

المملكة المغربية

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Institut Royal des Etudes Stratégiques  
Royal Institute for Strategic Studies



**TOWARDS AFRICA'S AUTONOMOUS  
DEVELOPMENT**  
STRATEGIC REPORT 2018



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Morocco emphasizes the importance of **South-South cooperation** and places Africa at the heart of its foreign policy priorities.

His Majesty King Mohammed VI has always pleaded in favor of a **autonomous development** of Africa "**with a human face**", focused on collective mobilization of African countries to succeed in restoring their unity and to establish Africa's leadership internationally.

Morocco's African policy thus hinges on bolstering **mutually beneficial partnerships** with African countries as well as on Morocco's diligent involvement in favor of the continent's main causes.

The levers of Morocco's African policy



Source : IRES

# R OYAL VISION (2)

My vision of South-South cooperation is clear and constant: My country shares what it has, without ostentation.

Within the framework of a clear-sighted collaboration, Morocco – which is a major economic player in Africa – will become a catalyst for shared expansion...

Some say that, through this commitment, Morocco is seeking to gain leadership in Africa. I tell them that it is to Africa that the Kingdom is seeking to give the leadership...

My country has opted to share and transfer its know-how; in concrete terms, it is offering to build a safe, solidarity-based future....

## **It is time for Africa to benefit from Africa's wealth**

We must work to enable our land, after decades of looting, to enter an era of prosperity...

For a long time, we have looked elsewhere to seek help in making a decision, a commitment.

Is it not time for this tropism to be stopped? Is it not time to look towards our continent? To consider its cultural wealth, its human potential?

Africa should be proud of its resources, its cultural heritage, its spiritual values, and the future should strongly support this natural pride!

This is the path to solidarity, peace and union chosen by my country. We reaffirm our commitment to the development and prosperity of African citizens.

Excerpt from the Royal Speech, delivered before the 28<sup>th</sup> Summit of the African Union,  
January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017

# R OYAL VISION (3)

Despite the extensive damage caused by colonialism, I believe **Africa has the means to ensure its development and to take its destiny into its own hands**, thanks to the resolve of African people and to the continent's human and natural resources...

While it is natural that Morocco should benefit from cooperation with African sister nations, my country always makes sure that our cooperation is mutually profitable.

Morocco does not view Africa as a market for the sale and promotion of Moroccan products, or as a continent for making quick profit. We see Africa as a forum for joint action, for promoting development in the region, and for serving African citizens..

In this respect, Morocco contributes, along with other African countries, to the implementation of human development projects and the provision of social services which have a direct bearing on the lives of people in the region.

Excerpt from the Royal Speech on the Occasion of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of the Revolution of the King and the People, August 20, 2016

**Morocco's African policy** will not be limited to West and Central Africa. I will see to it that it acquires a **continental dimension** and covers the whole of Africa...

I am keen to further contribute to consolidating security and stability in the various war zones and hotspots and to finding peaceful solutions to conflicts...

As far as migration is concerned, our country will continue to strive to deal with the real causes of the phenomenon and link it to development, within a human, solidarity-based approach which upholds migrants' rights and preserves their dignity.

I look forward to seeing the government adopt a comprehensive, integrated policy towards Africa and deal with the continent as one bloc.

Excerpt from the Royal Speech on the occasion of the 41<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the Green March, November 6, 2016



# R OYAL VISION (4)

"I propose to **design an Africa that is resilient to climate change**, an Africa that is resolutely committed to sustainable development.

**It is important for our Continent to speak with one voice, to request climate justice** and the mobilization of the necessary means, to make concerted proposals with respect to combating climate change."

Excerpt from the Royal speech at the opening of the Africa Action Summit, held on the sidelines of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP22), on 16 November 2016 in Marrakech



|| Source : UNECA, AfDB, UNDP. MDG Report : Lessons learned in implementing the Millennium Development Goals, Assessing progress in Africa Toward Millennium Development Goals. 2015

### Structure of Richat known as "the Eye of Africa"



An exceptional geological structure with a 50 km diameter. Located at Ouadane in Mauritania and considered since a long time as a "scientific puzzle" which can only be observed from space.

Source : <http://www.panoramio.com/photo/101869675>

# LIMINARY (1)

Thinking Africa is a real challenge, because of its immensity, but especially the extraordinary diversity of its people, its history, its cultures, its reliefs and its richness.

This explains, in part, why this continent is poorly known, in addition to the difficulty of producing homogeneous data, the conflict situation prevailing in some parts of Africa, the "blanket of cloud", sometimes imposed by former colonial powers or by dictatorial regimes.

Yet, Africa's contribution to global economic wealth is high: both through the raw materials she provides to the rest of the world and the human resources she deploys within the continent and beyond.

Therefore, the difficulties weighing on Africa (overpopulation, poverty, famine, degradation of natural resources, climate change...) and the damage they are likely to cause for the vulnerable populations, can leave no one indifferent.

This Strategic Report 2018 is dedicated to the **autonomous development of Africa that His Majesty King Mohammed VI has always called for**. Autonomy does not mean being independent. It embodies Africa's ability to decide for herself and make her voice heard in the community of nations.

The first part of the report aims to **understand the African continent**, while highlighting its main characteristics, in an approach that is meant to be African and therefore different, from the usual Western perception.

# LIMINARY (2)

The second part of the report, of a prospective nature, is devoted to the challenges Africa will face by 2050. Alongside climate change, it highlights three major nodes of the future: the urban sprawl, rural transformation and the challenge of security and governance.

The third part of the report, starting from this global panorama, focuses on the identification of the levers of Africa's autonomous development, namely the energy transition, the digital transition, the economic transition and economic governance, as well as the springs of autonomy such as human capital, the development of Ubuntu and the reconciliation of Africans with themselves and with nature.

It also highlights Morocco's current contribution as well as the role that the Kingdom could play, in the future, in favour of the autonomous development of this immense continent.

This report is rich in illustrations: Africa in figures, focuses and Africa on the move. Its elaboration starts from the observation that Africa is on the move and that, to become autonomous, she needs a new vision of the world, a pan-African vision, in favour of a global and civilizational African project.

In addition to changing the perception of herself and strengthening her human potential, Africa, to become autonomous, must *leapfrog*, in terms of development to take another path towards growth.

Mohammed Tawfik MOULINE  
Director General of IRES

## Space and power

Comparing the size (in km<sup>2</sup>) of the African continent to other countries. This representation, which is more accurate than that of Mercator, shows the gigantic dimension of the continent on one hand, and the relative weakness of its economic weight on the international scene on the other hand, regarding its size compared to other countries.

Size and GDP per capita (in current 2016 dollars) of the African continent compared to those of other countries



Source : Review by IRES \_ Kai KRAUSE and IMF

# C

## ONCLUSION (1)

- ▶ There are many reasons to be afro-pessimistic. Sexually transmitted diseases, corruption, chaotic urbanization, lacking infrastructure, etc., converge to fuel growing reluctance by multinationals as well as public and private investors to fund projects in Africa.
- ▶ However, these aspects are just the tip of the African iceberg and the focus of the media, but they obscure another more structural fact: Africa is moving forward! In all areas of human activity, from philosophy to entrepreneurship, to multi-level governance, to decentralization, **experiments are taking place, new ways of operating and thinking are being found, innovation is flourishing...**
- ▶ However, the metrics for this kind of progress are not those that are favoured by international fora, such as GDP and other short-term economic indicators.
- ▶ More structural criteria, such as education, innovation... reveal that a new world is emerging, one that is friendlier to the planet and its humblest inhabitants, a world that is more optimistic and solidarity-based.
- ▶ **As it moves forward, Africa does not conform to Western historical linearity.** On the contrary, it is leapfrogging over steps like landline telephones, centralized electricity networks, and perhaps even labour-intensive industry. The very fact that Africa is behind in many areas allows it to adopt new solutions much more easily, such as decentralized water and energy, distance learning, micro FinTech...
- ▶ Given the torments imposed by History and colonization on Africa and its evolution, its political, economic and human emergence is occurring at an unparalleled pace in the history of other continents.

# C ONCLUSION (2)

- ▶ To bolster this emergence, **Africa must regain confidence in itself** in order to face current and future major challenges. It is becoming urgent to invent a new African model of:
  - ❖ Urban planning, in response to the continent's specific challenges, in particular in Sub-Saharan countries;
  - ❖ Agricultural development, in order to produce quickly and in sufficient quantities, while also regenerating biomes and taking advantage of traditional agriculture;
  - ❖ Security, taking into account African specificities rather than just relying on universal doctrine.
- ▶ Similarly, Africa's continentalization should be regarded as a solution rather than a denial of the historic transcendence of individual African countries.
- ▶ The present 2018 Strategic report sought to display the exceptional wealth of African diversity and to show what African countries have to gain by considering Africa as a continent in its own right, a specific coherent reality across the continent.
- ▶ Indeed, this approach is the best way to put aside internal rivalries that could still be aggravated, to allow a united political front to put an end to the interference of external powers in African countries and, lastly, to facilitate the integrated economic and human development of a continent that only seeks to flourish, relying on itself.

# C ONCLUSION (3)

- ▶ As a country that was, throughout history, at the crossroads of civilizations, looking towards the Mediterranean and the Atlantic, Morocco has now reached a great political, economic, and human maturity that allows it to recognize and choose where it belongs.
- ▶ Morocco's choice in the matter was expressed very clearly by His Majesty King Mohammed VI when the country returned to the African Union. It is being reaffirmed as Morocco undergoes the process to join ECOWAS.
- ▶ An African land, **Morocco believes in Africa, advocates in its favour and is determined to offer support to its African partners in the process of economic, social and institutional convergence.**
- ▶ **Its continental contribution today is multifaceted and is based on** peacekeeping, collegial governance, a fresh approach to migration, but also training African students and managing the religious field, are some of the Kingdom's key areas of action.
- ▶ From an economic perspective, Morocco shares its experience in ensuring macro-economic stability and integrative diversification. Through its major companies, it operates in sectors such as banking, telecommunications, agriculture, fishing, mines, infrastructure, air transport...
- ▶ The Kingdom contributes to Africa's eco-transition and adaptation to climate change. It carries out major projects in partnership with other African countries to spur the energy transition and improve food security.
- ▶ Morocco is working towards a climate-resilient Africa and a continent that permanently embraces the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.



"Sankofa" (a word in Twi language) teaches us that we must go back to our roots in order to move forward. That is, we should reach back and gather the best of what our past has to teach us, so that we can achieve our full potential as we move forward (\*).



(\*) Officiel website UNESCO : <http://afrikhepri.org/le-sankofa/>



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