



Tours Colloquium, 9-10 december 2021

In partnership with
International University of Rabat (UIR)
International Business Law Journal / Revue de Droit des Affaires Internationales (IBLJ /RDAI)
Arab Institute of Business Leaders (IACE), Tunis

Under the Authority of
Institute for Interdisciplinary Legal Research of the University of Tours (IRJI EA 7496)
Tours French and Japanese Lawyers Network (Nihon-Europa)

Call for Papers

ECONOMIC POWER PARTNERSHIPS IN AFRICA

During the nineteenth century and the first part of the twentieth century, Africa was the object of a colonial Yalta between the great powers (Congress of Berlin, 15 November 1884-26 February 1885) as a prelude to its colonisation and later became a privileged terrain for East-West confrontation and competition. As in the Past, Africa remains at the centre of the attention of the major economic powers.

The end of the last century and the beginning of the twenty-first century are characterised by major global upheavals (economic, political, ecological, social, etc.), with a swing in world trading towards Asia-Pacific. With the WTO's failure to liberalise world economic trade, the major economic powers have chosen to develop free trade areas, particularly in Asia-Pacific. They attempted to establish and consolidate regional blocs (EU-Asia-Pacific, Asia-Pacific with three sub-groups, the first led by Japan (Global and Progressive Transpacific Partnership Agreement), the second by China (Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership) and the third by the United States of America (Canada-USA-Mexico Agreement).

At the same time, Africa is increasingly emerging as a second pivot for the major economic powers at the turn of this century. Neglected, the continent, a market of more than 1.3 billion consumers and enormous and multiple resources, is becoming once again a major issue for economic powers. In practice, the African continent has become the arena of an unequalled war

of influence between European Union, China, United States of America, ASEAN, Russia, Japan and Turkey.

Nevertheless, the European Union is the leading investor in Africa with €222bn, ahead of the US (€42bn) and China (€38bn). In 2018, exchanges between the European Union and Africa reached 235 billion, or 32% of Africa's total trade. In this context, the European Commission and the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy have launched the framework for a new Strategy with Africa in order to have it approved by its African partners at the European Union-African Union summit postponed due to the pandemic to 2021.

The key strategic importance of Africa, its mineral and energy resources and the scope for its development, make this continent a promising market, a new Eldorado, for other powers including China, the world's second largest economy. The latter has woven a spider's web of trade and investment agreements with African countries and has established a Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC). 17 bilateral investment treaties with African countries are said to be currently in application, and in 1992 China signed the ICSID convention.

United State of Amercia, another leading power, does not plan on leaving Africa to its competitors. As from 2000, they passed the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGORA) allowing, conditionally, duty-free and quota-free access to the US market for selected African goods. This act is implemented through trade and investment agreements with African countries and a free trade agreement with Morocco, the first of its kind between the United State of America and an African country, entered in force in January 2006.

Japan, an economic power competing with China in Asia, is also opening up to Africa and plans to develop its dialogue with African States within the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD), while accelerating the speed of its trade and investment in Africa by supporting its companies.

The same is the strategy pursued by ASEAN Member States trying to increase their trade with Africa.

The challenge is thus to determine how these different poles are organised in Africa? How are the African strategies of these great powers related to each other? Competition, complementarity, substitution? These ring-like relations, which criss-cross and intersect, cannot obviously be fully appreciated unless we analyse the partners' strategies and the content of the partnership agreements (trade and investment) linking these powers to the African countries.

ECONOMIC POWER PARTNERSHIPS IN AFRICA

STRATEGIES OF ECONOMIC POWERS IN AFRICA

- 1. The European Union's Strategies in its Relations with its African Partners**
- 2. The European Union's Strategies with the Maghreb Countries (DCFTA's)**
- 3. The Strategies of the United States in its Relations with its African Partners**
- 4. China's Strategies in its Relations with its African Partners**
- 5. African Countries' Responses to China's "Silk Roads"**
- 6. Japan's Strategies in its Relations with its African Partners**
- 7. ASEAN's Strategies in its Relations with its African Partners**

PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS CONTENTS OF ECONOMIC POWERS IN AFRICA

I. FREE TRADE AREAS

- 1. EU - Africa FTA**
- 2. EU - Southern Mediterranean States FTA**
- 3. United States - Africa FTA**
- 4. China - Africa FTA**
- 5. Japan - Africa FTA**

II. INVESTMENTS PROTECTION

- 1. Investments protection in the EU's partnership agreements in Africa**
- 2. Investments protection in USA partnership agreements in Africa**
- 3. Investments protection in China's partnership agreements in Africa**
- 4. Investments protection in Japan's partnership agreements in Africa**

III. INVESTOR-STATE DISPUTE SETTLEMENT (ISDS) MECHANISMS

- 1. Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) Mechanisms in EU Trade and Investment Agreements with Africa**
- 2. Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) Mechanisms in ASEAN**
- 3. Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) Mechanisms in Latin America**
- 4. Inter-African dispute settlement mechanisms**
- 5. Investment arbitration in Africa**
- 6- The ongoing Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) reform in UNCITRAL Group III and the proposals of African Countries and Major Economic Countries (Morocco, Mali, Guinea, European Union, China, Japan...)**

Please send your paper proposals before June 15, 2021 for the opinion of the Scientific Council of the colloquium.

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