



**POLICY CENTER  
FOR THE NEW SOUTH**

# **MOROCCO-BRAZIL RELATIONS**

**A Multidimensional  
Atlantic Partnership**



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Atlantic Partnership

***Relações Marrocos-Brasil:***

*Uma Parceria Atlântica  
Multidimensional*

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# **Morocco-Brazil Relations: A Multidimensional Atlantic Partnership / *Relações Marrocos-Brasil: Uma Parceria Atlântica Multidimensional***

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# About the Policy Center for the New South

The Policy Center for the New South (PCNS) is a Moroccan think tank aiming to contribute to the improvement of economic and social public policies that challenge Morocco and the rest of Africa as integral parts of the global South.

The PCNS pleads for an open, accountable, and enterprising "new South" that defines its own narratives and mental maps around the Mediterranean and South Atlantic basins, as part of a forward-looking relationship with the rest of the world. Through its analytical endeavours, the think tank aims to support the development of public policies in Africa and to give the floor to experts from the South. This stance is focused on dialogue and partnership and aims to cultivate African expertise and excellence needed for the accurate analysis of African and global challenges and the suggestion of appropriate solutions.

As such, the PCNS brings together researchers, publishes their work and capitalizes on a network of renowned partners, representative of different regions of the world. The PCNS hosts a series of gatherings of different formats and scales throughout the year, the most important being the annual international conferences the "Atlantic Dialogues", the "African Peace and Security Annual Conference" (APSACO), and the "Africa Economic Symposium" (AES).

Finally, the think tank is developing a community of young leaders through the Atlantic Dialogues Emerging Leaders program (ADEL) a space for cooperation and networking between a new generation of decision-makers from the government, business, and civil society sectors. Through this initiative, which already counts more than 420 members, the Policy Center for the New South contributes to intergenerational dialogue and the emergence of tomorrow's leaders.

[www.policycenter.ma](http://www.policycenter.ma)

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# Chapters & Abstracts

A country's areas of strategic interest are defined by its values, principles, and expectations. In this context, unprecedented opportunities are emerging for two key Atlantic States—Brazil and Morocco—to forge a mutually beneficial partnership. This premise underscores the deep-rooted social and geohistorical connections between both sides of the Atlantic. Recognizing this potential suggests that building stronger Atlantic bonds could advance shared interests, grounded in an evolving South-South cooperation framework.

This environment opens up possibilities for multisectoral cooperation between Brazil and Morocco, positioning the Atlantic as a (geo)political arena for meaningful and promising dialogue. As a result, these two pivotal nations have the opportunity to work together in advancing a collaborative and proactive agenda, with the potential to benefit the entire Atlantic Community.

To this end, the book aims to provide critical reflections across a range of areas, including defense and security, finance and trade, infrastructure, agriculture and food security, clean energy and climate change, social issues, the blue economy, and more. Contributions from renowned scholars will present actionable alternatives to enhance and maximize the strategic partnership between Brazil and Morocco.

## **Chapter 01/Capítulo 01:**

### ***Brasil e Marrocos: rumo a mais protagonismo sem ir “pra lá de Marrakech”* / **Brazil and Morocco: Towards Greater Prominence Without Going “Beyond Marrakech”****

*Nizar Messari*

There is a well-known Brazilian song by the great Caetano Veloso titled “Qualquer Coisa” (Anything), which includes the phrase “você já está pra lá de Marrakech” (you are beyond Marrakech). In Brazilian vernacular, ‘beyond Marrakech’ has come to describe someone acting in an unconventional or strange manner, though the phrase is usually used in a light-hearted and non-judgmental way. I use this expression here to refer to Morocco’s new Atlantic initiative, positioning the Atlantic as a new frontier for the country, with Brazil playing a pivotal role in this evolving dynamic. To support this argument, I explore the historical diplomatic and cultural relations between Morocco and Brazil,

contextualizing them for Brazilian readers within the broader scope of recent Moroccan history. I then highlight recent efforts to strengthen bilateral relations and identify key sectors for potential cooperation. The Atlantic should thus be viewed as an opportunity rather than a challenge for fostering deeper and more meaningful relations between the two countries.

## **Chapter 02/Capítulo 02:**

### ***Construindo Pontes Atlânticas: o Magrebe e o Marrocos no Contexto dos Interesses Estratégicos Brasileiros / Constructing Atlantic Bridges: Maghreb and Morocco in the Context of Brazilian Strategic Interests***

*Fábio Albergaria de Queiroz*

Brazil traditionally views the Atlantic and Africa as crucial to its strategic interests. Brazil prioritizes political stability and addressing potential threats within these regions. This leads to a number of key questions: i) How does Brazil define its priorities and establish mechanisms to address adversities? ii) What is the geographic reach of its strategic interests? In this context, the Atlantic—especially its southern portion—emerges as a focal point. Brazil acknowledges the importance of actively participating in the management of its 7,300km coastline, which is vital for biodiversity, economic resources, and foreign trade. This chapter posits that maintaining peace and stability in this region is directly linked to Brazil's security interests. Consequently, Brazil must collaborate with its west African neighbors, with Morocco playing a significant role as a counterpart and the Maghreb serving as a key political and diplomatic arena.

## **Chapter 03/Capítulo 03:**

### ***Bridging Horizons: Morocco and Brazil's Economic Partnership / Conectando Horizontes: Parceria Econômica entre Marrocos e Brasil***

*Otaviano Canuto & Adnane Lahzaoui*

The economic relationship between Morocco and Brazil exemplifies the convergence of African and South American narratives on the global stage. This paper explores the multifaceted economic landscape of their collaboration, tracing its evolution, identifying key sectors for cooperation, and uncovering potential avenues for mutual growth. Brazil, a continental powerhouse, and Morocco, a strategic gateway to Africa, each boast diverse economies with vibrant agriculture, growing industrial sectors, and flourishing service industries. Despite economic challenges in 2022, both nations demonstrate resilience and potential for sustained development.

Bilateral trade dynamics have undergone significant transformations, with Brazil emerging as a top destination for Moroccan exports by 2022. However, foreign direct investment between the two countries remains relatively limited, presenting untapped opportunities for deeper engagement. Recent strategic initiatives, such as the Bilateral Investment Treaty and the establishment of a chamber of commerce, highlight a commitment to strengthening economic ties. Additionally, cooperation in key sectors like energy, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, textiles, and automotive/aeronautics offers promising opportunities to leverage complementary strengths and drive shared prosperity. This paper elucidates the intricate economic relationship between Morocco and Brazil, highlighting the potential for enhanced collaboration and a more robust partnership in the Atlantic region and beyond.

#### **Chapter 04/Capítulo 04:**

##### **Shared Goals for Accelerated Decarbonization: Harnessing Power Purchase Agreements in Morocco and Brazil's Automotive Sectors / *Metas compartilhadas para uma descarbonização acelerada: aproveitando Contratos de Compra de Energia para os setores automotivos do Marrocos e do Brasil***

*Saloi El Yamani & Sabrine Emran*

Morocco and Brazil share several similarities in their renewable energy policies. Both countries are committed to diversifying their energy resources to reduce reliance on traditional sources and are focused on fostering the growth of advanced industrial sectors, which could significantly influence and enhance bilateral trade. The transition to renewable energy offers significant opportunities for the evolution of the automotive sector. However, industries such as automotive often encounter challenges that impede progress. Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) are crucial tools in overcoming these challenges, as they provide price stability and long-term predictability, and facilitate the adoption of renewable energy while mitigating risks.

Both Morocco and Brazil have implemented policies to boost renewable energy adoption and encourage private sector participation in the power industry. Their converging approaches suggest potential for reciprocal learning and collaboration in the renewable energy sector. This paper explores how Morocco and Brazil can leverage PPAs to their mutual advantage, emphasizing how these agreements can aid in decarbonizing the automotive industry, reducing risks, and enhancing the attractiveness of renewable energy within the sector.

## **Chapter 05/Capítulo 05:**

### ***Unidos ou Separados pelo Atlântico Sul? Zopacas, Economia Azul e Pesquisa Marinha na Agenda Diplomática Brasil-Marrocos / United or Separated by the South Atlantic? The Zone of Peace and Cooperation of the South Atlantic (ZPCSA), Blue Economy and Marine Research in the Brazil-Morocco Diplomatic Agenda***

*Ana Flávia Barros-Plataiu, Carlos Henrique Tomé Silva, Guilherme Lopes da Cunha & Paulo Eduardo Aguiar Saraiva Camara*

Although Morocco and Brazil are positioned on very different geopolitical chessboards, we hypothesize that they share common interests in shaping agendas and assuming leadership roles in regional, multilateral, and South Atlantic affairs. Their goals are intertwined across four key agendas: commercial, economic, geopolitical, and diplomatic. Despite recognizing the potential benefits of a partnership with Morocco, the process has been slow and laborious.

This chapter will examine the blue economy and scientific research in the South Atlantic and the Zone of Peace and Cooperation of the South Atlantic (ZPCSA) as part of a broader framework for potential future cooperation. Utilizing Prantl's (2022) concept of "strategic diplomacy", the central question is: How has Brazil's perception of its interests in Morocco evolved from 2003 to 2023? To address this, we will first gather empirical data and then supplement our insights from the Confirmation Hearings of Brazilian ambassadors at the Federal Senate.

## **Chapter 06/Capítulo 06:**

### ***Paving the Way: Brazil's Leadership in Food Security Across the Global South / Abrindo Caminho: a Liderança do Brasil em Segurança Alimentar no Sul Global***

*Ahmed Ouhnini*

This chapter explores Brazil's crucial role in addressing food security challenges within the Global South and examines strategies for effectively tackling food security issues in low and middle-income countries. Despite its diverse economic and geographical landscapes, Brazil has implemented robust strategies to improve food access, nutritional standards, and agricultural productivity. Brazil's highly developed agricultural sector and successful initiatives, such as the 'Zero Hunger' program, have garnered global recognition as exemplary models for combating food insecurity.

Brazil's agricultural prowess not only ensures ample domestic food production but also establishes the country as a leader in sharing best

practices and innovative solutions worldwide. This paper will first assess Brazil's contributions to advancing food security issues in the Global South, focusing on how the country leverages its assets beyond its borders. It will then identify key pillars necessary for sustainable food systems, including agricultural innovation, infrastructure development, capacity building, and international cooperation.

### **Chapter 07/Capítulo 07:**

#### **Brazil-Morocco Cooperation on Gender Equality Initiatives / *Cooperação Brasil-Marrocos em Iniciativas de Igualdade de Gênero***

*Andreia Rute da Silva Baptista & Melina Moreira Campos Lima*

This chapter explores the potential for cooperation between Brazil and Morocco in the field of gender and development. It provides a comprehensive assessment of the gender equality landscapes in both nations, examines the political and legal frameworks that facilitate collaboration, and identifies sectors where joint endeavors within the gender and development spheres could be mutually beneficial. The findings highlight substantial potential for increased bilateral cooperation, although the extent to which these opportunities are realized is influenced by current political conditions.

### **Chapter 08/Capítulo 08:**

#### ***Cooperação em Defesa: as perspectivas do Acordo Brasil-Marrocos* / Defense Cooperation: Perspectives on the Agreement between Brazil and Morocco**

*Jacinto Maia Neto*

In May 2023, the Brazilian Senate approved the Defense Cooperation Agreement between Brazil and Morocco, originally signed in 2019. The agreement is designed to enhance defense cooperation through various initiatives, including research and development, logistical support, and the procurement of products and services. It also includes provisions for sharing knowledge and experiences in joint peacekeeping operations, science and technology, training and capacity building, and conducting joint exercises.

This work seeks to analyze the outcomes and future prospects of this agreement. It will focus on the development of an academic research agenda related to Defense Governance and explore the similarities between the defense and foreign relations policies of both countries. The analysis will assess potential results of this bilateral relationship and investigate how defense cooperation can be further enhanced by examining the key areas of collaboration.



## Foreword

# Morocco-Brazil: A Shared Ambition Stemming from a Strategic Atlantic Identity

*Nabil Adghoghi*

Morocco is one of the very few countries with dual maritime access to both the Atlantic and the Mediterranean. Currently, the country is strategically working to optimize this valuable geographical asset, in line with the vision articulated by His Majesty King Mohammed VI: "While Morocco's Mediterranean coastline is firmly anchored to Europe, its Atlantic side gives it full access to Africa and a window on the American space.... Our wish is for the Atlantic seaboard to become a place of human communion, a pole of economic integration, and a focus of continental and international influence."

With over 3,000 kilometers of Atlantic coastline, Morocco boasts the longest coastline in Africa. This shared geographical advantage aligns it with Brazil, whose extensive Atlantic coastline spans over 8,000 km. Equally aligned, Morocco and Brazil both took significant steps in 2020 to promote their sovereign rights over their territorial seas, exclusive economic zones, and continental shelves, in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. True to their shared "multilateralist" ethos, both countries seek to responsibly exercise their sovereignty and jurisdiction over these maritime areas. At the same time, they view these spaces as vital hubs for connection, cooperation and sustainable development.

Brazil's Zone of Peace and Prosperity of the South Atlantic (ZOPACAS), launched in 1986, aligns with this shared maritime vision. For Morocco, three key projects stand out in this context: the Port of Dakhla-Atlantique and the logistics corridor connecting four Sahelian African countries (Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso, Chad); the Nigeria-Morocco gas pipeline, designed to connect the gas resources of 14 African countries along the Atlantic; and the Atlantic African States Process (AASP), launched by Morocco in 2020. This initiative aims to foster economic integration among 23 countries on Africa's Atlantic coast through (i) political dialogue and security, (ii) the blue economy, maritime connectivity and energy, and (iii) sustainable development. All these initiatives converge and complement each other, with the goal of making the Atlantic a politically secure, economically

integrated and sustainable region.

Similarly, the shared affirmation of Morocco and Brazil's undeniable maritime vocation presents a tremendous opportunity to further strengthen their bilateral partnership. This partnership is rooted in unique historical and human connections, grounded in the multilateral values proudly upheld by both countries' diplomacy, and driven by economic interests of significant importance.

These "advantages" have been actively promoted by Moroccan and Brazilian diplomacy, particularly since the State Visit by His Majesty King Mohammed VI to Brazil in November 2004. Since then, Morocco and Brazil have successfully built a solid and robust relationship guided by trust and ambition, grounded in joint initiatives, concerted actions, and mutually beneficial sectoral partnerships.

This shared maritime vocation will further strengthen and enrich key sectors such as food security, the green economy and logistics—critical levers in the multidimensional Moroccan-Brazilian partnership. It will also maximize the potential of the bilateral legal framework, which has been significantly expanded in recent years to cover strategic areas such as defense, security, judicial cooperation, investment promotion, double taxation, and customs cooperation. Lastly, it will further enhance our diversified technical cooperation, spanning areas such as vocational training and agricultural research, e-government, renewable energies, green hydrogen, oceanography, and more.

In short, it is a positive sign that Morocco and Brazil are in full agreement that the maritime dimension is, more than ever, a necessary condition for their respective strategic projection, both at the regional and global levels. Equally encouraging is the recognition that the "global player" status they both rightfully aspire to depends on leveraging their intrinsic physical assets—complementary strengths in food security (fertilizers for one, agricultural production for the other)—and a competitive interweaving of land and sea (multimodal corridors for one, logistics processing platforms for the other).

This convergence of views echoes history, as the first diplomatic contacts between Morocco and Brazil date back to 1860, when Moroccan sailors rescued the Brazilian ship *Donna Isabella* off the coast of Tangier. This episode fostered a relationship of esteem between the Royal Houses of the two countries, leading to the opening of Brazil's first consular representation in Tangier a few years later.

The unique history between Morocco and Brazil, which began over 150 years ago, is clearly entering a new chapter, with a strong commitment to the

Atlantic in all its forms—from the blue economy to sustainable fishing, from oceanography to security coordination. The goal is to foster the emergence of a Moroccan-Brazilian partnership at the forefront of a new geopolitical and geo-economic alignment between the two sides of the Atlantic.

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## **“Marrocos-Brasil: Uma ambição compartilhada a partir de uma identidade atlântica estratégica.**

*Nabil Adghoghi*

O Marrocos faz parte de um seleto grupo de países que têm duplo acesso marítimo: o Atlântico e o Mediterrâneo. O país está, neste momento, envolvido em uma lógica de otimização estratégica deste precioso ativo geográfico, depois de Sua Majestade, o Rei Mohammed VI, definir e apresentar ao público algumas linhas de ação estratégica do Marrocos a partir do fato de que "se pela sua fachada mediterrânica, o país está firmemente ancorado na Europa, o seu lado atlântico dá-lhe acesso completo à África e uma janela para o espaço americano. O desejo marroquino é, portanto, que sua costa atlântica se torne um lugar de comunhão humana, um polo de integração econômica e um centro de influência continental e internacional".

Com mais de 3 mil quilômetros de costa atlântica, o Marrocos possui o litoral mais extenso da África, uma vantagem geográfica que, também, tem o Brasil, já que sua área costeira se estende por mais de 8 mil quilômetros. De forma igualmente convergente, Marrocos e Brasil promoveram, quase simultaneamente em 2020, no âmbito da Convenção das Nações Unidas sobre o Direito do Mar, os seus respetivos direitos soberanos sobre seu mar territorial, zona econômica exclusiva e plataforma continental. Os dois países, fiéis ao seu conhecido pendor "multilateralista", pretendem, através da delimitação dos seus espaços marítimos, exercer, de forma responsável, seus atributos soberanos jurisdicionais, otimizando estes espaços marítimos como meio de comunicação, conexão, cooperação e desenvolvimento.

É à luz desta vocação marítima que destacamos, do lado brasileiro, a iniciativa que levou à criação da ZOPACAS (Zona de Paz e Cooperação do Atlântico Sul), em 1986. Para o Marrocos, os projetos mais emblemáticos, neste quadro, são: o

Porto de Dakhla-Atlantique e o corredor logístico em benefício dos quatro países do Sahel (Mali, Níger, Burkina Faso, Chade); o gasoduto Nigéria-Marrocos, cujo objetivo é conectar a produção gasífera de 14 países africanos por meio do Atlântico; e o PEEA (Processus des États Africains de l'Atlantique) lançado pelo Marrocos, em 2020, e que visa estimular a integração econômica em benefício de 23 países da costa atlântica de África através: (i) do diálogo político e do fortalecimento da segurança (ii) da economia azul, conectividade marítima e energia e, (iii) do desenvolvimento sustentável.

Todas estas iniciativas convergem e complementam-se no intuito de fazer do Atlântico um espaço politicamente seguro e economicamente integrado e sustentável. Da mesma forma, esta constatação, em ambos os lados do Atlântico - ou seja, da irrefutável vocação marítima de Marrocos e do Brasil - aponta um horizonte formidável, capaz de alavancar, ainda mais, esta parceria bilateral que, ao mesmo tempo, se vale de contextos históricos e humanos únicos - ancorados em uma base de valores orgulhosamente defendidos pelos dois países - e de interesses econômicos de comprovada importância.

Constitui-se, portanto, em um rol de "vantagens" que as diplomacias marroquina e brasileira têm trabalhado para fortalecer, sobretudo, desde a Visita de Estado de Sua Majestade, o Rei Mohammed VI, ao Brasil, em novembro de 2004. Desde então, Marrocos e Brasil têm conseguido construir, sob o duplo selo da confiança e de aspirações compartilhadas, uma relação sólida e robusta, composta por iniciativas conjuntas, ações concertadas e parcerias setoriais mutuamente benéficas.

Reforça essa cooperação estratégica um quadro jurídico bilateral que vem sendo aprimorado ao longo dos últimos anos e que abrange setores estratégicos como defesa, segurança, cooperação judiciária e aduaneira, promoção de investimentos ou, ainda, a adoção de políticas para evitar a dupla tributação.

Em suma, esse quadro é um bom presságio que nos permite constatar que Marrocos e Brasil convergem, plenamente, no entendimento de a dimensão marítima ser, mais do que no passado, uma condição necessária para a projeção estratégica de ambos, seja em nível regional ou global.

É igualmente válido constatar que o status de "ator global" a que tão legitimamente aspiram exige a valorização de seus ativos intrínsecos (como a segurança alimentar resultante da oferta de fertilizantes, de um lado, e da produção agrícola, de outro) e de um entrelaçamento sinérgico entre seus domínios terrestre e marítimo (que, de igual maneira, fornece corredores multimodais e plataformas de processamento logístico).

Esta convergência de fatores ressoa como uma reminiscência da história, dado que os primeiros contatos diplomáticos entre Marrocos e Brasil datam de 1860, após o resgate, na costa de Tanger, por marinheiros marroquinos, do barco brasileiro "Donna Isabella". Desse episódio nasceu uma relação de estima mútua entre as Casas Reais dos dois países que resultou, alguns anos depois, na abertura pelo Brasil de sua primeira representação consular em Tanger.

Os laços históricos únicos entre Marrocos e Brasil, iniciados há mais de 150 anos, irão obviamente contar com novos matizes delineados a partir desta identidade atlântica compartilhada, multidimensional, que os une em temas de ordem diversa: da economia azul à pesca sustentável, da oceanografia à coordenação de políticas de segurança.

O horizonte que se avizinha nos convida a ver, assim, o surgimento de uma parceria erigida na vanguarda de uma nova articulação geopolítica e geoeconômica entre as duas margens do Atlântico.

## Foreword

# Brazil and Morocco: A Look into the Future

*Alexandre Parola*

The Policy Center for the New South has undertaken a timely initiative by organizing this collection of essays on Brazil-Morocco relations. Rooted in a historical legacy of cooperation and understanding—Morocco being the first African country to recognize Brazil’s independence—the bilateral relationship gained further significance in the 1960s when Brazil established an embassy in Rabat, with the esteemed writer Rubem Braga at its helm. Morocco reciprocated by opening its embassy in Brasilia in 1967.

Over the years, this relationship has steadily strengthened within a framework of shared values and convergence of interests. This historical foundation now provides an ideal platform for deepening and expanding bilateral ties. The time is ripe for Brazil and Morocco to leverage their complementary strengths and address the pressing challenges of the international landscape together.

To begin with, it is crucial to highlight Morocco’s strategic role in North Africa. As a constitutional, democratic, and parliamentary monarchy under King Mohammed VI since 1999, Morocco stands as a model of political and economic stability. The preamble of its constitutional framework emphasizes that Morocco’s unity “is forged by the convergence of its Arab-Islamic, Berber, and Saharan-Hassani components, enriched by its African, Andalusian, Hebrew, and Mediterranean influences.” This unique blend makes Morocco a symbol of moderation, diversity, and openness to dialogue.

Under the guidance of directives from the Royal Palace, Morocco has successfully balanced economic growth with social development. This is evident in major infrastructure projects such as the Tanger Med port and the high-speed rail system—the only one of its kind in Africa. These advancements underscore Morocco’s emergence as a modern nation, capable of connecting Africa to Europe and other regions. With its large domestic market, advantageous geographic position, diplomatic influence, substantial investments across Africa, and stable political environment, Morocco stands out as a strategic partner for Brazil in the Maghreb. As Brazil strengthens its commitment to deepening ties with Africa, numerous opportunities for collaboration with Morocco across sectors of mutual interest are emerging.

In this introduction, I would like to highlight three dimensions where this cooperation appears particularly promising: logistics integration and value chain development, food security, and sustainable development.

Logistics integration and value chain development are vital for consolidating this strategic partnership. In today's globalized world, where logistical efficiency and supply chain integration drive economic competitiveness, Morocco and Brazil have a unique opportunity to optimize infrastructure and expand trade flows between South America and Africa. Morocco's strategic location and substantial investments in port and logistics infrastructure position it as a hub linking Europe, Africa, and the Middle East. Brazil, with its vast territory and rich resource base, aims to consolidate its value chains to ensure more efficient and competitive trade flows in global markets.

This logistical cooperation is essential not only for the economic growth of both nations but also for strengthening key sectors such as agriculture, energy, and manufacturing. By integrating supply chains and sharing technology and expertise in strategic areas, Morocco and Brazil can leverage their complementary strengths, broadening the reach of their products in international markets. This collaboration benefits producers and consumers alike, creating resilient value chains and enhancing the competitiveness of both countries.

Tanger Med, located just 50 kilometers east of Tangier, and facing the Strait of Gibraltar, sits only 14 kilometers from the Spanish coast. As the leading port in the Mediterranean and Africa by container volume, it has the capacity to handle 7 million passengers, 700,000 trucks, and the export of 1 million vehicles annually. Given its advanced infrastructure and strategic location, Tanger Med represents a valuable gateway for Brazilian companies looking to export to Africa and Europe. For comparison, a cargo ship departing from Santos typically takes 19 days to reach Rotterdam, Brazil's main port of entry in Europe. This transit time is even longer from Paranaguá (21 days) or Rio Grande (24 days), whereas a ship bound for Tanger Med would take only about 13 days from Santos, 15 from Paranaguá, and 18 from Rio Grande.

Adjacent to the port, the "Tanger Free Zones" cover an area of 2,000 hectares and host over 1,100 companies, employing approximately 95,000 people across industries such as automotive (including Renault), textiles, aerospace, agri-food, and logistics. The presence of Brazilian companies in this region could not only signal stronger bilateral ties but bring significant economic benefits.

A key step in advancing economic integration is to cultivate a relationship with Morocco's phosphate company, OCP, that extends beyond merely purchasing

its products. The potential for collaboration is vast, encompassing increased OCP presence in Brazil and joint project development involving partnerships with the Brazilian government and companies like Petrobras.

Brazil's expertise in managing semi-arid lands aligns closely with Morocco's own geographic challenges. Likewise, Morocco's investments in desalination technologies complement Brazil's advancements in this field, paving the way for cooperative projects and business ventures. These synergies lay a solid foundation for more in-depth discussions on food security.

Demographic projections show that Africa's population is set to reach around 2.5 billion by 2050, with a growing middle class and rising food demand. Brazil is well-positioned to support this growth and, together with Morocco, can cultivate a privileged partnership with the African continent and its markets.

Brazil and Morocco also share a commitment to reforming the international system to address global inequalities. This collaboration is vital: Morocco serves as a crucial bridge between Africa and the world, with a foreign policy centered on regional stability and fostering trust and cooperation among African nations. For Brazil, collaborating with Morocco provides an invaluable opportunity to expand its diplomatic presence in Africa, thereby strengthening its role in diplomacy that supports both regional and global interests.

This volume offers a comprehensive reflection on the potential of the Brazil-Morocco partnership, examining both the opportunities and challenges within this relationship. Each chapter highlights areas where cooperation could lead to meaningful outcomes, providing insights for professionals, academics, and all those interested in foreign policy and diplomacy. It aims to inspire deeper dialogue on the roles Brazil and Morocco can play in advancing innovative and impactful South-South cooperation.



# Brasil e Marrocos: um olhar sobre o futuro

*Alexandre Parola*

Em boa hora o Policy Center for the New South organiza essa coletânea de textos sobre as relações entre Brasil e Marrocos. Ancorada em um legado histórico de cooperação e entendimento – o Reino do Marrocos foi o primeiro país africano a reconhecer a independência do Brasil -, as relações bilaterais são elevadas de patamar quando, ainda nos anos 60, o Brasil instala sua embaixada em Rabat, ocupada pelo escritor Rubem Braga. Em 1967, seria o Marrocos a abrir sua embaixada em Brasília.

Ao longo dos anos, o relacionamento gradualmente ganha intensidade, sempre em um marco de entendimento e convergência. Essa base histórica oferece, agora, a plataforma ideal para um aprofundamento e ampliação dos laços bilaterais. Estão ao alcance da mão as condições para que as complementaridades e a convergência no entendimento dos desafios que assombram o cenário internacional nesse presente tão incerto frutifiquem.

Cabe assinalar, inicialmente, o papel de relevância estratégica que o Marrocos ocupa no norte da África. Como monarquia constitucional, democrática e parlamentar, com o Rei Mohammed VI no trono desde 1999, o país é um exemplo de estabilidade política e econômica. Ao sublinhar, no preâmbulo de seu marco constitucional, que a unidade do Marrocos “é forjada pela convergência das suas componentes árabe-islâmicas, berberes e saharo-hassanie, nutridas e enriquecidas pelas suas influências africanas, andaluzas, hebraicas e mediterrânicas”, o Reino do Marrocos se apresenta como exemplo de moderação, de diversidade e de abertura ao diálogo.

As diretrizes emanadas do Palácio Real têm possibilitado a combinação de crescimento econômico com desenvolvimento social, refletindo-se em grandes projetos de infraestrutura como o porto de Tanger Med e o trem de alta velocidade, o único no continente africano. Esses avanços apresentam uma imagem de um Marrocos moderno e capaz de conectar a África a outras regiões, incluindo a Europa.

Devido ao tamanho de seu mercado interno, sua localização geográfica privilegiada, seu peso diplomático e a envergadura de seus investimentos na África, além da estabilidade política e resiliência econômica, Marrocos se

destaca como parceiro estratégico do Brasil no Magrebe. Em um momento em que o Brasil reforça seu compromisso em intensificar suas relações com a África, abrem-se múltiplas possibilidades de cooperação com Marrocos em diversos setores de interesse mútuo.

Eu gostaria, nessa introdução, de sublinhar três dimensões onde essa cooperação se apresenta como particularmente promissora: integração logística e de cadeias de valor; segurança alimentar, cooperação para o desenvolvimento sustentável.

A integração logística e o fortalecimento das cadeias de valor são elementos centrais para a consolidação dessa parceria estratégica. Em um mundo globalizado, onde a eficiência logística e a integração de cadeias de fornecimento determinam a competitividade econômica, Marrocos e Brasil encontram na cooperação mútua uma oportunidade para otimizar suas infraestruturas e expandir o fluxo de comércio entre América do Sul e África. Marrocos, com sua localização privilegiada e investimentos em infraestrutura portuária e logística, se destaca como um hub de conexão entre a Europa, África e o Oriente Médio. O Brasil, com seu vasto território e diversidade de recursos, busca consolidar suas cadeias de valor para garantir um fluxo comercial mais eficiente e competitivo no mercado global.

Essa cooperação logística é fundamental não apenas para o desenvolvimento econômico dos dois países, mas também para o fortalecimento de setores específicos, como o agrícola, energético e de manufatura. A possibilidade de integrar cadeias de fornecimento, compartilhando tecnologia e expertise em áreas estratégicas, permite que Marrocos e Brasil explorem complementaridades e ampliem o alcance de seus produtos no mercado internacional. Isso beneficia tanto os produtores quanto os consumidores, criando cadeias de valor resilientes e promovendo uma maior competitividade de ambos os países.

O porto de Tanger Med, por exemplo, está localizado no norte do Marrocos, 50 kms a leste da cidade de Tânger, situado em frente ao estreito de Gibraltar, a apenas 14 kms da costa espanhola. Principal porto do Mediterrâneo e da África em movimentação de contêineres, dispõe de instalações físicas capazes de processar, anualmente, a passagem de 7 milhões de passageiros, de 700 mil caminhões de transporte internacional e a exportação de 1 milhão de veículos. Considerando sua infraestrutura física e sua localização estratégica, o porto poderia ser melhor utilizado por empresas brasileiras que exportam tanto para a África quanto para a Europa. Para fins de comparação, um navio de carga que parte do porto de Santos demora, em média, 19 dias para chegar a Roterdã, principal porto europeu utilizado pelo Brasil. O período é ainda mais

longo se partir de Paranaguá (21 dias) e do porto de Rio Grande (24 dias). Por outro lado, para chegar a Tanger Med, o mesmo navio demoraria, em média, 13 dias (Santos), 15 dias (Paranaguá) e 18 dias (Rio Grande).

Nas proximidades do porto, foram criadas, em área de 2.000 hectares, zonas de atividade econômica ("Tanger Free Zones") que acolhem mais de 1.100 empresas, com 95.000 postos de trabalho distribuídos nos setores automobilístico (entre as quais a Renault), têxtil, aeronáutico, agro-alimentar e logístico. A presença de empresas brasileiras nessa área seria gesto muito positivo com importantes ganhos econômicos.

No domínio da integração econômica, talvez a tarefa mais importante seja desenvolver com o grande complexo industrial da empresa marroquina produtora de fertilizantes - OCP - um relacionamento que vá além da compra do produto. As possibilidades são imensas e incluem desde a ampliação da presença da OCP no Brasil, mas também o desenvolvimento de projetos em comum envolvendo parcerias com o governo brasileiro e empresas como a Petrobrás.

Uma parte importante do território do Marrocos é composta por terrenos semiáridos, em relação aos quais o Brasil tem vasto conhecimento. No mesmo diapasão, o Marrocos tem buscado investir em tecnologias de dessalinização de água, área em que o Brasil já tem feito progressos importantes e que se abre, portanto, para formas de cooperação e de oportunidades de negócios. A partir de convergências dessa natureza, abre-se o espaço para um diálogo aprofundado sobre segurança alimentar.

A evolução demográfica indica que até o ano de 2050 a população africana deve alcançar número cerca de 2.5 bilhões de habitantes, com classes médias em expansão e aumento do consumo de alimentos. O Brasil está pronto para ser parte dessa história de êxito e junto com o Marrocos pode assegurar um vínculo privilegiado com o continente africano e seus mercados.

Finalmente, partilham Brasil e Marrocos o entendimento de que é urgente a tarefa de reformar o sistema internacional de modo a que se atenuem as tensões da desigualdade. Trabalhar de modo convergente nessa direção é tarefa importante.

Marrocos se posiciona como um elo vital entre a África e o mundo, com uma política externa que prioriza a estabilidade regional e a construção de relações de confiança e cooperação com seus vizinhos africanos. Para o Brasil,

a colaboração com Marrocos oferece uma oportunidade valiosa de expandir sua influência diplomática no continente africano, promovendo uma diplomacia que beneficia tanto os interesses regionais quanto os globais.

Este livro visa, portanto, oferecer uma reflexão abrangente sobre o potencial da parceria entre Marrocos e Brasil, enfatizando as oportunidades e os desafios que caracterizam essa relação. Cada capítulo explora áreas onde a cooperação pode gerar benefícios concretos. Destinado a profissionais, acadêmicos e interessados em política externa e diplomacia, este trabalho pretende inspirar um diálogo aprofundado sobre o papel de Marrocos e Brasil na promoção de uma cooperação Sul-Sul inovadora e eficaz.

# MOROCCO-BRAZIL RELATIONS

## A MULTIDIMENSIONAL ATLANTIC PARTNERSHIP

Motivated by their maritime vocation, Morocco and Brazil recognize the Atlantic as part of their vital strategic interests, making it a topic of growing attention for decision-makers in Brasilia and Rabat. Based on this premise, over eight chapters written in Portuguese and English, the book explores how some multidimensional dynamics arising from Brazil-Morocco relations could contribute to the consolidation of a positive agenda, mutually beneficial, with this partnership being a key variable capable of connecting both pragmatically in such a complex environment. Especially in times of growing uncertainty, when governance mechanisms seem increasingly ineffective in dealing with externalities arising from transnational threats and challenges that permeate both sides of the Atlantic.

# RELAÇÕES MARROCOS-BRASIL

## UMA PARCERIA ATLÂNTICA MULTIDIMENSIONAL

Motivados pela vocação marítima, Marrocos e Brasil reconhecem o Atlântico como parte de seus interesses estratégicos vitais, tornando-o um tema de crescente atenção para tomadores de decisão em Brasília e Rabat. Partindo dessa premissa, ao longo de oito capítulos escritos em português e inglês, o livro explora como algumas dinâmicas multidimensionais decorrentes das relações Brasil-Marrocos podem contribuir para a consolidação de uma agenda positiva, mutuamente benéfica, sendo essa parceria uma variável-chave capaz de conectar ambos, pragmaticamente, em um ambiente tão complexo. Especialmente em tempos de crescente incerteza, quando os mecanismos de governança parecem cada vez mais ineficazes em lidar com externalidades decorrentes de ameaças e desafios transnacionais que permeiam as duas margens do Atlântico.

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