

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

*The Minister of Maghreb Affairs, the African Union,
and the League of Arab States*

**THE ROLE OF DEMOCRACY IN THE FIGHT
AGAINST VIOLENT EXTREMISM AND TERRORISM:**

THE ALGERIAN EXPERIENCE

December 2016

PREFACE

The goal of this overview is to place in perspective the efforts made by Algeria to establish a State under the rule of law, as a guarantor of democracy and human rights, and as a true bulwark against extremism and exclusion. The ideology of exclusion was the cradle of the terrorism that struck our nation so hard during the 1990s and posed a threat to its very existence. Our society is still feeling the aftereffects of this tragedy, written in letters of blood and tears in the collective memory of our people. This memory recounts the sacrifices and the bravery of the children of Algeria, who allowed our country to overcome this difficult and formidable passage in its history.

This modest work will attempt to demonstrate how the vision of democracy, as advocated by President Abdelaziz Bouteflika since his election to the Supreme Judiciary in 1999, encouraged the consolidation of the republican and democratic order, as well as the reconciliation between the children of Algeria and their mobilization in the interest of socio-economic development. This approach, based on tolerance, dialogue, and openness to modernity, has allowed our country to regain peace, security, and stability, and to reconnect with economic development – and, in so doing, to take its rightful place in the family of nations.

This work will also attempt to show how this vision made it possible to defeat terrorism and to confine, within society, the political structures and currents of extremism and violence that feed this devastating scourge. The expansion of the process of democratization that has begun is a strategic choice that is supported by the same vision, which seeks to lift Algeria into the ranks of Democratic nations – nations that have been able to join the modern world without in any way forsaking their values or their cultural heritage.

This victory over terrorism would not have been possible without the mobilization of our people and the relentless battle waged by the People's National Army, the security services, and patriotic citizens. This battle was supported by inclusive and multisectorial policies, strategies, and programs centering around the protection and preservation of national sovereignty, territorial integrity, and the cohesion of the people, as well as the constitutional protection of our national identity and its components. It was also driven by a committed desire to continue the fight against the factors leading to marginalization and social vulnerability, while strengthening social justice and equal opportunity; consolidating the rule of law; expanding the spheres of liberty; encouraging good governance; and combating social ills and potential factors for radicalization, particularly among young people.

This overview describes the vast efforts that have been made by the Algerian government to make the democratic process irreversible, preserve the unity of people, and ensure lasting peace, stability, and security. It also provides a reading outline that will enable a better understanding of the policy of deradicalization that was successfully implemented by Algeria (a policy that was described in a similar overview in 2015). Further, this overview makes it possible to assess the decisive role played by the national reconciliation policy in the return of peace and stability to our country – a role that will be emphasized within the setting of an upcoming international workshop that will be dedicated specifically to this important topic.

The February 7, 2016 revision of the Constitution, which among other things, strengthened the position and the role of women and youth in society, as well as the rights of the opposition, is a part of this dynamic, supporting the rule of law and the true voice of the citizenry. In truth, all of this is only a logical continuation of our people's long journey toward freedom, progress, and social justice – the ideals that were proclaimed at the dawn of the Glorious Revolution of November 1, 1954.

Abdelkader MESSAHEL
Minister of Maghreb Affairs,
the African Union, and the League of Arab States

INTRODUCTION

“I belong to the democratic and republican school”, said Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika upon his election to the Supreme Judiciary of the country in 1999, during a meeting with the Algerian Community (New York, September 1999). At that time, advocating the policy of Civil Concord, he expressed his thoughts by stating that “the national community must accept its responsibilities by restoring each person’s rights and reintegrating each person into the sphere of national and civil concord, within a context of pluralism, freedom of opinion, democracy, competition, and the unfettered discussion of ideas, with no recourse to treachery or the force of arms.”

The President also mentioned “the unanimous acknowledgment that republican and democratic order, constitutional rights, public and individual freedoms, and respect for those freedoms constitute the inviolable foundation of the Social Contract, which is the only instrument that can allow the nation to preserve its unity and to achieve the common hopes for progress and prosperity.”

The President also noted that “democratic political practice cannot be reduced merely to periodic multi-party elections, the separation of powers, and the right to exercise certain basic liberties,” stating that “these institutional tools will acquire their full importance in the life of a nation only when they are employed in the service of a broad democratic culture that respects the diversity of opinions, that is based on open and uncompromising dialogue, and whose ultimate goal is to promote and preserve the higher interests of the nation, namely, the consolidation of its sovereignty, its modernization, its dynamic participation in the revival of Islamic civilization, and its active participation in multipolar globalization.”

This reliance on democracy as a pathway to reconciliation between the people and those of its children who had opted for recourse to terrorist violence becomes important and meaningful in a political and security context that is marked by profoundly divergent opinions regarding the social model to be imparted to Algeria.

This spirit of democracy, of openness toward others, and of acceptance of the differences within diversity would characterize the first major political initiatives of President Abdelaziz Bouteflika. On the political level, he introduced with great conviction the policy of Civil Concord, and opted for a very broad government of national unity, despite the fact that he could have limited his choices to just the political parties that had supported his candidacy. Regarding matters of worship, he organized in Annaba, from April 1 through 7, 2001, the first global symposium hosted by independent Algeria on St. Augustine, the Christian apostle who was born in Tagaste. In view of the recent history of the country and its pitfalls, he chose the wise path of reconciliation through the rehabilitation of national personalities such as Hadj Messali.

This spirit has characterized all of his actions as the head of the country to this day.

This same spirit allowed Algeria to reconnect with peace and security, and offered all of its willing children an opportunity to be reconciled and to put an end to the *fitna* which contributed toward the people’s marginalization and rejection of extremist speech and its proponents; toward the protection and strengthening of national identity, unity, and cohesion; and toward the collective healing of all of the grievous wounds inflicted by the national tragedy. It also allowed young Algerians to regain their place in society, while also enabling the vigorous resumption of the work of building the young democracy and restoring the agenda of priorities, by mobilizing the people and employing their resources solely on the path of reconciliation, development, progress for all, and shared prosperity.

Similarly, the management of the aftereffects of the tragedy of the Dark Decade only strengthened the commitment of the Algerian authorities to proceed with the consolidation of the foundations of democracy in our country, doing so by opening the way for participation by members of all strata of society in the effort to democratize public life and thus to forestall any claims or pretensions that might compromise the future of the nation.

It is this deep commitment to the democratic option – as a factor that can guarantee to all citizens respect for their rights and the exercise of their freedoms; to society the conditions for its blossoming, progress, and prosperity; and to the country the elements for the preservation and reinforcement of its unity and of the cohesion of its people – that guided the policies and strategies that were implemented by the Nation for the lasting reestablishment of peace, security, and stability.

The response of the Algerian people to violent extremism and terrorism, as expressed by referendum through the policies of the Rahma (“Clemency”) Law, the Civil Concord, and National Reconciliation, was affirmed by more efficient organization of the exercise of freedoms (including the creation of political parties, and the rights of association, assembly, and demonstration), guided by a desire to establish a solid and lasting balance between the need to restore peace and public order, on the one hand, and the obligation to guarantee the exercise of freedoms and democracy, on the other hand.

The policies and strategies that grew out of this approach addressed, in particular:

- The consolidation of the principles and foundations of the republican and democratic architecture of the Algerian State;
- The encouragement of participatory democracy and of citizen action;
- The implementation of the national reconciliation policy, which allowed the country to reconnect with peace and security;
- The implementation of the state of emergency, in strict compliance with the international obligations of the Algerian State;
- The country’s compliance with the principal international instruments for the promotion and protection of human rights;
- The consolidation, through the most recent revision of the Constitution, of the institutional foundations of democracy;
- The reform of the judiciary, and the strengthening of its independence;
- The reform of the education system;
- The promotion of social justice; and
- The attention to the expectations of the most vulnerable strata of society; as well as
- The reform and modernization of the national economy.

* * *

I. CONSOLIDATION OF THE PRINCIPLES OF THE REPUBLICAN AND DEMOCRATIC STATE

Since regaining its independence in 1962, Algeria has adopted the universal principles of the promotion and protection of human rights, as set forth in the United Nations Charter and in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The country has set for itself the task of establishing a modern State based on social justice, citizen participation, and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Since then, the various Constitutions that have been promulgated have placed human beings at the center of social transformation, and have made human beings the beneficiaries of human rights.

Thanks to the introduction of the multi-party system in 1989, Algeria has implemented a qualitative dynamic in terms of governance. However, as Algeria was embarking on its comprehensive transition, encouraging pluralistic expression and free enterprise, the phenomenon of terrorism became violently manifest throughout the country. The desire of the Algerian State for openness – as expressed through its acceptance in 1989 (the very year in which political pluralism began to blossom) of the major Conventions on Human Rights, and then of the various related treaties – abruptly encountered this phenomenon, which until then had been unknown in Algerian society.

Despite the compelling urgency of enacting the contemplated institutional, political, and economic reforms in order to establish a lasting foundation for democratic choice and economic openness, the State was initially called upon to fulfill its paramount mission of ensuring the security of individuals and property in the face of the barbarity of terrorist groups.

The political reforms that were subsequently undertaken by the authorities, which were admittedly implemented under adverse circumstances, nevertheless led to the establishment of institutions that enshrine individual freedoms and codify the separation of powers.

The imperative nature of the rule of law and the separation of powers

Under the Algerian Constitution, the powers are organized in the following way:

- **Executive branch (authority)** (pursuant to the provisions of articles 84 through 111 of the Constitution), exercised by the President of the Republic, who embodies the unity of the nation and of the state both domestically and abroad. The President is the guarantor of the Constitution (as stated in Article 84). In exercising the duties of the highest office, within the limits established by the Constitution (in articles 91, 92, and 93), he nominates and dismisses the Prime Minister, other ministers, and senior government officials, while also selecting individuals to fill civil and military positions.
- **Legislative branch** (pursuant to the provisions of articles 112 through 155 of the Constitution), exercised by Parliament, which consists of two chambers: The People's National Assembly [*Assemblée Populaire Nationale*] (APN), which has 462 members elected by universal suffrage, 146 of whom are women, and the National Council [*Conseil de la Nation*] (that is, the Senate), with 144 members, two-thirds (2/3) of whom are indirectly elected, with the remaining third being appointed by the President of the Republic. Thus, Parliament is the locus of the institutional expression of the Democratic dimension of the Algerian State and of the pluralism that characterizes Algerian political life. More specifically, issues relating to rights are addressed by the standing committees that were created for this purpose by both chambers, and then are submitted to the plenary session for deliberation. Parliament controls the actions of the Government and passes the laws.
- **Judicial branch** (pursuant to the provisions of articles 156 through 177 of the Constitution). The Algerian State has implemented mechanisms that are based on the principles of lawfulness and equality, to ensure the protection of society and of individual freedoms, while acting with complete independence and in compliance with the law. The President of the Republic is the guarantor of the independence of the judicial authority.

Major accomplishments of the national republican and democratic refounding

Since his inauguration, the President of the Republic, Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, has launched numerous projects involving strategic sectors such as political parties; civil society and citizen participation; education; information and the associated freedoms; the status of women and their participation in Algerian national life; the recasting of State entities; and judicial reform.

In 2011 he initiated a broad set of political reforms marked by cycles of political consultations, with the active participation of the accredited political parties, all types of organizations within civil society, skilled individuals, and nationally known personalities. As a first step, this process led to the adoption in early 2012 of new laws governing public freedoms (such as those pertaining to the electoral system, political parties, associations, women's access to elected assemblies, and information).

According to the Political Parties Act, these parties are one of the elements of the mechanisms for the promotion of human rights. Their creation and operation are governed by the provisions of Article 52 and Article 53 of the Constitution. According to the provisions of Article 3 of Law No. 89-11, of July 5, 1989, governing political parties, as amended and supplemented in 1997 and 2012, each political party, in all of its activities, is obligated in particular to comply with the principles and goals relating to respect for individual and collective freedoms; respect for human rights; support for democracy; adherence to political pluralism; the non-use, for political purposes, of the components of national identity; and respect for the Democratic and Republican nature of the State. The political landscape currently includes seventy-one (71) parties.

Regarding the Associations Act : Article 54 of the Algerian Constitution guarantees the right to form associations. Promulgated in 1987 and amended by Law No. 90-31, of December 4, 1990, this law enables the formation of an association through a simple declaration by the founders. More than 100,000 associations are active in Algeria today. Amended in 2012, the law aims to revitalize the associative movement, so as to allow it to act as the partner of the public authorities in the process of economic and social development. The law also addresses and acknowledges the association status of foundations, mutual-aid societies, student groups, and sports federations.

Consequently, in 2016 a total of 104,446 associations were registered in Algeria. Among these associations, 1,293 were national, and 103,153 were local groups.

It should be noted that of the 104,446 registered associations, 12,325 were formed under the aegis of the new Law No. 12-06, of January 12, 2012, governing associations.

The activities of the association movement in Algeria cover almost all areas of social life and human rights, including professional interests (4,000); religious activities (15,000); cooperative friendship exchanges, human rights, sports, and physical education (15,000); and culture and the arts (10,000). The right to organize in this way is granted to all citizens by Article 70 of the Constitution. The exercise of this right is described in, and governed by, Law No. 90-14, of June 2, 1990.¹

The protection of categorical or corporatist rights is addressed by 65 organizations, which claim to cover more than 2.5 million salaried workers, and by 32 employers' organizations, including 4 confederations.

The Information Act: Freedom of opinion and freedom of expression are perceived in Algeria as part of the mechanism for monitoring and protecting human rights and the rule of law. This

¹ Law No. 90-14, of June 2, 1990, as amended and supplemented, regarding the procedures for exercising the right to organize trade unions (in issue No. 23 of the Official Gazette (*Journal Officiel* -JO); also issue No. 68 of the JO, of December 25, 1991, and issue No. 36 of the JO, of June 12, 1996).

law paved the way for an independent or partisan press, in addition to the public-service press, and contributed to its expansion, including in the audiovisual sector. Press offenses were decriminalized in 2012. This law ensures that citizens have the right to information and that journalists have the right of access to sources. It also ensures better socio-professional protection for journalists. There are currently 321 publications (including 159 daily periodicals, only 6 of which are in the public sector), with an average daily circulation on the order of 2.5 million copies. Regarding other periodicals, there are 42 weeklies, 5 fortnightlies (bimonthlies), and 77 monthly titles. There are also 55 general, thematic, and local radio stations, providing 800 hours of broadcasting per day.

The Audiovisual Act, which was adopted in 2014, opened the audiovisual sector to national private investment, thus enabling greater satisfaction of the right of the citizenry to information. There are five public television channels. Five other private channels, organized under foreign law, have been accredited through offices established in Algeria. Approximately 60 channels are currently broadcasting programs to Algeria from abroad.

The law on the representation of women and their rights. This act implements the Constitutional amendment of 2008 on the political rights of women. It sets minimum proportional numbers of seats for women based on the size of each electoral district. Implemented at the time of the 2012 legislative and local elections, this act allowed Algeria to gain a place on the list of the 30 leading countries worldwide in terms of female representatives in elected assemblies, and as the first such country in the North African and Middle Eastern region.

Meanwhile, the Nationality Code gives women the right to pass their nationality to their children. Similarly, harassment and all forms of violence in the workplace and in the public arena are now subject to prosecution in the courts.

The Family Code was also amended on several occasions, to rebalance the relations between spouses and put an end to the abuses committed by husbands due to incorrect religious interpretations or outdated customs that cause irreparable harm.

The Electoral Law strengthens the standard for the transparency and control of the electoral processes, in which justice plays a crucial role in all phases of the voting. The law also lowers the minimum age of eligibility for election to the assemblies, in order to ensure greater participation by young people in public affairs.

Child protection has not been overlooked. After a wide-ranging consultation process involving all of the stakeholders in the sector, a framework law was passed in order to emphasize that this portion of the population is central to the concerns of the public authorities, on the one hand, and to address those individuals who are in conflict with the law, on the other hand, while encouraging their accompaniment and their social reintegration in all types of environments. The holder of the recently created position of National Delegate for Child Protection will support the efforts of the State in this area.

Elderly persons and those with limited mobility have also been the subject of special attention from the State. The social protection afforded to them by the fundamental law was extended through the enactments of specific laws that strengthen their status and provide them with social-welfare services and material benefits.

Legislative reform has also affected many other spheres, such as the areas of money laundering and corruption, thereby strengthening the moral component of public life and thereby reinforcing the rule of law.

II. SOCIAL JUSTICE AS A BASIS FOR DEMOCRACY

Independent Algeria has continuously made social justice and the satisfaction of the socio-economic needs of the population a priority in the policies and programs implemented by its successive Governments.

This position of principle is rooted in the ancestral values of solidarity and justice of the Algerian people. It is based on the Oath set forth in the Declaration of November 1, 1954, swearing to bestow on the Algerian State, after the restoration of its full sovereignty, its democratic and social dimension within the framework of Islamic principles.

The Constitutional revision of February 7, 2016 is part of the continuation of this approach. Its preamble states that “the Algerian people remain committed to their choices for the reduction of social inequalities and the elimination of regional disparities,” while Article 9 of the revision establishes “the promotion of social justice” as one of the primary missions of the institutions of the Republic.

This position also rests on the conviction that satisfaction of the aspirations and needs of the populace contribute greatly to the anchoring of democracy.

The 2015 Algerian National Report on the Millennium Development Goals provides a detailed overview of the progress that has been made in the areas of human development and the struggle against inequalities.

For example, in the area of human development, the report states that Algeria has made significant progress in remedying the social deficits and improving the standard of living of the populace. The per-capita gross domestic product (GDP) increased by 2% per year. Household consumption, particularly in relation to job creation and wage increases, grew substantially (4.9% per year by volume).

Regarding social inequalities, this same report stated that “although they are still pervasively present, on the whole they have been reduced. The portion of the 20% of the population with the lowest consumption increased from 7.8% in the year 2000 to 8.4% in 2011. The national guaranteed minimum wage (SNMG) rose by 200% between the year 2000 and 2014.” Meanwhile, the UNDP [United Nations Development Programme] Human Development Index (HDI) “has been increasing regularly, allowing Algeria to join, as of the year 2010, the group of high human-development nations, and to improve its ranking, gaining 24 positions between 2000 and 2014, rising from 107th place to 83rd place. Algeria is also one of the 10 countries whose HDI made the most progress between 1970 and 2010.”

Thus, thanks in particular to a social protection system that covers the majority of the population, extreme poverty has been almost entirely eradicated, and general poverty has declined.

The country has also expanded its legislation and its medical capabilities for the prevention and management of the scourge of drug addiction, which has spread alarmingly in recent years, primarily among the young population. Accordingly, users were granted status as patients. The action that was taken contributed to the reduction in demand, primarily in the school environment, through the installation of 1,806 school health units whose task is to screen and monitor the young people, and also to prevent addiction. The policy in this area also included the decentralization of mental health care and the establishment to date of 38 Intermediate Mental Health Centers (with another 12 currently under construction), as well as two treatment centers dedicated to drug addiction, with the goal of operating 53 Intermediate Care Centers

for Drug Addicts (CISTs) and 15 treatment centers. The training provided for staffers includes the management of this new scourge. The National Plan for the Promotion of Mental Health, which is currently being developed in cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO), includes a provision for the battle against addictions. In addition to the data-collection activities, two other major efforts have been undertaken in this area. They involve the introduction of Opioid Substitution Therapy (OST) and the Special Studies Certificate (CES) in the study of addiction.

The approach to the Budget Act for the year 2017 reflects this policy of preserving the efforts of the State in the area of social development, including, in particular, support for the most disadvantaged segments of society. Despite the financial constraints surrounding the preparation of the draft budget for 2017, the budget reflects the State's commitment to social justice and national solidarity. Accordingly, 1,630.8 billion Algerian dinars (DA), or 23.7% of the budget for the year, will be allocated to social transfer payments. Notably, out of this amount:

- (i) The sum of 413.5 billion DA is earmarked for family support, essentially through price subsidies for basic products (such as cereals, milk, sugar, and edible oils);
- (ii) The sum of 330.2 billion DA is dedicated to health support; and
- (iii) The sum of 305 billion DA is allocated to national housing programs.

III. STRENGTHENING THE INSTITUTIONAL FOUNDATIONS OF DEMOCRACY AND THE RULE OF LAW: *THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE CONSTITUTION OF FEBRUARY 7, 2016*

This issue has guided the constitutional and political initiatives and reforms that have been undertaken by Algeria to date. The most recent Constitutional revision, which occurred in February of 2016, strengthens the progress that was made in the earlier Constitutional revisions, and represents the culmination of the process of institutional, political, and socio-economic reforms that were undertaken by the President of the Republic starting in 2011.

The revision addresses one of the major causes of the painful national tragedy by reaffirming, in its preamble, the determination of the people to protect Algeria "from *fitna*, violence, and all extremism, by cultivating its own spiritual and civilizational values of dialogue, conciliation, and brotherhood, with respect for the Constitution and the laws of the Republic."

Similarly, Article 52 of the revised Constitution recognizes that the creation of political parties "cannot, however, be invoked for the purpose of undermining the basic freedoms, values, and fundamental components of our national identity; the unity, security, and integrity of the nation; the independence of the country and the sovereignty of the people; or the democratic and republican character of the State."

The revised Constitution aims to broaden the democratic spaces and to ensure effective governance based on the rule of law, particularly through the following actions:

- The affirmation of the State's commitment to ensuring the transparency, integrity, and credibility of presidential, legislative, and local elections, particularly through the creation of the High Independent Authority for Election Monitoring (described in Article 194 of the Constitution);
- The consolidation of the multi-party system and of the participation of the political parties in the conduct of the country's affairs, with the Constitutional recognition of their new rights, as well as the rights to freedom of opinion, expression, and assembly; airtime for

public media; public financing; and the exercise of power at the local and national levels (described in Article 53 of the Constitution);

- Constitutional recognition of the parliamentary opposition and the consolidation of its position (Article 114), through the enjoyment of rights, including effective participation in legislative work and in the oversight of government actions; appropriate representation in the bodies of both chambers of Parliament; referrals to the Constitutional Council of matters involving the laws passed by Parliament; and participation in parliamentary diplomacy;
- The consolidation of freedom of association, through the elevation of the Associations Act to the status of a so-called “organic law” and the enshrinement of so-called “participatory democracy at the local level” (described in Article 49 of the Constitution); and
- Constitutional recognition of the freedom to demonstrate, and the enshrinement of the inherently peaceful nature of the exercise of this right.

To achieve these overriding goals, several avenues of reform were prioritized, including, in particular, the elevation of certain laws to the rank of Constitutional standards and the introduction of new provisions in various areas, such as the rule of law; the protection of human rights and democratic freedoms; reinforcement of the legislative power and the role of the parliamentary opposition; reinforcement of the independence of the judiciary; strengthening the moral component of public life; and, last, implementing the Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the African Union Agenda 2063.

Strengthening the rule of law and the transparency of elections in the Constitutional revision

With regard to strengthening the rule of law, the amended Constitution calls for alternations in power, by specifying that the President of the Republic shall be elected for a term of 5 years, and shall be eligible for reelection only once (Article 88). The amended text emphasizes that this provision is “not subject to revision” in the event of an amendment of the Constitution (Article 212).

The Constitutional Council shall enjoy administrative and financial autonomy, thereby strengthening its role and its independence. In addition to examining the constitutionality of the laws, the Council shall be authorized – when it finds, or if it is asked to do so – to nullify any and all legislative or regulatory provisions that it deems to be unconstitutional. The invalidation shall become effective on the same day on which the decision of the Council is made. Last, the Chairman of the Constitutional Council and all of the other members of this body shall, in the future, hold office for a non-renewable term of eight years.

The revised Constitution (Article 194) and Organic Law No. 16-11, of August 25, 2016 further provide for the creation of a High Independent Authority for Election Monitoring. This body, “chaired by a nationally known personality appointed by the President of the Republic, after consultation with the political parties,” shall consist, “on a parity basis,” of “magistrates proposed by the High Council of the Judiciary, appointed by the President of the Republic,” and “independent experts selected from among the members of civil society, appointed by the President of the Republic.” This body will have a standing committee, and its members will serve starting as of the convocation of the electorate (Article 194). The mission of this high body will consist of ensuring the transparency and integrity of presidential, legislative, and local elections, from the convocation of the electorate up until the announcement of the provisional voting results.

The Standing Committee of the high body will also ensure, in particular, the supervision of the operations involving the revision of the voting rolls by the government; the formulation of recommendations for the improvement of the legislative and regulatory mechanisms governing

the election procedures; and the organization of civic training courses for political groups with regard to the monitoring of elections and the lodging of appeals.

A further provision specifies that the voting rolls shall be made available to the candidates at the time of each election (Article 193).

The act creating this electoral body was passed by Parliament last June. The chairman of the body was appointed in November of 2016, following consultations held by the President of the Republic, in accordance with the above-mentioned provisions of the Constitution.

The promotion of human rights and democratic freedoms in the Constitutional revision

Regarding human rights and democratic freedoms, the amended Constitution introduced some new provisions and elevated others to the rank of Constitutional provisions, thereby further strengthening the rights of the citizenry. These provisions include:

- The Constitutionalization of the Amazigh national language as an official language;
- The creation of an Academy of the Amazigh Language, in order to satisfy the conditions for the promotion of this language with the objective of its formalization as an official language (Article 4);
- The Constitutionalization of the criminalization of torture and of cruel, inhuman, and/or degrading treatment (Article 40) formerly included in the amended Penal Code ;
- The Constitutionalization of the decriminalization of press offenses subject to a penalty consisting of the deprivation of liberty (Article 50), as included in the amended Information Act;
- The enshrinement of the presumption of innocence, and of the extraordinary nature of provisional detention (Article 59);
- The exception of unconstitutionality, when a person on trial argues, in court, that the controlling legal provision that determines the outcome of the case to which the said person is a party violates his rights and freedoms as guaranteed by the Constitution (Article 188), which represents an innovation of the first order;
- The option of lodging an appeal in a criminal matter, which is a novel provision that reinforces the guarantees afforded to persons on trial (Article 160);
- Exercise of the right to engage in peaceful demonstrations within the scope of the law (Article 49), which right was previously associated with the right to assembly and association;
- The reaffirmation and consolidation of the guarantee of freedom of the press (whether written, audiovisual, and/or via data networks), with no prior censorship of any kind (Article 50);
- The consideration of technological developments constitutes an innovation (Article 50);
- The guarantee of the right of the citizenry to partake of culture (Article 45) constitutes another innovation;
- Freedom of worship is guaranteed under law (Article 42), to safeguard it and to protect it from sectarian practices and radical groups;
- The obligation to inform persons held in custody of their right to contact their attorney (Article 60) in order to strengthen the guarantee of the right to a fair trial constitutes another innovation;

- A medical examination is mandatory for minors held in custody (Article 60), in order to ensure respect, under all circumstances, of the physical integrity of individuals held in custody, as previously set forth in the Code of Criminal Procedure [*Code de procédure pénale*];
- The requirement that any temporary restrictions on the civil rights of citizens to freely choose their place of residence, to freely move within the country, and to leave the country shall be subject to a duly reasoned decision by the judicial authority (articles 55), in order to put an end to sometimes arbitrary administrative measures;
- The protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal information (Article 46), which provides a guarantee of privacy and constitutes a new measure. Another innovation relates to arbitrary arrest, which is punishable by law (Article 59), in order to prevent abuses of authority;
- Furthermore, indigent persons are entitled to legal aid (Article 45-bis), pursuant to this provision, which aims to ensure that all citizens have access to justice;
- The employment of children under 16 years of age is prohibited, and violence against them is punishable by law (articles 69 and 72) within the area of child protection;
- Vulnerable, elderly, or special-needs individuals shall enjoy the social protection of the State (Article 72). Previously set forth in the sectoral laws, this measure, which aims to ensure a dignified life for persons in these categories, has been elevated to the level of a fundamental law;
- The right to a healthy environment (Article 68) is the enshrinement of the third generation of human rights;
- The freedom to make investments and to engage in trade is recognized, and is exercised under the law (Article 43);
- Academic freedom and the freedom to conduct scientific research are guaranteed, and are exercised under the law (Article 44); these freedoms constitute an additional innovation;
- The State shall work to promote equality between men and women in the labor market, and shall encourage women's access to responsible positions in public institutions and administrations (Article 36); and
- The creation of a National Council for Human Rights (Article 198) constitutes an innovation that aims to provide greater visibility for the State's efforts toward the promotion of human rights.

Strengthening the powers of popular representation

The revised Constitution provides for Parliament to hold a single annual parliamentary session of ten months, while the Council of the Nation has the prerogative of taking the initiative and/or examining, as an initial step, the draft legislation relating to "local organization, land planning, and territorial division", which is an innovation in comparison with the current practice.

Similarly, treaties addressing economic affairs will be subject to parliamentary scrutiny before they are ratified by the President of the Republic when they pertain to membership in free trade zones, to economic associations, and/or to economic integration activities.

Furthermore, the annual report of the Court of Auditors and of the National Council for Human Rights will be sent to the legislatures (Art. 192 and 199).

The Basic Law emphasizes that the parliamentary majority will be consulted by the President of the Republic for the appointment of the Prime Minister.

Regarding the strengthening of the role of the parliamentary opposition, the Constitutional revision stresses the obligation of each of the two Chambers of Parliament to hold a monthly meeting devoted to reviewing an agenda proposed by the opposition, with the proviso that the said meeting may, in the future, refer the matter to the Constitutional Council with regard to laws passed by Parliament.

Under Article 187, the revision now confers, to fifty (50) Deputies or thirty (30) members of the Council of the Nation, the right to refer matters to the Constitutional Council.

On another level, the Prime Minister will, in the future and under Article 98, be required to submit annually to the National People's Assembly the General Policy Statement. In the same vein, and in the section on strengthening the prerogatives of the legislature, recourse to statutory ordinances will only take place in the event of an emergency and/or during parliamentary recesses. The revision also recognizes, "without discrimination," the rights of political parties, including those pertaining to expression and meetings, airtime in the public media, proportional to their representative function at the national level, and public funding in proportion to their representation in Parliament (Article 114).

Strengthening the independence of the Judiciary

Regarding the strengthening of the independence of the Judiciary, the revised Constitution consolidates the independence of the judicial authority and entrusts to the President of the Republic the responsibility for guaranteeing it (Article 156). The organization, functioning, and other duties of the Supreme Court, the Council of State, and the Jurisdictional Court will, in the future, be determined by an organic law.

Meanwhile, the Superior Council of Magistracy will also have administrative and financial autonomy, pursuant to Article 176.

The revised Constitution embodies the principle according to which "the judge obeys only the law," emphasizing, under the innovations, that the magistrate "is protected against any form of coercion, intervention, or maneuver that might hinder the fulfillment of his mission or affect his free will." This protection is also extended to attorneys, whose role, for the first time, is constitutionalized, and who "enjoy legal guarantees which protect them against any form of coercion, and allow them the free exercise of their profession, within the framework of the law." It is also specified that any intervention during the course of justice "shall be prohibited," and that each judge "must guard against any position that might affect his impartiality" (Article 166).

Greater morality in public life, and the battle against social evils

As part of the moralization of public life and the battle against social evils, the revised Constitution establishes a National Body for the Prevention and Combating of Corruption placed under the President of the Republic, whose members and officers shall be protected by law against any form of coercion or intimidation (Article 202). In particular, the task of this body will be to propose and contribute to the implementation of a comprehensive policy for the prevention of corruption; to ensure transparency and accountability in the management of public property and public funds; and to make recommendations on this subject (Article 203). Its members were appointed by the President of the Republic in September of 2016.

Moreover, under Article 23, "any person who is appointed to a high office of the State, or who is elected or appointed in a local Assembly or National Institution, shall provide a statement of assets at the start and at the end of his duties or of his term of office."

Last, in order to do away with the nomadism of elected representatives in elected assemblies, "any elected representative in the National People's Assembly or the Council of the Nation who is affiliated with a political party, and who voluntarily changes the affiliation under whose auspices he was elected, shall be stripped of his elected office, fully lawfully" (Article 117).

It should be noted that after the promulgation of the Constitutional revision, the Ministry of the Interior and Local Government initiated a wide-ranging discussion and established working groups whose task was to work on the adaptation of the legislation regarding public freedoms in the spirit and letter of the new provisions of the Constitution (e.g., organic laws relating to the electoral system, political parties, associations, and freedoms of assembly and peaceful demonstration, as well as the new organic law regarding the High-Level Independent Election Monitoring Authority).

All of these actions reflect the will of Algeria and the country's commitment to strengthening the foundations of the rule of law.

IV. THE NATIONAL RECONCILIATION POLICY

The national reconciliation policy consisted of preserving the cohesion and harmony of the Algerian society by promoting successive political initiatives based on the spiritual, moral, and secular values of the Algerian people, values based on tolerance, humanism and the sanctity of human life.

These political initiatives took as a starting point the principle that Islam – which was exploited by terrorist groups and their sponsors – has always been a unifying force and a source of light, peace, freedom, and tolerance. The initiatives in question were also based on the widely shared conviction that a policy focused exclusively on repression alone would never have been enough to eradicate the terrorism phenomenon permanently.

It was also based on the conviction that the peace of hearts and peace of mind were indispensable to a viable restoration of the social fabric that was severely damaged by the pain, wounds, and suffering of the Dark Decade.

This approach was implemented in three stages. These are the Rahma ("Clemency") policy initiated in 1995, followed by the Civil Concord policy, launched by referendum in 1999; and then the Charter of Peace and National Reconciliation which was also approved by referendum in 2005. By referendum, a national stabilization mechanism was implemented in order to demonstrate the solidarity and compassion of the Nation vis-à-vis all of the victims of the national tragedy and their beneficiaries.

The general legal framework of the Charter for Peace and National Reconciliation

This framework includes ordinance No. 06-01, of February 27, 2006, promulgated under the title "Implementation of the Charter for Peace and National Reconciliation"; Presidential decree No. 06-93, on the indemnification of victims of the national tragedy; Presidential decree No. 06-94, on State assistance to indigent families affected by the involvement in terrorism of one of their members; and Presidential decree No. 06-95, on the procedures for the implementation of Article 13 of ordinance No. 06-01. This arrangement supplements the legal framework already in place since 1999, which addresses victims of terrorism through executive decree No. 99-44, of February 13, 1999, on the indemnification of natural persons who have suffered

physical or material damage as a result of acts of terrorism or accidents occurring within the scope of the fight against terrorism, and the indemnification of their beneficiaries.

The arrangements established within the scope of these legal and regulatory documents very effectively contributed toward creating a distance between the individuals implicated in instances of terrorism, on the one hand, and extremist ideas and radical fundamentalist actions, on the other hand, particularly through the following measures:

- The establishment of measures of clemency for terrorists who wished to repent;
- The prohibition of these measures for persons who committed rapes, bombings in public places, or assassinations;
- Recognition of the status as victims of terrorism for women raped by terrorists in the *maquis* [i.e., the scrublands];
- Settlement of the overwhelming majority of disputes regarding people who have disappeared;
- Care for the families of individuals injured in the battle against terrorism;
- The return and reintegration into society of a large number of penitents;
- Re-hiring in their jobs, or compensation, for individuals who were the subject of administrative dismissal measures for reasons associated with the national tragedy; and
- The provision of State aid (e.g., death benefits and pensions) to destitute families who were affected by the involvement of one of their relatives in terrorism (and who died as a member of a terrorist group).

In a reflection of the national solidarity that is inseparable from any act of National Reconciliation, the State resolutely addressed the issue of the victims of the national tragedy, extending its hand to widows, orphans, and all those who had a right to expect that a strong State would come to their aid, allowing them to live with honor and dignity while awaiting the healing of their wounds.

The policy of national reconciliation: A platform in the service of human rights

The national reconciliation policy was, and still is, a platform in the service of human rights. It has protected lives, returned hope to the people, and restored the stability without which nothing can be undertaken on behalf of current and future generations. This policy has allowed the country to regain its political, economic, social, and institutional stability, while returning to tranquility and effectively managing the consequences of the national tragedy.

The Law on National Reconciliation strengthened the agents of the State who were required to serve the people and to protect them by expressing their gratitude and support.

This principled position rests on the observation that the attacks by all sides – and there were many – against republican institutions, tended above all to disturb the peace of mind of the citizens; to break the resilience of popular resistance; and to discredit republican and democratic institutions, as well as the women and men in charge of the battle against subversion and terrorist criminality.

In the opinion of many observers, National Reconciliation in Algeria is a success and a step forward. It was not imposed in violation of the human rights constitutionally granted to the

citizenry, or in disregard of Algeria's international commitments. It serves the promotion and protection of human rights, including the first right, namely, the right to life.

It is important to note that only a limited number of families have refused compensation.

The Algerian government intends to continue implementing national reconciliation and to continue welcoming its lost children with brotherhood, while also pursuing, with determination and with all the strength and rigor of the law, all persons who threaten the integrity of Algeria's citizens and their property, or the stability and security of the country.

V. STATE OF EMERGENCY REGARDING THE INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS OF THE ALGERIAN STATE

The state of emergency was lifted in 2011. This measure sent powerful signals regarding the country's solid return to normality, and also regarding the will of the State to deepen the choice made by the Algerian people in favor of democracy and political pluralism.

In 1992 the Algerian authorities found it necessary to declare a state of emergency, thus resorting, in situations of danger, to this pertinent Constitutional provision, which was also present in international instruments for the protection and promotion of human rights.

The declared state of emergency was made on the basis of the provisions of Article 86 of the Constitution. The Algerian government announced this declaration to the Secretary-General of the United Nations on February 13, 1992 in accordance with the provisions of Article 4, paragraph 3 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. No restrictions were imposed on, nor any exceptions made to, the exercise of the rights mentioned in paragraph 2 of the said article. The declaration stated that "the establishment of a state of emergency – aimed essentially at restoring public order, preserving the security of persons and property, and ensuring the proper functioning of public institutions and services – shall not interrupt the continuation of the democratic process, and the exercise of fundamental rights and freedoms shall continue to be guaranteed."

The temporary exceptions made with regard to the provisions of the Covenant were in fact limited:

- Article 9, paragraph 3: Measures regarding placements in the security centers created by the Ministry of Interior were halted and governed by regulatory provisions. They involved "adults whose activity threatens public order and the safety of persons and property, or interferes with the proper functioning of public services." These measures ceased to be implemented as of September 1993;
- Article 12, paragraph 1: Spatial, temporal, and/or personal restrictions were applied to the principle of free movement in 10 of the 48 *Wilayas* (prefectures) in the country. These restrictions were lifted in February 1996;
- Article 17: The practice of conducting searches was invoked pursuant to an administrative decision in certain exceptional cases; and
- Article 21: The exercise of the right of assembly was rendered conditional upon prior authorization from the Ministry of Interior.

This exceptional situation did not suspend the obligations of the State regarding the guarantee of the exercise of the fundamental freedoms of the citizenry, as mandated by the Constitution and by the various international treaties and conventions on human rights ratified by Algeria.

The exceptional measures taken within the scope of the state of emergency were all accompanied by guarantees of the protection of human rights. No restrictions were imposed on the rights and freedoms set forth in articles 6, 7, 8, 11, 15, 16, and 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

The continuation of a state of emergency never interfered with the exercise of public rights and freedoms, because it did not suspend the obligations of the State to guarantee the exercise of the fundamental civil liberties of the citizenry, as enshrined in the internal constitutional order and in the international conventions ratified by Algeria.

It should be noted that as of November 1995, there are no longer any security centers in the country. The internees were gradually released, starting in May of 1992. In September of 1992, there were no more than 2,400 internees left; and a year later, fewer than 1,000. As of September of 1993, no further recourse to administrative detention has been made. Seven centers were closed within 10 months after they were opened, and the remaining 3 were closed before November 1995.

The individuals who were placed in the security centers received assistance and care. Their families and their attorneys were allowed to visit them and/or to contact them. Their freedom of correspondence and of communication was preserved.

In practical terms, the public authorities ensured strict compliance with the principle of proportionality between the severity of the crisis and the measures adopted for dealing with it. The goal of the measures that were adopted was to overcome the dangers described in Article 87 of the 1989 Constitution and in Article 91 of the revised Constitution of 1996 (severe attack against the country's institutions due to a public call for disobedience to the security forces, as launched by the leaders of a political party; a stated intention to dissolve the police force and replace it with a "morality police"; armed attacks against the police and the military; sabotage of State institutions; and the destruction of public property). Originally expected to last for one year, the state of emergency was extended on February 6, 1993 (decree No. 93-02), due to the persistence of terrorist criminality.

VI. ALGERIA'S COMPLIANCE WITH THE PRINCIPAL INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS FOR THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

In the belief that respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms is the best foundation for combating terrorist barbarity, Algeria very soon subscribed to eight of the nine main instruments of human rights; five regional instruments; and several other international and regional conventions related to the protection and promotion of the broad diversity of human rights.

Pursuant to the Constitution, international treaties ratified by Algeria take precedence over the law.

The country fully cooperates with United Nations and regional mechanisms for the implementation of these instruments, submits its periodic reports, and receives the special sectoral rapporteurs.

Through this cooperation, the country aspires to improve, both voluntarily and permanently, its legislative arsenal and its practices in the area of human rights, with full respect for its sovereignty and independence.

Despite the terrorist aggression aimed at it, Algeria has made major advances in expanding the areas of freedom and respect for human rights.

VII. THE GLOBAL NATURE OF THE BATTLE AGAINST TERRORISM

The global nature of the terrorist threat and the democratic means of combating it

Terrorism today is a scourge from which no nation is safe. This fact is attested by the numerous attacks in recent years in different parts of the world. This is a phenomenon that is expanding and that is rooted in a growing number of societies, despite national, regional, and international efforts to eradicate it permanently.

It is a serious threat not only to the safety of persons and their property, but also to the security, stability, and cohesion of countries – and even more for the universal values that unite humanity, namely, tolerance, dialogue, respect for others, and coexistence in diversity. Terrorism is equally a threat to the broad variety of models for the organization of human societies. Terrorism aims to replace those models with its own theocratic governance model, which suppresses individual and collective freedoms and is based on a system of exclusivity and exclusion.

History shows that this evil is not linked to any single religion, or to any single culture or civilization. Instead, it has always been fueled by extremist thought and by the violent rejection of differences.

The baseless relationship established today between Islam and terrorism is an unacceptable amalgamation that is causing serious harm to this religion of tolerance and peace. It deeply offends Muslims, and effectively serves the sectarian interests of the ideologues of the terrorist groups and of the promoters of xenophobia, Islamophobia, and racism in certain non-Muslim societies and communities.

Combating this threat is a challenge that calls, with force and urgency, upon countries both individually and collectively. It imposes upon them the unavoidable obligation to declare their responses to this scourge over the long term. These responses cannot be limited merely to matters of security and safety. Instead, they must imperatively include the political, institutional, cultural, religious, and socio-economic spheres, while also engaging all of the institutions and all of the stakeholders within the society.

Terrorism has developed a strong capacity for survival, resurgence, adaptation, evolution, and mobility, disappearing where it is fought effectively but spreading where conditions are favorable for it – that is, in situations of chaos or lawlessness, or in weak or failing states. It exploits to its own advantage all of the potential individual and/or collective vulnerabilities of societies and communities, while succeeding in mobilizing, for its own purposes, the latest communications technologies.

To increase the likelihood of success, the common struggle against terrorism must meet a few minimum requirements, including:

- The upstream implementation of policies and strategies for the struggle against the factors of exclusion, radicalization, and marginalization;
- The constant expansion and support of areas under the rule of law and of the freedoms that are essential to the flourishing of individuals, the progress of societies, the prosperity of economies, and the development of countries;
- The continuous strengthening of participatory democracy and its institutional levers;
- The promotion of social justice and equal opportunity;

- Close cooperation among of all the forces of society, and the encouragement of citizen action for participation in the struggle against the various expressions of this scourge; and
- The construction of strong and righteous States based on the rule of law, that can guarantee to their populations the prevention and the protection that they are legitimately entitled to expect with regard to terrorist attacks.

Internationally, this struggle also demands a correct and shared perception and understanding of this threat, with no double standards; the encouragement of bilateral, regional, and international multi-sector cooperation that addresses the real needs of the shared struggle against terrorism; the effective and unconditional mobilization of resources, in order to build capacities where they are most lacking in the confrontation with this scourge; economic, commercial, and financial relations driven by the promotion of truly shared prosperity, rather than by unfair power relationships, national and/or regional selfishness, along with greater democratization of international relations; and the strengthening of multilateralism, as opposed to unilateralism and the major risks that it poses for international peace, security, and cooperation.

In other words, the strengthening and consolidation of democracy and democratic areas, both domestically and internationally, should be the primary concern of the States and of the international community, and the first response to extremist ideologies and the aggressions of terrorism.

In its struggle against terrorist aggression during the 1990s, Algeria mobilized all of its civilian, military, and security resources in order to address this aggression, to protect its people and property, and to maintain public order, while constantly ensuring strict compliance with the principles and precepts of the rule of law.

This approach was based on the firm belief that terrorism is a violation of human rights, of democracy, and of the principle of rule of law, and that as such, it must be fought with the utmost rigor, in compliance with the laws of the Republic.

In this respect, Algeria still believes that the struggle against terrorism is a fight to defend the values of democracy and human rights, and not to undermine them.

Militarily, the response to subversive and terrorist actions took place in a gradual and progressive manner, but also with firmness and resolution, by all of the forces of law and order under the aegis of the National People's Army, with an enhancement of the power of the security services (such as the National Police and the National Gendarmerie, among others) which constituted the safety net upon which civil society came to be organized. Appalled by the terrorist atrocities, civil society itself joined the battle against terrorism, by organizing local defense committees that would subsequently be structured as Legitimate Defense Groups and Citizen Volunteer Groups.

The People's National Army spared no effort to implement a rapid and progressive response strategy based on combining all the resources of the national forces, including, in particular, its own resources and those of the other security services.

In addition to the significant improvement of the security situation throughout the country, this strategy enabled the neutralization of a large number of terrorists and a reduction in their ability to cause harm.

Since 2005, the efforts of the struggle against terrorism have focused primarily on the following three areas:

First, the struggle against the residual terrorism. Forced to split into small groups, the terrorists (whose sporadic atrocities turned into banditry, coupled with a situation made even more critical due to the settling of scores between rival factions) no longer represented a threat to the State, thanks to the ongoing commitment of the forces of law and order.

Second, the fight against cross-border terrorism (from 2013 to date). In order to address a situation characterized by a cross-border threat in which terrorists managed to take control of entire areas of countries with failed security and social structures, and then to threaten the stability and security of the region, Algeria decided to close temporarily its borders with certain neighboring countries (i.e., Libya, Niger, and Mali); to strengthen the resources deployed at its borders; and to consolidate the security of sensitive economic and energy sites. For this purpose Algeria also initiated a program of multifaceted operational cooperation with the neighboring countries.

Third, the development of regional military cooperation in the Sahel, bilaterally and within the Joint Operational Military Staffs Committee (CEMOC) through, in particular, the mobilization of the internal resources of the neighboring countries (Arab, African and Euro-Mediterranean, as well as with NATO) and with the support of partners in the areas of training, logistical support, and intelligence.

VIII. PROTECTION AND MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC ORDER

These efforts of the People's National Army are supported by the action of the National Gendarmerie and by the General Directorate of National Security, which is the institution of the National Police.

The National Gendarmerie is a republican institution that operates throughout the country and at the borders, particularly in rural and semi-urban areas, on behalf of the ministerial departments and the major public administrative agencies. The National Gendarmerie joined the battle against terrorism and subversion as soon as it appeared, alongside other law enforcement agencies, committing all of the means at its disposal and ensuring the strict application of the laws and regulations in order to preserve the rights and freedom of the citizenry.

It is responsible for ensuring public safety, enforcing laws and regulations, ensuring the preservation of law and order, and participating in the military defense of the nation. As part of the struggle against terrorism and especially for the weakening and elimination of terrorist capabilities, the National Gendarmerie is working in particular on:

- Compliance with the laws in force, and respect for human rights;
- Monitoring and control of individuals in the category of repentant former terrorists, individuals who have been released from custody, the families of terrorists, and their activities;
- Recourse to long-term consciousness-raising campaigns conducted by experienced gendarme officers with the families and other relatives of terrorists, in order to promote the process of repentance. These campaigns have contributed greatly to the repentance of several terrorists, including some dangerous criminals;
- The creation of new units in unsafe areas and at the borders, to encourage the return of citizens to their native regions and the resumption of commercial and agricultural activities, etc.;

- Active participation by the staff of the National Gendarmerie in the multidisciplinary training of the Communal Guards; supervision and implementation of the Patriots and Legitimate Defense Groups, which have contributed greatly to the consolidation of the security network; the improvement of relationships of trust with citizens and the encouragement of local work, which has led to persuasive results, notably in raising awareness among the citizenry and in separating criminals from their multifaceted support systems, as well as gathering operational intelligence;
- Local police activities, in which the units of the National Gendarmerie aim essentially to gather proactive intelligence and to strengthen ties with citizens in order to gain their confidence, by making available to them a toll-free number (10-55), which has produced convincing results.

Meanwhile, the General Directorate of National Security has mobilized, along with the People's National Army and other security forces, all of its resources and skills in the battle against the wave of terrorism visited upon the Nation by the nebulous forces of fundamentalism.

To this end, the General Directorate of National Security (i.e., the National Police), as one of the pillars of the institutional structure, expressed very early the State desire to create an institution rooted in republican values and respect for human rights, which are the only guarantees of the sustainability of the rule of law.

This approach is reflected in the implementation of a series of measures:

- In the area of recruitment and training: Stricter criteria and a policy encouraging the employment of all segments of society from all regions of the country, with no discrimination of any kind, while encouraging the employment of women, who as of 2015 held a total of 20,365 managerial and subordinate positions;
- In the area of training: compulsory instruction on the subject of human rights, and participation in seminars organized around this theme;
- In the area of communications: A strategy facilitating openness to the general public, so as to strengthen the role of civil society and to build trust between the structures of the DGSN and all segments of society;
- In the area of crime prevention and the struggle against criminal behavior:
 - The routine use of forensic expertise in line with international standards for the prevention of, and the battle against, crime;
 - Respect for the rights and freedoms of individuals within the context of the activities of the judicial police [“police judiciaire”];
 - The oversight provided by the public prosecutors and by the examining magistrates for all actions of the judicial police;
 - The ongoing internal administrative oversight exercised for regulatory purposes by individuals at all hierarchical levels;
 - The indirect oversight provided with the help of the citizenry, through requests and complaints submitted, in particular, through the communication channels and
 - The referral to the joint disciplinary committees, without prejudice to any related legal proceedings, of all of the individuals who have committed offenses;

In the area of respect for the rights of persons held in custody:

- Respect for the rights and freedoms of persons, particularly through improvements in the conditions of custodial detention; by making available to prisoners the facilities provided for by law (communication by telephone, medical examinations, food, and toiletries); through the humanization of police detention facilities; and the separation of minors and adults;
- The humanization of the detention environment in which persons are held in custody;
- Inspections of the detention facilities by the public prosecutors;
- The separation of adults and minors, and of women and men;
- Allowing members of the ICRC [International Committee of the Red Cross] to visit the detention facilities, which visits are often for the purpose of interviewing the individuals held in custody;
- The display, in the receiving and detention areas, of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, whose pertinent provisions affirm the principle of equality of all citizens before the law;
- The implementation of an intelligent system for the supervision, control, and management of the detention facilities located in the police departments of the pilot Wilayas, namely, Algiers, Oran, Annaba, and Tamanrasset, in anticipation of its generalization to all police structures. The purpose of this system is to ensure the preservation of the rights and well-being of persons held in custody; and
- The handling by the State, since 2011, of the meals and hygienic facilities for persons held in custody, within the scope of an interministerial decree between the Ministry of the Interior and Local Government, on the one hand, and the Ministry of Finance, on the other.

In the area of the maintenance of public order:

It is today openly acknowledged that in a system of governance based on the participation of all the elements of the community, peaceful demonstration is one way of expressing concerns and communicating demands to the public authorities.

From this point of view, the concept of maintaining law and order – which was formerly based on an exclusive vision that prioritized the goals of the security of goods and persons as the sole and single purpose of the effort – underwent a substantial change that increasingly tolerated this form of popular action. However, such demonstrations should not constitute an opportunity for any abuse or incivility on the part of the organizers that might undermine public order, on the one hand, or threaten the safety of the participants and the tranquility of the surrounding citizens, on the other hand.

It is in this context that the Algerian police adopted the concept of democratic crowd management, which required the implementation of the following measures:

- An investment in police preparedness, through an ongoing rise in the level and consistency of the training provided and in the organization of the manner in which demonstrations are managed;
- Preparation for the use of this technique, and practice with the attitude to be adopted in order to avoid responding to provocations, so as to avoid harmful excesses and the risk of losing control, such that the use of conventional means would be required;

- The inclusion, into the means for maintaining and re-establishing order, of female police personnel for the management of demonstrations organized by women;
- The provision of resources and rigorous consciousness-raising for the proper enforcement of the laws and regulations of the Republic, as well as the promotion of the culture of human rights and their practical application, whether during daily missions and tasks (local police) or cyclical ones (peaceful demonstrations and/or disturbances of the peace);
- The integration, into the overall mechanism for maintaining order, of the components of civil society, through advocacy of the calm management of potential conflicts and the various other activities associated with peaceful protests.

The principle of democratic crowd management aims to:

- Ensure respect for human dignity and the physical wellbeing of demonstrators, who should not be treated as enemies with regard to the maintenance and restoration of public order, even if they are not duly authorized to occupy the public space for the purpose of holding a demonstration;
- Ensure, in compliance with the applicable laws, the right to peaceful demonstration; and
- Avoid excesses and recourse to the use of conventional means.

In the area of public relations:

- Promptness in the performance of services relating to the various documents requested by the public;
- The development of internal and external communications, with a view toward the adherence of all police personnel to the values of respect for the freedoms and rights of citizens; and
- The strengthening of the relationship between police and the public, for better management of the most vulnerable segments of society.

In the area of strengthening the Police/Citizen relationship:

In the wake of the reforms and adaptation of law enforcement to the new challenges, the National Security authority has been committed, for more than ten years, to the introduction of a new approach intended to establish or restore cordial relations with the public, through the implementation of the concept of local community policing, whose goal is to create a climate of trust between the public and the police.

This policy, based on the principle of participatory democracy, includes the goal of encouraging the public to contribute to the effort to achieve security, which is the responsibility of society as a whole and not exclusively of the police services.

This approach encompasses the following actions:

- The establishment of a climate of security and trust in the jurisdictional authorities;
- Communication with the public, in order to humanize the relationship between police personnel and citizens;
- Listening to citizens, and ongoing contact with them, in order to identify their concerns;

- Improvements in the reception system, for prompt and effective handling of citizens' grievances regarding security-related matters;
- Guidance and assistance for citizens within the legal framework of police powers;
- Contribution toward the encouragement of citizenship within society;
- Efforts to raise the awareness of citizens regarding the development of preventive security within their environment, especially for young people;
- Participation in the effort to gather political, social, and security-related intelligence; and
- Deterrence of all malicious actions, through ubiquitous presence on the ground.

In the areas of receiving the public, and communications

Persuaded that public participation in the overall effort to combat crime in general and terrorism in particular is an indispensable tool, the DGSN has embarked on a process aimed at raising the awareness and guidance of all its structures by implementing a set of measures to promote quality public service and improve public acceptance. These measures center around the following actions:

- Improvement of reception activities within of all the National Security agencies, through careful selection of the police officers assigned to this task and the appointment of reception staffers who are responsible for implementing the new dynamics initiated by the institution in this specific area;
- The provision of specialized training for the police personnel responsible for reception activities at police stations, particularly with regard to guidance, behavior, and information;
- Proper layout of waiting rooms, and due attention to all of the physical reception conditions within the police facilities and;
- The implementation of an IT application to manage the actions and proceedings that follow the presentation of citizens' grievances.

Furthermore, for those citizens who believe that they have been harmed by a discriminatory attitude or by an insult to their dignity, a record book has been made available to them at the reception desk so that this type of treatment can be reported. They may also report their observations and voice their complaints at the following website: WWW.ALGERIEPOLICE.DZ.

IX. FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION, THE MEDIA, AND COMMUNICATION

Freedom of expression is constitutionally recognized in Algeria (by Article 48). So is the freedom of printed, audiovisual, and social media, which is not restricted by any form of prior censorship. The State ensures the respect and encouragement of this freedom within the framework of the law and in compliance with the commitments made in international human rights instruments, including, in particular, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

This approach rests on the firm belief that the combination of the conditions that are necessary for the effective exercise of this right is a requirement of the overall effort to anchor and cement the democratic choice made by the country since 1989.

Positive repercussions of the Information Act on the activity of the media world

The State reworked the legislative and regulatory framework in order to strengthen political pluralism, freedom of expression, and the liberalization of the media. Law No. 12-05 (the Information Act) of January 12, 2012, addresses the new needs and the rights of citizens and society regarding information and freedom of expression.

Notable among the advances established by this law are the decriminalization of violations of laws governing the activities of the press; better protection of the privacy of citizens; a guarantee of citizens' right to information; improvement in the socio-professional status of journalists; the creation of two independent authorities (one for the print media and the other for audiovisual media); the creation of a Superior Council on Ethics; the authorization of private capital investment in Algerian media; the establishment of completely unrestricted access to online information for the print and audiovisual media; and the improved distribution of the national press throughout the country. The enactment of this law also opened the way for the development of specific laws on media, advertising, and polling, as well as on the status of journalists.

The enshrinement of the freedom of expression has been gradually affirmed through the increase in the number of public and especially private newspapers printed in Arabic; the increase in the number of general-interest and thematic monthly publications; and the proliferation of publishing companies.

The liberalization of the audiovisual industry has enabled the emergence of approximately 50 private television stations in Algeria. Some of the most positive outcomes have been the shift among young Algerian viewers away from TV channels in the Middle East that disseminate extremist rhetoric; the sharp reduction in the audiences of these channels among the Algerian population in general; and the marginalization of extremist rhetoric and its influence among young people.

The right of citizens to information, and of journalists to information sources

Regarding the consolidation of human rights in the context of the struggle against terrorism, media professionals are encouraged and gradually trained to draw inspiration from, and to respect, a number of principles and good practices arising from international tools and conventions, including, among others:

- The right of every individual to respect and dignity (Constitutionalized by the Algerian fundamental law);
- Respect for the privacy of others (Constitutionalized by the Algerian fundamental law);
- Respect for the pluralism of opinions and ideas (*idem*);
- The priority of the rights of individual human beings over the imperatives of TV ratings (preference must not be given to sensational news, “scoops,” or images that damage the dignity of the individual, etc.);
- The principle of the right to inform, and the duty of responsibility: Under certain circumstances, information disclosed by the media may endanger the persons involved (witnesses, hostages, law-enforcement personnel, etc.), or compromise the outcome of ongoing investigations, etc.;

- The responsibility of publishers for what they publish (via newspapers, broadcasts, websites, etc.), because they cannot serve merely as channels for the transmission of information, but are responsible in the same way as the journalists themselves;
- The conciliation of the right of freedom of the press with the imperative need to safeguard public order and national security;
- Respect for the conditions under which the right to information is exercised, through the adhesion by all media professionals to ethical principles and ethical rules (e.g., honesty, the truthfulness of the journalistic approach, verification and cross-checking of information, diversification of sources, equal treatment, etc.), which constitute the sole guarantees of the sustainability of this fundamental right that contributes to the creation of a climate of tranquility and peaceful dialogue; and
- The prohibition of amalgamation and disinformation (for example, when the media – particularly the European media – talk about terrorism, they usually mean Islamic terrorism).

In this context, two-years ago a training program was organized for journalists, focusing on ethics and deontology; the handling of information in times of crisis (with regard to security considerations); and the rights and obligations of journalists on the Internet (social networks, communications platforms, blogs, forums, etc.).

These training sessions are led by eminent international experts who are members of the press regulatory bodies of many European, Arab, North African, and North American countries.

In parallel with this initiative, another approach has been undertaken, which consists of making Algerian citizens aware of the intelligent use of information, so that they can understand the workings of the press as a whole, and especially so that they will possess the key facts for critical consumption of what is served by all elements of the media, with the ultimate goal of being able to protect their full and entire rights to reliable high-quality information.

X. MODERNIZATION OF PUBLIC SERVICES

The reform of public service is a major concern of the State. In order to bring the government closer to the public and improve the quality of the services provided to the populace, the State has undertaken a broad program for the modernization, digitization, decentralization, and humanization of public administrative services in various areas, including civil status, travel documents, health, and the postal service and customs among others.

These initiatives are part of a National Plan for the Simplification and Improvement of Administrative Procedures, which is reviewed and updated annually. The goal is to implement electronic management within a short period of time.

A National Public Service Observatory was created in March of 2016. Its mandate is to monitor and continuously evaluate the efficiency of public services; streamline and simplify the associated administrative procedures; and establish a new relationship between the government and the public. This agency will bring together all of the affected areas, including government bureaus, civil society, and specialized departments. The many initial concrete results of this program, as documented in recent years, are receiving the approval of the citizenry, with broad participation by the general population.

XI. PROTECTION AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF THE AUTHENTIC NATIONAL RELIGIOUS REFERENT

In this area, the efforts of the State are based on the enhancement of coherence and harmony between authentic Islamic values, which extol concerted action in the management of all matters of public interest, which are the same values that lie at the base of democracy as the predominant system of governance – namely, equality, freedom, justice, tolerance, forgiveness, coexistence, mutual aid, cooperation, and solidarity.

Indeed, the Constitution states, in Article 2: “Islam is the religion of the State.”

Islam, through its moral values and its principles, is the guarantor of respect for others.

The Holy Qur'an rightly devotes an entire verse to the concept of “Shura,” which is the very spirit of democracy, inasmuch as its goal is to broaden the consultation in order to arrive at a consensual majority opinion.

The policy of the Government on this point centers around the following activities:

- Intensification of the training of imams and the improvement of their intellectual and professional level, in order to ensure a framework that is in line with society's expectations. Significant material and human resources have been mobilized for this purpose. The number of National Institutes of Specialized Training [“Instituts Nationaux de Formation Spécialisée”] was expanded from 6 to 13, including two institutes that were opened in the southern part of the country (i.e., in Tamanrasset and in Illizi), to host African scholars, including, in particular, students from the Sahel countries;
- The creation of a National School for the preparatory training and continuing education of administrative managers of religious affairs and wakf property;
- The introduction of a new university-level academic specialty, namely: The Imamate and Religious Guidance, within the scope of the BMD (bachelor's, master's, doctorate) system;
- The training of so-called “mourchidates” or female religious guides, who enjoy the same status as their male imam colleagues. They are committed to outreach and local work aimed at families, and at women in particular;
- Mandatory training for all ranks prior to formal installation, to ensure that the imam possesses the appropriate traits with regard to the aspirations of society and for dealing with social change;
- The reclamation by the mosque, in its capacity as a religious institution that fulfills a public-service mission, of its true spiritual, educational, scientific, and social role, in a manner consistent with the actions of other State institutions. The idea is to make the mosque a bulwark against extremist ideas and against all actions of radicalization that might cause harm to society. In this regard, a new status was enacted for mosques;
- Strengthening the mosque as an institution that is accountable only to the State, in order to protect the family, especially its younger members, against fanatical and extremist ideas;
- The combination of citizen actions with those of the State with regard to the construction of mosques is the very embodiment of the concept of participatory democracy. This approach has enabled the construction of nearly 17,000 mosques throughout Algeria, particularly in the least populated and most remote areas;
- Thus, the mosques have contributed greatly to the success of the policy of national reconciliation initiated by the President of the Republic, Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika;

- Promotion, through the Islamic Cultural Center and its satellite facilities, of authentic Islamic culture, which calls for tolerance and social harmony; and
- The organization of conferences, seminars, workshops, and other cultural and religious activities designed to strengthen the authentic national religious referent.

The reclamation by the mosque, in its capacity as a religious institution that fulfills a public-service mission, of its true spiritual, educational, scientific, and social role, in a manner consistent with the actions of other State institutions. The Ministry of Religious Affairs and of Wakf Properties also contributes to the struggle against radicalization through the coordination of its efforts with those of other State institutions, in order to protect society against all forms of violent extremism, sectarian digressions, and extremist ideas.

XII. THE REFORM OF THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

Terrorism, violence, and extremism are universal phenomena that are not linked to a single region, community, culture, or religion, but instead are caused by cultural and political factors arising from rapid changes in an era of modernization. Terrorism is in fact the result of intellectual extremism translated into violent behavior.

The security problem is no longer solely the responsibility of the security forces alone. Instead, it is now a matter that affects all social institutions, of which the school is the second most important social environment, after the family, which instills social and cultural values in individuals. If this mission is not accomplished, society will lose its second line of defense against these crimes.

Indeed, the efforts to prevent all criminal behavior involve all of the political, cultural, and social stakeholders in society, such as the State, the political parties, civil society, etc. – including, in particular, educational institutions, which must in turn play a leading role in the rejection of criminal intent and in the struggle against criminal behavior, doing so by instilling in the individuals motivations that prevent them from engaging in these practices. The educational system, embodied in the schools, is one of the main pillars of society.

This notion gives rise to the significant security-related role of schools in the struggle against violence, terrorism, and extremism, as fulfilled in the following ways.

Role of the schools in preventing and combating terrorism

Education is the cornerstone of all actions on behalf of peace, democracy, and respect for human rights. Through the curricula and training of the students of today who will become the citizens of tomorrow, Algerian schools contribute effectively to the development and implementation of all strategies for preventing and combating terrorism.

Thus, one of the great aims of Algerian schools is to “lay the foundation for the establishment of a society that is committed to peace and democracy and that is open to universality, progress, and modernity, doing so by helping students to acquire the values shared by Algerian society, based on knowledge, work, solidarity, respect for others, and tolerance, and by promoting positive values and attitudes with regard, among other things, to the principles of human rights, equality, and social justice” (Article 3 of the National Educational Guidance Act).

Within the scope of its objectives, the schools provide socialization through a set of tasks, including, in particular:

- The duty to develop the civic sense of the pupils and to educate them with regard to the values of citizenship, by ensuring that they internalize the principles of justice, fairness,

the equality of citizens in terms of their rights and duties, tolerance, respect for others, and solidarity among the citizenry; and

- The duty to provide an education that is in harmony with the rights of the child and human rights, and to develop a democratic culture by ensuring that the pupils internalize the principles of debate and consultation, and acceptance of the opinion of the majority, so that they will be encouraged to reject discrimination and violence, and to give preference to dialogue (Article 5 of the National Educational Guidance Act).

Educational curricula

The educational curricula were prepared in accordance with the aims and objectives defined in the National Educational Guidance Act (Law No. 08-04, of January 23, 2008). Beyond the specific contents of the fields of knowledge and the disciplines that they address, the programs that were developed play their part, in concert with the other elements of the system, in the accomplishing the goals of conveying and integrating the values that relate to the national choices, namely:

- Republican and democratic values: The development of a sense of, and respect for, the law; respect for others, including the ability to listen to others; respect for majority rule; and respect for the rights of minorities;
- Universal values: The development of scientific thought; the capacity for reasoning and critical reflection; control of the tools of modernity, on the one hand, and, on the other hand, the protection and defense of human rights in all forms, the preservation of the environment, and openness to the cultures and civilizations of the world.

Each discipline offers pupils multiple activities that give them the opportunity to not only mobilize these values, to use them and strengthen them, but also to enrich their culture and prepare themselves to play an active role in a democratic society. The acquisition and development of these values take place during apprenticeships. Indeed, although each discipline helps to develop the learner's sense of honesty, rigorousness, tolerance, and solidarity, some of them play a dominant role in the acquisition of these values, doing so during the three cycles of instruction. For the primary and middle cycles, these subjects include, in particular:

- Civic and moral education, which is taught from the first primary year until the fourth middle year. This course aims to prepare the pupil for entry into social life and for becoming a good citizen, with strong values and a national cultural identity, well imbued with universal values (e.g., human rights and gender equality; the inherent duties of citizenship; respect for others; tolerance; and a sense of fairness);
- Civic education in the schools is part of a broader field, namely, a global education aimed at causing the pupil to acquire certain behaviors and attitudes – in a word "knowing how to be, and knowing how to live together";
- Islamic education: This course is taught from the first primary year until the fourth middle year. Its goal is to lead the pupil gradually to a proper understanding of the humanistic values advocated by Islam, namely, tolerance, generosity, morality, work, and forgiveness. Islamic education contributes toward encouraging behavior that enables social integration, the improvement of social relationships, and the reinforcement of social cohesion. It also contributes to the struggle against social ills;

- Sports and physical education: These subjects are taught throughout each pupil's entire academic career. They play an essential role in the development of autonomy, teamwork, and the formation of a balanced personality, in perfect harmony with its environment. Sports and physical activities help to make pupils aware of their body and the need to take care of it, while also requiring that they acquire the concepts of discipline, through respect for the rules of their adversary's game. Pupils also learn about fair play, tolerance, and love of effort, while channeling their excess energy and expressing their natural aggression calmly and non-violently; sports are powerful and effective tools for developing self-esteem and building resilience; and
- Artistic education: The goals of artistic education are to cultivate each pupil's sense of creativity and initiative, along with a fertile imagination, moral values, critical thinking, and a sense of autonomy. Artistic education also strengthens individual and collective identities and values, while contributing to the encouragement of, and respect for, cultural diversity.

The National Educational Guidance Act also enshrines the Constitutional principles of free education at all levels and its mandatory nature for girls and boys from six (6) to sixteen (16) years of age; its generalization, taking into account gender equality and the guarantee of equal opportunities with regard to the conditions of schooling and ongoing training after the completion of basic education.

The increase in the number of educational institutions has also brought schools closer to pupils' homes, especially in rural areas, thereby encouraging increases in enrollment and the pursuit of education, especially for girls. Enrollment levels increased from 94.03% during the 2000–2001 school year to 98.16% during the 2010–2011 school year, reaching 98.40% for boys and 97.91% for girls.

This increase was also felt in terms of the success rate for education at the secondary level, reaching 63.99% during the 2012–2013 school year.

Starting in 2008, education was extended to include children 5 years of age, as part of the preparatory education program. More than 75% of the pupils in this age group receive this type of education every year in public schools, with girls accounting for 48.88% of the pupils during the 2013–2014 school year.

XIII. THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF WORK AND THE BATTLE AGAINST YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

In the area of work encouragement and the battle against unemployment, Algeria has set up public employment support mechanisms intended to encourage the professional integration of young people, whether through jobs or through the development of the entrepreneurial spirit in this segment of the population, by encouraging the creation of micro-businesses. Indeed, these efforts are among the highest priorities of the Government's programs that have been implemented for more than a decade.

The encouragement of work and the battle against unemployment are implemented through an economic approach that prioritizes support for productive investments, job generation, the development of human resources through the implementation of a training policy that meets the needs of the labor market, and the development of the entrepreneurial spirit, especially among young people.

In parallel with the launch of major programs to upgrade and expand basic infrastructures in order to make Algeria more attractive, the Government has implemented various measures to

encourage job-generating investment.

The action plan for the encouragement of work and the battle against unemployment, which was adopted and implemented starting in June of 2008, is the foundation of the national employment policy and is part of a global vision for economic development. It is based on an economic approach to the handling of unemployment that prioritizes support for investment in the economic sector that creates jobs, and the promotion of an incentive policy aimed at companies to encourage the recruitment of job-seekers

In this setting, two mechanisms have been put in place:

- The Professional Employment Assistance Program (DAIP) is intended primarily to improve the employability of young workers within the context of a salaried position. It focuses on entry into the economic production sector, which offers more opportunities for permanent employment.
- The public programs to support business creation are designed to develop entrepreneurial spirit in young workers and encourage young promoters to move toward the creation of productive businesses in market niches that have a high potential for innovation.

For the implementation of these plans, specialized organizations and agencies under the supervision of the Ministry of Labor, Employment, and Social Security have been set up and constitute true tools for the implementation of these programs. They are the National Employment Agency (ANEM), for intermediation activities in the job market; the National Agency for the Support of Youth Employment (ANSEJ), and the National Unemployment Insurance Fund (CNAC).

At the local level, in order to bring services closer to the citizenry, these organizations have a network of *Wilaya* agencies, and, for certain organizations, even some agencies at the communal level. These agencies work closely with the Wilaya Employment Offices (DEW) as a decentralized branch of the Ministry, handling the needs and concerns of the citizens, and especially of young people.

Several incentive measures (both fiscal and parafiscal) have also been introduced to benefit employers in the economic sector who preserve jobs and who recruit first-time job-seekers.

1. Intermediation by ANEM and authorized private placement organizations

1.1 Traditional placement in the economic sector

In parallel with the work-encouragement measures, a substantial relaxation of procedures in the area of intermediation on the job market was implemented in 2014, upon instructions from the Prime Minister, in order to reduce the time required to fill employers' job positions and to accelerate the pace of job-seekers' placements, while remaining within the legal framework governing the management and regulation of the job market.

These measures addressed:

- The generalization of the formula for active job searches throughout the country, with the exception of the southern *Wilayas*, for which a specific mechanism was implemented;
- The reduction of the ANEM response time, from a maximum of 21 days to a maximum of five (5) days;

- The extension, from 3 months to 6 months, of the renewal period and the deadline for physical scoring for re-registration;
- The enhancement of transparency in the management of the labor market through the wide dissemination of job offers, completed job placements, and registered job applications; and
- Strengthening of inspections and activities for the eradication of undeclared jobs.

1.2 Placement within the scope of the Professional Employment Assistance Program (DAIP)

Integration into the workplace for first-time job-seekers occurs within the framework of three types of contracts provided by the program, i.e.:

- The Graduate Employment Contract (CID), intended for young high-school graduates and high-level technicians from national professional training institutions;
- The Professional Employment Contract (CIP), intended for young people leaving secondary schools that are part of the National Education system or professional training centers, or individuals who have completed a trainee period; and
- The Employment Training Contract (CFI), intended for young workers without training or other qualifications.

It is worth recalling that substantial improvements have been made in these programs through the introduction of a number of measures, including, in particular, wage increases and the extension of job durations, to encourage the longer-term hiring of young first-time job-seekers in the working world.

In addition, and with the aim of encouraging the longer-term recruitment of the beneficiaries of the employment assistance program (DAIP) placed in the public sector, an order from the Prime Minister was sent to all government offices instructing them to give priority in hiring to these young people, within the limits of the open budget items.

The DAIP program has allowed thousands of young first-time job-seekers to be hired; to gain their first business experience; and to improve their employability, thereby facilitating their integration into the working world.

Assisted Work Contracts (CTA). It should be noted that a CTA is an employment contract within the meaning of Law No. 90-11 governing labor relations. The State contributes to the base salary of the newly hired young person's job for a period of three years, while the salary supplement is paid by the employer.

2. Programs supporting the creation of businesses (ANSEI-CNAC)

2.1 The youth employment support program (ANSEJ)

The National Youth Employment Support Agency [*“Agence Nationale de Soutien à l'Emploi des Jeunes”*] (ANSEJ) manages support programs for young workers between 18 and 35 years of age who hold professional qualifications related to the proposed business. It involves two types of investments, i.e., business start-up investments, and investments for the expansion of business activities for the production of goods and services.

Two (2) financing formulas are provided:

- Triangular financing (Promoter – PNR ANSEJ – Bank loan).
- Joint financing (Promoter – PNR ANSEJ).

2.2 Support program for business creation by unemployed promoters between 30 and 50 years of age (CNAC)

The National Unemployment Insurance Fund [*“Caisse Nationale d’Assurance Chômage”*] (CNAC) is intended for unemployed promoters between the ages of 30 and 50, who hold professional qualifications and who want to start a micro-business that provides goods or services;

Thus, the promoters in both the ANSEJ and CNAC programs benefit from:

- An interest-free loan (PNR) to start a micro-business, which can be worth up to 10,000,000 DA;
- An additional interest-free loan in the amount of 500,000 DA to acquire mobile shop vehicles for businesses run by young graduates of the professional training system;
- An additional interest-free loan to pay the rent on the location to be used by young high-school graduates to create grouped firms;
- An additional interest-free loan in the amount of 500,000 DA to pay the rent on the location to be used for the new business created by young promoters;
- A 100% subsidy on the interest on bank loans; and
- Tax benefits granted to young promoters during the production and operating phases of the micro-businesses.

The two ANSEJ programs are supported by risk and/or loan guarantee funds as backing for the bank loans made to the promoters.

Results obtained

3. Major actions in the Labor, Employment, and Social Security sector during the five-year period from 2010 to 2016

The major activities in the Labor, Employment and Social Security sector under the 2010–2016 five-year program centered around the following three main points:

3.1 In the area of the encouragement of work and the battle against unemployment

The ongoing implementation of the action plan to promote jobs and combat unemployment has had a direct effect on job creation and on the downward trend in the unemployment rate. Accordingly:

- The unemployment rate fell from nearly 30% in the early 2000s to 9.8% in April of 2014. The survey conducted in September of 2015 indicated an overall unemployment rate of 11.2%;
- This unemployment rate represents entry-level unemployment, inasmuch as nearly 59% of unemployed individuals are first-time job-seekers.
- The unemployment rate for high-school graduates dropped from 21.4% in 2010 to 14.3% in September of 2013 and then to 13% in April of 2014, rising to 14.1% in September of 2015.

- The unemployment rate for women fell from 31.4% in 2001 to 19.1% in September of 2010 and then to 14.2% in April of 2014. However, it rose to 16.6% in September of 2015.

These results are encouraging, in that the job and unemployment indicators have showed a positive trend for the last 15 years.

3.1.1 Paying jobs

- Within the scope of intermediation on the job market, during the same period (from 2010 to May 2016) ANEM reported the following placements in the economic sector: 1,659,949 job-seekers. In addition, 50,482 placements were made by the private organizations authorized to engage in this activity.
- Regarding the encouragement of paying jobs for young people, the Professional Employment Assistance Program (DAIP) led to the hiring of nearly 1,556,419 young people and to the recruitment of 234,748 young people under Assisted Work Contracts (CTAs) during the period from 2010 to 2016 alone (to May 31, 2016).

3.1.2 Support for the creation of businesses

The business creation programs managed by ANSEJ and CNAC allowed unemployed persons who wanted to start their own micro-business to learn the entrepreneurial culture and become true players in the field of economic development.

In this context, it is also important to recall that the support mechanisms for the creation of businesses have undergone substantial improvements, which have been welcomed with great interest by young promoters, through the reduction of the personal contribution, the 100% interest-rate subsidy on bank loans, the extension of the deferral periods to 3 years for payments on the principal amount of bank loans, and, if necessary, the issuance of additional interest-free loans to cover the cost of renting the business premises, for the acquisition of mobile shop vehicles, and/or for the lease of premises intended to serve as group offices.

Furthermore, regarding training assistance, agreements for the project-management training of entrepreneurs have been signed and implemented with the vocational training and education sector.

The results reported by the two programs made it possible, during the 2010–2016 period alone (to May 31, 2016), to create 367,085 micro-businesses representing a potential of 781,726 jobs.

Also noteworthy is the measure introduced by the provisions of Article 87 of the Public Procurement Code regarding the withholding of a 20% share of local public contracts in favor of the micro-businesses created within the scope of the business-creation programs.

Since the implementation of this measure in 2012 and up until March 31, 2016, 6,048 contracts were awarded to ANSEJ and CNAC micro-businesses.

In the field of popularization and information for young people who are taking training courses, more than 40 entrepreneurship houses have been established at the university level.

3.2 Social Security

The continued implementation of the program for the reform and modernization of the national Social Security system has resulted in:

- Significant improvements in the quality of services, including the further development of local Social Security offices whose number rose from 1,115 in 2010 to 1,507 in 2014;

- Further development of the third-party payer system for health care and expansion of this system for drug coverage to 10,325 contracted pharmacies, benefiting more than 31 million people (insured dependents and/or beneficiaries);
- The expansion of the contracting physician agreement for the benefit of pensioners and their dependents and/or beneficiaries, with the number of contracted doctors rising from 799 in 2010 to nearly 2,800 in 2014, and with the introduction of the medical optical agreement for the benefit of school-age and preschool-age children who are dependents and/or beneficiaries of low-income insured persons; and
- The expansion of the CNAS health program through the regional medical imaging centers and the Bou-Ismaïl pediatric cardiac medical and surgical clinic.

In addition, important measures aimed at continuing improvement the purchasing power of pensioners have been implemented, including the exceptional revaluation of pensions by 15 to 30% and an increase in the minimum pension amount to 15,000 DA. These changes were made pursuant to a presidential decision in 2012, in addition to the annual revaluations of pensions and retirement allowances, whose cumulative rate during the period from 2010 to 2014 reached 49%. There was also a major modernization of the infrastructure of the Social Security institutions and their operations, which has been fully integrated into the framework of the Government's program of reform and modernization of public services.

In this area, mention should be made in particular of the expansion of the electronic card system for CHIFA social insurance, with the number of cardholders increasing from 5,136,827 (i.e., 17,054,265 beneficiaries) in 2010 to 9,374,180 (i.e., 31,122,278 beneficiaries) in 2014. Thanks to the CHIFA system, the third-party payment system for drugs and other medications was extended in 2011 to include all social-insurance recipients.

Since February of 2013, use of the CHIFA card has been expanded from the *Wilaya* with which the social-insurance recipient is affiliated to cover the entire country. In April of 2014 remote Social Security reporting for workers and staff was launched on behalf of employers. Last, the Higher School of Social Security will be opening soon, with a regional dimension in terms of human resources development.

3.3 Labor relations

Efforts are continuing to improve the working conditions of employees within companies through:

- The improvement in purchasing power, as reflected by two SNMG (national minimum-wage) increases, in 2010 and 2012, on the order of 15,000 DA and 18,000 DA, respectively, therefore representing an increase of about 50%, reflected in the change in the SNMG from 12,000 DA to 18,000 DA.

In parallel with the increase in the SNMG, the implementation of the special rules for civil servants and public servants, as well as the respective compensation plans, numbering 64 specific rules and an equal number of compensation plans, resulted in a substantial improvement in their earnings.

Meanwhile, for the economic sector, the increase in wages was achieved through the signing of sector-wide and company agreements, which resulted in a significant increase in the wages of workers, ranging from 5% to 23%, contributing toward an improvement in their purchasing power. In this area, 91 sector-wide agreements and 2,939 company agreements were recorded.

- The promotion of social dialogue: In this area, the working world has – in addition to the consultations and negotiations initiated within the framework of the existing dialogue spaces at the enterprise level – held three tripartite meetings devoted to economic and social issues involving collective labor relations.

The outcome of this dialogue, through the various tripartite meetings, facilitated the signing of the National Economic and Social Growth Pact on February 23, 2014, under the auspices of the 16th tripartite meeting.

- Oversight activities were strengthened, through the intervention of the labor inspectorate on the ground, which has evolved substantially, thanks to the modernization and strengthening that it has undergone. Thus, the reports that were compiled during this period showed an increase in the number of inspection visits, from 140,505 in 2010 to 233,572 in 2013, for an increase of 39.84%.

The efforts made by the public authorities in the areas of labor, employment, and Social Security have contributed greatly toward addressing the needs and concerns of citizens, particularly young people (especially with regard to occupational hiring and support and assistance for the creation of micro-businesses), as well as in the areas of Social Security and labor relations, for the affected populations.

Lastly, within the scope of the reform of public services, improvement of the reception and treatment of service users, the actions initiated by the sector addressed the day-to-day reception of citizens, the creation of reception areas that meet the standards, the generalization of the access approach and the addition of special service windows for certain segments of the population, the introduction of ICT [information and communications technology] in the handling of citizens' grievances, and the simplification of procedures have all resulted in substantial time savings and greater user satisfaction.

XIV. THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN AND THEIR INTEGRATION INTO ALGERIAN POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL LIFE

During the war waged by terrorism on all of the people during the Dark Decade, Algerian women – like the other segments of the Algerian population – showed courage that will remain seared in our collective memory and in history, for at least four reasons.

First, there was the physical, psychological, and moral violence, as well as the horrors of all kinds committed against them by the terrorist hordes, as well as against all other segments of the population, with the stated goal of achieving their submission, the denial of their personhood, the abolition of their rights and position in society, as well as their exploitation in a conspiracy to bring about the political, social, and economic destabilization of the entire nation.

Then there was the determination, the patriotism, the attachment to the authentic values of Algerian society, and the solidity of the convictions that characterized daily resistance to terrorist savagery, underlining the alien nature of this scourge upon our country and its categorical rejection by Algerian society as a whole, and in particular by its fundamental component : Algerian women.

Algerian women also joined with the other strata of the population in this confrontation of all of the people against the supporters of irrationality and exclusion, demonstrating once again that they were the true cornerstone of the unity, cohesion, and harmony of Algerian society

during the past centuries, and that their struggle was the wager of all Algerian women on the inevitability of the victory of the people over the forces of regression and evil.

Last, there is the profound wisdom of their massive, conscious, and principled support for the policy of national reconciliation, despite the severe and recent wounds inflicted by the national tragedy. This support was a clear expression of the great hope placed by Algerian women in President Abdelaziz Bouteflika and his national reconciliation initiative, as well as in the ability of the Algerian people to overcome their cyclical and temporary contradictions, however serious they might be, and to focus their energies on their ambition to remain in the vanguard of progressing peoples.

In other words, the victory over terrorism was won in the same way as the earlier war of national liberation from the colonial occupier, and the work of political, institutional, economic, and socio-cultural edification of independent Algeria is also being achieved thanks to the sacrifices and the mobilization of Algerian women.

Building on the progress made through the various Constitutions that Algeria has had since winning its independence, all of which guarantee the principle of equality of all citizens before the law and in terms of their duties, rejecting all forms of discrimination, – including, in particular, discrimination based on gender – and also building on the successive policies for the encouragement of Algerian women and their integration into the political, economic, and social life of the country, the Algerian State has, since 1999 in particular, implemented a strongly inclusive approach favoring the empowerment women and the equality of citizens, with a view to enhancing the potential of this important segment of the population, associating it fully with the management of the affairs of society at all levels of responsibility, and reducing, a little more every day, the distances and the factors contributing to their marginalization in the various fields.

This approach was reinforced by the latest Constitutional revision, which took place in February of 2016 and which guarantees, in Articles 32 through 38, the equality of citizens before the law, with no discrimination on grounds of birth, race, sex, beliefs, or any other personal or social condition or circumstance. This approach commits the State to work to promote the political rights of women by increasing their opportunities for access to representation in elected assemblies, and for equality between men and women on the labor market, along with the promotion of women to responsible positions in institutions, public service, and businesses.

The strengthening of the Constitutional and legal foundations of the democratic dynamic in Algeria has resulted in numerous measures to combat the political and socio-economic marginalization of women in general and of rural women in particular. Thus, women have been central to the concerns of the Algerian State, which has therefore adopted a corresponding set of national strategies and programs, and has developed numerous institutional mechanisms for their implementation.

In the political arena, the law on the representation of women in elected bodies, adopted in 2012, implemented the 2008 Constitutional amendment regarding the political rights of women. It sets minimum proportional numbers of seats for women based on the size of each electoral district (with the resulting number of seats being between 20% and 50% in each elected assembly). The level of representation of women in the National People's Assembly rose from 7.7% to 31.60% (146 out of 464) in 2012 and may very well rise further in the legislative elections that will be held in April of 2017. For the local assemblies, this figure rose from 0.76% to 16.56%. As for the activity of political parties, since 2012 the law has required, under penalty of refusal of approval, that they include a certain proportion of women in their

various governing bodies, and as founders and congresswomen. Four political parties are headed by women.

Meanwhile, the Nationality Code henceforth gives women the right to pass their nationality to their children. This code was amended in 2005, introducing:

- The affiliation of the mother, who may pass her nationality to her children (Article 6 of the Nationality Code); and
- The option of acquiring Algerian nationality through marriage to an Algerian woman (Article 9-*bis* of the Nationality Code).

The Family Code has also been amended on numerous occasions to rebalance the relations between spouses. The changes introduced in 2005 are aimed at strengthening the rights of women, notably through:

- The abolition of marriage by proxy;
- Fixing the age of marriageability at 19 years for both men and women;
- The consent of the woman as a condition for the creation of the marriage contract;
- The submission of polygamy to the prior consent of the current wife or wives and the future wife, and to the authorization of the presiding judge of the court, who must verify the consent and the reasons and ability of the husband to ensure fairness and the conditions that are necessary for conjugal life;
- The restoration of the balance of rights and duties between the two spouses;
- In case of divorce, the obligation of the husband to provide decent accommodations for his minor children whose custody is entrusted to the mother, or, otherwise, a rental payment;
- The requirement that the future spouses produce a medical certificate attesting that they are not afflicted with any diseases contraindicating marriage;
- Strengthening the role of the public prosecutor's office as a principal party to proceedings involving personal legal standing; and
- The expansion of the prerogatives of the judge, who is now empowered to issue interlocutory rulings under conditions of urgency, particularly with regard to matters relating to custody, access, housing, and alimony.

Similarly, harassment and all forms of violence in the workplace and in the public arena are now subject to prosecution in the courts.

- The legislature makes no distinctions with regard to punishment for all forms of violence against persons who are "victims," who shall continue to be viewed and treated by the legislator as men and women without any discrimination;
- The legislator addresses other forms of violence against women, such as sexual harassment, and punishes all forms of assault, verbal and/or psychological violence, or mistreatment, particularly in cases of recidivism, with reference to the provisions of Law No. 15-19, of December 30, 2015, on the criminalization of violence against women, which law amends and supplements Ordinance No. 66-156, of June 8, 1966, regarding the Penal Code; and

- Regarding female prisoners, the law on the code for penitentiary organization and social reintegration of prisoners, promulgated in 2005, sets out the principles and rules for the specific treatment of female prisoners.

It provides specialized centers for women prisoners, including their health care, which, in the same way as for other prisoners, will be handled by medical staff recruited from prisons and specialized centers.

Male and female prisoners shall receive general, technical, and/or vocational training, apprenticeships, and physical education courses in accordance with the officially approved programs, and with the provision of the necessary resources and facilities.

It should be noted that Articles 50, 51 and 52 of the Penitentiary Organization Code state that women are entitled to appropriate conditions of detention, including a balanced diet, ongoing medical care, and access to the nearest visiting room. The placement of newborn infants is handled by the administration of the penitentiary institution, in coordination with the departments responsible for social-welfare matters. However, the imprisoned mother may keep her child with her until the age of three (3) years.

At the socio-economic level, action to combat the marginalization of women was carried out particularly within the framework of the National Family Strategy, aimed at promoting and preserving the family as a social institution; the National Program for the Organization of Pre-natal, Post-natal and Neonatal Medicine, for better care of pregnant women and their children; and the Rural Renovation Program, aimed at eliminating the marginalization of rural women. The national strategy to combat illiteracy – a scourge suffered by more women than men, especially in rural areas – has reduced it to less than 14%.

Statistically, the following facts are noteworthy:

- In the health sector, 62% of total staff are women, 51% of whom are employed at university hospitals; 62% are medical specialists; 67% are general practitioners; 62% of residents are women, and 61% of paramedics are women;
- In the field of education, from 1970 to the present, the number of female staff increased from 27% to 68% of the faculty:
 - In 1970, the teaching staff were 27% female;
 - In 1993–1994, female teachers accounted for 43% of the teaching staff;
 - In 2004–2005, they accounted for 62%;
 - Current staff members are 68.28% female; and
 - Among high-school graduates (330,000) this year, girls accounted for more than 62%, and accounted for 67.51% of the students who graduated with honors;
- In the field of Justice, there are more than 43 judges, representing 45% of women judges (the leading country in Africa and in the Arab world in this field);
- In the communications sector, 51% of journalists are women; and
- In political life, there are 146 female members of Parliament, representing 31.06% of the deputies (with Algeria ranking second, after Rwanda).

The efforts made by Algeria for the advancement of women and social development in general were recognized by the 27th Summit of the African Union (July 2016), held in Kigali, Rwanda, where Algeria was the recipient of two honors:

- The first was a "prize of prizes" from the African Union: an award created especially for the occasion and honoring the leadership of Algeria, under the aegis of President Abdelaziz Bouteflika, in the area of the political, economic and social aspects of human rights; and
- The second was an award for social development and the promotion of the role of women in the areas of political, economic, and social development.

The Beijing+20 National Report on Women of Algeria provided a detailed description of the significant progress made by Algeria in the area of the promotion of Algerian women.

XV. HOUSING POLICY: AN INCLUSIVE APPROACH

Socio-economic needs have been a breeding ground that ideologists in terrorist groups have fully exploited in their propaganda and recruitment campaigns. In addition to employment, housing was one of these main needs. In 1999, Algeria had a deficit of 3 million units. This enormous shortage was due to the cumulative insufficiency of housing construction projects in the years prior to the Dark Decade. This lack was exacerbated by the exodus of rural populations to the cities, fleeing insecurity during the long years of the national tragedy. As a result, cities were crumbling under the appalling weight of ghettoized populations living in slums that terrorism would use as the backbone of its destructive plans.

Aware of the gravity of this housing crisis and its impact on political stability as well as on economic development and social inclusion, President Abdelaziz Bouteflika, starting immediately after his election in 1999, launched very ambitious housing development programs. This position rests on the firm belief that the satisfaction of the needs and aspirations of the populace contributes greatly to the anchoring of democracy, and that the dynamic of national reconciliation, to which the country is firmly committed, also requires the establishment of a larger form of justice that, in particular, reaches the most needy and most vulnerable members of society.

On the basis of the principles of equal opportunity, national solidarity and the fight against marginalization and all forms of discrimination and every citizen's right to access to decent and affordable housing, and convinced that urbanization is an indicator of the state of development of society as a whole and also a vector for peace and social cohesion, in 1999 Algeria launched an ambitious housing policy centered on the new cities and their integrated urban centers, with the dual goal of remedying delays in construction and in access to housing, and transforming and modernizing the living environment of the citizenry.

For example, between 2001 and 2014, the State devoted nearly U.S. \$65 billion to the implementation of numerous housing programs tailored to meet the specific needs and capacities of the various segments of the population, distributed equitably throughout the country. Over the past 15 years, this effort has enabled the delivery of nearly 2.8 million homes throughout the country. Despite some financial constraints due to the volatility of the prices of raw material, the Algerian government is committed to maintaining its housing policy, with the completion of another 1.5 million dwellings during the period from 2015 to 2019. Thanks to the resulting dynamic, entire cities have emerged from the earth, and the country has become a vast construction site.

The efforts that have been made have also resulted in a significant reduction in the per-dwelling occupancy rate, from 7 to 4.5 persons over the same period, and will be closer to 4 persons by the end of 2018. This policy is allowing the country to contemplate with serenity the gradual resolution of the housing crisis by 2018, and the natural alignment of housing demand with population growth.

Algeria has also made the eradication of slums and precarious housing a high-priority goal of its social and housing policy. Thus, the sum of no less than U.S. \$15 billion has been earmarked for this operation, which involves the elimination of the 560,000 precarious housing units that were detected throughout the country. At present, 380,000 new dwellings have been built, while the remaining 180,000 precarious dwellings are being rehabilitated.

Thanks to this policy, Algeria is in an ideal position to eliminate urban precarious housing, in accordance with the norms prescribed by the United Nations. In this year of 2016, the capital city of Algiers will take up the challenge of becoming the first Mediterranean and African capital that has no slums.

The right to housing was constitutionalized last February, inasmuch as it constitutes an essential dimension of social justice. It contributes to strengthening the rule of law and democracy, and reduces the likelihood of marginalization of entire swathes of the population, especially young people.

In Algeria, social policies, including the construction of dwellings, have contributed not only to the fight against terrorism and the base of violent extremism from which it springs, but also to the de-radicalization of excluded and marginalized individuals, thereby helping to improve the well-being of all Algerians.

XV. CULTURAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PREVENTION OF, AND TO THE STRUGGLE AGAINST, EXTREMISM AND TERRORISM

Culture was a particular target of terrorism during the Dark Decade. Terrorism murdered not only intellectuals and creative men and women. It also created an environment of terror and threats that prompted many artists to leave Algeria and settle abroad. In the 1990s, the Algerian cultural scene witnessed an indisputable decrease in its activity, and cultural events became scarce. The repeated murders of artists and the exile of others reduced cultural life to its simplest form.

Furthermore, the emergence of extremism and the deliberate obscuring of ideas had a very negative impact on artistic creativity. Culture, as the domain of creation and freedom of expression, is utterly incompatible with intolerance and fanaticism.

The struggle against terrorism is a global undertaking that includes cultural action for resistance and prevention.

1. Resistance and the struggle against extremism

Among the acts of resistance to terrorism that were performed by the cultural community at the most critical moments, and among the acts attesting to the rejection of violence, it is worth recalling the ones that took place during the particularly difficult years of 1994 and 1995, namely, the restoration of the Palais des Rais (Bastion 23) in Algiers and of the Cherchell Museum, as well as the restoration of several mosques, and the inauguration of the new headquarters of the National Library of Algeria on November 1, 1994.

The artistic scene was revived through organization of numerous festivals, including the festival of the theater, the festival of Bedouin song and popular poetry, and the festival of Andalusian music. Galas and other events were held alongside the itinerant cultural weeks within and outside of Algeria, most notably in Tunis, Damascus, Seoul, Johannesburg, Bucharest, Brussels, Dakar, and Cairo.

These actions were carried out in spite of the threats and interdictions that the terrorists attempted to impose by violence. These years also symbolize the emergence of the associative movement, especially in the cultural domain (with subsidies granted to 80 associations in 1995 for local cultural events).

These examples are offered in order to demonstrate the efforts made by the State to preserve the identity referents of the Nation, as embodied in our cultural heritage, as well as the local and nearby cultural events intended to combat the introduction of retrograde ideas and extremism that so often lead to terrorism.

The cultural revival gained momentum, with the posting in 1998 of even more encouraging figures: 28 organized festivals, 110 subsidized associations, and a special intensification of Algerian participation in events organized abroad, to demonstrate to the world the resistance of the country and its people to terrorism of uncommon violence.

The acts of violence also affected the infrastructure. Historic sites and monuments, whose value is immeasurable and which embody the history of Algeria over multiple millennia, were targeted by the attacks.

The loss of cultural assets is often irreversible; hence the importance of securing these places and objects at all times, and particularly during times of terrorism, because this cultural heritage has been targeted by terrorism. The major acts of sabotage and the sites they affected are listed below:

- The Etienne Dinet National Museum in Bousaada, which lost a wing to fire;
- The destruction of the materials and a fire at the operating facilities of the archaeological research site at Kef Lakhdar (Achir) in the Medea *Wilaya*;
- Mutilation and destruction of stelae and archaeological artifacts in the old Tlemcen Museum (Sidi Belahcene mosque);
- The destruction and burning of the Sidi Boumediène mausoleum in Tlemcen;
- The attempted destruction of the minaret of the Kalaa des Beni Hamad in the Tlemcen *Wilaya* (a World Heritage site);
- The mutilation, by explosives, of Ain el Faouara in the Setif *Wilaya*; and
- An arson fire in the El Mouggar movie theater in Algiers.

The purpose here is not to draw up a detailed report, but rather to cite examples of the relentlessness of terrorism and its impact on the cultural sector. All of these acts of violence against men and women of culture have led to a decrease in cultural activities. However, the resistance to this phenomenon has made it possible to keep the scene active, despite everything and at any cost. For example, the movie theater in Algiers, which the terrorists twice tried to sabotage (the bombs were defused), never closed its doors, and continued to fulfill its duties towards the public.

The State did everything possible to protect culture as a vehicle for tolerance, openness, and diversity. At this point it is worthwhile to mention the actions that were taken to protect and secure the cultural facilities, such as the installation of special telephone lines linking the museums to the nearest police stations; the barricading and reinforcement of the access doors of sites and museums; the installation of video surveillance systems; the strengthening of security teams, especially at night; the storage, in highly secure locations, of major masterpieces and the collections of national museums; and the establishment of an official police presence in certain national museums.

The Algerian government understands that the fight against terrorism and extremism must necessarily be conducted on all fronts, in terms of security, society, economics, and culture. This is why the State has been keen to strengthen cultural events; pass laws for the regulation and protection of the cultural scene; and increase the creation of local cultural infrastructures, especially those aimed at young people. The broad outlines of cultural policy converge towards a fundamental objective, namely, preserving our identity and our collective memory, by reviving local cultural activities through cultural centers and the associative movement; organizing festivals of music, theater, and poetry; engaging in cultural action abroad; and encouraging public readings and film production. The core of this cultural policy can be discerned along these broad lines.

The film industry is interested in the struggle against terrorism. Thanks to the financial support of the Ministry of Culture, the Film Industry Support Fund has enabled the production of several films that have contributed to greater awareness of fundamentalism and obscurantism. As examples, we can cite the following feature-length films: *El Manara*, by Belkacem Hadjadj; *Rachida*, by Yamina Bachir Chouikh, *Douar de Femmes (Hamlet of Women)*, by Mohamed Chouikh, *Suspects*, by Kamel Dehane, *Mel Ouatni*, by Fatma Belhadj, *Le Démon au féminin (The Demoness)*, by Hafsa Zinai, *The Autopsy of a Tragedy*, by Ait Aoudia, *Parfum d'Alger [Fragrance of Algiers]*, by Rashid Belhadj, and *Morituri*, by Okasha Touita.

The screenplays for these films, which were directly inspired by the period of violence suffered by Algeria, have been very well received by the public. They all denounce retrograde ideas and intolerance, while illustrating the resistance displayed by the Algerians against terrorism.

In particular, the film industry participated in the prevention of terrorism through the production of films on the fundamentalist movements that emerged in Algeria and which eventually tipped over into physical violence. Mohamed Chouikh produced *Youcef ou la Légende du septième dormant; [Joseph, or the Legend of the Seventh Sleeper]*, Hafsa Zinai Goudil made *Le Démon au féminin [The Demoness]*, which dealt with the phenomenon of charlatanism, and Merzak Allouache made *Bab El Oued City*. These productions increased citizens' awareness of the rise of obscurantism.

The movie theaters that were affected have been restored and returned to service. This is the case, for example, with the El Mouggar theater, and with the repertory screening rooms of the film library, which have been renovated.

Meanwhile, theatrical productions were also involved in this struggle, through plays such as *Hadria Oua El Haoues; El Bourat; Mezghena; Arflya; and Rehlat Hob*.

Several theatrical works were produced after Algeria's bloody years, including *La Danse des innocents [Dance of the Innocents]* at the National Theatre of Algiers. *Hatta Tam ("Until the End")* describes the mental path and behavior of the fundamentalists. This new production is a good example of consciousness-raising and the struggle against retrograde ideas. We must

also mention all of the plays that deal with the status of women, and which call for the promotion of their rights by indirectly encouraging the ideas of tolerance and progress.

The Algerian State also tackled the importation of works that promote terrorism and violence, while reviving the international book fair and regional fairs. The organization of these fairs had been interrupted during the years of violence, due to the lack of security, especially for foreign personalities. Since then, the State has revived this event, and the international book fair is held annually. At the same time, hundreds of libraries have been built and commissioned.

On the basis of the fact that access to culture and the revival of cultural activities largely contribute toward the acceptance of the principles of tolerance, respect for others, and the struggle against all forms of extremism, the State has supported the revival of cultural activities in every possible way. Along these lines, it is appropriate to mention a few of the broad outlines of this program, including, in particular, the revival of major Algerian and international cultural events and the institutionalization of dozens of festivals.

The organization of several major international events that took place without incident, proving that terrorism has been vanquished (*Algiers, Capital of Arab Culture*, in 2007; the *Algiers Pan-African Cultural Festival*, in 2009; *Tlemcen, Capital of Islamic Culture*, in 2011; and, in 2016, *Constantine, Capital of Arab Culture*);

The State, out of concern for participatory democracy, has also been working closely with various cultural associations. Hundreds of associations have taken part in cultural activity as a form of resistance and prevention.

2. The struggle against terrorism is a global undertaking that includes cultural action for resistance and prevention:

Algeria has significantly increased the cultural budget, because culture plays a primordial role in social cohesion and in the preservation of the essential referents of our identity and our collective imagination. This role became vital in the face of the devastations we suffered during the decade of terrorism.

This financial effort has enabled the cultural sector and especially Algeria, which suffered a tragic experience – attesting to the dramatic consequences of the loss of its cultural referents and the dissolution of its personality – to better protect itself against any destructive mimicry, doing so through the preservation, conservation, promotion, revitalization, and transmission of its cultural heritage and artistic know-how.

As part of the efforts to strengthen the dialogue and promote better understanding among civilizations, Algeria took part in the debates initiated by UNESCO with a view toward signing the following Conventions:

- The Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, adopted in October 2005; and
- The Convention on the Safeguarding of Intangible Heritage, which was adopted in 2003 and to which Algeria is the first signatory country.

These conventions encourage the recognition of cultural diversity and are based on the right to the expression of cultural differences. This, of course, is possible only if freedom of thought is guaranteed as a pillar of democracy. Through these conventions Algeria has also expressed its commitment to the values of human rights.

Algeria, which acknowledges its cultural and linguistic diversity, has proclaimed Tamazight to be a national and official language, alongside the Arabic language, and has incorporated it into the educational curriculum. The State also supports musical performances, the publication of books, and the production of films and theatrical plays in these two national languages.

Dialogue between cultures is another foothold in the struggle against extremism and a bulwark against fundamentalist messages. For example, a symposium was held on the subject of "Culture, Music and Sufism." It allowed researchers from multiple countries to debate various cultural aspects of the worship rituals and spiritual heritage of Islam and other religions.

This symposium was important because knowledge of the *tariquat*, which are based on the universalist expression of Islam, is extremely important at a time when our societies are faced with confusion between politics and religion. Sufism, because of its ecumenical character, its tolerance, and its generosity, makes a major contribution toward solving the problem of the close relationships that bind together the nations and cultures of the world.

Algeria, which is emerging from a tragedy imposed by terrorism and the emergence of particularly retrograde fundamentalist currents, cannot help but be sensitive to the dialogue of cultures. The country can only welcome with benevolence everything that advocates open-mindedness and acceptance of the Other. As such, the millennial history of Algeria reminds us that the country has always been a land of culture, thought, and civilization. These facts are well worth remembering, especially in these times of doubt and intolerance.

And this is why the international colloquium organized in 2001 in Algiers on the subject of St. Augustine was a highlight of the celebration of the International Year of Dialogue among Civilizations. It was also a very intense time of becoming reacquainted with our own history, our own memory, our common Mediterranean heritage, and our contribution to the other cultures of the world.

It should be remembered that freedom of intellectual creation, which is guaranteed by the Constitution, was targeted by extremism that wanted to impose the standardization of culture. The struggle against this phenomenon has meant supporting the freedom to create, supporting freedom of thought, and in fact supporting cultural rights, which are an integral part of human rights and which are universal, indivisible, and interdependent. This support can be achieved only if the principles of democracy are respected.

CONCLUSION

The peace, stability, and security that Algeria has enjoyed for many years now, particularly in a highly volatile regional environment dominated by the persistence of the terrorist threat and instability, rely heavily on the decisive choice by the Algerian nation as a whole to build a State under law that respects individual and collective freedoms.

They are also based on the sustained efforts of the country to embed permanently, in the minds of its citizens and in the practices of its institutions, the rules and the culture of participatory democracy based on the rule of law and on recourse to dialogue, reconciliation, tolerance, and mutual respect in the conduct of public affairs.

President Abdelaziz Bouteflika has repeatedly affirmed that "democracy cannot be a copy of what has been undertaken by others according to their own realities and experiences, nor any product intended to be imported or exported. In reality, democracy is simultaneously a firm belief and a culture. It is in fact a practice emanating from experience, and also the product of a social reality."

This approach is gradually bearing fruit, in that it benefits from the massive support of the population, and thus contributes to the weakening, marginalization, and rejection by the Algerian people of extremist discourse and its supporters, because it is allowing the combined efforts of public institutions, society, and the citizenry to make an active contribution to the victory over terrorism – a victory in which the People's National Army and the security services continue to play a decisive role.

This approach allows the Algerian people (who are the source of all power and the sole possessors of national sovereignty) to foresee with confidence and conviction their future through this democratic choice, reaffirming, in the preamble to the new Constitution, their determination to pursue these efforts to “establish institutions based on the participation of citizens in the conduct of public affairs and achieve social justice, equality, and freedom for all, within the framework of a republican and democratic State.”

The Algerian experience also shows that respect for the right of peoples to make choices by themselves and for themselves, in strict compliance with the goals and principles of the United Nations Charter and international law, free from all foreign interference or intervention, naturally generate and encourage the emergence and affirmation of the dynamics of peace, stability, security, and development that truly reflect the political, economic, and social aspirations of the people and best address their legitimate expectations.

Although for the Algerian people, as well as for many other peoples, democracy represents an irreplaceable step toward the development and well-being of the citizenry, for the political balance and cohesion of society, for its proper functioning, and for durable peace and social stability, at the international level democracy cannot accommodate behavior and relationships based in various fields on the logic of force and double standards, generating instability and chaos in a world that is already dangerously exposed to many structural threats.

To achieve success in the struggle against violent extremism and terrorism, all countries and the international community as a whole must work together sincerely and without a dual agenda, to bring about a genuine democratization of international relations.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | Page |
|---|------|
| PREFACE | 02 |
| INTRODUCTION..... | 03 |
| I- CONSOLIDATION OF THE PRINCIPLES OF THE REPUBLICAN AND DEMOCRATIC STATE ... | 05 |
| - The imperative nature of the rule of law and the separation of powers | |
| - Major accomplishments of the national republican and democratic refounding | |
| II- SOCIAL JUSTICE AS A BASIS FOR DEMOCRACY..... | 08 |
| III- STRENGTHENING THE INSTITUTIONAL FOUNDATIONS OF DEMOCRACY AND THE RULE OF LAW: <i>THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE CONSTITUTION OF FEBRUARY 7, 2016</i> | 09 |
| - Strengthening the rule of law and the transparency of elections | |
| - The promotion of human rights and democratic freedoms | |
| - Strengthening the powers of popular representation | |
| - Strengthening the independence of the Judiciary | |
| - Greater morality in public life, and the battle against social evils | |
| IV- THE NATIONAL RECONCILIATION POLICY | 14 |
| - The general legal framework of the Charter for Peace and National Reconciliation | |
| - The policy of national reconciliation: A platform in the service of human rights | |
| V- STATE OF EMERGENCY REGARDING THE INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS OF THE ALGERIAN STATE | 16 |
| VI- ALGERIA'S COMPLIANCE WITH THE PRINCIPAL INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS FOR THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS..... | 17 |
| VII- THE GLOBAL NATURE OF THE BATTLE AGAINST TERRORISM | 18 |
| VIII- PROTECTION AND MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC ORDER..... | 20 |
| IX- FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION, THE MEDIA, AND COMMUNICATION | 24 |
| - Positive repercussions of the Information Act on the activity of the media world | |
| - The right of citizens to information, and of journalists to information sources | |
| X- MODERNIZATION OF PUBLIC SERVICES..... | 26 |
| XI- PROTECTION AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF THE AUTHENTIC NATIONAL RELIGIOUS REFERENT..... | 27 |

| | |
|--|-----------|
| XII- THE REFORM OF THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM..... | 28 |
| - Role of the schools in preventing and combating terrorism | |
| - Educational curricula | |
| XIII- THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF WORK AND THE BATTLE AGAINST YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT | 30 |
| - public employment support mechanisms intended to encourage the professional integration of young people | |
| - Results obtained | |
| XIV- THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN AND THEIR INTEGRATION INTO ALGERIAN POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL LIFE | 36 |
| XV- HOUSING POLICY: AN INCLUSIVE APPROACH | 40 |
| XVI- CULTURAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PREVENTION OF, AND TO THE STRUGGLE AGAINST, EXTREMISM AND TERRORISM..... | 41 |
| - Resistance and the struggle against extremism | |
| - The struggle against terrorism is a global undertaking that includes cultural action for resistance and prevention | |
| CONCLUSION | 46 |

* * *