

ANNUAL REPORT ON AFRICA'S GEOPOLITICS



2019

Edited by
Abdelhak Bassou

 **POLICY CENTER
FOR THE NEW SOUTH**

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Annual Report on Africa's Geopolitics

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About the Policy Center for the New South

The Policy Center for the New South (PCNS) is a Moroccan think tank whose mission is to contribute to improving economic, social and international public policies relating to Morocco and Africa, which are integral parts of the global South.

The PCNS advocates for an open, responsible and enterprising «New South»; a South that shapes its own narratives, as well as mental maps about the Mediterranean and South Atlantic basins, in the context of forward-looking relations with the rest of the world. Through its work, the think tank aims to support the development of public policies in Africa and give experts from the South a voice in the geopolitical developments affecting them. Based on dialogue and partnerships, this positioning seeks to foster African expertise and excellence so as to contribute to diagnosing and resolving African challenges.

To this end, the PCNS brings together researchers, publishes their work and capitalizes on a network of renowned partners from around the world. Throughout the year, the PCNS holds a series of meetings of varying formats and levels, the most important of which are the annual international conferences: «The Atlantic Dialogues» and «African Peace and Security Annual Conference» (APSACO).

Lastly, the think tank is developing a community of young leaders through the Atlantic Dialogues Emerging Leaders (ADEL) program. This space for cooperation and networking among a new generation of decision-makers and entrepreneurs has already more than 300 members. The PCNS thus plays a role in intergenerational dialogue and the emergence of tomorrow's leaders.

Annual Report on Africa's Geopolitics

Preface

True to the ambition and spirit of its inaugural edition (2017), then entitled "Mirror of Africa," the «Annual Report on Africa's Geopolitics», under its new name, explores new horizons, with a view to better grasping the dynamics at play on the continent.

This is reflected in particular in the three-part structure of the Report. In Part I (Regions), Africa is broken down into its diverse geographical areas, with a focus on the continent's various regional economic communities.

Each one of the contributors, of diverse backgrounds, nationalities and areas of expertise, looks into aspects, which, as the case may be, make up the strength or challenges of a region. The themes addressed, and the rigorous analyses undertaken, are intended to enable readers to cast a glimpse into the future of Africa, which is unfolding by leaps and bounds.

Regional economic communities are discussed not only in their own right, but also in relation to prevailing political, economic, sociological and security situations in their member countries.

Still with a view to reflecting as accurately as possible the state of affairs in Africa in 2018, Part II («Security») covers more specific topics, as analyses focus on issues such as migration, the recruitment of children by militias and transnational crime and terrorism. Emphasis is partially on the continent as a whole, but also, with zooms on a number of regions in Africa.

Under the heading «Geopolitics,» Part III follows the same approach. It addresses issues which capture new dynamics affecting Africa. Alongside in-depth analyses of foreign powers' ongoing involvement in the continent, the topics of urban planning and climate change also feature in this geopolitical panorama of 2018.

Based on our determination to contribute to a better knowledge of Africa by observing, deciphering and analyzing facts and the changes underway in the continent, it seemed necessary to rename this publication, starting with the present edition, «Annual Report on Africa's Geopolitics», instead of «Mirror of Africa».

This new name, which is a reflection of the fresh impetus it has inspired us as demonstrated in the variety of analytical approaches and space dedicated to them, will undoubtedly spur us on in carrying out our mission as an observatory of Africa.

The Policy Center for the New South stands firm in its commitment and determination

Abdelhak Bassou,
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