

# TOWARD A NEW POST-COVID-19 WORLD?

## STRATEGIC REPORT 2021

# PRESENTATION

Under the direction of Mohammed Tawfik MOULINE,  
*Director General of Royal Institute for Strategic Studies*

Report completed on March 15, 2021



# OUTLINE

|   |    |
|---|----|
| ▶ Foreword .....                                    | 07 |
| ▶ Part I : What crisis are we talking about ? ..... | 11 |
| ❖ Chapter 1 : A systemic crisis .....               | 15 |
| • Issue at stake .....                              | 17 |
| • One more pandemic ? .....                         | 19 |
| • A systemic crisis .....                           | 26 |
| • The COVID-19 pandemic in Africa .....             | 39 |
| • Impacts of the health crisis in Morocco .....     | 44 |
| • Keep in mind .....                                | 50 |
| ❖ Chapter 2 : Seeds of change .....                 | 51 |
| • Issue at stake .....                              | 53 |
| • Yearning for change .....                         | 55 |
| • Reality can be stubborn .....                     | 81 |
| • Keep in mind.....                                 | 87 |
| ❖ Part I – Conclusion .....                         | 88 |

# OUTLINE (2)

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| ▶ Part II : What post-COVID world ? .....           | 89  |
| ❖ Chapter 1 : A wicked problem .....                | 93  |
| • Issue at stake .....                              | 95  |
| • A kaleidoscopic vision .....                      | 98  |
| • Persistent risks .....                            | 102 |
| • Keep in mind.....                                 | 114 |
| ❖ Chapter 2 : Some structuring insights .....       | 117 |
| • The issue at stake .....                          | 119 |
| • From globalization to globality .....             | 122 |
| • Accelerating a still limited digitalization ..... | 146 |
| • Towards more systemic ecological transition ..... | 162 |
| • What changes in mindsets ? .....                  | 183 |
| • Keep in mind .....                                | 197 |
| ❖ Part II – Conclusion .....                        | 198 |

# OUTLINE (3)

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| ▶ Part III : Action levers for a new world .....                   | 199 |
| ❖ Chapter 1 : A structural shift .....                             | 203 |
| • Issue at stake .....   | 205 |
| • A new governance .....   | 207 |
| • A necessary endogenization .....                                 | 221 |
| • Keep in mind .....   | 238 |
| ❖ Chapter 2 : Contributing to the exit from the Anthropocene ..... | 239 |
| • Issue at stake .....   | 241 |
| • Beyond the green recovery .....                                  | 244 |
| • The Great Transformation .....                                   | 249 |
| • Avenues for action .....   | 255 |
| • Keep in mind .....   | 299 |
| ❖ Part III - Conclusion .....                                      | 300 |

# O UTLINE (4)

|                               |     |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| ▶ General conclusion .....    | 301 |
| ▶ List of figures .....       | 302 |
| ▶ List of boxes .....         | 305 |
| ▶ List of focus .....         | 306 |
| ▶ List of data .....          | 307 |
| ▶ List of “On move” .....     | 308 |
| ▶ Lexicon .....               | 309 |
| ▶ Selected bibliography ..... | 320 |

# F

## OREWORD

In 2019, the Royal Institute for Strategic Studies (IRES) put forth a proposal for a development model whose cornerstone is governance and which is based on four pillars: the human element, Nature, planetarization and exponentiality. The COVID-19 crisis has only served to confirm the relevance of this model by reviving citizens' expectations and hopes, that must be met.

Although it acknowledges the uncertainty surrounding the evolution of the health situation, which has made anticipation almost impossible and has complicated the implementation of appropriate public policies in a world where the virus will continue to spread, IRES has launched an in-depth reflection to understand the issues at hand through the production of analytic and forward-looking policy briefs, the conduct of videoconferences on the issue of COVID-19 as well as the compilation of this new strategic report.

The first half of 2020 will be remembered, around the world, for the outbreak of a global pandemic, which has led to unprecedented lockdowns.

Although less deadly than the Spanish flu and previous Asian epidemics, the COVID-19 pandemic has had unparalleled systemic impacts, both short term ones - closure of borders, slowdown of the world economy, collapse of critical economic sectors, such as tourism, aeronautics, automotive... - as well as medium term consequences, with the ensuing economic and financial crises, worsening inequalities, rising unemployment, famine...etc.

This unprecedented situation has exposed dysfunctions, revealed weaknesses and reinforced certain perceptions, prompting the emergence of a new consciousness, highlighting the need for anticipation and for calling matters into question. This situation seems to lay the ground for significant transformations and disruptions that could happen in the future at the geopolitical, economic, social, societal and environmental levels. It requires a major paradigm shift since the world of tomorrow will be different from that of today.

# F

## OREWORD (2)

The measures taken by states to stem the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic have affected all aspects of their citizens' lives. The health crisis has generated strong expectations in terms of radical change, including the questioning of certain lifestyles, increased digitization of activities, a reform of education, an economic endogenizing process... That situation confirms the return of the State as a key player.

The systemic crisis which had been brewing on a global scale cannot be attributed solely to the pandemic and to the health measures that had to be taken. It rather depicts a world struggling to depart from an old, no longer suitable order and face up to the necessary transformation imposed by evolution.

Getting out of this situation from the top will therefore require thorough **structural reforms**. In addition to the need to face the short-term knock-on effects of the health crisis, it is necessary to come up with a strategic, structural response to the pandemic in order to prepare for the post-COVID-19 world.

Thus, a new vision of the world is emerging. Its three hallmarks are: a new approach to national sovereignty, strong expectation of radical change, as expressed in many countries, and a change of mindset, which puts Man and Nature back at the center of development.

As soon as the first case of coronavirus infection was detected on its territory, Morocco took drastic measures: it closed borders, proclaimed a national health emergency and full lockdown, shut down the places of worship and created a special fund to manage the coronavirus pandemic ...

Moroccan authorities' swift reaction, under the leadership of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, effectively made it possible to slow down the spread of the virus and achieve one of the lowest case fatality rates in the world as well as one of the highest recovery rates.



The Moroccan Royal Vision is based on three pillars: economic recovery, with the creation of the Mohammed VI Investment Fund, universal access to social security within five years and the restructuring of state-owned companies.

This structural response is necessary in order to:

- ❖ correct some dysfunctions and shortcomings, if only to be able to face up to a new crisis,
- ❖ enable the Moroccan economy to recover from the lockdown and the ensuing global economic downturn, thus contributing to social stability in the country
- ❖ tackle the external effects of the crisis on Morocco, especially the decline in international demand and in financial flows from abroad.

The health crisis is a unique opportunity for Morocco, first to accelerate the implementation of a new development model that is fine-tuned thanks to the lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic and, second, to prepare **Morocco** for the post-Covid world

As the sixth edition of the “Morocco’s panorama in the world” series, this strategic report is entitled “Towards a new post-COVID-19 world?”. It is not meant to provide a recapitulation of 2020 events, for such publications exist already and are regularly updated (1). Rather, the present report seeks to respond to a current need and, thus, to provide a better insight into the ins and outs of the health crisis in order to define its real scope (Part 1) and determine lasting changes to come, notwithstanding a host of current uncertainties (part 2 ).

This will give us the opportunity to propose new courses of action, both to increase the resilience of systems that are capable of protecting our fellow citizens, and to break away from operating models which seem to be outdated today (Part III).

The report also highlights the pandemic’s political economic and social aftermath on the African continent as well as the impact of the systemic crisis on Moroccan society and economy, the disruptions caused, the opportunities and the risks they represent and the measures taken by the Kingdom to curb the spread of the virus and ensure economic recovery, thus showcasing a “Morocco on the move”. The report includes proposals that are likely to accelerate the pace of the Kingdom’s development and enhance its integration into the post-COVID-19 world, by consolidating its regional and global influence.

Mohammed Tawfik MOULINE  
Director General of the Royal Institute  
for Strategic studies

# R EPORT READING GRID

- ▶ Quick read-through
  - ❖ In burgundy : the key elements
  - ❖ In black, bold text : titles and keywords
- ▶ Detailed reading
  - ❖ Green-colored pages provide quantitative data.
  - ❖ Red-colored pages include a focus on specific themes or issues.
  - ❖ Yellow-colored pages introduce some “ good practices”.
- ▶ Meticulous reading
  - ❖ Words followed by \* are defined in the glossaries at the end of the Strategic Report.
  - ❖ The figures in brackets refer to the sources of the data included in the bibliography at the end of the book.



Courtesy : Peter Zelei Images - Getty

# G

## ENERAL CONCLUSION

- ▶ The outbreak of the health crisis, at the end of 2019, has surprised the world by its magnitude and the swiftness of its spread. An unprecedented historical event, the pandemic has compelled states to take drastic measures to stem its spread. This has turned the health crisis into a multi-faceted crisis, affecting all aspects of life - for countries and citizens alike.
- ▶ This situation seems to bring together the ingredients of important transformations and disruptions which will take place in the future on the geopolitical, political, economic, social, societal and environmental levels. It makes a major paradigm shift necessary since tomorrow's world will inevitably be different from today's.
- ▶ Thus, the various forces of change that had emerged in recent years began to crystallize under the impact of the pandemic. During the crisis, the obvious limitations of international institutions ( the United Nations, the World Health Organization, the European Union) and the inability of China and the United States to take on global leadership, have given rise to the expression of a powerful aspiration for a new globalization, one that is ecological, democratic and less inequitable - one that will put an end both to a neo-liberal capitalism that has grown wild, and to the irresponsible exploitation of the planet.
- ▶ The new vision of the world that is emerging calls for a systemic response that would put Man at the heart of development, reconsider the relationship between Man and Nature, deal with the exponential effects of acceleration of disruptive technologies, and ensure an articulation between the global and the local, within the framework of planetarization.
- ▶ The pandemic offers the world - and Morocco in particular - the opportunity to embrace this vision and adopt a new development model in order to carry out far-reaching reforms to improve the well-being of the population and its natural environment, and to increase the resilience of the national economy to external shocks.
- ▶ This strategic report by the Royal Institute for Strategic Studies can help governments consider the potential of the crisis as a catalyst - if a cruel one - for transformation, so that they can come out of the crisis better than before and continue implementing public sector reforms to shape a more citizen-centered, sustainable future (437).

# L IST OF FIGURES

- 1 : Worldwide statistics
- 2 : Distribution of COVID-19 cases in the world
- 3 : Evolution of infections in the world : number of confirmed cases and deaths per million inhabitants
- 4 : Government Stringency Index, April 1st, 2020
- 5 : Government Stringency Index, December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020
- 6 : Inter and intra-regional trade, 2016
- 7 : World map of airline traffic density, 2019
- 8 : The 15 countries with the highest COVID-19 fatality rates in the world, on December 30, 2020
- 9 : Global economic prospects
- 10 : Estimates of the working hours, employment and labor income lost in 2020, and projections for 2021
- 11 : Main findings from Oxfam's survey of economists on the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic on inequality (79 countries)
- 12 : Share of informal employment, by country and region, 2018
- 13 : Evolution of the distribution of confirmed COVID-19 cases by region (en %)
- 14 : Health security index in Africa Extent of preparedness of African health systems for epidemics
- 15 : 2019 Hunger Map
- 16 : Impact of the lockdown measures taken by Morocco on the spread of COVID-19
- 17 : General national statistics
- 18 : Evolution of COVID-19 infections in Morocco and the world (logarithmic scale)
- 19 : Change in value added by sector and inflation rate (%)
- 20 : Change in savings and investment as % of GDP
- 21 : Change in % of some key foreign trade indicators between 2019 and 2020
- 22 : Breakdown of businesses by activity status and category
- 23 : Classification de la transmission de la Covid-19 par pays dans le monde
- 24 : Growing corporate demand for freelance workers



## LIST OF FIGURES (2)

- 25 : Green transition A third of the German stimulus plan will be devoted to reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- 26 : COVID-19 screening policies around the world
- 27 : Extreme temperatures in Siberia and northern Canada, June 2020
- 28 : 2020 Global Travel Security Map
- 29 : Risk classification grid
- 30 : Global Risks landscape 2021
- 31 : Heat map of national cybersecurity commitment 2018
- 32 : Global security risk map 2020
- 33 : Deployment of COVID-19 vaccines in the world, 27 February 2021
- 34 : COVID-19 vaccination doses administered per 100 people, as of 27 February 2021
- 35 : Geographical distribution of global GDP, 2019 (%)
- 36 : Country participation in global value chains
- 37 : Global income tipping point, September 2018
- 38 : Share of global wealth, 1980-2050 Towards a shrinking of the global middle class
- 39 : Globalization et deglobalization 1880-2022 (openness of the world economy index numbers: 2008=100)
- 40 : Telework potential by region: Share of employees in teleworkable occupations (%), 2020
- 41 : China: Real GDP growth composition: Economic growth rate and quarter-on-quarter contribution to growth (%)
- 42 : World merchandise exports as per cent of GDP
- 43 : Quarter-on-quarter global GDP forecasts
- 44 : Evolution of Morocco's share of global trade exports in the country's total exports between 2010 and 2020 (%)
- 45 : Outsourcing of passenger car production worldwide (%), 2019
- 46 : Size of the autonomous vehicle market, logarithmic scale (\$ billion)
- 47 : Assessment of the first agricultural strategy, the Green Morocco Plan
- 48 : Findings of Deloitte's survey concerning the impact of COVID-19 on businesses around the world: expected changes in the future due to the COVID-19 pandemic

# L

## IST OF FIGURES (3)

- 49 : Relationship between ICT investment and value creation
- 50 : Evolution of data traffic and fiber optic subscriptions in Morocco between 2019 and 2020
- 51 : Increase in tourism and international flights
- 52 : Contribution of the tourism sector to GDP (in %), 2019
- 53 : Evolution of global tourism revenues (in \$billion) and percent of GDP
- 54 : Greenness of Stimulus Index (GSI) 2020
- 55 : Breakdown of environmentally relevant stimulus in G20 countries, 2020
- 56 : Existence of a mental health policy
- 57 : World population trends and projections, by age group
- 58 : Median age by region, 2019
- 59 : Youth unemployment rate in the world (youth ages 15-24 years) (in %)
- 60 : Trained teachers (% of total teachers)
- 61 : Learning poverty” rate of children aged 10, in low- and middle-income countries, by region (%), 2019
- 62 : Change in civil liberties between 2019 and 2020
- 63 : Contribution of global GDP to economic growth
- 64 : World gross public debt ratio (in %), for the period 2020-2022 (estimates)
- 65 : African Regional Integration Index
- 66 : The blue economy in the world in 2020
- 67 : Should your government make environment protection a priority in recovery from COVID-19 ?
- 68 : Do you think have a responsibility ti ensure your generation does not destroy the planet ?
- 69 : Global Water Withdrawal Projections
- 70 : Population growth has led to greater urbanization
- 71 : ... and to a concentration in increasingly densely populated cities
- 72 : Greenhouse gas emissions per capita as a proportion of the urban population
- 73 : Types of impacts tourism and travel have on countries



# LIST OF BOXES

---

- 1 : Definitions
- 2 : The COVID-19 pandemic has led to a deep global recession
- 3 : Post-normal times
- 4 : Planetary health
- 5 : A demand for change that predates the crisis
- 6 : A perception of globalization: vulnerability and upheavals
- 7 : Vertebrates on the brink
- 8 : The importance of an appropriate global response to the health crisis

# L IST OF FOCUS

- 1 : Magnitude of the global social crisis
- 2 : New ways of working and more...
- 3 : A critical information gap
- 4 : Kaleidoscope : images of the world after
- 5 : The security issue in Africa
- 6 : China : Taking the lead
- 7 : Globality: the new face of post-COVID globalization ?
- 8 : Morocco's world crafts : the the Agribusiness ?
- 9 : Plural digitalization
- 10 : What acceleration of digitalization in Morocco ?
- 11 : Social networks in Morocco: multiple challenges to be addressed
- 12 : What transformations in post-COVID Moroccan society ?
- 13 : Post-COVID macroeconomics
- 14 : What position for Morocco at the global and African levels ?
- 15 : Re-thinking Africa's development
- 16 : Morocco: Making Moroccan economy endogenous
- 17 : Reduce Morocco's dependence on foreign strategic resources
- 18 : The Water-Energy-Food Nexus at the global level
- 19 : The Water-Energy-Agriculture-Ecosystems Nexus Courses of action for Morocco
- 20 : The City-Mobility-Ecological Footprint Nexus
- 21 : The Tourism-Environment-Employment Nexus (TEE)





## LIST OF DATA

---

- 1 : COVID-19 in the world
- 2 : COVID-19 in Morocco
- 3 : Globalization in figures
- 4 : Sustainable urbanization in figures
- 5 : Global tourism in figures
- 6 : Sustainable investments
- 7 : Mental health
- 8 : Young people
- 9 : Water in the world
- 10 : The CMEF Nexus



L

## LIST OF “ON MOVE”

---

- 1 : Morocco: The Royal Vision
- 2 : The European Green New Deal
- 3 : The pandemic: A catalyst in the North
- 3 : The pandemic: A catalyst in the South as well
- 4 : Africa: Progress on all fronts
- 5 : Taking sustainability into account in Asia
- 6 : Morocco’s Green strategy :1 – From soft to smart power
- 6 : Morocco’s green strategy :2 – (Re)-greening the country
- 7 : The Blue Economy in Morocco
- 8 : Towards a post-COVID Moroccan city
- 9 : Towards a post-COVID African city
- 10 : Sustainable tourism in Morocco