

تحت الرعاية السامية لصاحب الجلالة الملك محمد السادس Sous le Haut Patronage de Sa Majesté le Roi Mohammed VI

Royaume du Maroc
Le Chef du Gouvernement
Ministère des Affaires Générales
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Introduction of The Alliance for Rebuilding Governance in Africa (ARGA)

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The Alliance for Rebuilding Governance in Africa (ARGA) is the outcome of a meeting between African and non-African actors who decide to unify their experiences and to call up other actors, convinced that the future of the African continent cannot be achieved through sector-based patching, unsuccessful rescue plans, imposed and imported models. The idea was not only to introduce some reforms but also to rebuild governance, and to grant Africa a new vision. The ambition is to rethink the public management, to find new values that guide the human activities, to unify instead of separate, to begin with realities and experiences but not with dogmas. ARGA represents a pan-African public space of reflections, dialogues and propositions for public management change. It mobilizes actors in all the socio-professional fields committed in action and reflection, concerned about promoting a dialogue on the African public affairs management for the local citizens, African citizens, and the entire world.

Our ambition is to promote legitimate governance where public affairs management and exercising power should be at the disposal of the common good with support and under the control of those governed.

It is now present in 9 West African countries (Mali, Burkina-Faso, Benin, Togo, Senegal, Guinea-Bissau, Gambia, Guinea, and Ivory Coast) and in 2 countries in Central Africa (Cameron and the Democratic Republic of the Congo).

ARGA' mission is to elaborate:

1) An African way of thinking on governance based on two fundamental pillars, i.e. history roots, Africa values and realities on one hand, and the wealth through international experiences on the other hand.

2) A governance African project that should be:

- Systemic because of the multiplicity and scale of the problems and challenges that should be taken up in all governance levels, from local to global.
- For a long term basis because of the deep intellectual, institutional, economic and cultural transformations that it implies,
- Shared and carried by all the state and non-state actors, which requires that the public affairs regulation processes should be inclusive and representative of the social diversity.

The action strategy of ARGA is to:

Depuis 2011, l'ARGA a entamé un plan stratégique quinquennal qui vise à consolider l'initiative dans sa capacité à penser le changement (en continuant à élaborer des propositions), à vouloir le changement (en développant l'influence des pratiques et des cultures politiques et institutionnelles au niveau des acteurs étatiques

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ou des institutions d'intégration régionale et des acteurs non institutionnels) et à agir pour le changement (en approfondissant ou en lançant de nouveaux groupes d'initiative sur le foncier, la gouvernance des ressources minières, le développement territorial au niveau des collectivités locales).

Since 2011, ARGA has initiated a five-year strategic plan that aims at reinforcing the capability of the initiative to think of the change (by keeping elaborating propositions), for the change (by developing the influence of institutional and political cultures and practices for the state actors or regional integration institutions as well as non-state actors), and to act for the change (by improving or launching new initiative groups on the land, governance of mining resources, territorial development of the local communities).

This strategic plan includes four big projects:

1) a continental project that implies organization of annual days of governance in Africa (ADGA, see www.jaga.afrique-gouvernance.net); it is a series of 4 conferences of prospective reflection on the future of the African continent for 2060 (2012 on governance, 2014 on economy, 2015 on globalization and 2016 for a synthetic conference).

2) regional projects that implies the groups of thematic initiative, in particular the land, the local projects of territory, the governance of mining resources...

3) national projects that implies the launching of national multi-actor forums, for every country by ARGA, the state structure in charge of institutional reforms or of governance. The multi-actor forums are a space for dialogue and elaboration of propositions by national actors; propositions are submitted to the public authorities so as to feed up their reflection and their projects of reform.

4) projects of collaboration with the universities, research and training centers, and national schools of administration in order to consolidate some themes, to participate in the training of the future African executives and leaders for the governance problems, through conferences, workshops, and training modules.

ADGA 2014: a space of propositions for an economic revival in Africa.

The Africa Horizon 2060 initiative: *Africa takes its destiny in hand aims at establishing a space of dialogue and prospective reflections on the future of the continent named Annual Days of the Governance in Africa (ADGA).* It aims at opening the dialogue on the governance in Africa in relation with the huge challenges that the African countries face and continue to face in the next decades.

In order to stimulate systemic and sustainable changes for Africa, that are carried by all the actors, four big conferences will be held between 2012 and 2015 so as to build, not a new plan but concrete initiatives and propositions on fundamental themes of governance, economy and globalization.

Why Africa should reinvent its economy?

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After the first edition on the theme of "Africa reinvents its governance" which was held in Praia (the republic of Cape Verde) from July 9th to 12th 2012, the second edition will be held from January 27th to 30th 2014 in Rabat, Morocco under the theme "Africa reinvents its economy".

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Africa is definitely the continent of paradoxes! Indeed the most endowed with natural resources on the planet, the continent hosts the poorest populations in the world. Data are stating that over a 25 years period, poverty did decelerate considerably in the world excepted in sub-Saharan Africa where the number of poor people is growing continually. It is the only region in the globe where, in terms of percentage, poverty is in a static situation¹. Worst still, it is growing in absolute terms.

This paradox is explained basically in the continent postcolonial evolution. Since the 60s Africa is continually accumulating counter-performances in terms of development. The economic and social assessment of the first fifty years of independence is globally a disaster for most of African countries. Since 2000 however, the continent is experiencing a relatively strong growth which is still hiding dreadful social realities, basic fragilities and also obvious vulnerabilities regarding infrastructures and energy. As underlined by UNECA in the 2013 report, this growth was not translated into economic diversification, or by enormous jobs creation, much less into a wide social development. In short, this is confirming the chaotic path of African development.

At the economic level, investment ratios have been always lower than the world mean. Even worse, they have been reduced drastically in the 80s while the first two decades of independence were characterized by proactive policies with relatively huge investment efforts. Of course, the growth curve has followed the investment levels and has literally collapsed in the 80s and 90s. However, even though the 2000 era did show economic recovery, one should notice the continent lagging behind Asia regions; above all one should also deplore the economic growth social breakaway. Today with the second stronger growth mean, Africa has an income per inhabitant six times lower than the rest of world.

Africa economic up and downs do contrast with its huge potential, particularly with its natural and demographic resources. Natural resources are subject to bad governance, internal tension and exacerbated concurrence between non African actors while demographic resources, especially young people are the first categories impacted by emigration waves. Above all, economic outcomes are not, until now, able to bring qualitative and substantial changes in African populations living conditions.

In social terms, African economies impacts on Africans well-being are mitigated. Indeed, in a half century, mortality rate has been cut to half in the continent. However, Africans do have the highest mortality rate in the world. Infant-juvenile mortality rate is at an alarming level: among a thousand children born in Africa, 180 died before their fifth birthday, versus 7 in the OECD and 51 south-East Asia. Life expectancy has increased from 45 to 54 between 1965 and 2010 in Subsaharan Africa. In 2010, the continent has a gap of 19 years of life expectancy vis-à-vis worldwide mean. OECD populations are living a half a century more than those in Subsaharan Africa. As far as education at the secondary level is concerned, the rate has been quadrupled in 50 years in the continent, to reach however only 40% in 2011 versus 70% worldwide, 80% and 90% respectively in South-East Asia and Latin America and Caribbean.

In short, the half century economic and social assessment of this half-century is globally below the continent potential. There is an obvious discrepancy with the continent challenges, experiencing the fastest demographic growth worldwide, with 7 to 10 millions of new job seekers every year.

Africa is being a fertile sole for endemic poverty which is creating despair and self-denial among African populations. Unlike the rest of humanity who is thinking in good faith that Africa is "the world future", Africans continue to desert the continent sometimes at the cost of their lives and dignity, convinced that "the future is "somewhere else".

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Having said that, is Africa being condemned to living in underdevelopment? Is Africa going to be only a simple natural resources reserve whose control and looting will oppose powerful countries, which will, in some circumstances, lean on Africans themselves? Will African wealth be irremediably doomed to be captured and monopolized by a privileged minority, without benefiting at all to the whole population? Do we have to accept this illusory fate? It is usual to explain African socio-economic misery through the continent systematic depletion for foreign interests. The truth is Africans are also responsible for the continent situation. It is up to them, therefore to retake the initiative for the continent social and economic renaissance.

In this regard, African successful stories do exist and could be used as levers for African development renewal and relaunching. South Africa economic power, Botswana economic and democratic model especially with resources and mineral rents dedicated to social progress, the Rwanda spectacular economic and social rebuilding in a short period after the genocide, Morocco economic smartness and tremendous progress which positioning the Kingdom as a center of excellence and a core for Europe and Africa development.

A necessary control of the African economy by the Africans

Such experiences which are so far from being exhaustive do prove that Africa structural crisis paradigm is no more relevant in explaining the continent ongoing dynamics. These experiences are highlighting the fact that beside of the official Africa in crisis, the extroverted one, there is an Africa emerging which is building itself through many state rebuilding/reconstruction spaces, economy, society at its micro and macro level. This provides full sense to innovative initiatives in terms of territories economic development dynamics, local development, entrepreneurship, Small and Medium Enterprises, communities...

Essentially, it is the African economy foundation that is questioned. Holders of disastrous models of natural resources exploitation, extroverted and strongly relying on a worldwide conjuncture upon which the continent has no grip, set on disincarnated calculation method that is not taking into account some huge hubs where wealth is created, in addition African economic dynamic are too partitioned, driven through short-term approaches and without much added values for populations. Therefore, the growth related recent statistics should not nourish any illusions regarding these economic dynamics quality and hide then the imperative need to reconstruct sustainable, strong and endogenous African economies, an African neo-economy aiming to serve the people needs.

The 2014 conference is undertaking to revisit the African economies foundation. It has the ambition to lay the need for Africa to reinvent its economy. Based on concrete experiences, African reflections and the best of international trajectories regarding economic systems evolution, the conference is searching to define an African conception of sustainable development. It is no more about limiting ourselves to imitate the western model of development. This one, based on exploiting energy and natural resources coming from all over the world, is not extendable worldwide and sustainable for itself. It should experience a profound change. Africa should not miss this new historical opportunity.

The proceedings of the 2014 conference

To reinvent the African economy and achieve its adequate insertion in the world, and beyond the need to back politics and economic management by governance values and principles, the conference will address 5 major themes:

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1. Workshop 1: Build a Vision and the strategic, political and the intellectual capacities required to rebuild a dynamic African economy.

2. Workshop 2: Recover sovereignty over all natural resources and put them at the service of sustainable African economies

3. Workshop 3: Rethink industrialisation and the company in the continent's development strategy

4. Workshop 4: Encourage new views and approaches to the development of territories and economies

5. Workshop 5: Build an endogenous architecture and financial systems at the service of financing African development

Profils des Participants

Les participants viennent des 5 régions du Continent africain, de différentes catégories socioprofessionnelles (décideurs politiques, universitaires et chercheurs, secteur privé, experts, organisations paysannes, diaspora, ...). Sont également participants des personnes d'autres continents.

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