

OPENNING REMARKS BY IRES' DIRECTOR GENERAL

INTERNATIONAL PANEL OF FUTURISTS

RABAT, JULY 11-13, 2016

Ladies and gentlemen,

First of all, let me thank you all for coming here today, especially those of you who have come from far.

I am delighted to welcome you today to the Royal Institute for Strategic Studies (IRES), on the occasion of this first international panel of futurists.

I would like to start by giving you a brief overview of IRES, which was established in 2007 with the aim of strengthening the capacity of Morocco to analyse, anticipate and adapt itself to the rapidly changing world.

Strategic thinking and foresight watch at the national, regional and international level are two main missions of IRES.

In the field of strategic thinking, IRES has conducted several study programs related to national issues, such as social ties, global competitiveness and intangible capital.

Since 2013, IRES has been carrying out studies into Morocco's international relations and diplomacy in their political, economic, social, cultural and environmental dimension. The Institute has also developed expertise in the study of some global issues, including climate change, human security and migration.

In 2015, IRES set up an exploratory and strategic resources system (i-RES) which helps the Institute to conduct advanced foresight watch. This enables IRES to orient its work to further anticipation. The Institute also has a foresight resource center and a foresight toolbox.

IRES mobilizes more than 200 national and foreign researchers, produces around twenty reports per year and organizes about 35 meetings annually. It has partnerships with renowned international think tanks and is recognized for its role in the field of intellectual diplomacy.

Among the strategic reports published by IRES, I would like to mention the "Panorama of Morocco in the world":

- The 2015 report was dedicated to the major global transitions.
- The 2016 report emphasized Morocco's international relations.
- The 2017 report, which will be published on the occasion of the COP22, focuses on climate change and the ecological footprint.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Today's organization of our first International Panel of Futurists here in Morocco, with experts from different continents, and in which gender equality is respected, is a great opportunity to bring real added value to IRES, whose primary goal is to promote future studies in Morocco. Through the organization of this conference, IRES aims to build up a vision of the world other than the Western one that has prevailed for many years.

The principal objective of this meeting is to identify weak signals, emergent issues and projected trends in 2030 and in 2050, to prioritize anticipations based on their impact in terms of structural change and to suggest efficient strategies that could address challenges globally and across different regions of the world, with specific focus on the euro-Mediterranean region and the African continent.

These are some opening remarks about this conference.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.