



IRES.Think tank

The Future of Moroccan Forest Ecosystems in the Context of Accelerating Climate Change

On the eve of COP 29 in Abu Dhabi, the Royal Institute for Strategic Studies (IRES) published the summary report of its prospective reflection day dedicated to the future of Moroccan forest ecosystems. This report highlights the main factors of degradation, the environmental and societal challenges, as well as the governance issues affecting forests at the national level. It proposes innovative measures focused on sustainable and inclusive management to strengthen the resilience of ecosystems.

The publication of this report comes in a context marked by the climate emergency and international discussions on ecosystems, perfectly resonating with the priorities of COP 29.

The 12th Edition of the Strategic Dashboard: Evolution of Morocco's International Positioning

IRES has developed the 12th edition of its "Strategic Dashboard" series, a tool for monitoring the evolution of Morocco's international positioning in the political, economic, social, cultural, and environmental fields.

The 2024 edition stands out from previous editions by introducing new strategic indicators related, in particular, to government effectiveness, financial opacity, resilience to risks, sustainable competitiveness, investment in green energy, youth prospects, digitalization, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, culture, and sports.

Publication of the English Version of Morocco's Reputation in the World

The English version of the tenth edition of the survey on Morocco's reputation in the world has been published on the IRES website. Conducted in partnership with "Reputation Lab," an international firm specializing in Nation Branding, this study aims to examine Morocco's strengths and weaknesses in terms of reputation, both externally and internally, while identifying strategic levers that can be used to promote the Kingdom's image internationally.

In general, Morocco continues to enjoy a positive international perception, ranking among the top 30 nations with the best reputation among the G7 countries and Russia. This publication in English reflects IRES's desire to share its findings with an international audience and strengthen the echo of the Kingdom's efforts in strategic communication.

Production of a Collective Work between IRES and the Office of the Advisor to His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan

IRES led the writing of a collective work entitled "Between the Kingdom of Morocco and the United Arab Emirates: Experiences and Visions in the Field of Development and Institutional Strengthening."

This book highlights the strategic visions of His Majesty King Mohammed VI and His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, May God Preserve Them, which have enabled their respective countries to achieve major advances in economic and social development, institutional building, international cooperation, and regional stability.

This work, carried out by a Moroccan and Emirati elite composed of decision-makers and academics, aims to be a significant contribution to strategic thinking, while emphasizing the central role of the two Leaders in promoting peace and sustainable development in their respective regions and beyond.

The Strategic Report on Governance

The Institute completed, at the end of December 2024, the production of its 2024-2025 strategic report, entitled "What Governance for a Changing World?" Eighth in its "Panorama of Morocco in the World" series, launched in 2015.

This strategic report is structured in three parts. The first highlights the concept of governance by distinguishing it from the notion of government, its components, its typologies, and the factors of change that influence 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 potential solutions to make governance more effective and more adapted to a world in constant transition.

Emerging Concepts: Rights of Nature

Continuing its new series entitled "Emerging Concepts," IRES published, on November 5, 2024, on its prospective intelligence platform - IIP, the concept of "Rights of Nature." This concept refers to the set of rules and principles aimed at protecting entities of the biosphere, recognizing them as persons with their own rights by virtue of their intrinsic value and as members of the interdependent community.

Publication of the English Version of the 2nd Edition of the Annual Survey Paper 2024

IRES has published the English version of the second edition of its "Annual Survey Paper 2024." This annual publication aims to enlighten stakeholders and decision-makers, both public and private, on the main emerging trends to consider when developing short- and medium-term strategies or action plans.

It targets trends in each of the five pillars that define IRES's analytical framework and highlights their impact on Morocco, its natural environment, its population, its various sectors of activity, and its future.



Web Watch Bulletin for November and December 2024

The November and December 2024 issues of the "Web Watch Bulletin," posted on the IRES website, present summaries of prospective reports focusing, in particular, on the following themes: governance, global and regional trends in armed conflicts, the state of migration in the world, the state of preparedness for artificial intelligence in Morocco, and more.

Advanced Military Technologies and Human Rights: A Critical Examination

An international conference on "Advanced Military Technologies and Human Rights" was held on November 20, 2024, at IRES headquarters.

This scientific meeting brought together eminent Moroccan figures, namely the President of the National Human Rights Council, the Minister Delegate to the Head of Government in charge of Digital Transition and Administrative Reform, the Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, and the President of the United Nations Human Rights Council for 2024, as well as officials from the National Defense Administration, the General Directorate of National Security, and the Interministerial Delegation for Human Rights.



The conference also saw the participation of leading international figures, such as the Chairman of the Advisory Committee of the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva and leaders of international think tanks, such as the Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance (DCAF), the Fondation pour la Recherche Stratégique (FRS), and the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

Discussions focused on the impacts of military innovations (drones, cyber warfare, autonomous weapons) on international law and humanitarian law. Participants emphasized the urgent need to develop control mechanisms for the ethical use of military technologies, while respecting human rights.

This conference marked a significant step in the reflection on advanced Moroccan military development, aligned with international standards and ethical requirements. Avenues were explored to strengthen Morocco's position within international and regional bodies.

"Africa XXI" Conference

IRES participated, as a partner, in the 5th edition of the international meeting "Africa XXI," held on November 20, 2024, in Lisbon by the Institute for the Promotion of Latin America and the Caribbean (IPDAL).



During the inaugural session dedicated to African integration, Mr. Mohammed Tawfik Mouline, Director General of IRES, spoke via videoconference to present the Royal Initiative for the Atlantic Africa, announced by His Majesty King Mohammed VI in the context of the speech for the 48th anniversary of the Green March. He emphasized the strategic importance of this initiative for the promotion of peace, security, economic development, the blue economy, and the opening up of the Sahel countries.

Mr. Mouline also highlighted Morocco's role, as a pole of stability and a key actor in the African Union, in implementing this initiative through its South-South cooperation, its support for the energy transition, and its interest in the blue economy. This initiative will strengthen the diversification of the Kingdom's partnerships, infrastructure development, investment attractiveness in the Southern Provinces, and the Sahara's position as Morocco's gateway to Atlantic Africa.

Euromed University of Fez Meetings on the Alliance of Civilizations

The Director General of IRES actively participated in the work of the Euromed University of Fez Meetings on the Alliance of Civilizations, held on December 6 and 7, 2024, under the theme: "Rebuilding Trust for a United and Plural World."



In his address during the opening session, Mr. Mouline emphasized the imperative need to restore trust on a global scale, at a time when geopolitical, environmental, social, health, and institutional crises are weakening the very foundations of international relations. He advocated for transparency, equity, responsibility, and respect for others as guiding principles for effectively addressing global challenges.

While highlighting Morocco's commitment to peaceful coexistence and intercultural dialogue, he stressed the

urgency of reforming international institutions, encouraging inclusive and proactive governance, combating disinformation, and promoting safe and orderly migration. These actions, according to him, constitute major levers for building a planetary identity and constructing a united, cohesive world that is proud of its diversity.

9th Edition of the X-Maroc Colloquium on the Kingdom's Energy Future

The Director General of IRES participated in the 9th edition of the X-Maroc Colloquium, held on December 17, 2024, in Casablanca, dedicated to the future of renewable energies.



During his speech at the opening session, Mr. Mouline emphasized Morocco's potential to become a global player in the green hydrogen sector thanks to its renewable energy assets, while highlighting the opportunities for decarbonizing the national economy and strengthening industrial competitiveness, as well as the challenges related to infrastructure, investment, and international competition.

To make Morocco a world leader in green hydrogen, Mr. Mouline recommended a holistic and long-term approach, attracting national and foreign investments, using innovative financing, and training a new generation of specialized skills. He also stressed the importance of a national Research & Development plan, a suitable regulatory framework, and rigorous governance to realize this national ambition.

Visit to IRES by Her Excellency Ms. Marjaana SALL, Ambassador of the Republic of Finland

Her Excellency Ms. Marjaana SALL, Ambassador of the Republic of Finland to Rabat, was received on November 12, 2024, by the Director General of IRES.



This meeting provided an opportunity to present the Institute's study and foresight missions, to explain its operating methods, and to discuss the strategic themes examined within it. It also offered the opportunity to explore potential collaborations between IRES and Finnish think tanks.



Visit to IRES by Mr. Steven HOFREN, Resident Representative of the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Foundation in Morocco

Mr. Steven HOFREN, Resident Representative of the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Foundation in Morocco, visited the Institute on November 15, 2024.

This meeting was an opportunity to explore cooperation opportunities between IRES, the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Foundation, and German think tanks.



Visit to IRES by Ms. Marielle SANDER, Representative of the United Nations Population Fund in Morocco

The Director General of IRES met, on November 19, 2024, with Ms. Marielle SANDER, Representative of the United Nations Population Fund in Morocco.

Discussions focused on demographic, societal, and economic issues, with a focus on women's participation as a key factor in the implementation of public policies.



Visit to IRES by Mr. Peter HEFELE, Director General of the Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies

Mr. Peter HEFELE, Director General of the Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies, visited IRES on November 27, 2024.

This meeting provided an opportunity to exchange views on strategic issues concerning Morocco, Europe, and the South-Eastern shores of the Mediterranean, and to explore cooperation prospects between IRES, on the one hand, and the Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies and think tanks affiliated with the European People's Party, on the other.

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Working Visit to IRES by a Delegation from the "China Institute for International Studies"

A delegation from the "China Institute for International Studies" (CIIS) made a working visit to IRES on November 27, 2024.

After a presentation of the activities and missions of IRES and CIIS, the exchanges focused on ways to strengthen Sino-Moroccan cooperation both bilaterally and multilaterally, in areas and geographical spaces of common interest, paying particular attention to Africa.



Visit to IRES by Her Excellency Ms. Berit BASSE, Ambassador of Denmark to Rabat

Her Excellency Ms. Berit BASSE, Ambassador of Denmark to Rabat, accompanied by the Embassy's political attaché, was received on December 11, 2024, by the Director General of IRES.

This visit was an opportunity to review ongoing Danish projects in Morocco and to explore cooperation prospects between IRES and Danish think tanks.

Agenda

For January and February 2025, the IRES.Forum activity will be distinguished, in particular, by the organization of:

- a brainstorming session on the situation in Syria;
- a meeting, in partnership with Plan Bleu, on prospective scenarios for the Mediterranean in 2050.