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IRES.Think tank

Royal Institute for Strategic Studies

### **Preparation of the 2023 Activity Report**

The Institut Royal des Études Stratégiques (IRES) activity report for 2023 summarizes the Institute's main achievements in terms of foresight and the study of national strategic issues, Morocco's foreign relations, and global issues. It highlights the results of this work, as well as the ideas that have emerged at meetings organized by the Institute and takes stock of cooperation with national and international institutions.

### Finalization of the IRES.Forum 2023 Report

This report presents the conclusions drawn from international conferences and meetings organized by IRES in 2023, as well as from discussions of recent works on strategic issues.

### What is Morocco's Relationship with the Enlarged BRICS Group?

The Institute has begun work on a study of relations between Morocco and the enlarged BRICS Group. The study has a dual purpose. On the one hand, it aims to analyze the political, economic, social, and environmental prospects of the enlarged BRICS, and on the other, to assess the influence this grouping could exert on the evolution of the world order. It will also propose the main levers of action likely to foster the development of cooperation between the Kingdom and the enlarged BRICS, taking into account potential alliance opportunities.

# The Future of Relations between Morocco and the Iberian Countries (Spain and Portugal)

The final report of this study examined the state of relations between Morocco and the Iberian countries, analyzed political, security, economic, social, and cultural cooperation between these countries, and put forward proposals to place the multi-dimensional partnership on a sound and sustainable footing, both bilaterally and tripartiteally.

## **Emerging Concepts: Cryptocurrency**

Continuing its new "Emerging Concepts" series, on February 5, 2024, IRES posted the second emerging concept on its forward-looking intelligence platform -IIP: Cryptocurrencies.

These digital currencies represent a financial revolution, offering the possibility of exchanging values without the intermediary of a central authority. They bring financial inclusion to millions of people, particularly in regions where access to traditional banking services is limited, attracting more and more users worldwide..



# **January and February 2023 Web Monitoring Bulletins**

The January and February 2024 issues of the "Bulletin de Veille Webographique," available online on the IRES website, present summaries of forward-looking reports on the following themes: the major risks of tomorrow, the outlook for commodities markets, adaptation to climate change, global and regional trends in armed conflicts, etc

### **Work Meeting**



Presentation and Signing Ceremony for the Book Entitled: "His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Ben Zayed Al Nahyane: Highlights in the Journey of a Man of Humanity"

A ceremony for the presentation and signing of the book entitled: "His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Ben Zayed Al Nahyane: Highlights in the Career of a Man of Humanity," by His Excellency Professor Jamal SANAD AL-SUWAIDI, Minister-Counsellor in the Office of the President of the United Arab Emirates and Vice-Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Center for Strategic Studies and Research of the United Arab Emirates, was organized by IRES on January 2, 2024. The event, attended by eminent Moroccan personalities and academic experts, provided an opportunity to retrace the rich and exemplary career of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Ben Zayed Al Nahyane, a visionary and humanist statesman.



# The "Green Hydrogen" Sector: Challenges and Prospects for Morocco

A seminar to present and discuss the main conclusions of the study on the Green Hydrogen industry in Morocco was held at the Institute's headquarters on January 31, 2024, in the presence of all the institutional players concerned by this theme. During the meeting, emphasis was placed on the need to adopt integrated governance, invest massively in human capital, multiply research and development programs in this sector, design an innovative financing system, and promote the establishment of consortia between the public and private sectors.



## The Future of Moroccan Women to 2040

In the wake of the Royal High Directions, which emphasized the need for a "reforming impetus" to rethink the status of Moroccan women, the IRES organized a series of workshops from February 07 to 09, 2024, on the main knots of the future, inherent to the status of women in Morocco, attended by players in the field and experts from various backgrounds. The workshops are part of the IRES study currently underway, entitled "The Future of Moroccan Women to 2040: Key Issues for the Future and Orientations for Public Policy."



# **Family Ties and the Status of Women in Morocco**

On February 21, 2024, IRES organized a seminar on "The Family Bond and the Status of Women in Morocco," attended by representatives of national institutions and the United Nations system in Morocco, concerned by this theme. Continuing the reflection carried out by IRES as part of its study program "The Social Bond in Morocco: What Role for the State and All Social Players?", this meeting provided an opportunity to deepen knowledge on issues thought to have some influence on the family bond and the status of women in Morocco.



# The Future of Agriculture in Morocco in a Context of Structural Water Scarcity

A brainstorming session dedicated to future-oriented thinking on the issue of agriculture in Morocco was held at the Institute's headquarters on February 28, 2024. Bringing together a panel of high-level experts in the fields of water, climate change, agriculture, agrifood, pastoral economics, and rural development, this meeting provided an ideal opportunity to update knowledge, cross-fertilize approaches to grasp the latest developments in the "Water-Agriculture" nexus and explore the future of agriculture in Morocco. The discussions resulted in the emergence of a number of innovative ideas capable of guaranteeing the sustainable development of the agricultural sector within a framework of food sovereignty and preservation of the national "water capital."

### **IRES.** Cooperation



# **High-level Saudi Delegation Visits IRES**

A high-level Saudi delegation from the Ministry of Defense paid a working visit to IRES on February 27, 2024. The purpose of the delegation's visit was to learn about the Institute's experience in setting up a Center for Strategic Studies and Research in the field of Security-Defense within the Saudi Ministry of Defense. During the visit, the delegation learned about the vocation, missions, mode of operation, and activities of IRES

#### Agenda

For the months of March and April 2024, the IRES. Forum will feature seminars presenting the preliminary results of studies on the future of relations between Morocco and Nigeria, relations with Iberian countries, and the future of Artificial Intelligence. There are also plans to present the results of the 3rd national survey on social ties in Morocco, covering identity, language, and security.