



Conference 27-30 January 2014

AFRICA RE-INVENTS ITS ECONOMY

Declaration of Rabat

As part of the 'Africa Horizon 2060' initiative launched by the Alliance for Rebuilding Governance in Africa (ARGA), the second edition of the Annual African Governance Days (AAGD), on the theme of 'Africa reinvents its economy', was held in Rabat (Kingdom of Morocco) from 27-30 January 2014, under the high patronage of His Majesty the King Mohammed VI and in partnership with the Minister Delegate to the Head of Government responsible for General affairs and governance of the Kingdom of Morocco. The first AAGD, on the theme of 'Africa reinvents its governance' was organised in Praia (Republic of Cabo Verde) from 9-12 July 2012. The goal of the 'Africa Horizon 2060' initiative is to carry out forward-looking prospection to contribute to Africa's taking control of its future on the symbolic horizon of 2060, the 100th anniversary of the first waves of independence.

The Rabat conference brought together participants with diverse social and professional backgrounds from all regions of Africa and the African diaspora, as well as friends of Africa.

Debates centred on basic economic themes:

- 1- Construct a vision, along with strategic, political and intellectual capacities at the service of rebuilding African economies;
- 2- Recover sovereignty over all natural resources and place them at the service of sustainable African economies;
- 3- Rethink industrialisation and the company in the continent's development strategy;
- 4- Encourage new views and approaches to the development of territories and economies;
- 5- Build an endogenous architecture and financial systems at the service of financing Africa's development.

With these themes as a basis, the Rabat conference was able to build a strong consensus on what African thought and strategy should be with regard to reinventing economies by 2060, a strategy based not only on current dynamics and the continent's innumerable strong points, but also on expected changes in worldwide relations in the coming decades.

Conference participants also noted that, for Africa to take control of its destiny and reinvent African economies, a primordial condition must be met: the construction of an endogenous way of thinking about the economy and sustainable development that is authentically African, i.e., constructed by Africans, for Africa and on the basis of African realities.

Participants agree, in this respect, that the essential contributions of the Rabat conference lie in:

- **independent reflection** on the reinvention of African economies, which is not defined with respect to other ways of thinking, and which frees itself from both externally imposed models and the idealisation of models that are considered successful but are specific to other societies;
- **a reflection not influenced by imposed agendas and emergency situations**, and rooted in the long-term: this is the only type of reflection capable of producing sustainable, managed, significant change that benefits all African populations;
- **a reflection on the economy based on intersecting viewpoints**: not only the views of experts, but also of various actors in society who have agreed on a certain understanding of the economy and on collective proposals to meet the challenges faced by African economies, in particular the generation of wealth and employment, and above all for young people;
- a reflection whose goal is not to outdo experts in specific areas, but to **provide an overall panorama of the issues** to be addressed and draw attention to all the dynamics involved, whether they be institutional—in particular those based on alignment with international standards—social, popular, or informal.

On the basis of these observations, participants recognise:

- x **the essential role of local dynamics and territories** in constructing a deeply rooted and inclusive African economy and in satisfying the three-fold requirement of social cohesion, economic efficiency and environmental conservation;
- x **the importance of a partnership approach** with multiple actors, both to develop and evaluate public policies and to construct new economic partnerships, including partnerships with multinational companies;
- x the need, for the economy and for natural resources management, to dispose of **multi-level governance** that favours the local and sub-regional levels;
- x **the danger of a mimetic attitude** with regard to developed and emerging countries, and the need to reinvent the economy on the basis of what the world will be like in 2060, in order to define an African trajectory that guarantees the well-being of all and respects the planet's limitations;
- x **the need for a clear and reliable legal framework and policies, and a financial architecture** that turns its back on the culture of impunity and instead creates a culture of security and respect for joint rights and commitments for citizens and for all companies, from small- and medium-scale to multinational;
- x **radical changes in education to develop a sense of the common good**, responsibility, confidence in oneself and others, a spirit of initiative and entrepreneurialism and the capacity to make full and good use of technologies.

The participants feel that a strategy for change, while favouring the long term, must be based on immediate actions that represent the first steps to be taken to initiate change and create the conditions necessary to bring it to fruition. As a result, the participants agree to:

- **set up national and sub-regional platforms** to make widely known, and to experiment with, proposals resulting from their work;
- **organise national, collegial or sectoral restitutions** of the results of the conference;
- **widen and deepen the reflection** by linking it to other initiatives on African economies;
- **harmonise proposals** from the Rabat conference with proposals on rebuilding governance from the Praia conference;
- **take immediate advantage of opportunities to connect** the research centres and universities present at the conference in a network.

Participants therefore call on Moroccan authorities to use Morocco's leadership on the African continent to ensure that immediate actions accompany the implementation of proposals put forth by the conference.

Participants congratulate the Alliance for Rebuilding Governance in Africa and all its partners—Africans and friends of Africa—who made the conference possible, and at the same time exhort them to carry the 'Africa Horizon 2060' project through to its conclusion and to take all the initiatives necessary to bring it to the attention of African States, sub-regional, regional and continental integration organisations, and all segments of African societies.

Participants thank his Majesty the King Mohammed VI for having given his patronage to the conference, and salute his commitment to strengthening South-South cooperation in general, and between the Kingdom of Morocco and the rest of Africa in particular.

Participants thank the Moroccan government, in particular the Ministry of foreign affairs and cooperation and the Ministry Delegate for general affairs and governance, for their decisive contribution to preparing and holding the conference.

Participants express their gratitude to the Moroccan people for their warm welcome and the kindness shown to participants throughout their stay.

Rabat, 30 January 2014

