



IRES.Think tank

### **How to develop a rural middle class in sustainable way?**

The Royal Institute for Strategic Studies (IRES) finalized the report of this study. Focusing on a complex theme, having a multidimensional character, the study aims to draw up an overview of the rural middle class, to analyze public policies intended for the rural world and to formulate strategic proposals with a view to encouraging the emergence and development of this social category.

### **Renewing the partnership between Africa and the European Union, what role for Morocco?**

As part of the interest shown in issues related to the Kingdom's external relations, IRES has initiated a study on the partnership between the African Union and the European Union and on Morocco's role as a key player in this cooperation.

The main objective of the study is to take stock of cooperation between Africa and Europe and identify the levers of action so that Morocco can strengthen its contribution to this cooperation.

### **Relations between the Kingdom of Morocco and the Federative Republic of Brazil**

IRES has just launched a study on relations between Morocco and Brazil with the aim, on the one hand, of establishing the balance sheet of bilateral cooperation in the light of developments in the international context and, on the other hand, to examine the prospects for strengthening these relations and to explore the possibilities of developing tripartite cooperation between Brazil-Morocco-Africa.

As part of this project, a survey of the perception of Morocco's image among the main political and economic players in Brazil will be carried out.

### **Panorama of Morocco in the world, international relations of the Kingdom: English version**

The Institute now has an English edition of the 2016 strategic report on Morocco's international relations, in its version updated in December 2019.

### **The recognition by the United States of Morocco's sovereignty over its Sahara: meaning, implications and scenarios**

The Strategic Newswatch describes the context of the recognition by the United States of the Moroccan character of the Sahara, analyzes the expectations and the motivations which governed this historic decision as well as its repercussions on cooperation between Morocco and the United States. Finally, it outlines scenarios for the development of the relationship between the two countries, in light of the inauguration of Joseph Biden as President of the United States of America.

### **The Covid-19 pandemic in Africa: Analyzes and responses from international organizations**

This Strategic Newswatch attempts to analyze the responses proposed by international organizations in order to limit the economic and social impact of the health crisis on the African continent.

### **2020 strategic dashboard**

IRES has published on line an the 8th edition of its strategic dashboard, which provides an overview of Morocco's international positioning in the political, economic, social, cultural and environmental fields. This dashboard includes more than 200 strategic indicators, classified according to the Institute's ten strategic watch areas.

This edition differs from the previous ones by the integration of new strategic indicators linked, in particular, to the fight against hunger, energy transition, the state of biodiversity, the social mobility, the vaccination, the industrial attractiveness, the development of smart cities, the protection of intellectual property and gender disparities.

The Institute also proceeded with the translation into English of its 2020 strategic dashboard.



### **Webographic watch bulletin for November and December 2020**

The November and December 2020 issues of the "Webographic watch bulletin", posted on the IRES website, present summaries of foresight reports dealing with, in particular, the following themes: employment at the era of emerging technologies, the outlook for energy by 2050, the close link between mortality and climate change...



### **Visit to IRES of His Excellency Mr. Michael CUTTS, Ambassador of Australia to Morocco**

His Excellency Mr. Michael CUTTS, Ambassador of Australia to Morocco, accompanied by Mr. Rupert HODEN, Deputy Head of Mission and Consul at the 'Australian Embassy in Morocco paid a visit to IRES on November 10, 2020.

In addition to the presentation of IRES missions and study programs, this meeting was an opportunity to discuss the strategic issues, for enhanced cooperation between Morocco and Australia.

### **Work Meetings**



### **IRES participation in the 9th meeting of the Sino-African Think Tank Summit**

IRES took part in the plenary session of the 9th Sino-African Think Tank Summit, organized by videoconference, on November 5, 2020, on the sidelines of the 20th edition of the Sino-African Cooperation Forum (FOCAC).

The intervention of the Director General highlighted the characteristics of the Covid-19 crisis and traced the transformations and disruptions that result from it. It then analyzed the challenges posed by the pandemic and its fallout in the African context. Adjustments to be made to the China-Africa cooperation model have been proposed in order to make it a lever for post-Covid recovery. In addition, the role of Morocco and its contribution to the success of Sino-African cooperation were highlighted.



### **Covid-19 et réchauffement climatique : plaidoyer pour une économie de la résilience**

The Institute organized, on Thursday November 12, 2020, a videoconference dedicated to the presentation and discussion of the work entitled " Covid-19 et réchauffement climatique : plaidoyer pour une économie de la résilience", by its author Mr. Christian DE PERTHUIS, Professor of Economics and founder of the Climate Economics Chair at the University of Paris-Dauphine.

This meeting was an opportunity to highlight the close relationship between climate change and the Covid-19 pandemic, to deepen the reflection on the current and future challenges of post-pandemic economic recovery plans and propose a few levers allowing better human

resilience, both in the face of climate change and health risks.

### **COVID-19: what revival? What challenges in Africa?**



IRES took part in Web-conference organized on November 26, 2020 by Groupe X Maroc. The Director General's intervention highlighted the characteristics of the Covid-19 crisis at the international level and retraced the associated transformations and disruptions. It then analyzed the challenges of pandemic and its impact in the African context. It finally highlighted the importance of providing a structural response to prepare Morocco for the post-Covid world.

### **How to develop a rural middle class in sustainable way?**



The Institute organized a videoconference on Wednesday December 2, 2020 to present and discuss the preliminary conclusions of this study. Having experienced the participation of senior officials of the institutions concerned as well as experts in political, economic, social, environmental and cultural issues, this conference made it possible to come out with innovative ideas, which are apt to lead to the emergence of a rural middle class.

### **Africa XXI**



The Royal Institute for Strategic Studies (IRES) participated, as a partner, in the first session of the videoconference of the second edition of the international meeting "Africa XXI", organized on December 3, 2020 by the Institute for Promotion of Latin America and the Caribbean (IPDAL). This videoconference was an opportunity for IRES to present his vision of the future of Africa-Morocco-Europe relations.