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### IRES.Think tank

Royal Institute for Strategic Studies

### The impact of the social networks on the Moroccan's economy and society

The study is conducted in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic and covering a complex topic, it aims to better understand the impacts and issues raised by social networks in Morocco. Its main purpose revolves around the following issue: what virtual world is being built in Morocco and what are / would be its consequences on the Moroccan economy and society?

The interim report of this study has been prepared together with an executive summary.

# **Relations between Morocco and Germany**

Following on from its work on the future of the partnership between Morocco and its European partners, the Royal Institute for Strategic Studies (IRES) has initiated a study on relations between Morocco and the Federal Republic of Germany.

The purpose of this study is to take stock of three decades of cooperation since German reunification and to examine the prospects for strengthening relations between the two countries, taking into account the changes underway in the European and African areas as well as developments in the global context.



## **Elections in Africa and the Covid-19 pandemic**

IRES has developed a watch note on elections in Africa, in order to understand the new political landscape emerging in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic.



# Webographic newsletter of the months of September and October 2020

The September and October 2020 issues of the "Webographic watch bulletin", posted on the IRES website, introduce summaries of foresight reports relating, in particular, to the following themes: the impact of the pandemic of Covid-19 on the lives of citizens in Europe, the health crisis and changes in the world of work, the post-covid recovery and the creation of value ...



# Visit of His Excellency Mr. Julio GLINTERNICK BITELLI, Ambassador of Brazil to Morocco

The Director General of IRES, Mr. Mohammed Tawfik MOULINE, held in-depth discussions, on October 28, 2020, with His Excellency Mr. Julio GLINTERNICK BITELLI, Ambassador of Brazil to Mrocco, accompanied by the political attaché at the Embassy.

The purpose of the exchanges was to revive cooperation between IRES and Brazilian think tanks, with a view to carrying out a study on relations between Morocco and Brazil with a foresight dimension and taking into consideration the recent strategic concepts.

## Visit of His Excellency Mr. Hamid ASGHAR KHAN, Ambassador of Pakistan to Morocco

His Excellency Mr. Hamid ASGHAR KHAN, Ambassador of Pakistan to Morocco, accompanied by the military attaché at the Embassy was received by the Director General of IRES, Mr. Mohammed Tawfik MOULINE, on September 22, 2020. Discussions focused on the international geopolitical context, on the African dimension and on the possibilities of cooperation between IRES and Pakistani think tanks: the Islamabad Institute of Strategic Studies (ISSI) and the Institute of Studies Strategic Research and Analysis (ISSRA). A second meeting was held at IRES, on October 27, 2020, with His Excellency the Ambassador of Pakistan to Morocco. It was marked by the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between IRES and ISSI.



# Visit of the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Morocco

Mr. Götz SCHMIDT-BREMME, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Morocco was received by the Director General of IRES, Mr. Mohammed Tawfik MOULINE on October 9, 2020, to discuss the outline and scope of the study on relations between Morocco and the Germany as well as the prospects for strengthening bilateral relations in the light of the European Union's African policy and the Kingdom's new development model.



### **China-Arab Relations in the Context of World Changes**

IRES actively participated in the work of the high-level webinar, organized in Beijing on October 15, 2020 by "China Institute of International Studies", under the theme "Relations between China and the Arab world in a changing world". This videoconference was devoted, in particular, to the examination of relations between China and the Arab world and to the exploration of the prospects for their development, following the ruptures induced by the Covid-19 pandemic.

#### **Work Meetings**



## **Huawei delegation working visit to IRES**

Chaired by Mr. Jerry CUI, CEO of Huawei Morocco, a delegation from Huawei Technologies made a working visit to the Royal Institute for Strategic Studies (IRES) on October 23, 2020.

After a presentation of Huawei's and IRES's activities, the discussions focused, in particular, on the issue of digital transformation in Morocco and Africa as well as on the possibilities for establishing cooperation between IRES and Huawei with a view to deepening the reflection on the disruptive technologies, in particular 5G.



# Social networks : impact on the Moroccan's economy and society

IRES organized, on Wednesday October 07, 2020, a videoconference dedicated to the presentation and discussion of the preliminary conclusions of the study entitled "Social networks: impact on the Moroccan's economy and society", in which took part senior officials of the institutions concerned as well as experts in issues related to digital communication.

### Redesign of the IRES website

IRES has published online the new version of its website, which adopts a "responsive" design, allowing optimal display matching with the medium used (computer, mobile phone, tablet), with a more user-friendly interface and improved access to the website 'information. The content of the website has been restructured according to the STEEP grid (Society, Technology, Space, Economy and Politics).

In addition to these new features, IRES has enriched its website with the publication of two databases. The first includes in several languages all the Speeches and Royal Messages since the enthronement of His Majesty King Mohammed VI. The second, dedicated exclusively to the question of the Moroccan Sahara, aims to provide national and foreign researchers with first-hand information relating to the Royal Speeches and Messages since 1974 and to the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council.

A glossary of legal, political and historical concepts relating to the question of the Moroccan Sahara is also part of this database. This glossary is designed as a working tool at the service of Moroccan diplomacy.

#### Agenda

For the months of November and December 2020, the IRES.Forum activity will be distinguished by the organization of a videoconference for the presentation:

- preliminary results of the study on the middle class in rural areas.
- the book "Covid-19 et réchauffement climatique : plaidoyer pour une économie de la résilience"