



## GUIDE

### Fez, Capital of Moroccan Civil Society 2026

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#### I. Project Overview

The project "Fez, Capital of Moroccan Civil Society 2026" constitutes a pioneering national initiative, organized through a partnership between the Fez Saïss Association for Cultural, Social and Economic Development and the International Civil Society Organization for the Values of Citizenship, Development and Dialogue, in cooperation with the Ministry Delegate to the Head of Government in charge of Relations with Parliament, and with the support of a number of national and regional institutions.

The project aims to honor a Moroccan city each year as a distinguished model in the promotion of associative work, and to entrench the values of citizenship, solidarity, development and coexistence, within the framework of the effective implementation of the Royal High Directives calling for the empowerment of civil society to fulfill its roles as a fundamental partner in achieving human and sustainable development.

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#### II. Rationale for the Selection of Fez

The city of Fez was selected as Capital of Moroccan Civil Society for the year 2026 for the following reasons:

1. In recognition of the remarkable contribution of its diverse associative fabric across social, cultural, developmental and humanitarian spheres.
2. In acknowledgment of its civilizational and historical role in the construction of a unified Moroccan national identity.

3. In continuity with the trajectory established by previous host cities: Oujda (2018) – Taroudant (2019) – Tétouan (2022) – Salé (2023) – Laâyoune (2025).
  4. In alignment with the Royal High Directives emphasizing the engagement of civil society in supporting human and regional development.
  5. In consideration of the historical and scientific standing of Fez as the spiritual and cultural capital of the Kingdom and a center of intellectual and humanistic influence.
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### **III. Project Justifications**

Drawing upon the shared objectives of the International Civil Society Organization for the Values of Citizenship, Development and Dialogue, and the Fez Saïs Cultural, Social and Economic Association — both of which are committed to promoting genuine civic values, sustainable development, and the celebration of civil, social and cultural contributions of individuals who have served their city and nation — and building upon the Royal High Orientations pertaining to human development and advanced regionalization, and in pursuance of the agreement concluded on September 7, 2018, with the Ministry Delegate in charge of Relations with Parliament and Civil Society, concerning the annual designation of a Moroccan city as Capital of Civil Society according to established criteria.

In view of the distinguished contributions made by the city of Fez in service to the nation and its people, and of its accumulated associative expertise and pioneering experiences in civic action, Fez was designated Capital of Moroccan Civil Society for the year 2026, based on the proposal of the Fasi delegation participating in the closing ceremony of the Laâyoune 2025 celebration, and endorsed by the various organizing bodies.

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### **IV. Project Objectives**

The project seeks to achieve a set of national and developmental objectives, the most prominent of which are:

1. Implementation of the Royal High Directives pertaining to human development and public service.
2. Highlighting the vital role of civil society in consolidating the values of citizenship and effective civic participation.
3. Valorizing the civilizational, cultural and human heritage of the city of Fez, while encouraging tourism and investment.
4. Honoring associations and prominent figures who have contributed to the service of the city and society.
5. Reinforcing the values of social coexistence and cultural diversity within the framework of the New Development Model.

6. Collecting, studying and disseminating the tangible and intangible heritage of the city, underscoring its significance in Moroccan history.
  7. Encouraging youth to take initiative, engage in creative endeavors and participate in local development.
  8. Facilitating the exchange of expertise among Moroccan cities in the fields of volunteerism and development.
  9. Consolidating the spirit of partnership between civil society and public and elected institutions.
  10. Strengthening authentic Moroccan national identity, founded upon the values of citizenship, unity and solidarity.
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## V. Planned Events and Activities

The general program of the "Fez, Capital of Moroccan Civil Society 2026" celebration encompasses a range of cultural, scientific, developmental, artistic and social activities, the most notable of which include:

### 1. Request for Royal Patronage of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, may God grant him victory.

### 2. Cultural and Intellectual Events:

- An inaugural symposium on "The Role of Civil Society in Building Sustainable Development and Preserving National Unity."
- A roundtable discussion on the cultural, architectural and historical memory of the city of Fez.
- Presentation of the "Civilizational Encyclopedia of the City of Fez and Its Environs."
- Poetic and literary readings celebrating the city's landmarks and cultural heritage.

### 3. Social and Developmental Events:

- Organization of voluntary medical convoys and provision of social assistance.
- A national exhibition of developmental, health, cultural and artistic products showcasing the creative capacity of civil society.
- Launch of the Fez Civic Caravan to familiarize Moroccan cities with the associative experience of Fez.
- Field initiatives targeting vulnerable populations and working-class neighborhoods.

### 4. Artistic and Heritage Events:

- A cultural heritage evening highlighting authentic Fasi musical traditions.

- A documentary screening on the cultural and architectural landmarks of the city.
- A visual arts exhibition documenting aspects of the historical memory of Fez.

### 5. Youth-Specific Activities:

- A Youth Award for Excellence and Creativity in the fields of culture, volunteerism and development.
  - Training sessions on entrepreneurship and youth project support.
  - Workshops on associative leadership and civic communication.
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## VI. Closing Activities

The project's proceedings will conclude with an official ceremony comprising:

1. The presentation of the Capital Shield, certificates of honor and awards.
2. The announcement of the Moroccan city that will bear the title of Capital of Civil Society for the following year.
3. The signing of cooperation and follow-up agreements between associative stakeholders and partner institutions.
4. The transmission of a message of loyalty and allegiance to His Majesty King Mohammed VI, may God grant him victory.
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## VII. Schedule and Venue

**Timeline:** The inauguration of activities is scheduled for November 25–28, 2026, with ongoing activities throughout the year.

**Venue:** The city of Fez – the spiritual and intellectual capital of the Kingdom of Morocco.

**Official Motto:** Fez – A Historical Depth and a Civilizational Continuity.

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## VIII. Organizing and Supporting Bodies

- International Civil Society Organization for the Values of Citizenship, Development and Dialogue.
- Fez Saï's Cultural, Social and Economic Association.
- Ministry Delegate to the Head of Government in charge of Relations with Parliament.
- Ministry of Youth, Culture and Communication.
- Ministry of Tourism, Artisanal Industries and the Social and Solidarity Economy.

- Ministry of the Interior.
  - Governorate of the Fez-Meknès Region and the Prefecture of Fez.
  - Local and elected authorities of the Fez-Meknès Region.
  - Civil society associations and organizations of the city of Fez.
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## **IX. Final Declaration and Recommendations**

On the occasion of the closing of the "Fez, Capital of Moroccan Civil Society 2026" celebrations, the organizing bodies express:

1. The transmission of a message of loyalty and allegiance to His Majesty King Mohammed VI, may God grant him victory and support.
  2. A renewed commitment to continuing the implementation of the celebration program through diverse and inclusive activities targeting all segments of society.
  3. The continuation of field activities throughout the year 2026, across cultural, social, health, sporting and solidarity-related domains.
  4. The mobilization of Fasi civil society for active and meaningful participation in the annual program of the project.
  5. An invitation to all Moroccan associations and organizations to strengthen their partnerships and engage in service to cities and local communities.
  6. The entrenchment of the principles of volunteerism, citizenship and the transcendence of self-interest in service to the common good.
  7. An affirmation that Fez, in its designation as Capital of Moroccan Civil Society, continues its civilizational mission of disseminating the values of openness, tolerance and national unity.
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## **X. Conclusion**

The designation of Fez as Capital of Moroccan Civil Society for the year 2026 is the culmination of a long and distinguished civilizational and humanistic journey, and a reaffirmation of its standing as an intellectual, cultural and spiritual beacon. It confirms, once more, that civic action is a lever of development, a bridge of communication, and a space for the consolidation of genuine citizenship.