

THE ATLANTIC DIALOGUES INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

11th Edition



ATLANTIC DIALOGUES REPORT 2022

COOPERATION IN A CHANGING WORLD:
OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE BROADER ATLANTIC

December 14-16, 2022
Marrakesh, Morocco

www.atlanticdialogues.org

CENTENTS

04 Introduction

08 Agenda

10 AD in Numbers

11 Plenaries

UNDER THE HIGH PATRONAGE OF HIS MAJESTY KING MOHAMMED VI

ATLANTIC DIALOGUES REPORT

COOPERATION IN A CHANGING WORLD:
OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE BROADER ATLANTIC





INTRODUCTION

The Policy Center for the New South, under the High Patronage of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, has hosted the 11th edition of its annual Atlantic Dialogues International Conference in Marrakech from December 14 to 16, 2022. Over 350 guests from 60 different countries have taken part in this first in-person edition in three years, under the theme “Cooperation in a Mutating World: Opportunities of the Wider Atlantic”. The most recent edition in this format, held in 2019 address “The South in the Time of Turmoil”, and welcomed over 500 participants from over 90 countries . Two online editions were held due to the Covid-19 pandemic that provided a view of the Covid crisis from the Southern Atlantic in 2020, and the prospects of a Wider Atlantic recovery in 2021, reaching an audience of over 70,000 in 2021.

As Karim El Aynaoui, Executive President of the Policy Center for the New South, stated in his opening remarks of the 2022 edition, *“we do not need to agree on everything, but we must have a minimum of common values to work together”*.

The theme for 2022, chosen collectively by the Policy Center for the New South's pool of senior experts, came about as a result of multiple crises: the recovery post Covid-19, war in Ukraine, climate change... All these shocks expose the limits of neoliberalism and multilateralism, while opening new opportunities for cooperation in a world that has become interdependent. From climate diplomacy to innovations in energy and agriculture, through infrastructure and digital revolution, the topics of the 2022 Atlantic Dialogues conference have explored possible common strategies through 11 plenary sessions, livestreamed on the Policy Center's social networks and a dedicated web TV Channel, AD TV.



A Unique Blend of Intercontinental Expertise

Bringing Southern voices into the global geopolitical debate and engaging a North-South dialogue on an equal footing are at the heart of the Policy Center for the New South's DNA, and the *raison d'être* of the Atlantic Dialogues conference. Speakers included three former Latin American Presidents Jamil Mahuad from Ecuador, Federico Ramón Puerta from Argentina, and Jorge Tuto Quiroga from Bolivia, as well as former Prime Minister Matata Ponyo Mapon from the Democratic Republic of Congo. André Azoulay, Advisor of His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco, also joined the debates, along with current ministers like Helena Carreiras (Defense, Portugal), and several former foreign ministers, many of whom are part of the Atlantic Dialogues community. High-level diplomats also took part, including Omar Hilale, the Kingdom of Morocco's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, among others.

Researchers and think tank representatives participated as well, including prominent figures from various organizations. As always, discussions were moderated by seasoned journalists from renowned media outlets.

"We hear, we listen, we offer opportunities to researchers from all parts of the Atlantic", said Karim El Aynaoui in his closing remarks. He underlined the difficult international situation, which requires new thinking and new spirit. *"The Atlantic Dialogues conference is one method to discuss, but we are exploring diverse methods at the Policy Center for the New South",* he concluded.



Offering New Frames of Reference

Since its inception in 2012, the conference aims to integrate the South Atlantic into global geopolitics, emphasizing its potential. This report seeks to spotlight significant insights from Marrakech. Major recurring themes were addressed comprehensively, touching on global governance, the evolving global order post-Ukraine war, and the alarming rise in inequalities.

The potential of the Atlantic Basin was a focal point for many experts. Various panels discussed topics from the implications of inflation in the broader Atlantic to policy recommendations for a better future.

The Atlantic Dialogues wrapped up with an intercontinental and intergenerational conversation, featuring five members of the 2022 Atlantic Dialogues Emerging Leaders (ADEL) cohort. The concluding panel of the conference is traditionally dedicated to them, and the theme they chose for their panel in 2022 was "The Future We Want", representing an appropriate conclusion and send-off.





Wednesday, December 14th

11:30 – 12:30 | [Launch of the 9th Edition of the Atlantic Currents: An Annual Report on Wider Atlantic Perspectives and Patterns](#)

Moderator:
Mohammed Loulichki, Senior Fellow, Policy Center for the New South (Morocco)

Speakers:
Jorge Castañeda, Global Distinguished Professor of Political Science and Latin American Studies, New York University (Mexico)
Ahmed Rachid El-Khattabi, Economist, US Environmental Protection Agency (Morocco)
Ian Lesser, Vice President, German Marshall Fund (USA)
Fatima Ezzahra Mengoub, Senior Economist, Policy Center for the New South (Morocco)
Alessandro Minuto-Rizzo, President, NATO Defense College Foundation (Italy)
Hamza Rkha Chaham, Co-Founder, SOWIT (Morocco)

12:30 – 14:15 | Lunch

14:30 – 14:45 | AD Application Presentation

Lilia Rizk, Manager – Emerging Leaders Unit, Policy Center for the New South (Morocco)

14:45 – 15:00 | [Welcoming Remarks](#)

Karim El Aynaoui, Executive President, Policy Center for the New South (Morocco)

15:00 – 16:15 | [Plenary I: Compounded Crises: The Wider Atlantic Taking Stock](#)

Moderator:
Andres Schipani, East and Central Africa Bureau Chief, Financial Times (Argentina)

Speakers :
Ferid Belhaj, Vice President - Middle East North Africa, World Bank (Tunisia)
Obiageli Ezekwesili, President, Human Capital Africa (Nigeria)
Thomas Gomart, Director, French Institute of International Relations (France)
Andrés Rozental, Founding President, Mexican Council on Foreign Relations (Mexico)

16:15 – 16:45 | Coffee Break

16:45 – 18:00 | [Plenary II: Two-Speed Multilateralism in the Wider Atlantic](#)

Moderator:
Kimberly Dozier, Global Affairs Analyst, CNN (USA)

Speakers :
Vincenzo Amendola, Member, Italian Parliament (Italy)
Youssef Amrani, Ambassador of Morocco to South Africa & designated to the EU (Morocco)
Rita Faden, President of the Executive Council, Luso-American Development Foundation (Portugal)
Matata Ponyo Mapon, Chairman of the Board, Congo Challenge (DRC)

18:00 – 19:15 | [Plenary III: The Consequences of Inflation in the Wider Atlantic](#)

Moderator:
Ali Aslan, International TV Presenter & Journalist (Germany)

Speakers :
Masood Ahmed, President, Center for Global Development (UK)
Otaviano Canuto, Senior Fellow, Policy Center for the New South (Brazil)
Harinder Kohli, Founding Director & Chief Executive, Emerging Markets Forum (India)
Dominique Strauss-Kahn, Managing Partner, Parnasse International (France)

20:00 – 22:00 | Broadcast: FIFA World Cup Semi-Finals & Cocktail Dinner in the Foyer/Moroccan Dinner

Thursday, December 15th

09:30 – 10:45 | [Plenary IV: Street Power, Willpower, and Democracy](#)

Moderator:
Richard Lui, Anchor & Journalist, NBC News/MSNBC (USA)

Speakers :
Laura Albornoz, Professor, Research Fellow of the School of Law, University of Chile (Chile)
Amre Moussa, Former Secretary General, League of Arab States (Egypt)
Paulo Portas, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs (Portugal)

10:45 – 11:15 | Coffee Break

11:15 – 12:30 | [Plenary V: NATO, the South Atlantic, and the Global Strategic Balance](#)

Moderator:
Ali Aslan, International TV Presenter & Journalist (Germany)

Speakers :
Helena Carreiras, Minister of Defence (Portugal)
Birame Diop, Military Adviser, Office of Military Affairs, Department of Peace Operations, United Nations (Senegal)
Ana Palacio, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs (Spain)
Bruno Tertrais, Deputy Director, Foundation for Strategic Research (France)

12:30 – 14:30 | Lunch

14:30 – 15:45 | [Plenary VI: Climate Change Cooperation](#)

Moderator:
Uduak Amimo, Founder, Uduak Amimo Coaching & Consulting (Kenya)

Speakers :
Hafez Ghanem, Senior Fellow, Policy Center for the New South (Egypt)
Andreas Kraemer, Founder, Ecologic Institute (Germany)
Miguel Ángel Moratinos, High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations, United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (Spain)
Said Mouline, CEO, Moroccan Agency for Energy Efficiency (Morocco)

15:45 – 16:15 | Coffee Break

16:15 – 17:30 | [Plenary VII: The Security-Development Nexus in the Sahel: The Challenge of Implementation](#)

Moderator:
Uduak Amimo, Founder, Uduak Amimo Coaching & Consulting (Kenya)

Speakers :
Élisabeth Guigou, President, Association Europartenaies (France)
Bachir Ouedraogo, Senior Advisor Sahel and Power Africa, Tony Blair Institute (Burkina Faso)
Mohamed Znagui Sid'Ahmed Ely, Head of Defense & Security Department, G5 Sahel (Mauritania)

17:30 – 18:45 | [Plenary VIII: Atlantic Multilateralism and Prospects for a Pan-Atlantic Community](#)

Moderator:
Paul Isbell, Affiliate Professor, Mohammed VI Polytechnic University (USA)
Speakers :
Daniel Hamilton, Senior Fellow, School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University (USA)
Omar Hilale, Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations (Morocco)
Lícinia Simão, General Coordinator, Atlantic Centre (Portugal)

19:30- 20:30 | Transfers to Breakout Dinners Venues

20:00 – 22:00 | Breakout Dinners

Friday, December 16th

10:15 – 11:30 | [Plenary IX: Fighting Inequalities: The Role of the Social State in the Wider Atlantic](#)

Moderator:
Sarah Glover, Vice President of News and Civic Dialogue, WHYY News (USA)

Speakers :
Serigne Gueye Diop, Minister Advisor to the President of the Republic (Senegal)
María Teresa Fernández de la Vega, President, Women for Africa Foundation (Spain)
Carlos Lopes, Professor, University of Cape Town (Guinea Bissau)
João Vale de Almeida, Ambassador of the European Union to the United Kingdom (Portugal)

11:30 – 12:10 | [AD Talk I: Un monde fragmenté : regards croisés Nord-Sud \(In French\)](#)

Moderator:
Claude Grunitzky, CEO and Managing Partner, Equity Alliance (Togo)
Speakers :
André Azoulay, Advisor to His Majesty King Mohammed VI (Morocco)
Hubert Védrine, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs (France)

12:10 – 12:30 | [AD Talk II: Le Maroc et l'Atlantique \(In French\)](#)

Moderator:
Aziz Boucetta, Founder, Panoramapost (Morocco)

Speakers :
Fouad Yazourh, Director General of Bilateral Relations and Regional Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates (Morocco)

12:30 – 14:30 | Lunch

14:30 – 15:45 | [Plenary X: In Search of a Consolidated Latin America: Opportunities for Change \(In Spanish\)](#)

Moderator:
Andres Schipani, East and Central Africa Bureau Chief, Financial Times (Argentina)

Speakers :
Jamil Mahuad, Former President (Ecuador)
Federico Ramón Puerta, Former President (Argentina)
Jorge Tuto Quiroga, Former President (Bolivia)

15:45 – 16:15 | Coffee break

16:15 – 17:30 | [Plenary XI: Emerging Leaders Closing Plenary](#)

Moderator:
Zeinab Badawi, President, SOAS University of London (UK)

Speakers :
Pauline Batista, Media production assistant, United Nations (Brazil)
Amine Derj, Co-founder & CEO, Jodoor (Morocco)
Nusrat Farooq, Technology & Programs Associate, Global Internet Forum to Counterterrorism (India)
Lavar Thomas, Environmental Justice Expert, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USA)
Cecilia Vidotto Labastie, Europe Program Officer, Institut Montaigne (France)

17:30 – 17:45 | Closing Remarks

Karim El Aynaoui, Executive President, Policy Center for the New South (Morocco)

19:00 – 19:30 | Transfers to Gala Dinner Venue

20:00 – 23:00 | Gala Dinner

AD in Numbers



118

Speakers

176

Participants

53

Nationalities

30

Emerging Leaders

200k

Web Impressions

+800

Press Mention

Plenaries



- Launch of the 9th Edition of the Atlantic Currents: An Annual Report on Wider Atlantic Perspectives and Patterns
- **Plenary I:** Compounded Crises: The Wider Atlantic Taking Stock
- **Plenary II:** Two-Speed Multilateralism in the Wider Atlantic
- **Plenary III:** The Consequences of Inflation in the Wider Atlantic
- **Plenary IV:** Street Power, Willpower, and Democracy
- **Plenary V:** NATO, the South Atlantic, and the Global Strategic Balance
- **Plenary VI:** Climate Change Cooperation
- **Plenary VII:** The Security-Development Nexus in the Sahel: The Challenge of Implementation
- **Plenary VIII:** Atlantic Multilateralism and Prospects for a Pan-Atlantic Community
- **Plenary IX:** Fighting Inequalities: The Role of the Social State in the Wider Atlantic
- **AD Talk I:** A Fragmented World: North-South Perspectives
- **AD Talk II:** Morocco and the Atlantic
- **Plenary X:** In Search of a Consolidated Latin America: Opportunities for Change
- **Plenary XI:** Emerging Leaders Closing Plenary



ATLANTIC CURRENTS

AN ANNUAL REPORT ON WIDER ATLANTIC PERSPECTIVES AND PATTERNS

Cooperation in a Mutating World:
Opportunities of the Wider Atlantic

From
Left to
Right

Mohammed Loulichki
Senior Fellow, Policy
Center for the New
South, Morocco

Fatima Ezzahra Mengoub
Senior Economist, Policy
Center for the New South,
Morocco

Ahmed Rachid El-Khattabi
Economist, U.S. Environmental
Protection Agency,
MoroccoSouth, Morocco

Alessandro Minuto-Rizzo
President, NATO Defense
College Foundation, Italy

Ian Lesser
Vice President, German
Marshall Fund, U.S.A.

Jorge Castañeda
Global Distinguished Professor of
Political Science and Latin American
Studies, New York University, Mexico

Hamza Rakham
Co-founder, S.O.W.I.T.,
Morocco

Launch of the 9th Edition of the Atlantic Currents



An Annual Report on Wider Atlantic Perspectives and Patterns

On the 14th of December, the ninth edition of the Atlantic Currents report, titled **"An Annual Report on Wider Atlantic Perspectives and Patterns,"** was launched during the Atlantic Dialogues conference. Considering the current turbulences that the world is experiencing, from the onslaught of the COVID-19 pandemic to the war in Ukraine, the focus of this year's edition of the Atlantic Currents, in line with the overarching theme of the Atlantic Dialogues conference, was "Collaboration in a Changing World: Opportunities of the Wider Atlantic".

Authored by 13 contributors from different Atlantic countries, the report addressed issues that have gained momentum, particularly in the aftermath of the war in Europe, such as how NATO is adapting to a new and uncertain normal characterized by environmental, food, and water insecurities, social uprisings, inflation, and security crises. In such circumstances, a deep understanding of the implications of these unprecedented challenges is paramount, especially when countries are diverse in terms of development levels, degree of exposure to shocks, and extent of involvement in these conflicts.



Mohammed Loulichki stated that **"the combination of crises, among which COVID-19 and the war in Ukraine, had a tremendous effect on the North and the Global South. Because of the Ukraine war, NATO returned to center stage, enhancing its status, and gaining credibility with its constituencies. This challenges the Global South in terms of coping with consequences of this war, for which the Global South is absolutely not responsible."**

Nearly half of the authors were invited to discuss their insights and findings in a multidimensional conversation that touched on issues of peace, the importance of technology in the agricultural sector, and the impact of water scarcity on social and economic development in the wider Atlantic region.



Alessandro Minuto-Rizzo went beyond the war in Ukraine to talk about NATO. From his point of view, **"NATO is a bizarre organization because it is an alliance created in 1949 and still exists today. It is a consortium of 30 States operating by consensus rather than voting. Its decision-making process has become more political in recent years with the reform of the organization and the creation of NATO 2030, which aims to place NATO at the center of global discussions on security issues"**. NATO's role in the Global South is ambiguous due to the concept of the wider Atlantic, which is part of the broader North-South relationship.

On his end, Ian Lesser pointed out that **"now we have an example of a big animating conflict in the North, making everybody's life difficult. In that sense, it does not surprise me that major actors in the South, who maybe share the view of the illegality and immorality of Russian action, no**



question, are not necessarily buying the bigger ideological confrontation as a model."

The broader Atlantic, in terms of security, is a complex concept. Climate, environment, ocean policy, and migration require cooperation across latitudes and partnerships in the North and the South. The climate crisis affects all countries differently, with some experiencing drought and irregular rainfall and others facing floods and extreme weather events. These conditions could be more conducive to the development of these countries. Water security is a major concern, as access to water resources for drinking and economic development is challenging in many parts of the world. The increasing demand for water due to population growth and economic development is also a challenge, as is the issue of water quality.



11th
THE ATLANTIC
DIALOGUES

From
Left to
Right

Andrés Rozental
Founding President, Mexican
Council on Foreign Relations,
Mexico

Thomas Gomart
Director, French Institute of
International Relations (I.F.R.I.),
France

Ferid Belhaj
Vice President - Middle East
North Africa, World Bank,
Tunisia

Obiageli Ezekwesili
President, Human Capital
Africa, Nigeria

Andres Schipani
East and Central Africa
Bureau Chief, Financial Times,
Argentina



Compounded Crises: The Wider Atlantic Taking Stock

The world is experiencing a multifaceted crisis challenging the international community's ability to find actionable solutions. Conflicts, hunger, and the Ukraine-Russia war are challenging the multilateral system. The panel **Compounded Crises: The Wider Atlantic Taking Stock** exposed the prospects for cooperation in the Atlantic space in the face of the multidimensional crisis.

Throughout the discussions, the issues of inequality, fragility, environmental degradation, and leadership vacuum emerged as challenges that require special attention from the international community. In this regard, **Obiageli Ezekwesili** emphasized that **"economic growth and development are an antidote to fragility. If we do not achieve development quickly, we will have to live with the feeling of fragility and worry about what the world will look like."** She added that there is much more poverty and inequalities in the world, and still, **"an irresponsible political class around the world that is failing to take responsibility for the issues that existed before the pandemic."**



Ferid Belhaj also criticized the effectiveness of the international community in solving global problems such as health issues. **"Before COVID-19, we had a first warning of Ebola. When Ebola went away, we went away. Then COVID came out of nowhere and found health services that were totally unprepared even in places where we would think they were ok."** Regarding the climate crisis, Belhaj added: **"Decision-makers are not making the right decisions, possibly because they are politicians. This is where international institutions become very important, the World Bank, the U.N. and others because they have in their mandate the ability to look beyond tomorrow and with their analytical work, to suggest ways forward to real decision-makers."** He mentioned the water stress known across the MENA region, and expressed concerns about the needed level of action, which is still insufficient.

In the same vein, **Thomas Gomart** examined the crisis of the E.U., which is weakening its weight in the international community. He highlighted the concerns about **"the return of political violence on the European continent and the acceleration of environmental degradation, as well as the spread of technology, which has positive aspects, but that can also lead some societies under complete control"**. He noted that **"there is an overlap of three types of geopolitics: the first one is the geopolitics of fossils, which continues to drive many decisions, the second is the geopolitics of green energy and the last one is the geopolitics of data, which is very difficult to analyse."** While the war in Ukraine has caused significant distortions in Europe's energy and food supply chains, Gomart called on the E.U. to transform its energy model by accelerating its strategic autonomy project. He insisted that Europe must change its energy model and take more gas from the South, the U.K., and the U.S.



Finally, **Andrés Rozental** identified the immediate challenges related to weak international cooperation that the world is facing today: climate change, water shortage, energy availability, nuclear threat, food insecurity, pandemics, deforestation and desertification, migration, youth unemployment and youth not able to access education, and supply chain disruption, to only name a few. In his view, **"this is probably one of the periods in history when we have the greatest difficulty in dealing with these issues, either at the global or a wider Atlantic level or even at the regional or national level."**



The panel concluded that there is a need for a **new social contract** in which the private sector must actively participate in creating employment opportunities for youth. It added that political leadership should be reinvented so young people can connect with decision-makers. There is also a need to redesign the multilateral system and strengthen engagement through international cooperation to solve some current problems.



11th
THE ATLANTIC
DIALOGUE



From
Left to
Right

Matata Ponyo Mapon
Chairman of the Board, Congo Challenge,
DRC

Vincenzo Amendola
Former Minister of European Affairs,
Italy

Youssef Amrani
Ambassador of Morocco to South
Africa & designated to the EU,
Morocco

Kimberly Dozier
Global Affairs Analyst, CNN,
U.S.A.



Two-Speed Multilateralism in the Wider Atlantic

Multilateralism is part of the logic of sharing. It is based on the importance of each member as part of a whole. The economic contribution justifies the attention to be paid to each group. Production plays a vital role in this sense. For example, African industrial production represents less than 5% of world production. In this regard, **Matata Ponyo Mapon** stated that **"the countries of the South must produce more, not only in terms of quantity but also in terms of quality, in order to weigh in the world balances."**



The game of multilateralism is a game of exchange, and trade is the key indicator that reflects the contribution of the whole world. Leadership and governance must also be taken into account. **Youssef Amrani** added, **"from an African perspective, we need to have a strong Union. We must share a new narrative: we are essential for action in this world. If there is no listening, we are not going anywhere."**



Europe and the U.S. could consider receiving goods and services from the global South. On another front, the EU-Africa partnership is very ambitious, yet the impression is that Brussels is more focused on its eastern borders.



Global governance still needs to initiate its reform process, as symbolized by the fragility of international institutions. **Vincenzo Amendola** stated: **"For ten years, we have been discussing global governance without achieving anything. How do we reconnect the reality of global affairs with the reality in which people live? We need an agenda."** Re-establishing multilateralism through articulating the logic of cooperation between the North and the South is necessary to establish a solid and sustainable peace. For instance, in December 2022, the European Commission authorized the financing of electric cables between Italy and Tunisia, showing that transition and energy can contribute to the North-South dialogue. The contemporary world is going through a transition period that can be compared with the industrial revolution, focusing on digital technology, but with limits, such as the climate issue. There are common points: food, technology, and environment.

The panel highlighted that the war in Ukraine is an aggression that involves reorganizing the cards of the balance of power. The E.U. has made many mistakes, as in the case of Syria or Libya. In order to reorganize, a pragmatic approach is needed to reshape international relations. The E.U. is waking up today, but the trade and migration issues must be reviewed. Furthermore, European integration is a European affair, but it is taking on new proportions in the wake of the war in Ukraine. Europe needs to defend the European community's destiny today with members who defend democracy.





11th
THE ATLANTIC
DIALOGUES

From
Left to
Right

Ali Aslan
International T.V. Presenter
& Journalist, Germany

Dominique Strauss-Kahn
Managing Partner, Parnasse
International, France

Masood Ahmed
President, Center for Global
Development, UK

Harinder Kohli
Founding Director & Chief Executive,
Emerging Markets Forum, India

Otaviano Canuto
Senior Fellow, Policy Center for the New South,
Brazil



The Consequences of Inflation in the Wider Atlantic

The current inflationary pressures, which may persist in the medium term, represent a trend reversal as they mark a shift from several years of globalization to an upcoming era of fragmentation, explained **Dominique Strauss-Kahn** at the beginning of this high-level panel, giving his insights on the current situation. **"We have been experiencing 10, 15, 20 years of globalization, and what we are living now appears to be fragmentation. The three questions we need to answer are: how long is it going to last? Will we have a wage-price spiral? And finally, should we let monetary policy alone try to solve the problem?"** Around the world, central banks started to follow the F.E.D.'s monetary policy, by normalizing their monetary policies and raising interest rates. Considering the Euro area, the European Central Bank **"is currently flying blind, and monetary policy makers don't really know what they should do. This constitutes a big threat for the economic stability of the Euro area as a monetary zone in the coming years."**



Masood Ahmed reflected on economic perspectives in this panel: **"What will next year look like? This question leads you to the risk that a year from now we will be worried about the impact of the recession. Europe will certainly be in recession, the U.S.U.S. will have low growth, and then when it comes to emerging markets, whether it is the Middle East, North Africa, Africa, Latin America... inflation is rising everywhere. Governments are trying to manage it, but at the same time they are being hit by the sharpest fall in emerging market currencies against the dollar since 2018."** The year 2023 looks complicated, with a necessary balance between social demands to keep energy prices low, and financial pressures because of downgrades in credit ratings, which are already multiplying.

"A perfect storm" is on its way, analysed Harinder Kohli, although situations are very different in each country, because of three trends: **"sharp increase in interest rates in a concise period worldwide, liquid debt levels in most emerging markets, and a very high level of dollar – and most debt**



is denominated in dollars. This is a triple warning." In this sense, **"the era of low or negative interest rates and steady money supply is over for many years to come."** Unfortunately, many investors, households, and countries got used to getting "free" money. In the current context, countries in the South will find it very hard to find liquidity for infrastructure and climate change financing.

Otaviano Canuto pointed out some structural changes: **"We have shifted from a world in which the main discussion was on the insufficiency of demand, to a situation in which the blockage comes from the supply side. Several reasons for that, the pandemic, the war, and the "great resignation" phenomenon. The labor force participation rate in the U.S. has never returned to pre-pandemic levels, and global labor flows have shrunk."** There are signs of a deep liquidity crisis, and the "known unknown" is supply shocks, end of liquidity, interest hikes, which may lead to financial shocks.

The solutions are difficult to find, besides the interest rates hikes, because of three political problems according to **Dominique Strauss-Khan: "the weakness of multilateralism, cooperation with China"** – which stand as obstacles to economic coordination as seen with the G20 in 2008 during

the international financial crisis – and a **"possible revolt of the poor"**.

The high debt problem will see politicians avoid default and lead to a decade of lost development because of cutbacks in public spending. **Masood Ahmed** explained that Central banks, seen as the saviors after 2008 and 2009, will have a rough time in the years to come trying to fix problems and manage the pulling-back, at the risk of being perceived as themselves as the cause of the problem. **"We need to design mechanisms to solve problems in a non-cooperative world"**, he further went on.

Harinder Kohli agreed on the need for a more robust international cooperation. **"If I were in Cairo, I would talk about food prices. If I were in Berlin, I would talk about energy prices. Where are W.T.O. agreements on the blockage of grain shipments in Ukraine? Russia is a permanent member of the Security Council. Who suffers? African countries, who have nothing to do with the war in Ukraine. International cooperation is missing in action."** Otaviano Canuto concluded on the appearance of a trilemma instead of the traditional dilemma for central banks between inflation and unemployment, with a choice between inflation, unemployment, and financial instability.





11th
**THE ATLANTIC
DIALOGUES**

Richard Lui
Anchor & Journalist, N.B.C. News/
M.S.N.B.C., U.S.A.

Laura Albornoz
Lawyer, University of Chile,
Chile

Amre Moussa
Former Secretary General, League of
Arab States, Egypt

Paulo Portas
Former Minister of Foreign Affairs,
Portugal

From
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Richard Lui
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Former Minister of Foreign Affairs,
Portugal



Street Power, Willpower, and Democracy

In recent years, the world has witnessed many protest movements: Occupy Wall Street, Indignados, the Arab Spring, Gilets Jaunes, Black Lives Matter, Antivax, and more. Street power's opposing relation to central governments, and their mobilization as an attempt to extend participation and democratic decision-making, is taken very seriously by policy makers. The masses can be disruptive, but can they really lead to better representation?



Paulo Portas started the discussion by saying: "I believe in democratic power through vote more than uprisings. We live in globalization, but we do not have global governance. We are very far from having an international management crisis system. At the top of our international organization, the Security Council of the United Nations just focuses on the five countries that veto power. Why don't we have India, the largest populated country, as a permanent member? Japan, the third economy of the world? Brazil, the most interesting emergent economy of the world? This shows how outdated our international system is."

Amre Moussa took another stance, stating that "combining street power with democracy is a dangerous proposition". He added that "the power of the street could be considered as part of the system, with the demonstrations we see in certain capitals of Europe, but it could also be used as a weapon against stability, to to topple regimes. This is what happened in the Middle East and in some other parts too. (...) You cannot replace institutions with chaos in the street."



On her end, Laura Albornoz insisted on the relationship between political leaders and the citizens. "In countries such as Chile, students and feminist movements led to a rethinking of systems and enabled us to see the lack of sensitivity on the part of the political classes, unable to empathize with these groups that didn't benefit. I don't think that the street is a mechanism that is needed in place of institutions, but I believe we need to listen to what is going on in the street to understand what people want".

Despite their different views, the speakers all agreed on the importance of institutions as mechanisms of democracy.



From
Left to
Right

Ali Aslan
International T.V. Presenter &
Journalist, Germany

Helena Carreiras
Minister of Defence, Portugal

Ana Palacio
Former Minister of Foreign Affairs,
Spain

Birame Diop
Military Adviser, Office of Military Affairs,
Department of Peace Operations, United
Nations, Senegal

Bruno Tertrais
Deputy Director, Foundation for Strategic
Research, France



NATO, the South Atlantic, and the Global Strategic Balance

While Russia's invasion of Ukraine has reinvigorated the Atlantic alliance, it has also reinforced Europe's strategic dependence on the United States. While the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) allies continue to support Ukraine, they must also address the critical longer-term challenge of rebalancing transatlantic defence. This means ensuring Europe can no longer defend itself against Russia and manage various other crises, especially on its southern periphery. It also means meeting European aspirations for greater strategic autonomy and maintaining confidence in the ability of the United States to meet its commitments in the North Atlantic and the Indo-Pacific.

Helena Carreiras stated, **"one of the aims of Putin – divide the West, Allies, NATO and the European Union – has provoked exactly the opposite: we are united, cohesive and sustaining Ukraine against this illegal, brutal invasion."** With its invasion of Ukraine, Russia violated the laws of peace and impeded the latter's sovereignty. Despite this, these events have prompted NATO to shift its center of gravity to the center of Europe and refocus its priorities from geo-economic interests and other mainstream issues to defense and cooperative security.



However, Bruno Tertrais warned, **"even though there is unity in NATO, tensions are still there. Ukraine is bringing NATO back to its core business. It didn't need a raison d'être. It already had it; it has always been the same: collective defence to the East. There is a risk that because of this new focus on NATO's original mission, NATO gets less preoccupied about what is happening in the South, and certainly the situation in Northern Africa, the Sahel and the Middle East."** Therefore, NATO's renewed Strategic Concept should not only recognize the risk posed by Russia but also by terrorism in North Africa, the Sahel, and the Middle East and by the climate and energy crises, considered as accelerators of conflicts.

Moreover, as Ana Palacio stated, although **"NATO has got a 'raison d'être', it was deemed braindead at a certain moment."** This was mainly a reference to the breach of trust between European countries, the United States, and Turkey, showing that even though NATO is united, tensions remain. In this context, one can wonder about the role of the United States. In this sense, one of the effects of the war in Ukraine has been to deepen further Europe's strategic dependence



on the United States, a trend that had already become unsustainable even before the conflict began. Indeed, until Russia's renewed invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, a central theme of the strategic autonomy narrative was that the E.U. should be able to act autonomously without the United States. Since then, however, Europe has become more dependent on the United States. While E.U.'s strategic autonomy remains popular in some European countries, it has aroused public hostility in others. Politicians in Finland, Estonia, and the Netherlands, among others, prefer to talk about Europe's strategic responsibility, which implies more substantial contributions to regional security, a willingness and ability to act together rather than alone, and minimizes the implicit trade-offs between a strong Europe and a strong transatlantic partnership.

As for the role of the United Nations, Birame Diop stated that: **"It is facing a very difficult situation, because it has five permanent members in the Security Council, which disagree most of the time, leading to the formation of two or three poles. Currently, it is not possible to undertake any discussion, because one member is a belligerent and has a veto power."**

To conclude, NATO's strategic concept sets out the importance of cooperative security partnerships. For example,

Portugal has always stressed the need to look to the South and have a broader vision of security threats and responses. The war in Ukraine has shown that issues of the North also affect the South and lead to numerous crises like the food and energy crisis. The E.U. and NATO must, therefore, focus on the importance of establishing partnerships to develop effective solutions, political dialogue, and shared knowledge to face the threats that are common to all, from terrorism to trafficking and organized crime. Portugal has promoted this vision by establishing an Atlantic Centre where political dialogue, knowledge, and capacity building are enabled.

Still, it is not only about what Europe should do within these partnerships. It is also about how it should do it. Europe and NATO must, hence, better communicate with countries of the South and listen to them. Europe and NATO need to co-create a security environment, which requires a renewed attitude regarding creditworthy partners. Moreover, as Europe grapples with new and complex strategic realities, it can no longer afford to be overly dependent on the United States for collective defence or crisis management and cooperative security missions beyond Europe's borders. Conversely, the United States will have to pay increasing attention to China and limit its involvement in the Middle East. Therefore, the United States will increasingly look to its allies to shoulder more of the common burden and encourage the E.U. to contribute more to security.





From
Left to
Right

Miguel Ángel Moratinos
High Representative for the Alliance
of Civilizations, United Nations
Alliance of Civilizations, Spain

Hafez Ghanem
Senior Fellow, Policy Center
for the New South, Egypt

Saïd Mouline
C.E.O., Moroccan Agency for
Energy Efficiency, Morocco

Andreas Kraemer
Founder, Ecologic Institute,
Germany

Uduak Amimo
Founder, Uduak Amimo
Coaching & Consulting, Kenya



Climate Change Cooperation

Today, food security and climate change are considered some of the most challenging issues faced by several countries. African countries seem to be more concerned explicitly, by the repercussions of the war in Ukraine, especially regarding deepening of undernourishment. **Andreas Kraemer** drew a worrying global picture: **"Global overheating is the correct word, rather than climate change. We have desertification, additional extreme weather events, strong winds and rains washing away the topsoil, destroying arable land. We have rising sea levels, which will take the most fertile arable land we have. The low-level rivers will rise, and the river valleys will be inundated. Welcome to that truth, Egypt! We also need to relocate all our big cities close to the sea, and this will reduce even more the arable land..."** Some of the solutions lie in the oceans to ease the pressure put on the land to produce food for the years to come and stop current destructive fishing practices.



Saïd Mouline stated that **"the climate issue is clear today; we have seen what has happened all over in 2022. We must be very strong powerful ur policies, especially in Africa. In Sharm El Sheikh, at the COP27, we discussed the energy issue in Africa, with 600 million people without electricity today. If there is no cold chain, because of the lack of electricity, there is a 30% loss of food produced in Africa"**. Saïd Mouline insisted on the fact that African solutions exist on the continent. In Morocco, for instance, farmers are encouraged to switch from diesel to solar pumps and use more renewables for the cold chain. The solution is to see local banks financing solar pumps and have young people trained to maintain that equipment.

Among the contradictory aspects of the food crisis in Africa, the role of agriculture in the continent represents a striking argument. Over 50% of the African population works



in agriculture, while Africa remains a net importer and spends over 50 billion dollars yearly on food imports. Shockingly, agriculture represents a high portion of the African continent, especially with African lands representing 60% of the world's uncultivated arable land .

The solutions put forward by the panelists included increasing agricultural productivity and food access in the continent. **Hafez Ghanem** stressed that **"productivity in agriculture in Africa is less than a third of the world's average. We have 54 different countries in Africa. We cannot achieve food security one country at a time. Even Africa's giant, Nigeria, cannot achieve food security on its own. That is why I am arguing for collaboration among African countries to increase agricultural productivity, to make agriculture and the food system much more resilient to climate change."** Focusing on essentials was also one of the key messages shared in the plenary session, with a major attention laid on bringing peace with humanity, at the same time as making peace with nature and focusing on cleaner energy.



Acting today, without any further delay, is the main message of this session. In this regard, **Andreas Kraemer** stated: **"The people in power today, that is us here in the room, are the last generation that must act. We have the solutions to make the planet livable."** Although some challenges are more specific to some regions, leveraging common solutions for several aspects, such as political stability, more efficient agriculture, fair and sustainable fertilizers, as well as renewable energy, can be viewed as a package of solutions for African countries to address the urgent and critical criteria of the challenges mentioned above .

Miguel Angel Moratinos concluded: **"Now in the S.D.G.s, fighting poverty and hunger are goals 1 and 2. Fighting climate change is goal 13. What is more important? Climate change, food security, education, cities, which one? We are making a serious mistake. What we need to make right is global governance."**





From
Left to
Right

Mohamed Znagui Sid ' Ahmed Ely
Head of Defense & Security
Department, G5 Sahel, Mauritania

Bachir Ouedraogo
Senior Advisor Sahel, and Power Africa,
Tony Blair Institute, Burkina Faso

Élisabeth Guigou
President, Association Europartenaire,
France

Uduak Amimo
Founder, Uduak Amimo Coaching &
Consulting, Kenya



The Security-Development Nexus in the Sahel "The Challenge of Implementation"

The security-development nexus in the Sahel is a crucial issue that needs to be addressed to promote peace and stability in the region. Rising geopolitical tensions around the world have added a new threat to an area already riddled with economic and security uncertainties.

The withdrawal of European troops and the drastic reduction of French troops created a vacuum where Sahelian states struggled to control their vast territories. This vacuum has been filled by a resurgence of nationalist sentiment on the part of local armies often taking power through coups d'État and by growing Russian involvement through the private Russian militia Wagner. This new security situation poses several challenges for West African countries, whose ability to combat terrorist threats is being questioned. **Élisabeth Guigou** mentioned the extension of this threat from the northern Sahel towards the coastal states of the Guinea Gulf.



be simple – such as solar installations to bring power and drillings to bring water. **"Are the policies matching with the situation, and is the money spent used wisely?"**

On the question of whether there is too much emphasis on the military solution, **Mohamed Znagui Sid'Ahmed Ely** replied that the threat **"did not begin with the dismantling of Libya, nor with the collapse of Libya. Mauritania was attacked almost daily since 2005, with attacks in Nouakchott, Spanish people abducted, and French tourists assassinated. What is the Sahel? A vast region that spreads from the Atlantic coast to the Red Sea"**. The G5 countries are characterized by poverty, constant poor governance since Independence, several unconstitutional changes of regimes, and a young population that doubles every 20 years. **"Terrorism is an insecurity that has taken the religious garment but that is supported by organized crime. You cannot imagine the amount of drugs passing through the Sahel. Drugs, arms, human beings, munitions, cigarettes, and medicine used as drugs are trafficked in the region. In 75% of these areas, the State does not exist."**



The general concluded that the G5 Sahel is in crisis with the withdrawal of Mali from the organization. In addition, the initiative still suffers from a lack of funding and a certain lack of coordination.

The security-development nexus in the Sahel is a complex and challenging issue that requires a comprehensive and coordinated approach. To effectively address the underlying causes of insecurity in the region, it is essential to improve coordination between different actors, strengthen governance and institutions, and empower local communities to participate in the development process. The empowerment of local organizations and communities, and their participation in the development process, is crucial to ensure that the development initiatives are inclusive and responsive to the needs of the people. Only by addressing these challenges can we hope to promote peace and stability in the Sahel.



The efficiency of regional approaches, their coordination with other international entities, and the question of funding for these initiatives are at the heart of the new security situation in the Sahel. **Bachir Ouédraogo** stated: **"Many initiatives have been implemented in the region. Billions and billions have been invested every year, and when you look at the results, every year its getting worse and worse. At some point, we need to sit down and say: how much money have we invested, and what are the results? Where is the money going?"**

A misunderstanding of the situation might still prevail on the causes of armed conflict between neighbours in the Sahel, with communities who feel left behind. **"It's not about religion, but how we make sure people feel they belong to the same country"**, added **Bachir Ouédraogo**, pointing at several social frustrations that demand solutions that could





11th
THE ATLANTIC
DIALOGUES



ATLANTIC
DIALOGUES

From
Left to
Right

Paul Isbell
Affiliate Professor, Mohammed VI
Polytechnic University, U.S.A.

Licia Simão
General Coordinator, Atlantic Centre,
Portugal

Daniel Hamilton
Senior Fellow, School of Advanced International
Studies, Johns Hopkins University, U.S.A.

Omar Hilale
Permanent Representative of Morocco
to the United Nations, Morocco



Atlantic Multilateralism and Prospects for a Pan-Atlantic Community

In today's world, the Atlantic Basin, with its connections to 4 out of the 7 existing continents, is a vital and strategic geopolitical space. With an ocean long considered the busiest international maritime trade route, the region's infrastructure and economic activity represent key elements to the development of the Global South. In addition, this specific part of the world plays a unique role in mitigating global climate change impacts, as oceans are where carbon storage essentially happens: three of the four convection points for carbon storage in the world's oceans are in the Atlantic. **Daniel Hamilton** explained that the **"Atlantic is one of the central energy reservoirs of the world, the inland sea to the vast majority of the world's democracies, and the busiest ocean, busier than the Pacific and the Indian Ocean. The Atlantic plays a unique role that's different from the other oceans: it is where the currents that drive the oceans are changing."**



Today, countries bordering the Atlantic Ocean are facing common challenges such as the flow of guns and drugs, piracy, and terrorism, to name a few. They have yet to come up with a common governance mechanism to address them, noted Daniel Hamilton. Nonetheless, a Pan-Atlantic approach to these global and regional issues and greater commitment to dialogue and cooperation can turn this fresh and untapped geopolitical space into a new North-South dialogue platform.

Twenty countries signed a joint declaration on Atlantic cooperation in the margin of the U.N. General Assembly in September and have expressed their intention to launch a consultative process with other member states. **"This Atlantic agenda is unprecedented"**, underlined Daniel Hamilton. Two areas are targeted: environment and climate change; maritime governance related to security concerns.

Licinia Simão, representing the Atlantic Centre - launched in 2018 in Portugal - believes that 'capacity-building' in security and defense one of the most complex fields of cooperation, is important to keep in mind when discussing a Pan-Atlantic community. This means countries in the region



should work together to transcend existing division lines between North and South and harbor efforts to build capacity and produce knowledge on issues that involve them. Simão adds that security threats often take new shapes with time, meaning Atlantic states are required to stay up-to-date and follow their evolution to develop efficient responses. **"We will go along with a broad concept of security that has capacity building for armed forces, coast guards, and police officers. So, it is security and defense related, but we also need to bring on board civil society. We need to deal with research centers, universities to produce new knowledge that can anchor our political dialogue and the actions that we're taking."**



This region is also of strategic interest and critical importance to Morocco. Ambassador **Omar Hilale** described the Atlantic as **"a maritime space full of challenges and contradictions. This area gathers 40% of the member States of the U.N. system, a population of 1 billion people, and 43% of the global GDP. It brings together some of the wealthiest and poorest States, the most stable and democratic nations and countries facing insecurity problems or post-crises issues. It is a space in construction."**

Omar Hilale recalled that the first initiative around the Atlantic space happened in Morocco in 2009 with the first meeting of African coastal states. In 2013 there was a recovery of this initiative, and the last meeting of the Moroccan strategic initiative happened on the side of the annual assembly of the U.N. in New York in September 2022, with 25 ministers of Foreign Affairs. **"We must find convergence so that this area does not become a space of competition, but rather a space for synergy, and facilitate a true multilateral cooperation on energy, sustainable development, climate change, and migration."**

Another critical requirement for an efficient Atlantic partnership is the active presence of the Global South. Daniel Hamilton believes any initiative to build an inclusive and solid partnership should mainly come from the South instead of being yet 'another' northern model destined to be transposed across the region. This would allow to consider the specific needs of southern communities and design a strong alliance that can last, regardless of North-South disparities.





11th
THE ATLANTIC
DIALOGUES

From
Left to
Right

Sarah Glover
Vice President of News and
Civic Dialogue, W.H.Y.Y. News,
U.S.A.

María Teresa Fernández de la Vega
President, Women for Africa Foundation,
Spain

Serigne Gueye Diop
Minister Advisor to the President
of the Republic, Senegal

Carlos Lopes
Professor, University of Cape Town,
Guinea Bissau

João Vale de Almeida
Ambassador of the European Union
to the United Kingdom, Portugal



Fighting Inequalities: The Role of the Social State in the Wider Atlantic

Inequalities have been on the rise recently due to many reasons. As a civil society that should always worry about equality, we must ask ourselves, critically, where we're heading and how we should manage inequalities. **María Teresa Fernández de la Vega** stated that **"there is nothing as important as a State... the State that doesn't promote equality and peace for everyone, equality among its citizens and fighting exclusion, cannot be a democratic state"**.

Although there are different types of inequalities, namely economics, financial, income, political, gender, and justice-related inequalities, the corresponding responses regarding



state organization are only two: social state and liberalism. **Serigne Gueye Diop** highlighted that **"in Senegal and West Africa, our governments choose to be social states. We have to correct inequalities. We cannot just say that people living 1,000 km from the capital city must deal with their own problems. That is not correct. In Senegal, we have a successful program called 'P.U.D.C.' (Programme d'Urgence de Développement Communautaire) to ensure people living in remote areas have access to water, transport, and health centers."** Unfortunately, these projects are not enough to erase inequalities. In addition to infrastructure, the government should also create jobs.

From another perspective, **Carlos Lopes** stated that no one could deny that the last few centuries were marked by a trajectory of growth and development that benefitted

many people. Progress has been immense, while poverty, in relative terms, has been significantly reduced in the world, and the fight for equality has gained unexpected dimensions. However, this trajectory has led to greater issues. **Carlos Lopes** emphasized that **"the progress made has gone hand in hand with levels of wealth accumulation that are astonishing. We know from different advocacy proclamations that the 1% richest in the world has the same wealth as half of the planet. This problem and climate change are the same, and we need to address it very quickly"**. Systemic difficulties hinder the correction of the current planet's trajectory: the way of dealing with intellectual property, research and development, and innovation is not geared towards sustainability. The promotion of public goods is indispensable to dealing with the planetary emergency.



In the end, **João Vale de Almeida** spoke about the European system with the highest level of social protection in the world, the lowest level of inequality, and the highest levels of human development index (HDI). Yet there are still some aspects of inequality that persist, like gender, region, and income. One of the many targets on which the European Union is currently focusing is reducing by 15 million the number of poor people, of which 5 million will be children by 2030. Today, the world faces a combination of structural challenges with two factors. One of them is the pandemic (that affected the E.U. immensely and required a level of response that was unprecedented). It involved some people more than others and the State, thus creating additional pressures and increased inequalities. The second factor is the invasion of Ukraine, which has put enormous challenges to the E.U.'s finances. **"Inequality is not only a social issue, but a strategic issue. It affects prosperity, and it is a security issue at the end of the day."**

11th
THE ATLANTIC
DIALOGUES
TALK



From
Left to
Right

Hubert Védrine
Former Minister of Foreign
Affairs, France

André Azoulay
Advisor to His Majesty King
Mohammed VI, Morocco

Claude Grunitzky
C.E.O. and Managing Partner,
The Equity Alliance, Togo-USA



A Fragmented World: North-South Perspectives / Un monde fragmenté : regards croisés Nord-Sud

Le débat a donné lieu à un échange passionnant entre deux personnalités éminentes. André Azoulay a affirmé son appréciation de la façon dont le Maroc a géré les multiples crises des dernières années : « **Le Maroc a eu la chance de faire les bons choix et de faire en sorte que ce pays, qui n'est pas forcément le mieux doté en termes de ressources et de matières premières, trouve une cohérence, une gouvernance, une stabilité et un leadership qui ont imposé un modèle de société qui fonctionne** ». Il a également




insisté sur la réussite de l'expérience marocaine : « **C'est en Afrique, c'est en terre d'Islam, c'est au Maroc, au Maghreb et en Afrique du Nord et ça marche** ». Il a également mis en lumière la capacité du Maroc à réunir des personnes de différentes nationalités et religions dans des événements culturels et aussi à travers le sport, en référence à l'exploit de l'équipe nationale marocaine dans la Coupe du monde Qatar 2022.

La place de la femme, un domaine dans lequel il reste un immense chemin à parcourir, connaît également une dynamique exaltante, à titre d'exemple, de même que la prise en compte d'une approche sociale dans les politiques publiques de redistribution des richesses. « **Les choix que nous avons faits en termes d'inclusion et de cohésion sociale n'étaient pas évidents. Nous ne sommes pas riches. On ne nous identifie pas nécessairement toujours aux pays les plus soucieux de ces équilibres sociaux. Et pourtant, de ce point de vue, la réalité marocaine est non seulement exemplaire dans la région, mais on serait bien inspiré de l'autre côté de la Méditerranée d'abord de le constater, et éventuellement de capitaliser là-dessus pour faire ensemble ailleurs ce que nous avons réalisé ici** ».



De son côté, M. Hubert Védrine a souligné les nombreuses opportunités de coopération entre le Maroc et la France, malgré l'existence de divergences sur certaines questions, comme celle de la migration et des visas. D'où l'importance de repenser les nouvelles voies de coopération et de faire le point sur la relation de longue date entre les deux pays : « **La mondialisation rebat les cartes pour tout le monde, pour le Maroc comme pour la France. Avant de dire cela, il faut rappeler que l'histoire de la France et du Maroc sur le long terme est exceptionnelle** ».



11th
THE ATLANTIC
DIALOGUES
TALK



From
Left to
Right

Fouad Yazourh

Director General of Bilateral Relations and Regional Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates, Morocco

Aziz Boucetta

Founder, Panoramapost, Morocco



Morocco and the Atlantic

The Atlantic area is of paramount geostrategic importance for Morocco. It is the meeting point of several developed and emerging economies, thereby offering an ideal ground to establish solid and complementary cooperation between the different parts of the region. The Atlantic presents great potential in economy, energy, natural resources, etc. but also faces various challenges that threaten its stability and security.

For a long time, the Atlantic region remained out of focus and **“did not receive the attention it deserves, for the simple reason that the challenges were not as important in the past as today. The Atlantic was an Ocean where nothing important would happen and set to be the ‘dark sea’. But now it impacts America, Africa, Europe. The rising sea levels are higher than the world average, for instance.”**

Among the most pressing challenges facing the Atlantic, especially its southern part, lie the human development issues, particularly regarding the accessibility of fundamental social services such as education and health, job creation, social inequalities, etc. In addition, the region is also confronted with environmental threats which are currently being exacerbated by climate change, such as drought, food security, as well as rising sea levels that exceed the global average. In terms of security, the African side of the Atlantic is confronted with major issues, notably terrorism, drug trafficking, human trafficking, transnational organized crime, separatism, etc. Therefore, strong cooperation between the countries bordering the Atlantic is essential as it will help address these issues to capitalize on the significant potential offered by the region. In fact, the African Atlantic countries present a considerable economic potential as they account for more than half of the GDP. of the continent. Moreover, these countries also offer a great potential in terms of energy, natural and human resources, tourism, etc.



In this regard, there has been a ministerial meeting that brought together 23 African Atlantic States in Rabat on the 8th of June 2022, from Morocco to South Africa. The meeting, **“action-based and practical”**, comes in the wake of a royal speech by His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco that calls for stimulating the dialogue and cooperation between African countries bordering the Atlantic. This meeting builds on a previous session in 2009 but with a willingness to address the issue differently. Today, the context is much more challenging as the region's problems are more multifaceted and threatening. Moreover, while these issues, and in particular the security issues, used to be geographically limited to the Sahel region, they now tend to spread and affect other areas along the Atlantic coast.

The meeting has defined three working groups: the first one deals with the issues related to terrorism, transnational crime in all its forms, maritime piracy, etc.; the second one focuses on maritime connectivity, blue economy, and energy; and the third one addresses the issues of sustainable development and protection of the environment. To this end, three lead countries have been designated to manage the three thematic groups: Nigeria, Gabon, and Cabo Verde.

Furthermore, the gas pipeline between Nigeria and Morocco is described as a “flagship project”, crossing 15 countries and allowing them to tap into an existing potential. Feasibility and technical studies have been completed, and a legal agreement signed with ECOWAS. and other stakeholders.

In terms of policy recommendations, Fouad Yazourh suggested that African Atlantic countries must first understand their own potential and challenges and articulate their vision and plan of action before engaging with other Atlantic parties. **“The action now is Afro-African. We are organizing ourselves to open up to the world. We do not need to delve into pedagogy with other parts of the world before structuring our offerings. The African stakeholders are ready. The 23 ministers are enthusiastic and aware**



of the significance of this structuring project that will participate in their prosperity and stability. Morocco is an African country among African countries. It has taken the initiative because we have the longest coastal area, over 3,000 km. Morocco is convinced of its responsibility in terms of leadership, and the importance of searching for synergies and is opening to the world with a detailed program of action, inviting others to get involved in this African dynamic. Africa is of interest to the whole world today. South-South cooperation should not be at the expense of the North, but in complementarity with the North”. Furthermore, it is also worth noting that Atlantic countries should also enhance their maritime connectivity, which is a key factor to strengthen cooperation in the area and foster economic relations between the different parts of the Atlantic.



11th
THE ATLANTIC
DIALOGOS

From
Left to
Right

Federico Ramon Puerta
Former President, Argentina

Jorge Tuto Quiroga
Former President, Bolivia

Jamil Mahuad
Former President, Ecuador

Andrés Schipani
East and Central Africa Bureau Chief,
Financial Times, Argentina



In Search of a Consolidated Latin America: Opportunities for Change

Due to the pandemic on one hand, and to the Russia-Ukraine war on another, Latin American countries have encountered numerous challenges, including political instability, economic troubles, and social turmoil. By joining the voices of three former presidents of Latin American countries, the purpose of this panel was to shed light on the numerous challenges the continent is facing and suggest a few recommendations to tackle them.

The conversation started with an interesting story told by **Jamil Mahuad** about an Ecuadorian businessman whose perspicacity made the country a worldwide shrimp exporter. For years, 90% of the shrimp died due to a "white tide" plague. Instead of analysing why that high percentage



died, the businessman focused on analysing the remaining 10%, leading him to scientifically conclude that small portion survived because it was genetically predisposed to survive. With this crucial information in mind, the businessman tripled the production of shrimp and turned Ecuador into a leading exporter. The morale of the story is that new ways of thinking and/or of approaching an issue are the best way to find a solution. **"I listened to the Moroccan founder of the start-up SOWIT . in this forum, explaining how technology allows us to determine the amount of humidity to deliver the right amount of fertilizers, where needed. We're doing relatively the same thing with shrimp. This is how we can connect; this is how countries of the South, small countries that need to integrate into this changing world, can work together."**

The second theme of the panel, China's presence in Latin America, was analysed by **Jorge Tuto Quiroga**: **"When I hear North Americans or Europeans say "be weary" of China, in Latin America from the Panama Canal to the South, we are all Chinese, because we are producing the materials China is buying in increasing prices and volumes – petroleum, gas, silver, coffee, milk, beef, lithium. China is a buyer and also a creditor."** China is today the leading trading partner of Brazil, Chile, Peru, Uruguay, and Argentina, and has free trade agreements with Chile, Costa Rica, and Peru. It began talks with Ecuador in February 2022 to reach an agreement. According to figures from the Inter-American Dialogue, total trade between China and Latin America and the Caribbean increased from almost 18 billion USD in 2002 to 318 billion in 2020.



A third theme, introduced by **Federico Ramon Puerta**, dealt with inflation, a central concern of the world economy: **"We have a 100% annual growth of inflation rate in Argentina; we are on the wrong path because the fixed convertibility of the peso with the dollar didn't work"**. One of the main factors which could explain the inflationary acceleration in the U.S. is the expansion of monetary aggregates carried out by the Federal Reserve in the first months of the pandemic (which eclipsed the monetary expansions that occurred in previous crises such as, for example, the 2008-09 global financial crisis) and the Fed's delay in withdrawing monetary stimulus as the pandemic began to recede and the economy began to recover strongly. These events have harmed Latin America. The rise in U.S. inflation translated into higher imported inflation due to the dollar's dominant role in world trade billing. In addition, the mere expectation of a more restrictive monetary policy in the U.S. caused currencies to depreciate throughout the region. In turn, the weakness of currencies added to domestic inflationary pressures. **Jorge Tuto Quiroga** and **Federico Ramon Puerta** also discussed the profound implications of a financial crisis with deepening governance issues, as evidenced by the situation in Peru, Argentina, or Chile. Civil society is asking for changes, especially in its social contract with the State. Leaders must listen, and both parties must meet each other halfway to resolve the different legitimacy crises that are affecting Latin American countries.

One of the recommendations that all the former presidents provided was the urgent need to transform locally the raw materials available in the continent, reduce food waste, and not let the transformation process be done elsewhere as it considerably increases the price of the final products; protect democracies, and especially the rule of law and transparency; and the importance of having forums in which the Southern Atlantic can discuss and exchange, and promote them.



From
Left to
Right

Zeinab Badawi
President, S.O.A.S. University
of London, United Kingdom

Nusrat Farooq
Technology & Programs
Associate, Global Internet Forum
to Counterterrorism, India

Lavar Thomas
Environmental Justice Expert,
U.S.U.S. Environmental Protection
Agency, U.S.A.

Cecilia Vidotto Labastie
Europe Program Officer, Institut
Montaigne, France

Amine Derj
Co-founder & C.E.O., Jodoor,
Morocco

Pauline Batista
Media production assistant,
United Nations, Brazil



Emerging Leaders Closing Plenary



At the closing plenary session of this year's edition of the Atlantic Dialogues Conference, the Atlantic Dialogues Emerging Leaders discussed the main issues facing youth and women in the region. In this panel, five elected representatives of the 2022 edition of the ADEL program outlined **three main priorities to be addressed by policymakers in the region to tackle issues facing youth, namely: governance, job creation, and climate change.**

On governance, **Pauline Batista** explained that she would like to see more young people running for office: **"As the Minister Laura Albornoz told me yesterday, there is a sort of "emotional illiteracy" that goes on in politics, and when it comes to youth, we need to focus on empowering initiatives that will ensure that youth is at the center"**. She also reminded some United Nations data on youth: **"1,2 billion**

people in the world are part of youth, aged between 15 and 34. It's three times more likely that these people would be unemployed".

Through active participation and meaningful inclusion, youth are empowered to play a vital role in their development and that of their communities, helping them to lead meaningful livelihoods, learn essential life-skills, and promote positive civic action. To participate effectively and promote social, economic, and political inclusion, youth must be given the proper tools and the right opportunities.

First, there is a need to change the perception of youth engagement as there is a tendency to associate their civic and political participation with chaos and political destabilization while claiming their fundamental rights in

the public space. **"There is a generational divide, as youth today are apprehending issues in a different way than former generations, emphasized Lavar Thomas. In the age of technology and media, we have new platforms and nuanced ways of addressing issues, not necessarily folding our arms when we see issues and remaining silent, but speaking out against injustices when they happen domestically or internationally"**. In this regard, enhancing the participation of youth in decision-making processes and long-term policies to address their aspirations is essential to sustainable development. This can be achieved only if the obstacles for youth are addressed from a policy perspective. Thus, policy makers should frame programs likely to reduce the persistent resource disparity gap and ensure that opportunities are inclusive and provided equally.

Even in developed countries, for example, we witness that equal access to education remains a challenge for young people coming from social minorities or indigenous communities. **Amine Derj** underlined **"the need to create an intergenerational dialogue"**, to increase youth representation, and share expertise not only by having youth

represented around the table but through sharing wisdom and unlocking their potential to lead innovations and solve problems.

Besides the lack of youth participation at the policy making stage, youth employment was the second main priority that emerged as a pressing problem in the region. around 1.2 billion of the world's population are youth aged between 15 and 24 years old and they represent three times more unlikely people who will be unemployed in the entire world. This issue is rooted in the education systems across the Atlantic basin and especially in Africa. Educational policies should consider providing youth with the right skills and meaningful trainings is likely to increase their chances of meeting the new job requirements required by automation in a global digital age. Moreover, retaining high-quality young professionals in local job markets is a significant issue for the developing economies who need strong and high-skilled workforces. This responsibility relies on institutions and political parties who run for office to enhance the business climate likely to enable private sector companies to build talents and keeping them in place.





What should the government provide for youth?

There is a need to start acknowledging systemic inequalities. The Atlantic Basin and Africa are home of brilliant and highly talented young people across countries who need mentorship and guidance to help them maximize their potential. Systems need to be tackled, and the state should provide the same opportunities to everyone, starting with education to increase the participation of young and disadvantaged communities in the job market. The support of the private sector is important. It was clearly

illustrated by the field trip the ADEL community made to the Mohammed VI Polytechnic University campus in Benguerir as a Moroccan non-profit private research university that provides opportunities for people from an early age. This experience represents a great model that could be scaled up and replicated elsewhere in Africa and the Atlantic Basin. Entrepreneurship classes are also missing, and many students come out of school with the idea that they should only be job seekers in the future.



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