High Level Event
on Sustainable Economic Transition and Economic Diversification

15 November 2016, 16.00 – 18.00
Marrakech, Morocco

**Objective**

This high-level event, which will take place in the first COP after the adoption of the Paris Agreement, is intended to highlight the importance of economic diversification and transformation, and just transition of the workforce in the context of sustainable development.

It is also intended to share experiences and highlight the process of transformation that countries and business have started in order to integrate economic diversification into sustainable development strategies. It is also intended to show the importance of understanding how to make the transition sustainable, which transcends the development status of Parties; it is a potential issue for all Parties, albeit in different ways.

**Background**

In order to develop in a sustainable way, many countries have engaged in a deep process of transformation. The Paris Agreement has confirmed the need for this process of transformation and emphasized that it needs to take place at an accelerated pace. Many countries have introduced measures, which, while responding to the challenge of climate change, also have unintended impacts.

In this context, some of the key elements of the transformation needed to achieve sustainable development includes economic diversification and the just transition of the workforce.

While transitions, and processes of transformation, have taken place in different countries and regions, at different times, given the fundamental nature and global scale of the transformation required now, this process will prove challenging.

While some countries have managed transformations, others are at the beginning of such experiences. Cooperation and learning will prove critical. Understanding the importance of a sustainable transformation, which includes social solidarity as well as stable economy and markets, will be critical.
Agenda

16:00 – 16:20  Opening – Chaired by COP 22 President

- Welcome and opening remarks, President COP 22 (5 minutes)
- Remarks by Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, UNSG (5 minutes)
- Remarks by Mr. Peter Thomson, PGA (5 minutes)

16:20 – 17:00  Moderated Interventions

- Presentation of Background Paper by Mr. Andrei Marcu (5 minutes)
- Interventions by Parties (5 minutes each)

17:00 – 17:30  Facilitated Roundtable discussion with participants

17:30 – 17:50  Summation

- H.E Mr. Khalid A. Al-Falih, KSA (10 minutes)
- Mr. Jonathan Pershing, USA (10 minutes)

17:50 – 18:00  Closing Remarks by COP 22 President