**International Festival of Amazigh Culture in Fez**

**Fourteenth edition**

**11-13 May 2018**

**Press release**

The 14th International Festival of Amazigh Culture will be held in Fez from May 11 to 13, organized by the Fez Sais Association and the North South Center in partnership with the region of Fez-Meknes and the BMCE Bank. This festival is organized within the spirit of the royal directives concerning the promotion of Amazigh and popular culture. This event will emphasize the historical, social and cultural importance of the role of culture in the process of democratization.

The Amazigh Festival contains two major events: the first concerns the International Forum on "Amazigh culture and the future of democracy in North Africa" and the second event includes Amazigh poetry and popular song.

This 14th Festival will be a great opportunity to highlight the positive impact of cultural diversity in general and Amazigh culture in particular on democracy, sustainable development and the protection of heritage.

The Forum is an opportunity for experts, researchers and civil society actors to discuss issues related to democracy and cultural diversity and their role in promoting democracy and development in North African countries. The aim is to develop coherent strategies to promote intercultural dialogue, social cohesion and democratic culture in North Africa.

During the opening session, the great Moroccan writer Tahar Ben Jelloun will be honored for his vast contribution to Moroccan culture and its promotion in the world.

In addition to the forum, the festival will include major demonstrations of the Amazigh and popular song through its singers, poets and artists from various parts of the Kingdom and abroad, with the participation of a group of artists such as Fatima Tashtoukt, Aisha Maya, Sami Rai, Italian group Carishto, the Spanish artist Maria Flamenco, the talented artist Dounia Batma, the singer Housi 46, and the artist Faisal, who will be honored at this festival in recognition of their great talents and their contributions to the development of Amazigh song.

In addition to song and poetry, the festival will also include several exhibitions: a Book Fair, the Traditional Products Exhibition, the Art Gallery and the Amazigh Carpet Exhibition.