

PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS
TO THE HONORABLE BARACK OBAMA
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

WRITTEN REMARKS PRESENTED
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BY

HIS EXCELLENCY MADJID BOUGUERRA,
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PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE PEOPLE'S
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA



Mr. President,

It is my honor and privilege to present to you today the Letters of Credence from the President of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, His Excellency Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, accrediting me to Your Excellency, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary.

Allow me also to present to you, the Letters of Recall of my predecessor, Ambassador Abdallah Baali.

I would also like to avail myself of this opportunity to convey to Your Excellency, the warmest greetings and best wishes of President Abdelaziz Bouteflika who reiterates to you his friendship as well as his constant availability to pursue the work with you to further strengthen the continuing progress that characterizes nowadays the relations between Algeria and the United States of America.

Mr. President,

Today, as I begin this challenging and yet exciting mission to the United States of America, it gives me great pleasure to emphasize the excellent quality of the ties that exist between our two countries. Algeria and the United States are bound by a strong and dynamic relationship, based on a longstanding friendship that goes back to 1795 when our countries signed their Treaty of Amity and Peace, a mutually beneficial cooperation, trust and reciprocal respect and dialogue and continuous consultation.

Since the establishment of a strategic dialogue between our two countries in 2012, Algeria and the United States have consolidated these pillars in order to give to our relationship a new and multifaceted dimension as evidenced by a growing convergence of views on a wide range of bilateral, regional and international issues and the emerging of promising perspectives for the development of economic and commercial exchanges.

That spirit of friendship and cooperation is very much alive today and is stronger than ever before.

It is in that spirit that Algeria had always shown solidarity and cooperation with the United States of America, as was the case when my country condemned, promptly and publicly, the brutal terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

Algeria is still today resolutely engaged in its support for the fight against international terrorism and violent extremism. My country has established a strong and active cooperation with all its partners and in particular with the United States and works closely with them to eradicate this dangerous threat to international peace and security. This commitment remains firm and total.

After having fought solely terrorism for over a decade, Algeria managed to defeat it politically and strategically, through the mobilization of its own military and security resources, the implementation of a successful policy of national reconciliation and the engagement of all its capabilities at the service of its economic and social development. Algeria now lives in peace and security, even if it maintains a policy of a necessary vigilance against this scourge, which continues to arouse the mobilization of the international community.

Mr. President,

Algeria has engaged itself for many years now in deep political, economic and social reforms aiming at achieving real advancement in the consecration and strengthening of the rule of law, good governance and promotion and protection of human rights.

These reforms have allowed the promulgation of new laws that raised our legislative and regulatory framework to the level of the current universal standards, notably in the fields of advancing political pluralism, strengthening freedoms particularly the freedom of expression, promotion of civil society, moralization of politics and most notably reinforcement of gender parity thanks to the remarkable increase in the representation of women in elected assemblies and in the executive State branches. The revision of the constitution which will enhance further these achievements will soon follow.

At the economic and social levels, my country, deeply committed to social justice and national solidarity, has strengthened its efforts in order to sustain the dynamic of development in all sectors, with the main objective of bringing the appropriate answers to the expectations of our people and

particularly our youth. Decisive measures have been taken to improve the business climate to release productive energies and enhance the role of enterprises as the engine of growth and development. The diversification of our economy and reinforcement of its competitiveness remain in this regard a very challenging priority.

Mr. President,

In Algeria, we believe very much in the virtues of pragmatism and good sense and as such, we are highly convinced that our country offers the required conditions for a win-win partnership and business with its different partners in the world.

We are equally convinced that, our two countries, linked by excellent political relations and a growing and yet strong economic cooperation, have very promising perspectives in terms of business, investments and partnerships. Algeria has a great economic potential in terms of natural resources, monetary reserves, promising market and strong ambitions for its economic and social development, which offers American companies real opportunities for investment and business.

Mr. President,

Algeria is fully committed to the rule of law, justice, dialogue and cooperation for resolving conflicts. The need to promote stability, peace and development, is at the core of the foreign policy of Algeria that nourishes itself from principles that are dear to the heart of all Algerians, namely, the sovereignty of peoples, the independence of States, the non-interference in the internal affairs of States and the right of peoples for self-determination.

It is in that spirit that Algeria has always expressed its readiness to work for the promotion of peace, security and stability, at the international level and particularly in the Maghreb, in Africa and in the Mediterranean region, where its geographical position strengthens its strategic role.

The geographic sphere of my country goes through painful events and violence causing loss of human life with serious threats to stability and security for all the countries of the region. The complexity of the challenges, the multiplication of crises exacerbated by international terrorism, the

capacity of nuisance of international organized crime and drug trafficking networks, directly affect peace and security in this region.

It is within this context that Algeria has responded favorably to the requests of our neighboring and brotherly countries, in order to enable them find political settlement for the crises they are facing, through inclusive dialogue and national reconciliation. These solutions are conceived in line with respect to their national unity and territorial integrity. They also stem from our commitment to fight terrorism, drug trafficking and organized crime as well as other factors of insecurity that are plaguing our region subsequent to the brutal mutations sustained during the last years.

Mr. President,

As I start my mission as Ambassador of Algeria to the United States of America, I pledge to your Excellency that I will devote all my energy and efforts to work for the strengthening and expansion of the relations of friendship and cooperation between our two countries. I eagerly look forward to work closely with your Administration to develop our bilateral relations, open new horizons for our cooperation and further strengthen our dialogue and our consultation at all levels.

I wish to conclude by expressing to you my thanks and gratitude for the gracious and warm welcome that you extended to me and to my family at the White House.