that the process of progress and development should take.

We notice that many local councils spend too much money in weakening the cultural level for the Moroccan citizens instead of advancing it through making noisy festivals which neglect the values of the Moroccan people and their Islamic reference. These festivals promote moral disintegration and decay and empty the popular culture from its beautiful spiritual and humanitarian contents.

The program of the list of change gives a vital importance to this field as it has a key role in forming the group values and creating the public conscience. So we suggest the following:

- Promoting Islamic culture to citizens through intensifying scientific activities at the mosques and cultural centers.
- Promoting civil society organizations to make cultural activities that focus on the religious and national values and enlightened elements of our heritage.
- Returning the dynamism to the theaters and cinemas and encouraging artistic works that are purposeful and consistent with the morals of the Moroccan people, works that are not harmful to Moroccans' religion, values, and national affiliation.
- Organizing local festivals for humanitarian art that is committed to the issues and concerns of citizens and which respects their feelings, tastes and public modesty.
- Promoting cultural and artistic teams and associations that are committed raising citizens' awareness and educational level.
- Creating cultural spaces in the popular neighborhoods, suburbs, and rural areas in a partnership with civil society associations in order to encourage creativity and deepen cultural knowledge.
- Taking care of the historical feats and the beautiful views of the cities and villages and giving them the highest care in preservation, restoration and concern as they express our history, civilization, and identity.

### **Openness to civil society**

The civil society in the West has developed in terms of the concept and components. The circle of active and influential associations has expanded in the social and cultural fields and their role has become crucial in moving forward the wheel of local development and democratizing the public life. Local groups must involve all associations in managing the local affairs, as they have many experiences and data, and they are also very close to the citizens and they deal daily with their concerns and problems. This is especially true in rural areas where the state and parties are largely absent, so associations are the main promoters of the urgent demands and needs for their residents.

The serious associations have proved their effectiveness in responding to many of the people's aspirations and in contributing to fighting the problem of illiteracy, providing some job opportunities, integrating some of the weak groups, and promoting basic

infrastructure through projects of the national initiative of human development. All of this is despite the weak potentials and the differences in the chances to benefit among the associations.

The list of change considers associations as main partners in all development projects and improving providing services to citizens, through:

- Proposing associations as an essential contributor in civil councils.
- Involving the experts of associations in the works of the collective councils to be consulted on their specialties.
- Making partnerships with associations' actors culturally, socially and developmentally.
- Benefiting from the ability of associations to make citizens aware of participating in the local developmental life.
- Allocating more support and resources to associations to assist them in performing their role and completing their social, cultural, and developmental programs.
- Democratizing the process of distributing grants to the associations in a way that encourages the spirit of competition and initiative among them and stops nepotism and corruption in this area.

### **Rehabilitating the youth and sports sector**

If the human element is the basis of development and its philosophy, young people are development's strategic 'fuel tank' and the strongest pillar for the future development of our country. Therefore, the program of the list of change that Al-nahda wa al-fadila Party presents places the youth at the center of its vital concerns. It also believes that the participation of the youth in managing the local affairs is a decisive element to succeed in the democratic process. Political life begins with the active participation of young people, and young people are the backbone that we depend on to establish the structure of the good governance and creating the society of fruitful disagreements, openness and pluralism.

Al-nahda wa al-fadila Party is deeply concerned about the psychological and social conditions that young Moroccan people are experiencing. Therefore, our program emphasizes the need to integrate the young people in public life and involve them actively in realizing the aspirations of the citizens. This will happen only through approving a comprehensive program to protect and encourage young people to get involved in the process of construction and change through cultural, social, and vocational via the following procedures:

- Creating institutions for social employment specialized in searching for job opportunities and supporting collective-benefit employment.
- Holding partnerships with youth associations in self-employment programs.
- Protecting young people from intellectual deviations which lead to fanaticism and extremism and also cultural deviations which lead to alienation and decay.
- Creating a permanent program to combat alcohol and drugs by making the youth aware of their risks and psychological and social effects.
- Promoting purposeful artistic and cultural youth activities by making way for the young people to show their creative potentials in the theaters, culture centers and the centers of activities.
- Increasing the financing allocated to support youth organizations and associations and councils of youth houses.
- Creating students' centers to assist in educational achievement and provide books and curricula to needy students.
- Establishing an information bank of the youth for the educational direction.
- Establishing playgrounds in the neighborhoods, suburbs, and rural areas.
- Establishing public schools for sports in each urban center.
- Supporting neighborhood sport teams and encouraging them with financial support.

### **Conclusion**

The vision of the program of **Al-nahda wa al-fadila Party** for the elections, the program of list of change, depended, in its details, on three key elements which are: Islamic reference, nationalist orientation, and the practice of democracy.

The real change and achieving the desired development in the political process in our beloved country, especially in its strong cores which are the local groups, cannot happen without our three determinants, which are the essential elements in generating any dynamic and effective development.

The Islamic reference is the only way to moralize local administration and bring the moral obligation which springs from the teachings of our tolerant and enlightened religion, which forbids lying and deception and sanctifies fairness and transparency.

The true national orientation is the key of sincerity and loyalty to the high interests of the Moroccan nation. We need to sacrifice for the advancement and development of the country. In order to do this, we are committed solely to the higher interests of the country, away from any narrow interests or nepotism.

Democracy is our mechanism to manage the vital needs of the country, on the local and national levels. With this mechanism, the combined wills of the loyal Moroccan people, who seek dignity, honor, and comprehensive development, can meet to create change.

With these principles, our candidates will run for the elections of June 12<sup>th</sup>. In light of them, our candidates will do their best to gain the citizens' trust and support their participation in hopes of having the honor of representing them.

We ask God to make the elections a decisive date to consolidate democratic practice in our country and continue on the road to renaissance and development. God is the most successful and He guides us along the best path.