African Union Challenges
Building a Strong Continental Integration
ABOUT THE AMADEUS INSTITUTE

Founded in 2008 and based in Rabat, the Amadeus Institute is a Moroccan independent think tank with an African dimension. Initially set up as a laboratory of ideas on issues related to Euro-Mediterranean development, the Amadeus Institute has since expanded its expertise to other areas to become an independent, credible and innovative scientific interlocutor.

During his 12 years of existence, the Amadeus Institute has asserted itself as one of the best think tanks of the South, which advocates for the voice and the vision of the South on a number of themes related to global development, crisis management and geopolitics. It is at the same time a field dedicated to reflection, advice, dialogue, support and consultation, but also a platform for exchanges, meetings and international cooperation.

Giving priority to a global understanding of the raised issues, the activities of the Amadeus Institute are motivated by the aim to improve the interaction between governments, private sector and civil society through the organization of several conferences and workshops both on the international and the national level. In fact, the Institute has been a major stakeholder in many events such as the Special Visit Program in Melbourne in 2010, the Seminar on Peace and Development in Africa in Beijing in 2010, the Conference on the prevention of causes of conflicts in Nairobi in 2010, the Sustainable Development Summit in New Delhi in 2011, the New York Forum in 2011 and 2012, the Gulf Strategic Conference in Manama in 2013, Bamako Forum in 2010, 2013, and 2014, the forum of CPAPD 2014 in Beijing, the Abu Dhabi Strategic Debates in 2014, the General Assembly of EuroMesco every year since

Due to its engagement and its initiative, the Amadeus Institute is now considered as a “Do Tank” and an “Advocacy Tank”. As evidenced by the conference tour organized in west-Africa during the second quarter of 2018 about the Moroccan accession to ECOWAS, the Amadeus Institute have played a major role in facilitating and promoting the debate between Moroccan and West-African partners on the different issues, being the first African think tank to engage such a debate.

Furthermore, the MEDays Forum remains the Institute’s major event. Called the African Davos, the MEDays receive, each year, Head of States and former Head of States, prime ministers, ministers and high level expert from the whole world.

Through its different activities, the Amadeus Institute has built an important network of international partners and experts dedicated to discussing and develop knowledge, serving the public interest. This diversified and transdisciplinary network confirms the recognition and the credibility of the Institute.
PROGRAM

9.00am - Opening words:

Mr. Brahim Fassi Fihri, President & Founder of the Amadeus Institute

Dr. Abderrahmane Chabib
Chairman, World Council for Youth and Diplomacy

9.30am-11.00am - Panel 1

Peace and Stability in Africa:
What strategy to better address current threats?

The African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) was adopted in 2005 and relies on several institutions. The existing set of political and military responses to an African crisis proved their efficiency, still recently, in case of internal political turmoil (track record 2017-18: Togo, Guinea Bissau, Gambia, Zimbabwe). However, destabilisation of Mali by militants coming from the Libyan territory but also the regional war against the Shebabs in Somalia proved this framework inefficient when fighting against armed groups with crossborder that are not institutionalised political actors. Considering these threats, cooperation and solidarity between African countries as well as peace and security are an imperative for the continent.
The AU must therefore create the conditions for a durable peace, notably through its different institutions that must reconsider their security governance.

11.15am – 12.45pm - Panel 2

The African Free Continental Trade: A necessary step for African emergence

In 2018, the international institutional agenda has known the signing of the African Continental Free Trade Area in Kigali, which concerns the 54 member States. While the sub-regional integration existing now for decades have not sufficiently boosted trade between African State members, the ACFTA can be considered as a real opportunity for the regional integration in Africa and as a necessary step for the continent towards emergence. Although a sufficient number of States ratified the ACFTA, there are still some political reticence that the African Union have to address. The AU has also to think about the institutional reforms that could enable the ACFTA to fully play its role.
SPEAKERS

Opening words

Mr. Brahim Fassi Fihri
President & Founder of Amadeus Institute

President of the Amadeus Institute, he founded and leads this Moroccan think tank, one of the first in Morocco with a permanent structure. He initiated the MEDays Forum held annually in Tangier since 2008.

Dr. Abderrahmane Chabib
Chairman, World Council for Youth and Diplomacy

President and founder 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.
Panel 1 - Peace and Stability in Africa: What strategy to better address current threats?

Moderator: Mr. Anas El Gomati  
*President & Founder of Sadeq Institute*

President and founder of the Tripoli-based Sadeq Institute, the first Libyan think tank. He was a visiting fellow at the Carnegie Middle East Center, where his research focuses on socioeconomics, democratic governance, the security sector, and political Islam in Libya.

Speakers:

H.E.Mr. Taye Atkesellassie Amde  
*Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations*

Served as Ambassador to Egypt from January 2017 to July 2018, having previously occupied two senior posts in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, State Minister for Political Affairs and Director General for American Affairs. He was his country’s Consul-General in Los Angeles, Minister Counsellor in its Embassy in Washington D.C. and Counsellor in the Embassy in Stockholm.
H.E. Mr. Tijjani Mohammad Bande  
**Permanent Representative of Nigeria to the United Nations**

Served as Vice Chancellor of Usman DanFodio University, Sokoto between 2004 and 2009. He held a position similar to the one at NIPSS for five years heading a pan-African institution that trains top-level public servants, Centre African de Formation et de Recherche Administrative pour le Development (CAFRAD), translated as the African Training and Research Centre in Administration for Development.

Mr. Christopher Leins  
**Senior Security Advisor to the US Special Envoy for Sudan and South Sudan**

Retired from the US Army in 2014 with the rank of Major General after thirty-five years of service. During his last four years in the military, he served as director for politico-military affairs (Africa) on the Joint Staff. He responded to crises throughout Africa, including post-Arab Spring Tunisia and Libya, ongoing challenges in South Sudan and Somalia.
Ms. Bronwyn Bruton  
*Deputy Director of the Africa Center, Atlantic Council*

She is a recognized authority on the conflict in Somalia. She managed the National Endowment for Democracy’s multi-million dollar portfolio of small grants to local and international nongovernmental organizations operating in East and Southern Africa, and managed post-conflict political transition programs in Africa for the US Agency for International Development.

**Panel 2 - The African Free Continental Trade:**
*A necessary step for African emergence*

**Moderator: Mr. Zakaria Fahim,**
*President of Hub Africa*

President of Hub Africa, a plateform dedicated to investors and entrepreneurs in Africa. He is also President of BDO Sarl Cabinet, the 5th biggest global network. He is a former member of board of the General Confederation of Moroccan Enterprises.
Speakers:

Ms. Joy Kategekwa  
**Head of UNCTAD regional office for Africa**

She has 15 years’ experience in trade negotiations, policy advisory and capacity building. Before UNCTAD, she was an official at the WTO Secretariat, responsible for the WTO African Group and played a key role in strengthening African participation in the Doha Development Agenda of negotiations.

Mr. Abdou Diop  
**Managing Partner at Mazars**

Former President of the Africa and South-South Cooperation Committee of the General Confederation of Moroccan Enterprises. Senegalese, he has been living in Morocco for 25 years. He is the managing partner of the Mazars audit and expertise firm in Morocco.

Mr. Witney Schneidman  
**Senior international advisor for Africa at Covington & Burling**

Drawing on his experience in the State Department, the World Bank, think tanks and his own consulting practice, Dr. Schneidman, a non-lawyer, has advised energy,
technology, consumer and health companies, among others, on projects in more than 30 African countries. He has also served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for African affairs, and on the Africa advisory committees in the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative and at the U.S. Export-Import Bank.

Mr. Joseph Adelegan  
**Founder and Executive Chairman at Global Network for Environment and Economic Development Research**

He has 27 years of professional experience with the public sector, private sector, civil society, education, research and innovation on economic and social infrastructure – transport, energy, telecommunications, industry, water and sanitation, health, development among others. His consulting assignments span the European Union, World Bank, African Development Bank, DFID, ECOWAS, United Nations and Australian Aid among others.

Mr. Mohamed H’Midouche  
**CEO of Inter Africa Capital Group**

President of Inter Africa Capital Group, and Executive Vice President of the African Diplomatic Academy, he has been the Regional Representative of the African Development Bank for the West Africa Region.
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