



Creating Value

June 17, 2014

**Under the chairmanship of His Majesty the King Mohammed VI,
may God assist him, the Casablanca Stock Exchange signs a strategic partnership with
London Stock Exchange Group (LSEG)**

Three agreements were signed in Tetuan under the chairmanship of His Majesty the King Mohammed VI, may God glorify him, by MM. Xavier Rolet, Chief Executive Officer of the London Stock Exchange and Karim Hajji, CEO of Casablanca Stock Exchange.

The signing ceremony was attended by Fiona Woolf, Lord Mayor of London, Mr. Mohamed Boussaïd, Minister of Economy and Finance, Lalla Joumala Alaoui, Her Majesty's Ambassador in London, Clive Alderton, British ambassador in Rabat, Mohamed Larbi Rmiki, cultural advisor in charge of the communication at the Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco in London as well as Mustapha Terrab and Lord Charman, co-chairmen of the Moroccan-British business leaders' forum.

This strategic partnership reflects the commitment of both financial centers to reinforce the international attractiveness of Morocco which positions itself as a regional financial hub.

Through these agreements, LSEG and Casablanca Stock Exchange, in collaboration with other economic and financial players, will work to develop the Moroccan and regional financial market, in the following areas:

- Technology: Through the acquisition and the implementation of Millennium IT (100% subsidiary of LSEG) trading platform;
- Financing SMEs: The creation of a market dedicated to Moroccan SMEs using AIM model (Alternative Investment Market), and promoting its development on the region;
- New products and markets: the establishment of a derivatives' market and new financial products, benefiting from the expertise of LSEG in this area;
- Implementation of an adapted market infrastructure, in regards to the evolution of the Moroccan financial market.

The strategic partnership will be managed by two committees:

An "advisory committee" composed of Moroccan financial market representatives, to monitor the implementation of the Partnership Action Plan and to ensure its consistency.

A "steering committee", composed of operational teams of Casablanca Stock Exchange and LSEG, will be responsible for the deployment of the action plan.

Xavier Rolet, Chief Executive, LSEG said: "We are thrilled to have been chosen to partner with Casablanca Stock Exchange as it looks to expand its range of capital market services. This strategic partnership between LSEG and CSE holds huge potential for future business opportunities within Morocco and the wider North West and Central Africa region, and we hope that it will serve to strengthen the economic ties between the UK and the region."

"I am very honored by undersigning this partnership that strengthen the cooperation already established between Casablanca Finance City and the City of London in 2012 and that will allow Casablanca Stock Exchange to develop the financial market liquidity while strengthening its position as a regional financial hub. I am convinced that together we will build a solid foundation paving the way for new business and investment opportunities in North, West and Central Africa" , states Karim Hajji, CEO of Casablanca Stock Exchange.

The three agreements signed within the framework of this partnership are:

- a Framework Agreement of the strategic partnership between the Casablanca Stock Exchange and the London Stock Exchange Group;
- a technology partnership agreement between the Casablanca Stock Exchange and Millennium IT Software, a 100% subsidiary of London Stock Exchange Group;
- an agreement for the acquisition, maintenance and implementation of a solution of quotation and monitoring between the Casablanca Stock Exchange and Millennium IT Software, a 100% subsidiary of London Stock Exchange Group.

About London Stock Exchange Group "LSEG"

London Stock Exchange Group (LSEG) is a diversified international exchange group at the heart of global finance whose history dates back to 1801.

The Group manages a wide range of stocks, bonds and derivatives on international markets, and includes the London Stock Exchange; Borsa Italiana; MTS, the market leader in fixed income securities in Europe; and the platform for pan-European equities, Turquoise. Through its markets, the Group offers international companies and investors an unrivaled access to Europe's capital markets.

About the Casablanca Stock Exchange

The Casablanca Stock Exchange was established in 1929. It operates under the Ministry of Economy and Finance, as part of its specifications. Its mission is to ensure the proper functioning, development and promotion of the Moroccan stock market. The Casablanca Stock Exchange is a company that has made the quality of services an integral part of its way of working, and is ISO 9001 certified for several years. It has made security and monitoring of its systems an operating mode with no incident. It placed financial education at the heart of its development strategy through training more than 3,000 people per year.

The Casablanca Stock Exchange is one of the most developed markets in Africa with a market capitalization of MAD 469 billion (at the end of May 2014) which represents 54% of Morocco's GDP. More than 30% of the capitalization is owned by international investors. 74 listed companies achieve a turnover of MAD 250 billion, which is 25% of the GDP, and generate an overall net income of nearly MAD 26 billion.