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Shaping The African Emergence
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Founded in 2008, the Amadeus Institute, Moroccan independent Think Tank based in Rabat, has been set up as a laboratory of ideas, a space of reflection, and as a creator of debate. Credible interlocutor for the questions related to the African Continent, the Amadeus Institute has also developed an expertise in analyzing the global issues on the international agenda.

Thus, building on 11 years of experience and expertise as a Think Tank, the Amadeus Institute is now a key « Do Tank » firmly rooted in its environment and focused on a larger capacity of action and initiative, beyond the natural and traditional activity of the Think Tanks of reflection, debates and ideas initiative. This more practical approach, practiced by the Amadeus Institute, enabled it to reinforce its credibility and reputation over the last few years. In the framework of the development of its activities and in order for it to achieve its goals.

The major strategy of the Amadeus Institute is to improve the interaction between governments, private sector and civil society through the organization of several conferences and workshops, both on the international level, via the MEDays Forum and the Global Growth Conference, and on the regional and the national levels through the organization of workshops and roundtables on a regular basis. The Amadeus Institute is a creator of debates, which aims to bring together all the stakeholders, thus giving priority to a global understanding of the raised issues.

The Institute strives to gather all the goodwill around African emergence. Indeed, the Institute regularly publishes analyses and studies on African topics and challenges and organizes panels, workshops and conferences dedicated to Africa, with the participation of national and international experts, academics and researchers.

The MEDays International Forum, created in 2008 and hosted by the city of Tangier, is the main event organized by the Amadeus Institute. The Forum has, along the years, become one of the main international geo-strategic events in Africa and in the Arab World.
The African Union is relying upon progressive integration, promptly benefiting all the African states and people, in turn triggering the emergence of an economic integration at the continental level under the basis of inclusive development. The enforcement of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (ACFTA) in May 2019 has undoubtedly established the pillars of an emerging Africa.

However, given the context of global insecurity in Africa, notably due to terrorism (Sahel), the instability of certain states such as Libya, the resurgence of cross-border crime and the persistence of certain conflicts (DRC, CAR, Mali, Central African Republic), African integration seems to be a complicated feat. Therefore, as part of its medium and long term goals, the African Union intends to successfully achieve the agenda 2063 which consists of:

- Creating an African integrated market (ACFTA).
- Maintaining peace and stability in areas of conflict.
- Fighting against terrorism and illegal migration.
- Creating economic transformation and harmonious development of the states.
Over the last decade, Africa’s peace operations capacity has significantly increased. The UN Security Council (UNSC), the African Union Peace and Security Council (AUPSC), along with some sub-regional organizations such as G5-Sahel, SADC and ECOWAS (through ECOMOG) have stepped up their efforts in reducing violent conflicts and strengthening regional peace architectures in the continent.

Despite their set of political and military responses to African crisis, peace and security are yet to be achieved. As a matter of fact, terrorism remains a growing threat across Africa with serious implications for peace and security not only in the continent but also globally. For instance, in Somalia, the terrorist group Al-Shabab continues to kill hundreds of people in attacks at home and on neighboring Kenya; in addition to overrunning military bases of AU’s peacekeeping mission; as well as recurrent piracy incidents. The impact of the crisis in Libya is also growing and spreading throughout the region as weapons and fighters continually move across porous borders. These ongoing threats go to show that the aforementioned organizations have a lot of work to do in preventing, managing and resolving conflicts in the continent.
African integration is a major goal to be achieved by the African Union. From the creation of the OAU in 1963 until the advent of the AU, Africa has known a continuous and gradual process of economic and social integration. Today, in accordance with the African Union’s agenda 2063, the creation of the ACFTA marks an historical step forward in terms of African integration.

In the short term, this common market would have to increase the volume of intra-African trade from 15 to 25%, carry out large multi-sector and inclusive projects (transport, infrastructure, telecommunications, industrialization, production, etc.) and enable the continent to become the largest free trade and consumer zone in the world. Due to the diversity of African markets, economies and structures, it is crucial to proceed with a gradual and continuous harmonization through the strengthening of the legal, political and institutional mechanisms. In this regard, the role of the RECs remains of paramount importance in supporting this integration process.
Mr. Brahim Fassi Fihri is the President and Founder of the Amadeus Institute. He develops and coordinates all the activities of the institute, leading the creation of the MEDays International Forum, held every year since 2008. He played a key role in supporting Morocco’s main strategic priorities through the creation and organization of major events such as tours to promote the accession of Morocco to ECOWAS in several West African countries, the Summit of Multinationals of the South (2016), the Marque Maroc Conference (2016), the Global Growth Conference (2013-2014) and the 1st Regional Conference on Governance in the Maghreb (2009). Mr. Fassi Fihri also directs the publication of numerous works, publications and studies of the Amadeus Institute, namely the Géopolitik magazine and «Morocco in Africa: The Royal Way», a study that was given to H.M. King Mohammed VI on August 21, 2016.

Dr. Abramo A. Chabib is the Executive Director of the Italian Diplomatic Academy and NGO Representative to the UN.

He serves as Chairman of the World Council for Youth and Diplomacy, a New York based independent NGO and non-partisan membership organization fully committed to inform, inspire, and mobilize the World’s Civil Society to support the principles and activities of the United Nations.
H.E.Mr. Tijjani Mohammad Bande  
President of the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly

H.E.Mr. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande is political scientist, administrator and career diplomat. He was the permanent representative of Nigeria to the United Nations and served as the Vice-President of the General Assembly during its 71st session in September 2016. On 4 June 2019, he was elected the President of the 74th session of the General Assembly. H.E.Mr. Muhammad-Bande worked in Morocco as head of Le Centre Africain de Formation et de Recherche Administratives pour le Développement, a centre founded by African nations in 1964 to encourage administrative reform.

H.E.Mr. Omar Hilale  
Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations

H.E.Mr. Omar Hilale is a Moroccan career diplomat. He has been Morocco’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York since he was appointed in this position in April 2014. He used to be the permanent representative of Morocco to the UN in Geneva.

H.E.Mr. Hilale served in many diplomatic posts such as ambassador in Singapore, New Zealand, Australia and Indonesia, between 1996 and 2001. He was the General Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation between 2005 and 2008. In November 2008, he became representative of Morocco to the UN in Geneva.
Mr. Amine Laghidi is the President of the National Commission in Charge of Immaterial Capital and Immaterial Economies, Vice President and General Secretary of the ASMEX Center (Moroccan Foreign Trade Federation and Exports Federation and Chamber). His career led him to four continents: Africa, America, Asia, & Europe, where he served successfully. Covering strategic sectors such as food security, energy, logistics, maritime & transportation, ports/key infrastructures, finance and human resources within leading brands and important multinationals. Mr. Laghidi is also a professor who covers a large scope of subjects: business strategy, business intelligence, logistics & transportation, as well as public private partnerships (PPP).

PANEL I : “UNSC, PSC, G5-Sahel, ECOWAS & SADC : Resolving the African Peace & Security Puzzle”

Mr. Geoff Porter
President of North Africa Risk Consulting

Dr. Geoff D. Porter is the founder and president of North Africa Risk Consulting Inc., a consulting firm specializing in political and security risk in North Africa. North Africa Risk Consulting advises multinational corporations on above ground risks in Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, and Tunisia and their impacts on the investment environments. In addition to managing North Africa Risk Consulting, Dr. Porter is a Fellow at the Combating Terrorism Center at the United States Military Academy at West Point, where he had previously served as an assistant professor from 2013-2016.
Mr. Luka Kuol
Professor of Practice for Security Studies at Africa Center for Strategic Studies

Dr. Luka Kuol is a Professor of Practice for Security Studies at Africa Center for Strategic Studies (ACSS) at US National Defense University. Dr. Kuol served as director of the Centre for Peace and Development Studies and associate professor of economics at the College of Social and Economic Studies at the University of Juba in South Sudan. He was a fellow at the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy at Harvard Kennedy School and a visiting fellow at the Institute of Development Studies in the United Kingdom. He served as Minister of Presidential Affairs for the Government of Southern Sudan and as National Minister of Cabinet Affairs for the Republic of Sudan. He has also worked as a senior economist for the World Bank in Southern Sudan.

Mr. Mohamed Fathi Ahmed Edrees
Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations

H.E. Mr. Mohamed Fathi Ahmed Edrees is the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations. Prior to his appointment, H.E. Mr. Ahmed Edrees was the Assistant Foreign Minister for African Affairs from 2015 to January 2018. He served as Ambassador of Egypt to Ethiopia, as well as his country’s Permanent Representative to the African Union and to the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, from 2011 to 2015. From 2010 to 2011, he was Deputy Assistant Minister for Arab-Orient Affairs, while from 2007 to 2010, he was Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York. He previously served as Minister Plenipotentiary to the United Nations in New York from 2006 to 2007 and as Deputy Chief of Mission at Egypt’s Embassy in Damascus, Syria, from 2001 to 2005.
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H.E. Mr. Rocco Antonio Cangelosi
Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations

Born in Corleone (Palermo), in 1943, H.E. Ambassador Cangelosi is member of the Italian Diplomatic Academy’s Scientific Committee. He served as Diplomatic Advisor to the President of the Italian Republic and Director of the Diplomatic Affairs Office at the Quirinale. He held numerous positions during his diplomatic career especially in the area of European integration. Ambassador Cangelosi served as head of the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs in the period 1990-1992 in the Intergovernmental Conference for the Maastricht Treaty and in 2003 for the Constitutional Treaty. From 2004 to 2008 he was Permanent Representative to the European Union in Brussels. Author of numerous publications, including the Spinelli Treaty Project to the Single European Act (1987) and the Community to the Union (1996). Among others, he also served as the Italian Ambassador in Tunisia.
Mrs. Chidi Blyden-Rowe currently serves as a Professional Staff Member for the House Armed Services Committee (HASC) Policy Team, advising on Africa and South America’s defense equities for the 116th U.S. Congress. Prior to joining the HASC, she led the Africa Program at the Center for Civilians in Conflict and was responsible for implementing the Africa portfolio and developed a specialized training on civilian protection for the Nigerian Armed Forces. She served in the Obama Administration from 2013-2017 as the Special Assistant and Regional Director to the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Defense for African Affairs in the Office of Secretary for Defense for Policy.

PANEL II : “ACFTA & RECS : Strengthening the Integration & Emergence of the Continent”

Mrs. Joy Kategekwa
Regional Strategic Advisor to Asst. Administrator and Director,
Regional Bureau Africa, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Dr. Joy Kategekwa is the Regional Strategic Advisor to Asst. Administrator and Director, for the Regional Bureau Africa at United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). She served as head of the UNCTAD Regional Office for Africa, leading delivery of the organization’s trade capacity building programmes across Africa. She is an international trade and development law and policy specialist and has spent the last 16 years shaping development-friendly trade agreements at both the World Trade Organisation and in Regional contexts. She is one of the architects of the African Continental Free Trade Area, having led technical teams in designing the draft legal negotiating instruments for the AfCFTA.
Mrs. Maggie Gu  
President of Tomorrow Foundation

Maggie Gu has more than 18 years of experience in the management of international affairs, excelling in public relations and crisis management. Targeting the existing social, political and economic problems that Africa is facing in the new era, Ms. Gu proposed many creative, practical and effective solutions, some of which resulted in substantial impact. In order to promote an effective transfer of existing techniques and technologies, optimize the utilization of limited resources, increase the transparency and accountabilities of all the sectors in Africa and ultimately reach a fair and long term win-win relation between Africa and other parties, Ms. Gu founded the Tomorrow Foundation.

Dr. Ned Gandevani  
Professor, Author, Investment Specialist

Dr. Ned Gandevani, MBA, PhD is an author, professor and investment specialist. He is a graduate finance professor at Harvard University and the program chair for the Master of Science in Finance and Master of Science in Risk Management and Insurance in New England College of Business and Finance. He has extensive experience in academia and industry in the field of finance and risk management. Dr. Gandevani spent twenty years of his career as a trader and hedge fund manager, specializing in quant systems, macro strategies, and the utilization of different asset classes to maximize performance. His proprietary techniques and trading systems including the Trading Personality Profile (TPP), helps securities traders identify their performance style and work toward their strengths.
Dr. Boubker Abi Sourour
Economist and Founder of the Ibn Khaldoun Academy for Arabic

Doctor in econometrics from Georgetown University in the United States. He was a World Bank staff member for about 30 years. He is a member of several social, cultural and professional organizations, and the founder and president of the Ibn Khaldoun Academy for the teaching of Arabic and the Moroccan culture to children of Moroccan diaspora in the United States. Recipient of the Throne Medal (Wissam al Arc) from His Majesty Mohamed VI, King of Morocco in June 2000 in New York City.
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