



**FRIEDRICH NAUMANN
STIFTUNG** Für die Freiheit.
المغرب Maroc



Guidelines, Concept note for the third university of young African civil society leaders 2022

With 1.4 billion inhabitants in 2022, Africa is the second largest continent population after Asia. It represents 18% of the world's population. Based on estimates of INED, the continent's population is expected to be around 2.5 billion by 2050 and could quadruple to 4.4 billion by 2100. When one in six men lives in Africa now, more than one in three would live there in a century.

Africa is endowed with considerable wealth. Besides the quality of its demographics and its young population, with still unexploited arable land and a subsoil which conceals abundant and highly diversified mineral resources, despite these assets, paradoxically, Africa is considered the poorest continent in the world with endemic youth unemployment and under-equipment in basic infrastructure. Beyond the effects of the Covid 19 pandemic from an economic and social point of view (economic recession, increase in public debt, job losses, inequalities in access to education, housing, etc.) the crisis has unveiled the vulnerability of Africa in terms of health and health protection.

First, it's at the level of the state of the health infrastructures of the African countries where the rubber hits the road. The problems of the African health system are numerous, such as the weakness of the budget allocated to health, the glaring lack of health personnel, doctors and nurses, the shocking delay in sanitation and hygiene, access to primary health care almost impossible in rural areas, poor governance and poor management of human resources, absenteeism, and the pervasiveness of corruption in the sanitary sector etc.

As for access to health and health protection, the World Bank draws up a very gloomy picture of health in Africa. A large number of people do not have access to medical care and social coverage remains insufficient despite efforts made.

Finally, the health crisis has laid bare an important problem that is undermining the healthcare sector, namely its dependence on outside assistance in health care.

Although African governments have reacted with often impressive speed to the pandemic, they have been limited in their actions on tests, remedies and vaccination campaigns progressed slowly due to supply difficulties.

In the race for precious Covid vaccines, rich countries have pre-empted stocks and have not always kept their promises when it came to sharing with low-income countries, as on the African continent. The rate of the African population vaccinated is well far from the rates achieved in Europe and the United States or even in Asia. Why and how did Africa get left behind? The deployment of vaccination in the global scale has been extremely disappointing, and the unequal distribution of vaccines raises both moral and medical questions.

Africa is the continent where extreme poverty is most widespread. An African out of three - 422 million people - live below the global poverty line. Health crisis came as world hunger has been on the rise since 2015.

The UN is particularly alarmed by the situation in Africa, where hunger figures are the highest in the world. The latter also continue to increase, slowly but regularly, in almost all sub-regions. In East Africa in particular, nearly one-third of the population (30.8%) is undernourished. In addition to climate and conflict, periods of recessions and economic crises are at the origin of this increase. The question of the resilience of the most fragile populations is therefore posed.

This fact is confirmed by the UNDP which stated that the COVID-19 crisis threatened to hitting developing countries harder - revenue losses could exceed \$220 billion and nearly half of Africa's jobs could be lost.

In addition to malnutrition, there is sometimes an increased vulnerability due to co-circulation with other infectious diseases (HIV, malaria, tuberculosis, respiratory infections, Ebola...). This could be problematic in the case of the Covid-19 epidemic. Especially as it is likely to disrupt immunization programs, further rendering populations more vulnerable to vaccine-preventable diseases. Control programs against other pandemics will thus be affected.

While most African countries have weathered quite well the economic crisis triggered by the coronavirus, what reforms, public policies and investments should they prioritize to shore up the economic recovery? In Africa as in the rest of the world, the COVID-19 pandemic has revealed the importance of digital technologies to accelerate the resumption of activity on the continent (The development of digital technology not only improves the productivity of existing jobs, but also makes it possible to create new ones, qualified and unqualified). What will the world of work look like tomorrow? How will it include African youth, a real driver of innovation and talent incubator?

The health crisis has revealed the dysfunctions and fragility of urban areas, thus working for the emergence of a new consciousness in the field of housing and urban management. There is a need to design sustainable African cities open to all, safe, efficient, and resilient. Cities that provide equity of access to essential services, to sober means of transport and performers, to jobs, and which reduce the insecurity and vulnerability of their inhabitants, particularly in the face of the impacts of climate change.

The Covid-19 pandemic combined with the war in Ukraine has also revealed the food and energy dependence of the continent, so Africa needs more than ever to strengthen its health, food, and energy resilience and to adapt to the negative impacts of climate change. For this it is urgent that all actors (Public authorities, civil and private society) are mobilizing and combining their efforts in hope of achieving these goals.

In this momentum, Moroccan civil society is committed alongside other actors to strengthening our country's ties with the rest of the continent. The CDRT, association recognized as a public utility since 2006 was a precursor in the commitment in Africa.

By way of example, there is its commitment to Morocco in a project financed by the African Bank

for Development (AfDB) since 2010, its participation in the various forums of African civil society, the organization of two universities for young people from civil society in the greater Maghreb respectively in 2012 and 2013 and finally the organization of an African university in 2018 with the support of several partners

including OCP, the city council of Marrakech, AfDB, Friedrich Naumann Foundation, Cadi Ayyad University and UM6P. The efforts, leadership, social involvement, and expertise of the CDRT have recently been recognized by the AfDB, which selected it as a representative of civil society in the North Africa region.

The first African university of young leaders of civil society organized by the CDRT in 2018 was a great success with the participation of 120 young people from over twenty French-speaking and English-speaking African countries. It was an opportunity for young people to debate in the presence of African, French and Canadian experts, the top five, elaborated by AfDB experts, namely, nurturing, enlightening, educating, integrating and improving the quality of life of Africans. Afterwards, the young people discussed the possibilities available to them to fully play their role as young people. A second African University of young civil society leaders took place in July 2019 at Mohamed VI University polytechnic (Marrakesh region). The theme chosen was Youth, innovation and development of Africa.

Building on the success of these two events, the CDRT, with the support of its partners will organize the third university of young leaders of African civil society and this from ... 2022 to... The theme chosen is: After the Covid, what levers for action for Africa's development?

The work of this edition will be spread over 3 days and will include conferences, plenary sessions, oral communications, workshops as well as testimonials and exchange of good experiences. These activities will be supervised by a host of university professors, international experts, and finance and administrative and economic actors. On the sideline of this meeting, cultural and artistic activities reflecting the richness and diversity of African cultural heritages will also be organized .

Several areas will be explored during the debates and scheduled activities:

- Sustainable and smart territories
- Energy, food and health resilience
- Acceleration to the knowledge society
- Peace and good governance
- Good education and applied scientific research.