People's Democratic Republic of Algeria Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research

Intellectual contribution by Professor "Kamal Baddari",
Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research
on the theme of:

«The Algerian University: the manufacture of the possible »!

For the official start of the academic year 2024-2025

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«The Algerian University: the manufacture of the possible! »

Algerian Higher Education, with the support of scientific research, seizes every opportunity to strengthen its presence in, and collaboration with, strategic areas of the economy to ensure that technology and science are not merely the object of some fleeting enthusiasm, but that they can effectively contribute to the transformation of society for the common good.

Through concrete applications in the last few years, we have not hesitated in making the bold choice of revolutionizing the vision of higher education and scientific research through the adoption of new paradigms encompassing technology, student well-being, and human and social sciences.

This is how we have created the first higher schools of mathematics, artificial intelligence, mobile systems in order to train experts in robotics, nanotechnology, cyber security and in the manufacture and control of drones, and many more initiatives will surely follow. We have also chosen to strengthen university curricula with artistic, cultural and sporting elements and factors.

We have created new programs that are equally vital to other sectors of the country's economy, such as energy, water, food and energy security. We have strengthened studies in medical sciences and ensured that medicine is taught throughout the country by creating extension medical centres to our university hospitals. These are real investments, both bold and strategic, aiming to guarantee sustainable growth and creating long-term value to raise Algeria to the ranks of developed countries.

It is not possible to list here everything that has been achieved by higher education and scientific research, but if these achievements show anything, they demonstrate the extent to which higher education has become a real factory of « the possible ».

But what do we mean by the « factory of the possible »?

What can be drawn from the concept of « the possible », which is a Latin expression meaning "power", is that the « possible » is opposed to the impossible which, by definition, cannot be. For something to be possible, it must, on the one hand, not be a contradiction in itself from a logical point of view, and, on the other

hand, it must not derogate from the laws of experience from a physical point of view. Manufacturing that which is possible designates not what is, but that which could be achieved. This is realised through the acceleration of technological progress by now teaching through technology and by introducing new paradigms to develop the arts, marketing, humanities and social sciences, law studies and political science, sports, etc.

Attaining that which is possible is about making breakthroughs in discovery and innovation by transforming the way scientific research is pursued. Finally, achieving that which is possible also means fostering a dynamic experience that allows our students to prosper throughout their lives in a fulfilled and thriving environment.

A question must be asked: what can we make possible?

The tasks of higher education are part of the duty of this institution with regard to its cardinal missions, namely: to provide the country with quality human resources. Its missions have been well-known, and without them, it cannot exist. But beyond these cardinal missions, the University is constantly called upon to evolve. Thus, teaching and research are constantly evolving and adapting. It is a safe bet that during the implementation of the government's program, other development prospects will appear without us knowing in what form, or in what nature, they will arise. But we can therefore already foresee new perspectives in the following areas to achieve "that which is possible" and I will limit myself to the following three aspects:

Firstly, it is a question, for example, of bringing teachers, economists and managers to form consortia to explore the Algerian industrial fabric to help an abandoned or distressed production unit in order to create life-saving partnerships, thus bringing innovation and offering new hopes and new opportunities for workers.

Secondly, universities and higher schools will need to be able to examine the vast potential of emerging technologies. This may be the development of bioprinting, a field that will one day enable us to use 3D technology to print human organs, such as a beating heart.

Thirdly, in the data security field, society as a whole relies on technology in all aspects of everyday life. However, with these uses of technology, comes the question of knowing whether our data is really safe. Beyond setting up the Graduate School of Cyber-Security, our ambitions are to design an Algerian system of international scope able to protect our data as well as respond to any malicious cyber-attack.

In the same vein, it is necessary to empower the leadership of Algerian higher education institutions in the field of artificial intelligence, machine-learning, mobile systems and other advanced technologies.

In 20 years, if there is no natural disaster, the world's population will reach 9.6 billion people. This is a staggering figure that should not leave us indifferent. There is an urgent need now to develop initiatives able to respond to the challenges of the emerging global food crisis through improved seed selection and sensible practices in the use and management of crops.

Collaboration between teachers, agricultural experts and biologists is now essential in order to develop and deploy intelligent systems using new technologies. We will also have to respond to the challenges faced by other vital sectors, such as water, energy and health.

In the coming period, we will continue to develop the Arts, as they inspire reflection, challenge and questioning, while stimulating creativity. We will also continue to develop nanotechnologies and speed up their integration into the multi-faceted world of medicine,

In conclusion,

We keep on being steadfast and do so by ensuring that what we say, is effectively carried out in conformity with the government's action plan. We will strengthen creativity and educational goals and build up a talented student body. We will provide seed funding to accelerate promising areas of research and foster innovation, and much more.

We are aware that this cannot be achieved without the active participation of all, based on cooperative relationships where resources and initiatives are not simply added to one another, but combined and related to each other. It is therefore

through the integration of efforts and a common desire to make the Algerian University in high places "the field of all possibilities" that we will succeed together in achieving the duty that falls upon us.

I wish everyone a good start to the new academic year 2024-2025 and may this year be full of great successes for us all.