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كلمة العدد

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

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في هذا العدد الجديد، نواصل تقديم أبحاث ودراسات تواكب القضايا الراهنة بأسلوب أكاديمي رصين، مستندين إلى نهج علمي قائم على التحليل العميق والاستنتاج المنهجي، نؤكد التزامنا بتوفير منصة علمية جادة لتعزيز الحوار الأكاديمي، وتبادل المعرفة بين الباحثين من مختلف التخصصات، بما يشمل مجالات القانون، العلوم السياسية، الاجتماعية والاقتصادية، والدراسات الإنسانية ذات القيمة المضافة.

نتوجه بالشكر الجزيل إلى جميع الباحثين والمساهمين على ثقتهم ودعمهم، فالمجلة مستمرة بفضل مشاركاتكم وإسهاماتكم العلمية، وإذ نخطو بثقة نحو مزيد من التطور والانتشار، فإننا نعدكم بالعمل الدؤوب للحفاظ على التميز الأكاديمي والارتقاء بالمحتوى البحثي.

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## اللجان العلمية للمجلة

انس المستقل

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## **The limits of the role of political parties in and reality achieving participatory democracy: between legislation**

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### **Abstract:**

This study examines the role of Moroccan political parties in achieving participatory democracy, analyzing their historical evolution from anti-colonial movements to constitutionally recognized entities. Despite legal reforms, including the 2011 Constitution, parties face systemic challenges such as weak internal democracy, elite dominance, declining public trust, and financial dependency. These issues hinder their ability to represent citizens effectively and foster national consciousness. The research explores whether parties can overcome structural impediments to strengthen democratic governance. It highlights the need for institutional reforms, enhanced transparency, youth inclusion, and ideological clarity to restore public confidence and ensure meaningful political participation in Morocco's representative democracy.

### **Keywords:**

political parties; democracy; participatory democracy ; legislation .

## Introduction

The evolution of political parties in Morocco has undergone profound transformations, initially emerging as a resistance movement against French and Spanish colonial rule, which imbued it with a strong national character.

Following independence, the 1958 Dahir on Public Freedoms established the legal framework for political parties, enabling their transition from clandestine activism to legally recognized political entities. The promulgation of Morocco's first Constitution in 1962 further consolidated their constitutional status as institutions tasked with organizing and representing citizens. Over the years, constitutional amendments—most notably the 2011 constitutional reform—have sought to reinforce their role in participatory democracy by fostering pluralism, transparency, and accountability. However, despite these advancements, political parties continue to confront systemic challenges that impede their efficacy, such as limited political engagement and the entrenchment of traditional elites.

Among the primary obstacles is the prevalence of traditional leadership structures, which constrains internal democracy and obstructs the emergence of new political actors. Hierarchical decision-making processes curtail opportunities for young politicians and marginalized groups, thereby stifling political innovation and diminishing responsiveness to societal needs.

Furthermore, Moroccan political parties are experiencing a decline in public trust, as evidenced by widespread voter apathy and low electoral participation. This erosion of confidence is attributable to a lack of clear ideological differentiation, opportunistic political alliances, and an inability to address pressing socio-economic concerns, all of which have contributed to pervasive political disillusionment.

Another significant challenge is financial dependency, as political parties rely extensively on state subsidies, which undermines their autonomy and limits their capacity to engage in grassroots mobilization and substantive policy research. The absence of robust financial transparency mechanisms exacerbates concerns regarding accountability and the potential for external interference.

Addressing these structural deficiencies necessitates comprehensive legal and institutional reforms. Strengthening internal party democracy through transparent leadership selection mechanisms and inclusive decision-making frameworks is imperative. Enhancing intra-party political competition can facilitate the emergence of new leadership, particularly among youth and women, thereby fostering greater political diversity.

To restore public confidence, reforms must emphasize accountability, ideological coherence, and policy-driven political engagement. Political parties must articulate clear, well-defined programs and transparent platforms to reinforce their legitimacy and regain public trust. Additionally, promoting civic education can bolster citizens' understanding of political participation and their role in a democratic society.

Ensuring financial sustainability through diversified funding mechanisms, strict financial oversight, and enhanced transparency measures is critical to reducing dependence on state support and mitigating the risks of corruption and undue influence.

In light of these challenges, this study seeks to address the following central research question:

**To what extent can Moroccan political parties overcome historical and structural impediments to achieve effective political representation and strengthen national consciousness within the framework of a representative democracy?**

The study is structured into two main axes:

- Partisan Roles: Political Representation and the Activation of National Consciousness.
- The Constraints and Aspirations of Political Parties.

## Section I: Party Roles: Political Representation and Activating National Consciousness

The historical development of political parties in Morocco is a complex phenomenon, initially rooted in anti-colonial resistance and aspirations for independence before transitioning into institutional mechanisms for political engagement and citizen participation.

The( **first Subsection** ) provides a historical overview of this evolution, while the( **second Subsection**) examines the objectives and functions of political parties as key instruments of political representation within Morocco's constitutional framework.

### **Subsection.1: The historical context of the party experience in Morocco**

The party experience in the Kingdom of Morocco represents a distinctive model of political development, integrating historical, political, and legal dimensions. This evolution has followed two principal trajectories:

**The first trajectory:** Political party activities were intrinsically tied to resistance efforts against French and Spanish colonial rule, manifesting in two key contexts:

- The Reformist Context: The National Action Bloc party was founded in 1934 as a national reaction to the protectionist policy, signalling the awareness of part of the urban elite of the need for political action instead of military action, especially after the defeat of Mohammed bin Abdelkrim al-Khatabi in 1925 against the alliance of the two colonial powers: France and Spain<sup>1</sup>.

This historical context marks a milestone in the formulation of national political consciousness, underscoring the necessity of adopting political mechanisms that transcend traditional military strategies.

- Independence Context: Rooted in the ambition for liberation from colonial rule, this phase was embodied in the National Party, which took a decisive step by leveraging its grassroots organizations. It transitioned from exerting pressure on the Protectorate authorities through reform demands to formally presenting a petition for independence and democracy on January 11, 1944. This moment represented a paradigm shift in the party's approach, evolving from resistance to the assertion of national political rights.

**-The Second Trajectory: Institutionalizing Political Party Practice:** The evolution of **party politics** in Morocco also reflected the ambition of the **political elite** to move beyond a

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<sup>1</sup> - Abdelali Hamieddine, **The Moroccan Constitution and the Balance of Power**, New Success Press, Casablanca, 2005, p. 89.

**reformist/independence stance**, seeking instead to establish a **political framework** that actively involves the **royal institution** in **governance and the exercise of power**.

In the context of strengthening the **role of political parties**, the **2011 Constitution** marked a **defining moment** in the **legal and institutional regulation** of party activity. It **distinctly recognized** political parties as separate from other **political and civil organizations**, a status formally enshrined in **Chapter 7**, which outlines their fundamental responsibilities, including: - To work on the framing and political training of citizens.

- Strengthening their involvement in national life and the management of public affairs.
- Contributing to the expression of the will of the electorate<sup>2</sup>.

To implement the principles and obligations set out in Chapter VII, the Constitution transferred them to Organizational Law No. 33.15 on Political Parties<sup>3</sup>. To **assess** how the **opposition** can effectively **exercise and benefit from** the rights **enshrined** in the **2011 Constitution**, it is essential to examine the **legal and institutional developments** that have shaped its status.

These **constitutional advancements** carry **significant legal implications**, as they redefine the **relationship between political parties and society**, establishing them as **essential instruments** for articulating the **public will** and influencing **political decision-making**.

Furthermore, **Chapter 10** of the **2011 Constitution** formally **recognizes** the **enhanced status** of the **parliamentary opposition**, explicitly guaranteeing its **fundamental rights** in **political participation**, including but not limited to:

- Freedom of opinion, expression and assembly.
- Contributing to proposing candidates and electing members of the Constitutional Court.
- Adequate representation in the internal activities of the two chambers of parliament.
- Chairing the committee in charge of legislation in the House of Representatives<sup>4</sup>.

In addition to their role in political representation and civic engagement, the 2011 Constitution granted political parties enhanced mechanisms to exercise oversight over government action, endowing them with substantial supervisory powers, most notably:

- Participation in the legislative process through the submission of legislative proposals by parties, regardless of their status in the parliamentary majority or opposition.
- Holding the government accountable through parliamentary oversight mechanisms, including monthly sessions dedicated to questioning the Prime Minister.

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<sup>2</sup> - - Ibid., p. 89.

<sup>3</sup> -See Dahir al-Sharif No. 1.15.89 of 29 Ramadan 1436 AH (16 July 2015) implementing Regulatory Law No. 33.15 amending and supplementing Regulatory Law No. 29.11 on political parties, No. 6380-6 Shawwal 1436 (23 July 2015).

<sup>4</sup> - For more information, see **Article 10** of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Morocco of 1 July 2011



- Contributing to the appointment of constitutional officials, such as members of the Constitutional Court, thereby reinforcing the role of political parties in safeguarding the balance of powers.

### **Subsection 2: The functions of political parties between democratic representation and societal framing'**

Most **political parties worldwide** seek to attain **governmental power** to implement their **principles, objectives, and general programs** through **democratic competition** and the **electoral process**.

Political parties serve as the **primary intermediary** between **citizens and the political system**, facilitating the **articulation of public demands** to **governing authorities**. Given that **individual actors** alone cannot effectively influence the **political decision-making process**, parties function as **institutionalized mechanisms** that enable **collective political participation**.

Among the **fundamental functions** of political parties is the **political education and mobilization of citizens**, fostering their **engagement in governance**, and developing **elite cadres** equipped to assume **local and national leadership responsibilities**. Parties play a **pivotal role** in cultivating **political awareness**, promoting **electoral participation**, and instilling a culture of **democratic engagement**. In this regard, political parties operate as **structured frameworks** for **civic and political training**.

From an **academic and institutional perspective**, the study of **political parties** has traditionally examined their **functions** based either on the **roles they actively perform** or the **responsibilities they are expected to fulfill**. However, the **intersection between theoretical expectations and practical realities** suggests that a party's effectiveness in executing its designated roles **varies considerably** depending on its **institutional capacity, governance structure, and political environment**. The **multiplicity and diversity** of party functions do not always enhance their clarity, as differences across **political contexts and institutional settings** shape their **operational scope, strategic priorities, and capacity to achieve governance objectives**.

In this context, the effectiveness and success of political parties are contingent upon several key factors, most notably their adherence to the principles of good governance and their ability to balance partisan interests with the broader public good. The influence of political parties is further shaped by the constitutional, legal, and cultural framework within which they operate, directly impacting their capacity to formulate public policies and influence political decision-making.

Under the 2011 Constitution, political parties were granted broader powers through newly established oversight mechanisms, reinforcing their role in legislation and government accountability.:

- Exercise legislative initiative by submitting legislative proposals;
- Hold the government accountable through parliamentary questioning mechanisms, including oversight of executive actions;
- Contribute to the appointment of constitutional officials, thereby reinforcing their role in ensuring institutional checks and balances.

Additionally, the constitutional framework mandates that political parties adhere to internal democratic principles and maintain openness to civil society. However, these constitutional provisions face significant challenges in their implementation, necessitating a review of party regulations, particularly concerning party financing, transparency, and institutional independence.

Despite these **institutional reforms**, political parties continue to confront **structural challenges** that impede their **effectiveness and performance**. These challenges include **weak internal democracy, the dominance of traditional leadership structures, low levels of public trust, and financial constraints**. Additionally, their **limited influence in policy-making** is largely attributed to the **continued centralization of power over certain strategic policy areas**.

The **future viability of political parties** hinges on their **ability to adapt** to evolving **political and societal dynamics** by **enhancing communication strategies, increasing internal transparency, and actively engaging with citizens' concerns**. A key challenge remains the **empowerment of youth and women within political parties**, necessitating **legal and institutional reforms** to guarantee **fair representation in decision-making and executive bodies**.

In conclusion, the **role of political parties** extends far beyond **electoral competition**; they serve as **fundamental institutions** for the **consolidation of democracy, the protection of political rights, and the promotion of participatory governance**.

## Section II: Challenges and Desired Tasks of the Parties

Despite the **political challenges** that hinder the **functioning of political parties** and constrain their ability to **adapt to the evolving democratic process** in Morocco (**first Subsection**), political parties remain **constitutionally and politically mandated** to fulfill their **institutional responsibilities** in order to ensure their **effective role in democratic governance** (**second Subsection**).

### Subsection 1: Obstacles to party work

Moroccan political parties are experiencing a **systemic crisis** in managing their **internal divisions** and fulfilling their **social and political functions**. They continue to grapple with **deficiencies in internal democracy and weak mechanisms for modernization and leadership renewal**. Although **constitutional provisions and organizational laws** formally enshrine the **principles of party governance and democratic transparency**, political practice reveals a **significant disparity** between **legal frameworks and actual implementation**.

The **concentration of decision-making power** within **narrow party circles** significantly **limits opportunities for democratic deliberation**, fostering practices based on **nomination and appointment** rather than **open electoral competition**. This, in turn, reinforces a system of **political patronage and personal loyalties**, prioritizing **allegiance over competence and merit**. Consequently, a **limited political elite** dominates party structures, leading to the **personalization of party institutions** and impeding their capacity to **renew leadership and introduce fresh political actors into the political landscape**.

Despite efforts to cultivate **politically competent elites** capable of contributing to **public affairs management**, the **outcomes have fallen short** of national aspirations. This **shortfall** can be attributed to **several structural impediments**, including the **sociopolitical composition of parties**, where **partisan elites** have failed to instill a **responsible political consciousness** oriented toward **national interests** rather than **narrow factional agendas**.

Political science and **constitutional law scholars** argue that the **crisis facing Moroccan political parties** extends beyond the issue of **internal democracy**, reflecting **deeper systemic transformations** related to the **state-society relationship**. The **traditional role of parties** as

**mechanisms for political education and civic engagement** has gradually eroded, with parties losing much of their **original function as spaces for democratic deliberation and discourse**. The prevalence of a **"closed-body" governance model** within party institutions has contributed to **youth disengagement**, as many young citizens perceive political parties as **inaccessible and unresponsive to their aspirations**.

In addition to the lack of training within political parties, Moroccan political elites often suffer from a lack of political framing, which is supposed to be the role of political parties. This causes elites' political affiliations to fluctuate and blur, and explains why political and party organizations in particular are unable to fulfil their constitutional obligations to organize and represent citizens<sup>5</sup>.

With regard to Moroccan party practice, the undemocratic situation is clearly evident within some Moroccan political parties, which have not undergone any profound changes since independence and whose discourse is still to some extent influenced by the 1950s and 1960s and has not undergone any significant renewal or innovation to keep pace with quantitative and qualitative changes and to express the aspirations of the new generations<sup>6</sup>. In addition to the survival and immortality of the party leaderships without changing their faces, despite the fact that their leadership is ageing and they have not been young and have not prepared their successors, whether at the level of their General Secretariats or central offices<sup>7</sup>. Access to these positions has become dependent on killing some members, expelling others, or getting close to the leadership and forming personal relationships with them<sup>8</sup>.

This leads to the argument that the function of the party in Morocco has shifted from that of political framing and political and social education to that of producing technocratic elites in exchange for material inducements<sup>9</sup>.

In this context, **His Majesty King Mohammed VI** has urged **political parties to enhance their proximity to citizens** and to **establish permanent mechanisms for communication and engagement**. He has also emphasized the **imperative of compliance with legal provisions and ethical standards**, while cautioning against **practices and behaviors** that could **undermine Morocco's international image** and **erode public trust in political parties and the democratic process**.

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<sup>5</sup> -Mohamed Zarif, '**Political Parties from Confrontation to Consensus 1934**', publications of the Moroccan Journal of Political Sociology, Al-Najah Al-Jadida Press, Casablanca, 2001, p. 22.

<sup>6</sup>- Mohamed Dreif, '**The Moroccan Political Field, Present Questions and Absent Answers**cc,' Moroccan Journal of Political Sociology, 1998, p. 17.

<sup>7</sup> - Abdel Rafie Nafie, '**The Image of Moroccan Political Parties in Public Opinion**', Doctoral thesis, Mohammed V University, Agdal, Rabat, Faculty of Law, Economics and Social Sciences, academic year 2001-2002, p. 19.

<sup>8</sup> - Ahmed Hussam Ibn Moussa, '**The Party System and the Problem of Political Balance in Morocco**, thesis for the degree of Advanced Postgraduate Diploma in Public Law, Mohammed I University, Oujda, Faculty of Legal, Economic and Social Sciences, academic year 2000-2001, p. 41.

<sup>9</sup> Abdel Rahim Al-Manar Al-Salami, '**The End of Historical Legitimacy in the Parties of the National Movement, the Absence of Symbolism and the Crisis of Political Representation**', Point of View, Al-Najah Al-Jadida Press, Casablanca, 14/2002, p. 12.

### His Majesty King Mohammed VI stated:

*"While it is the right of any political party or parliamentarian to consider their political future and seek the confidence of voters, this must not come at the expense of major national issues and the real concerns of citizens... The practice of political affairs should be founded on proximity to the citizen and sustained communication with him, and respect for laws and ethics, in contrast to the actions and behaviour of some elected officials, which harm themselves, their parties, their country and political work in its noble sense..<sup>10</sup>"*

This was underlined by His Majesty King **Mohammed VI** in his Throne Day speech in 2018, where he devoted part of it to instructing the political parties to renew their elites in order to underline their place in the democratic structure: *"Achieving results, correcting imbalances and addressing any economic or social issue requires collective action, planning and coordination between various institutions and actors, especially members of the government and its constituent parties... The parties are indeed making efforts to play their role. However, they need to attract new elites and mobilise young people to engage in political work"<sup>11</sup>.*

The **crisis facing Moroccan political parties** represents a **structural challenge** to the **future of the political process as a whole**. In the absence of **comprehensive reforms** aimed at **strengthening internal democracy, institutionalizing transparency and accountability, and restoring public trust** in party activities, these institutions will remain **incapable of fulfilling their fundamental functions**. This could, in turn, result in a **prolonged crisis of political legitimacy**, further **eroding democratic participation and undermining the stability of the political system in the long term**.

### Subsection 2: The reality of parties in Morocco

Political parties constitute a **fundamental pillar** of **political formation and civic education**, playing a crucial role in **enabling individuals to exercise their political rights**. They perform a **dual function** of **political framing and representation**, serving as mechanisms for **preparing political cadres and bridging the gap between society and the state**. As such, they represent an **indispensable instrument** in the **democratic process**.

However, the **party experience in Morocco** has encountered **structural impediments** that have hindered its **ability to effectively fulfill these roles**, largely due to its **historical entrenchment within traditional structures** that originated during the **colonial period**. This **institutional inertia** has **diminished the role of political parties as effective intermediaries between the state and society**.

Moreover, the **expansion of the royal institution's role** in managing **public affairs**—particularly through the adoption of **direct development policies**, such as the **National Initiative for Human Development (INDH) in 2005**—has further **marginalized the role of political parties** in addressing **key social issues**.

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<sup>10</sup> - See in this regard **the text of the Royal Speech delivered by King Mohammed VI** on Friday 10 October 2014 at the opening of the first session of the fourth year of the ninth legislative term.

- See, in this regard, the text of the royal speech addressed by King Mohammed VI to the Moroccan people on the occasion of Throne Day on 29 July 2018.

The absence of internal democracy, weak leadership renewal and the prevalence of rent-seeking practices have also contributed to the decline in popular engagement with parties, as party work has come to be seen as a means of social advancement rather than a tool to serve the public good. Moreover, the manipulation by some parties of their membership numbers has exacerbated the crisis of political legitimacy and contributed to the erosion of popular trust in elected institutions, leading to citizens' reluctance to participate in politics.

The crisis of the parties was not limited to the lack of political influence, but also extended to the elected institutions, which suffer from poor performance and lack of commitment of all their components in exercising the powers entrusted to them. This is clearly demonstrated by the widespread absence of the people's representatives from the meetings of the two chambers of Parliament, both in plenary sessions and in the meetings of the standing committees, as well as the low level of participation in the discussion of draft laws and bills in both chambers of Parliament, and the frequent acts of fraud and falsification that have been observed in a number of electoral stations in our country<sup>12</sup>..

The electoral process in Morocco has been significantly affected by the prevalence of political financing practices, where elections have shifted from a mechanism for selecting qualified candidates to a competitive arena driven by material and moral privileges. As a result, candidacy has become increasingly contingent on strong financial and social capital, fostering political patronage rather than programmatic competition based on development policies and governance strategies. This phenomenon threatens the integrity of the democratic process and violates the principle of equal opportunities in candidacy and political representation.

This structural deficiency within the electoral process manifests in the utilization of financial resources as a primary means of mobilizing electoral support and influencing voters, rather than promoting competence and policy-driven platforms. Consequently, this reality has further eroded public trust in representative institutions, as elected officials are increasingly perceived as advocates of economic interests rather than public servants committed to the collective welfare.

Although the Moroccan legal framework imposes restrictions on campaign financing, such as mandatory disclosure of funding sources and spending caps on electoral campaigns, practical enforcement remains challenging due to informal practices that render political money a decisive factor in election outcomes. The weakness of oversight and accountability mechanisms further exacerbates this issue.

This reality has contributed to the widespread phenomenon of "**buying electoral seats**", which has had a detrimental impact on the quality of public policies. Candidates who secure office through excessive electoral spending often prioritize recouping their financial investment rather than serving the public interest, thereby perpetuating political corruption, influence peddling, and poor performance by elected councils.

In this context, reforming the electoral process requires strengthening oversight of campaign financing, activating stricter procedures to monitor electoral spending, ensuring the neutrality of the administration overseeing elections, and increasing penalties for offences related to vote buying or the use of political money. Achieving greater balance in political representation Ensuring equitable political competition requires mechanisms to support candidates who lack substantial financial resources, thereby guaranteeing a level playing field among political actors.

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<sup>12</sup> - **Statement by Dr. Abbas al-Fassi** to the newspaper Al-Mustaqbal, 4 September 2002.

In light of this political reality, it is unsurprising that political parties have lost much of their influence and relevance, becoming pale reflections of their intended role. This has contributed to a widespread sense of skepticism, distrust, and even disdain among citizens toward political parties and partisanship.

A significant segment of the population has developed an accumulating sense of political frustration and grievance, with limited avenues to express their dissatisfaction. Many have resorted to either abstaining from political engagement or adopting a critical stance toward political parties, which are frequently perceived as formalized entities operating within pre-defined political constraints. This deep-rooted crisis of trust has created a disconnect between citizens and party structures, as parties are no longer seen as autonomous political forces but rather as extensions of the power structure, shaped by historical, religious, and political legitimacies.

This crisis underscores a structural imbalance in the state-society relationship, as political parties have failed to function as effective intermediaries between authorities and citizens. As a result, a growing sense of political alienation has emerged, with large segments of society viewing party engagement as symbolic rather than substantive, incapable of driving meaningful policy change. The lack of independent decision-making within parties, coupled with the dominance of non-elected actors in key positions, has further diminished their capacity to influence the political landscape or develop credible political alternatives.

Although the 2011 Constitution formally enshrines the principles of participatory democracy, good governance, and multi-party pluralism, political practice has not undergone a substantive transformation that would restore parties as central actors in decision-making. Instead of serving as platforms for political talent and the formulation of substantive policy alternatives, parties have, in the eyes of many, become bureaucratic extensions functioning within a pre-determined framework, further deepening the crisis of representative legitimacy.

This widening gap between citizens and political engagement has resulted in the hollowing out of the electoral process, as elected institutions remain incapable of fulfilling their constitutional mandates of legislation, oversight, and public policy formulation. This reality has also reinforced the emergence of a "formal democracy", wherein elections are conducted regularly but fail to produce tangible changes in governance and decision-making.

In order to overcome this crisis, the role of political parties must be rethought, by strengthening their independence and the internal democratic mechanisms within them, in order to attract new elites capable of interacting with the aspirations of citizens. The state must also find mechanisms, through regulatory laws, to ensure that the parties are able to play their role as genuine Political parties must function as **effective mediators between state institutions and society**, ensuring **greater political autonomy** and **expanding their role in decision-making processes**. Strengthening their **political agency** is essential to prevent them from remaining **mere instruments for perpetuating existing legitimacy** rather than **drivers of democratic evolution**.

The **widespread political apathy** and **growing public disillusionment** with political parties constitute a **significant challenge** to the **democratic transition process**. A **genuine democratic system** necessitates **strong and credible political parties** capable of **mobilizing citizens and reinforcing the value of political participation**. In the absence of **deep and comprehensive reforms**, elected institutions will continue to suffer from a **crisis of legitimacy**, further **widening the gap between state and society** and **perpetuating political stagnation**-ultimately obstructing the **implementation of meaningful reforms that citizens demand**.

**Conclusion:**

Now more than ever, Moroccan political parties must broaden their engagement with diverse social constituencies and acknowledge that traditional political discourse, characterized by vague slogans and outdated communication mechanisms, is no longer sufficient to mobilize voters—particularly given the profound socio-political transformations occurring in modern societies. The current political landscape necessitates a renewed and adaptive political discourse that resonates with various societal segments and reflects the economic, social, and cultural shifts that have rendered large portions of the population—particularly youth—passive recipients rather than active political participants.

In this context, it is imperative to restructure party discourse to ensure its alignment with citizens' concerns and its appeal to younger demographics, who constitute the majority of the population and should be at the forefront of any meaningful democratic project. However, despite being key institutional actors, political parties have yet to foster substantial engagement with this demographic. Their failure to attract young people stems from the absence of clear political inclusion strategies and their inability to overcome constitutional and organizational deficiencies that have perpetuated outdated internal governance models.

Thus, the reform of the Moroccan party system is not merely desirable but an urgent necessity and a prerequisite for bridging the gap between citizens and political institutions. Strengthening the role of political parties as fundamental pillars of representative democracy requires a series of comprehensive measures, including:

- Enhancing internal democracy within parties to promote greater inclusivity and accountability;
- Establishing transparent selection criteria for candidates to ensure merit-based representation;
- Implementing mechanisms that facilitate the active participation of youth and women in leadership positions; and
- Empowering civil society organizations to monitor and assess the performance and accountability of political parties

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