



IRES.Think tank

Activity Report 2024

The activity report of the Royal Institute for Strategic Studies (IRES) for the year 2024 summarizes the main achievements in terms of prospective monitoring and the study of national issues of a strategic nature, Morocco's foreign relations, and global issues.

The future of Moroccan forest ecosystems in a context of accelerating climate change

The report of the aforementioned study established a diagnosis of national forest ecosystems and an assessment of the public policies pursued. It also identified the current and future challenges behind the degradation of these ecosystems and highlighted successful foreign experiences in strengthening the resilience and adaptation of forest ecosystems to climate change. These insights made it possible to draw lessons applicable to the Moroccan context.

Launch of a study on the future of Morocco's relations with Nordic countries

This study is part of a changing geopolitical context, marked by recent dynamics in the Far North and the accession of some Northern European states to NATO. Its objectives are to assess the current state of cooperation between Morocco and these countries, identify shortcomings and constraints to its development, and explore strategic options and levers of change likely to shape the future of this cooperation, both bilaterally and in a tripartite dimension involving Africa and Europe.

The English version of the Strategic Report on governance

The English version of the Strategic Report on governance, entitled "Which Governance for a Changing World?", was completed at the end of February 2025. Eighth in the "Panorama of Morocco in the World" series, launched in 2015, this strategic report is structured into three parts.

The first part highlights the concept of governance, distinguishing it from the notion of government, its components, typologies, and the factors of change influencing its evolution on a global scale. It also analyzes the societal, informational, and institutional challenges hindering its implementation.

The second part anticipates future developments by examining contemporary crises, exploring megatrends, existential risks, and new needs in terms of global governance. Finally, the third part identifies possible solutions to make governance more effective and better adapted to a world in constant transition.

Advanced military technologies and human rights

In January 2025, IRES published the summary report of its international conference on advanced military technologies and their implications for human rights.

This report highlights the exponential evolution of military technologies, which are redefining traditional paradigms of war, as well as the challenges these technologies pose to international laws, particularly regarding compliance with international humanitarian law. It also proposes avenues for developing advanced military capabilities while respecting international legal standard.

Emerging Concepts: Solastalgia

As part of its new series entitled "Emerging Concepts," the Institute published, on January 6, 2025, on its prospective intelligence platform (IIP), the concept of "Solastalgia". This term describes the psychological distress experienced by individuals upon realizing the degradation of their natural environment and climate. Solastalgia manifests as deep concern and a sense of loss—a kind of mourning for nature—caused by environmental and climatic deterioration.



Webographic monitoring bulletin for January and February 2025

The January and February 2025 issues of the "Webographic Monitoring Bulletin", published online on the IRES website, present summaries of prospective reports covering, in particular, the following themes: global risks, the Mediterranean by 2050, and the security of artificial intelligence, among others

Réunion de travail



Future of employment in Morocco: key challenges and public policy directions

On February 12, 2025, IRES organized a workshop dedicated to the future of employment in Morocco, considering national and international changes expected in the medium and long term.

This event provided a valuable opportunity to identify the key challenges that need to be addressed while fostering a dynamic of collective intelligence to generate innovative ideas. The goal was to rethink strategies and approaches for job creation.



What future for Syria? What Geostrategic Implications for Morocco?

As part of its prospective monitoring mission, IRES held a brainstorming session at its headquarters on February 26, 2025, under the theme: "What Future for Syria? What Geostrategic Implications for Morocco? What Foreign Policy Directions?"

This session aimed to analyze the new geopolitical dynamics in the Middle East following the fall of the former Syrian regime and to assess the challenges of rebuilding the state, as well as its implications for Morocco. It resulted in the formulation of several proposals, particularly at the diplomatic level, to help Morocco strengthen its positioning in Syria and the broader region.



Med 2050 transition paths

On February 4 and 5, 2025, IRES, in collaboration with Plan Bleu, the Regional Activity Center of the Mediterranean Action Plan under the United Nations Environment Programme, organized a foresight workshop in Tangier on "Transition Paths of the Mediterranean by 2050."

This workshop brought together a high-level panel of Moroccan and French experts from various backgrounds to exchange perspectives on the future development of the Mediterranean. Participants discussed the different scenarios explored within the Med 2050 foresight exercise and the plausible transition paths toward sustainable development in the region.

This initiative, the first in a series of workshops planned in several Mediterranean countries, aims to highlight the perspectives of the southern Mediterranean, particularly Morocco, while showcasing the Kingdom's significant advancements across various domains.

Conference by the Director General of IRES at HEC Paris

On January 27, 2025, the Director General of IRES, Mr. Mohammed Tawfik Mouline, delivered a conference organized by HEC Paris and the HEC Morocco Association as part of their debate series "Morocco in Motion."



Under the theme "Architectures of Sustainable Governance – Forging a Sovereign, Competitive, and Cohesive Future for Morocco by 2040," the conference focused on four key areas: geopolitical sovereignty, illustrated by strengthened regional integration, the Royal Initiative for Atlantic Africa, and the diversification of strategic alliances; economic sovereignty, emphasizing the reinforcement of value chains and food security; sustainable resource management, addressing water sovereignty, green hydrogen, and the blue economy as well as digital transition and artificial intelligence, as essential levers for accelerating digitalization and fostering innovation.



Working Visit of a Delegation from the German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP) to IRES

On February 20, 2025, a delegation from the German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP) was received at IRES.

Following a presentation on the respective activities and missions of IRES and SWP, discussions focused on ways to strengthen German-Moroccan cooperation both bilaterally and multilaterally, particularly in areas and regions of mutual interest. Special attention was given to Africa and key strategic projects, including the Atlantic Africa Gas Pipeline and the Royal Initiative for Atlantic Africa.

Agenda

Upcoming activities: March and April 2025

For the months of March and April 2025, IRES.Forum will feature:

- A presentation-discussion of the book "Legal Aspects of Cybercrime and Cybersecurity in Morocco" by Mr. Radouane MRABET.
- A seminar presenting preliminary results of the IRES study on the future of employment in Morocco.
- A strategic dialogue on the future of Morocco-Mauritania relations.
- Round tables on various themes, in conjunction with IRES's participation in the 2025 edition of SIEL (Salon International de l'Édition et du Livre)