



Center for Development and Democracy (Centre C4D)
College of Economics and Informatics (WSEI)
Laboratory of Social and Solidarity Economy, Governance, and Development (LARESSGD)
Laboratory of Multidisciplinary Research in Economics and Management (LARPEG-FEG BM)
Landscape Dynamics, Risks, and Heritage -URL-CNRST
Moroccan Association for the Support of Civic Initiatives (AMSIC)
Laboratory of Interdisciplinary of Social Sciences (LISS)

organize
The 8th Scientific Forum on:

DEMOCRACY & DEVELOPMENT
SUPPORT FROM SOCIAL SECTORS
A Lever for Socioeconomic and Environmental Development in Africa

June 7 & 8, 2024
Morocco

1. Argumentation

To define the problems and priorities of sustainable development, considerable importance is now given to socio-economic development, whose current challenges occupy a central place in the global debate on an economy's ability to ensure qualitative growth.

We are currently witnessing a transformation of economies towards the search for new socio-economic development strategies, while also considering human development. Indeed, a country's wealth is no longer measured by material capital but rather by immaterial capital. In this sense, the individual emerges as an agent of increasing knowledge, skills, and abilities within society. Therefore, it is essential to consider human development to steer growth toward general, equitable, and just development.

The specificity of supporting social sectors is evident in their role as a focal concern for this type of development and a critical priority in the current context, intervening in various interconnected domains such as health, education, employment, and social protection. This contribution manifests, economically, in training, skill development, and individual skills that have facilitated effective use of material capital and a positive contribution to pro-poor economic growth. In this regard, the COVID-19 pandemic is a good example of the beneficial connection between these different sectors. During this crisis, the state, in most countries, has increasingly recognized the social sectors as important pillars in the fight against poverty, job creation, protection, social cohesion, and the sustainable development of territories (cities, rural areas, mountains, etc.) and has fostered awareness in most African countries of the actual role these social sectors can play in economic development. Consequently, the use of social policies and their reinforcement naturally became imperative for the governments of the African continent, explaining the political commitment of some states to the application of the welfare state or the social state, even for those with failing social protection systems, notably due to insufficient funding and deplorable social and economic realities.

Aware of the need for support from social sectors to reconcile economic efficiency with the principles of equity, social justice, and social protection, Africa is compelled to invest in social sectors, especially education, health, and social protection, which must be a priority in their public policies. In this perspective, it is indispensable to mobilize towards a social state that plays a major role in integrated, just, and sustainable socio-economic development. Certainly, the lack of political stability and social inclusion, along with the persistence of vulnerability factors, remain the main challenges that the African economy must confront, with the major challenge of investing in dialogue, social innovation, democracy, and sovereignty.

This scientific forum aims to be an exploratory workshop that will lead to a constructive and epistemological debate on the necessity of supporting social sectors in Africa, as well as the various practices at the level of managing scientific research and teaching socio-economic and environmental development. This scientific meeting aims for a better understanding of dysfunctions and reforms of social sectors, social policies, and social innovation in Africa, intending to develop a corpus of knowledge.

2. Main Themes of the forum (Non-exhaustive List)

Axis 1: Development strategies for social sectors;

Axis 2: The role of States in the implementation of social policies, the connection between social policies and economic and environmental policies;

Axis 3: Social innovations and the transformation of territories;

Axis 4: Education, health, social protection, and social inclusion;

Axis 5: Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and socio-economic development;

Axis 6: Human development and the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE);

Axis 7: Performance of educational, healthcare, and social protection systems;

- Axis 8:** Inclusion, digital transformation of social sectors, and Smart territories;
Axis 9: The impact of social sector support on the economic model;
Axis 10: Inclusion of people with specific needs and in particular situations (migrants, refugees, nomads, etc.);
Axis 11: Gender dimension in social policies;
Axis 12: Individual happiness, collective happiness, and social sectors;
Axis 13: Social sectors and territorial governance;
Axis 14: Climate change and its impact on social sectors;
Axis 15: Environmental sustainability and ecological footprint in social sectors.

This list is purely indicative, and other themes may be considered based on proposals submitted to the organizing committee. All approaches are welcome, with a particular preference given to presentations focused on empirical validations, field surveys, and the evaluation of public policies.

3. Key Dates

- Submission of Communication Proposals: **March 15, 2024 at midnight**
- Response from the Scientific Committee to Authors: **April 20, 2024**
- Submission of Final Papers: **May 10, 2024**
- International Symposium Days: **June 7 and 8, 2024**

4. Submission Guidelines for Communication Proposals

- Interested authors are requested to submit their communication intentions in the form of an abstract of up to 5000 characters (excluding spaces).
- Communication intentions should specify the title of the communication, authors, the subject's stakes, the problem, research methodology, and main results.
- Abstracts can be written in Arabic, French, or English and should be sent by email to the following address: centredihiya4d@gmail.com
- The final acceptance decision for selected communications will be made by the scientific committee.
- Writing standards for a twenty-page text (including annexes and bibliography): typed in Word format, Times 12 characters, A4 format, 2.5 cm margins, 1.5 line spacing. Headings follow a simple numbering format: 1., 1.1., 1.1.1., etc.
- Communications will be published in the proceedings of the symposium.
- Publication: Selected communications by the scientific committee will be published in a collective work.

5. Organizing Committee

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