Algeria's Role in Supporting the New Partnership for Africa's Development Project (NEPAD)

دور الجزائر في دعم مشروع الشراكة الجديدة من اجل تنمية إفريقيا (النيباد)

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Abstract:

The study aims to shed light on Algeria's role in supporting the economy and development in Africa through investment projects undertaken by Algeria within the framework of the New Partnership for Africa's Development project. It is considered one of the most important development initiatives in the African continent, and it aims to link Africa to the global economy. Algeria is considered one of the countries that has the merit of making this initiative a success. The study seeks to explore this initiative and its mechanisms of action, and to analyze Algeria's role in the NEPAD initiative.

The study concluded that the NEPAD initiative has achieved many projects but despite this, there are still several challenges facing the success of this initiative, which requires more work and will to make NEPAD a comprehensive development initiative in Africa.

Keywords: Africa; Algeria; Development; New Partnership; NIPAD; Regional Integration.

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Introduction

Since the end of the Cold War, Africa has suffered from widespread internal conflicts, poverty, and economic backwardness. This has prompted African countries to seek ways to address these challenges, which constitute an obstacle to development. It is within this context that Algeria called for the establishment of what is known as the "NEPAD Initiative."

The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) is considered one of the most important continental initiatives aimed at achieving sustainable development, promoting good governance, and intensifying regional integration efforts within the African continent. Since its launch at the beginning of the millennium, this project has constituted a strategic framework for overcoming the structural imbalances facing African countries through an approach based on African ownership of development programs and balanced partnerships with international actors.

In this context, Algeria has emerged as a pivotal player in shaping and supporting the NEPAD process, both through its contribution to the initiative's establishment alongside South Africa, Nigeria, and Egypt, and through its commitment to implementing its programs and providing a supportive diplomatic and security environment for African integration. Algeria's adoption of NEPAD's principles and objectives is also consistent with its foreign policy choices, which are based on strengthening South-South cooperation, seeking independent development models, and activating economic diplomacy as a tool to enhance the country's standing within its continental sphere.

Therefore, studying Algeria’s role in supporting the NEPAD project is of scientific importance to understand how the state employs its diplomatic, economic and security capabilities to advance continental integration projects, and to determine the limits of this role and its potential in light of current regional and international transformations.

This study seeks to shed light on the NEPAD initiative, its impact in the African continent, and the extent of its contribution to the continent's development. It focuses on analyzing Algeria's role in this initiative by posing the following question: What is Algeria's role in supporting the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) project?

The hypothesis guiding the analysis can be formulated as follows:

Algeria contributes to supporting the NEPAD project by employing its regional diplomacy and its development and security capabilities in a way that strengthens the paths of African integration and sustainable development on the continent.

In this study, we will employ a functionalist and neo-functionalist approach.

Functionalism spread during the World War II era, in an article of “David Mitrany” titled “Functional approach to World Organization” published in International Affairs (1948) and further outlined the theory of functionalism in his book titled A Working Peace System (1966)[1].

This theories evolved with Robert Keohane's (1984) development of rational functionalism, drawing on functionalist approaches that emphasized the reasons for the effectiveness of agreements among participants in a system, and that international organizations provide a means for states to overcome problems of collective action, high transaction costs, and lack of or inconsistent information.[2]

Integration approaches were employed in this study by analyzing Algeria's role in energy projects, electrical interconnection, infrastructure, and continental transport, reflecting a functional vision that encourages bottom-up integration.

Algeria's role in energy projects, electricity interconnection, infrastructure, and transcontinental transport reflects a functionalist vision that encourages bottom-up integration. NEPAD itself is based on sectoral programs, making a functionalist approach appropriate for understanding Algeria's engagement with these technical projects.

Algeria's participation in NEPAD projects creates automatic repercussions in other areas: security, trade, and good governance. The Trans-Saharan Highway project, for example, generates repercussions toward trade integration, and subsequently, political integration.

The appropriate descriptive approach was adopted to describe the concept of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), analyze the motivations and role of Algeria in supporting and developing this partnership, and explore the most important mechanisms adopted by Algeria in light of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

To discuss the above problem, we will rely on the following axes:

Firstly: Algeria and Africa: A Geopolitical Perspective.

Secondly: The Concept of the New Partnership for Africa's Development.

Thirdly: Motivations for activating the Algeria-Africa axis

Fourthly**:** NEPAD as an Economic Entry Point for Activating the Algeria-Africa Axis.

Fifthly**:** Evaluating Algeria's Role in Activating the NEPAD Initiative.

Firstly: Algeria and Africa, a Geopolitical Perspective

The study in this section will address the geopolitical reality of Algeria in Africa, given that Algeria is located in North Africa.

1. Geographical and human privacy

Algeria is the largest country in the Arab world, Africa, and the Mediterranean basin, and ranks tenth globally in terms of area. It possesses the third-largest oil reserves in Africa and the tenth-largest gas reserves in the world. Algeria has a strong and modern armed forces with a total annual expenditure projected to reach $24 billion by 2026, giving it the largest defense budget in Africa. Its borders with its seven neighboring countries cover an area of 6,734 square kilometers, while its Mediterranean coastline stretches for over 1,000 kilometers.[3]

1. 1.Algeria's position on the African level

Algeria holds a highly strategic position that carries several dimensions of

significance, the most notable being:[4]

1.2. The geohistorical aspect of Algeria's regional role:

This perspective emerges through its contribution to regional cooperation and its adherence to the idea of "Africa for Africans." Algeria's strong African identity is reflected in its historical ties, the breadth of its regional relations, and its steady orientation toward African issues in foreign policy. These elements illustrate Algeria's longstanding role on the continent, especially in relation to the Sahel.

1.3. The geocultural aspect of Algeria's location:

This dimension is rooted in religion, language, and ideological connections. The presence of the "Tuareg" population, extending beyond Algeria into the Sahel, highlights the cultural and ethnic linkages that strengthen Algeria's influence in this region. Here, Algeria can play an important role by employing spiritual diplomacy.

1.4. The geo-economics aspect of Algeria's position:

Algeria's active participation in the economic development of the Sahel underlines this dimension. Its role in initiatives such as NEPAD demonstrates its commitment to regional progress. Moreover, Algeria has taken practical measures by helping settle the debts of struggling Sahel states like Mali and Niger, further emphasizing its economic contribution to the region. Algeria can develop its economic role in Africa by relying on economic diplomacy

1.5. The geosecurity dimension of Algeria's regional role:

This dimension emphasizes Algeria's dependence on regional cooperation to address common security challenges. Given the complexity and origins of these threats, collective and reinforced regional actions become essential. The establishment of the Joint Operational Staff Committee represents the most notable example of this cooperative security approach. Especially with the spread of terrorism, illegal immigration and organized crime

1.6. The geopolitical and geostrategic dimension of Algeria's regional position:

Beyond its wide geographical space and environmental diversity, Algeria also holds a significant geopolitical extension into the Sahel. This region represents both strategic depth and an essential area of influence for Algeria. From a geostrategic perspective, the country's location becomes a key factor in analyzing political and economic dynamics at the international level. Such an approach involves examining whether Algeria's position contributes to stability or conflict, and how its borders impact the cultural and social environment of surrounding nations.

The significance of Algeria's strategic location can be illustrated through two main axes:[5]

A. The Mediterranean Axis: Historically, Algeria has always been integrated into the Mediterranean basin, interacting with some of the most influential civilizations of the world. Today, it continues to derive economic and strategic benefits from this region, which remains a critical hub of global trade and one of the most sensitive areas in world politics.

B. The African Axis: Algeria's reach extends southward into the Sahel, serving as a bridge between North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa. Its influence is reinforced through communication channels and cooperative ties with neighboring states. This axis gained further importance with the establishment of the African Union, which boosted both trade and humanitarian cooperation. Consequently, Algeria has consolidated its leadership role within the continent, particularly in political and economic affairs, thereby affirming its regional influence.

C. Algeria as a Transit Country (Attracting Illegal Immigrants): Algeria's geographical position and its closeness to Europe have turned it into a major transit hub for African migrants attempting to reach European territories in search of the so-called "European dream." The country is not only among the main sources of emigrants but also serves as a shelter for large numbers of people escaping conflicts, violence, poverty, and terrorism across Africa and parts of the Arab world. This situation is largely linked to Algeria's vast borders and strategic location, which have intensified migration flows, particularly from Sahel states whose populations view Algeria as a primary destination, especially amid worsening insecurity and economic crises in their homelands. Migrants usually cross into Algeria through various entry points in pursuit of stability, with large concentrations observed in the southern regions—most notably Tamanrasset—as well as in western and central urban centers. These flows mainly involve people from Niger, Mali, Cameroon, Ghana, Nigeria, Benin, Congo, Liberia, and Ivory Coast.[6]

Secondly: The concept of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) represents a commitment made by African leaders who share a common vision and a strong belief in their responsibility to fight poverty and guide their countries, both individually and collectively, towards sustainable growth and development, while remaining active participants in the global economy and political sphere (NEPAD, 2001). The initiative is therefore built around three interrelated long-term goals: eradicating poverty, fostering economic growth, and reducing Africa's marginalization in the era of globalization. In 2001, the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity endorsed NEPAD, which was later ratified by the African Union in 2002 as a response to the continent's development challenges through a new approach. The main priorities of NEPAD include combating poverty, steering Africa onto a path of sustainable development, ending the continent's marginalization, and advancing women's empowerment. As Africa's most comprehensive strategic framework for socio-economic development, NEPAD was officially adopted by the African Union in 2002 as the central mechanism to coordinate and accelerate Africa's development in the 21st century. Its central aim is to establish a new framework for development led by African leadership Focusing on the following:[7]

- Steering African nations, both jointly and individually, towards a trajectory of durable growth and sustainable development.
- Preventing the continued marginalization of Africa within the dynamics of

globalization by strengthening its role and presence.

- Promoting and advancing the empowerment of women as a key driver for Africa's overall progress.
- Ensuring Africa's complete integration into the global economy through greater participation in trade and investment
- Combating poverty.

1. The emergence of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) evolved from three initiatives designed to address the complex challenges facing African countries' growth: the Millennium Recovery Plan for Africa, spearheaded by former South African President Thabo Mbeki; the Omega Plan, developed by former Senegalese President Abdoulaye Wade; and the New African Initiative, which combined the first two. In 2001, these initiatives were reformulated and expanded to provide a framework for action for all African countries. The New Partnership for Africa's Development was adopted by the Organization of African Unity at its 37th summit in 2001, and ratified by the African Union at its first summit in 2002.[8]

2. The structure

The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) is governed by the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Steering Committee and the NEPAD Steering Committee. The NEPAD is overseen by the African Union Assembly.[9]

2.1. The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Heads of State and Government Steering Committee

The Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee of NEPAD plays a central role in guiding the overall process. It provides strategic direction, formulates policies, and determines priority action plans. In addition, it supervises the NEPAD Agency and its related structures.

This Committee brings together 20 African states, including the five founding members of NEPAD—Algeria, Egypt, Nigeria, Senegal, and South Africa—alongside 15 representatives chosen from the five African Union regions, generally serving for a term of two years. The Chairperson of the African Union Commission also takes part in this body.[10]

2.2. Steering Committee

The NEPAD Steering Committee holds the responsibility of establishing the terms of reference for various programs and initiatives. It offers overall political guidance and strategic recommendations to the NEPAD Agency while also monitoring the execution of its activities. The Committee consists of representatives appointed by the members of the Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee—two from each of the five founding NEPAD countries, along with one from every elected member state. Furthermore, delegates from the eight regional economic communities acknowledged by the African Union, together with the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank, the United Nations Development Programme, the Office of the Special Adviser in Africa, and the United

Nations Economic Commission for Africa, also take part in the Steering Committee sessions[11]

2.3. Planning and Coordination Agency

The Planning and Coordination Agency is tasked with overseeing and directing the activities of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). Headquartered in Midrand, South Africa, it operates as a technical organ of the African Union. Its central mandate is to promote and harmonize the execution of priority regional and continental programs, advance intergovernmental partnerships, mobilize financial and institutional resources, and oversee research and knowledge production. The Agency's strategic orientation focuses on key policy domains: agricultural development and food security; climate change and the sustainable management of natural resources; regional integration and infrastructure development; human development; economic governance and the private sector; as well as cross-cutting concerns such as gender equality and capacity-building. Financially, the Agency derives its support from the statutory budgets of the African Union Commission, voluntary contributions by AU Member States, and complementary assistance from development partners and private sector actors.[12]

3. Aspirations and goals outlined in Agenda 2063 for Africa

Agenda 2063 is the continental framework or strategic action plan governing the achievement of inclusive and sustainable development in Africa. It was launched in 2013 as part of the celebrations of the golden jubilee of the founding of the Organization of African Unity (now the African Union) in 1963. Its overall timeframe is half a century, i.e., until 2063. This framework was divided into five sub-implementation plans of (10) years each. The launch of this agenda is an extension of the various continental endeavors and efforts throughout different historical periods to achieve continental African integration[13].

This agenda is based on seven key aspirations and approximately twenty goals and priorities. These aspirations and goals, in their entirety, revolve around achieving sustainable and inclusive development in Africa at various levels, and are as follows:[14]

- A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development

To achieve this aspiration, seven goals and priorities have been set: raising the standard of living and quality of life for individuals; providing quality education for citizens and a skills revolution driven by science, technology, and innovation; ensuring good health and nutrition for citizens; transforming economies and jobs; developing new agriculture based on increased production and productivity; promoting a blue economy to accelerate economic growth; and ensuring environmental sustainability.

- A politically integrated and united continent based on the ideals of pan-Africanism and the vision of African Renaissance

This aspiration encompasses three goals and priorities: African unity (federal/confederation), the development of world-class transboundary infrastructure,

and the establishment and activation of financial and monetary institutions.

- A continent of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice, and the rule of law: This aspiration includes two goals and priorities. The first relates to strengthening legal values and practices and universal principles of human rights, justice, and the rule of law. The second relates to strong institutions and leadership transformation at all levels.

- A peaceful and secure Africa: This aspiration includes three goals and priorities: activating the African Peace and Security Architecture, maintaining peace and security through the adoption of the Silencing the Guns by 2020 initiative, and achieving peace and stability in Africa.

- Africa with a strong cultural identity, shared heritage, values, and ethics: this aspiration is based on a single, overarching goal: focusing on the African cultural renaissance.

- Relying on the latent potential of African peoples to achieve development, particularly youth, women, and children: this aspiration includes two objectives: full gender equality and the empowerment of youth and children.

- Making Africa strong, united, and influential as an international player and partner: this aspiration encompasses two objectives and priorities: making Africa a key partner in global affairs and achieving peaceful coexistence, and empowering Africa to take responsibility for financing its own development.

Thirdly: Motivations for activating the Algeria-Africa axis

1. The Algerian approach in Africa; development as an entry point for achieving security

1.1. Algeria's African Orientation Under President "Bouteflika": A Rebirth

Since assuming the presidency of Algeria, President Bouteflika's primary focus has been restoring the prominence of Algerian foreign policy, reminiscent of its glory days in the 1960s and 70s. He revived Algeria's role in the Global South, particularly in Africa, and became a key driver of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).[15]

Bouteflika's efforts to revive Algeria's leading role in Africa stem from several factors, most notably:[16]

- Algeria's desire to break free from the isolation imposed upon it throughout the 1990s.

- Countering Egyptian, Moroccan, and Libyan ambitions on the continent. These ambitions manifested, for example, in Libya's initiative to establish the Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD), from which Algeria is conspicuously absent. Morocco joined CEN-SAD primarily to seek regional encirclement of Algeria.

- The emergence of a new form of terrorism in the Sahel-Saharan region, posing a threat to both Algerian security and Western interests. Therefore, Algeria is striving to convince major powers, particularly the United States, of its potential to play a central role in combating this phenomenon in the Sahel. Algeria's ambition to revive

its leading role on the African continent is evident in its creation, for the first time since independence, of a ministerial post for Maghreb and African affairs, as well as its role in resolving numerous conflicts across the continent.

The major components of the Algerian security approach are largely based on the principles of achieving human security and supporting humanitarian diplomacy, which we will outline in the following sections:[17]

A. Political, Diplomatic, and Security Mechanisms

Algeria bases its vision for achieving security on a regional security approach in the African Sahel. This approach calls upon Sahel countries to cooperate with one another to confront security threats, as well as to work with the international community within a framework of coordination and cooperation to find solutions to the problems of the African continent. Algeria's focus is on developing solutions within regional frameworks and rejecting any external interference, even though foreign interference is inherently detrimental to the philosophy of security at the national or African level. Algeria bases this vision on two fundamental principles: [18]

– Its extensive experience in combating terrorism.

– One of the fundamental principles of Algerian foreign policy: non-interference in the internal affairs of states.

B. Economic, Social, and Developmental Mechanisms

Undoubtedly, poverty and the absence of human development are among the most significant sources of insecurity and the rise of terrorism in the region. Many studies indicate that low living standards, poverty, and material and moral deprivation all contribute to the emergence of extremism and the spread of structural violence, which has expanded throughout Africa. "the solution to the problems of this region lies in achieving stability for the population, which requires safe and decent living conditions." Today, in the Sahel, as elsewhere, the response to terrorism begins with social and economic development, followed by social and distributive justice and security cooperation, moving beyond a purely military approach to address terrorism, as it is a complex and multifaceted issue[19].

Therefore, Algeria's approach to building security in the Sahel region lies in linking sustainable development from an economic and social perspective with the necessity of striving to achieve political development structurally linked to democratic development. This involves strengthening its foundational frameworks, such as building the rule of law, strong institutions, good governance, and respect for human rights. Achieving this will undoubtedly contribute to stability and security, ultimately leading to the establishment of a safe environment for people in the Sahel region, in line with the principles of human security and the implementation of humanitarian diplomacy[20].

2.Activating the Algeria-Africa axis on the economic level

The establishment of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) was driven by a number of motives and reasons that encouraged Algeria to become an active player in advancing NEPAD's efforts to develop the African Union

and Africa's economy.

2.1. Objective Motives

- The mirage of economic partnership projects with the European Union, described as a "white marriage" because they are limited to documents and have not materialized on the ground.

- The focus of European investments on renewable energy sectors, such as oil and gas, while neglecting renewable energy sectors such as solar energy.

- The Euro-Mediterranean partnership projects constitute a framework for dependency rather than cooperation, and these projects seek to integrate Israel into the region[21].

2.2. Structural Motives:

Among the structural motives that motivated Algeria to enter the NEPAD Economic Partnership are some structural gaps. Integration experiences within their regional framework involve national production systems, including manufacturing, and the existence of a common market to protect this bloc from external actors seeking to exploit the bloc's countries.This is something absent from African integration projects. The World Trade Organization does not accept regionalization, but rather imposes conditionality on these countries and opens the economy to the world. We note, in discussing the African Union, the presence of pivotal countries in Africa, such as South Africa, Nigeria, Algeria, and Egypt. However, these countries are unable to lead integration projects due to non-economic considerations, such as political disputes, armed conflicts, and recent security issues. This has made Africa characterized by ethnic and religious diversity. Consequently, the basis for integration in the continent must be primarily economic, which is what Algeria has done within the framework of activating NEPAD.[22]

Fourthly: NEPAD as an Economic Entry Point for Activating the Algeria-Africa Axis

The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NIPAD) initiative, spearheaded by Algeria since its launch in 2001 in Lusaka, Zambia, has been one of the most important challenges in its foreign policy, enabling Algeria to enrich its record in the African continent. This partnership, initiated by President “Abdelaziz Bouteflika”, President “Tabwa Mbeki”, and “Olusegun Obasanjo”, provided a roadmap for building the continent and an alternative to resolving complexities through an independent political decision that would permanently eliminate excessive dependence on external countries within the African continent.[23]

Algeria has recently realized that the economic bet in Africa is profitable in the medium and long term, as the continent is expected to become one of the largest global markets with more than two billion people by 2050. Therefore, the strategy of economic cooperation (South-South) has become a priority in the Algerian economic agenda. For this purpose, Algeria has laid the foundations for strengthening its investment and diplomatic position in the African continent, as well as the positioning of its companies[24]. In this context, Algeria has worked to implement

major economic projects without neglecting political projects, and trying to change the established image of Africa as a continent of misery, military coups, and fragile political regimes. In this regard, it is impossible to deny the practical and tangible efforts made by Algeria to push the African Union forward through:[25]

1. Tipaza Commercial Port: The construction of the "Tipaza "Commercial Port (70) km west of the Algerian capital is the culmination of this endeavor. Upon its completion, the central port of "Hamdania" is expected to become one of the 30 most important commercial ports in the world, which is known for its heavy activity in transporting containers and is dedicated to transit and re-shipping, while the technical facilities allow the largest commercial ship in the world to dock with a capacity of 240 thousand tons, as the current capacity of Algerian ports does not exceed 30 thousand tons.[26]

2. The Trans-Saharan Road: Work on its implementation began in 1964. It is one of the mega-projects that emerged during a period characterized by collective liberation movements from the remnants of colonialism and European influence in the continent. The massive project, spanning more than 9,500 kilometers, is nearing completion. To date, the project has completed its phases in Algeria, Tunisia, Nigeria, and Niger, while work is progressing at a slow pace in Mali and Chad for financial and security reasons. However, with the new "Silk Road" beginning to be implemented in Africa soon, it is expected to transform many aspects related to the future of trade between the countries of the North and South of the continent, the speed of the flow of goods, and the mobility of the region's population. The importance of this road, which is viewed as a "Marshall Plan" for Africa's lagging transportation sector, becomes clear.[27]

3. Fiber Optic Network Project

Algeria, Niger, and Nigeria signed the Algiers Declaration, which includes the construction of a fiber optic cable extending along the Algiers-Zinder-Abuja axis. This project, which falls under the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), meets Africa's need to expand its broadband communications networks, particularly those related to intercontinental communication, given the requirements of services emerging from modern and future networks.[28]

Fifthly: Evaluating Algeria's role in activating the NEPAD initiative

1. The Role of Algerian Diplomacy in the Establishment of NEPAD

Since Algerian diplomacy made a strong return to the African arena through the 35th Summit of the Organization of African Unity and its presidency, its interest in African issues has increased, especially since some of the problems facing Algeria are part of Africa's problems, such as the low rate of development and the debt problem, which has become a burden on the budgets of most African countries. However, the bigger problem is the issue of debt servicing, which has become a greater concern than the debt itself. Since Algeria chaired the African Union, it was aware of the role it played and attempted to formulate a development plan for Africa based on the new data. In this direction, the initiative of South African President

Thabo Mbeki, with the assistance of Algerian President "Abdelaziz Bouteflika" and Nigerian President" Ousmane Djokovic", came to prepare a development plan for the continent known as the New Millennium Plan for Africa's Revitalization (MAP).[29]

Another initiative by Senegalese President "Abdoulah Wade", known as "Plan Omega", was announced during the Franco-African Summit held in Yaoundé in January 2001. This initiative focused on the most important areas required to achieve comprehensive and sustainable development, which would facilitate integration into all global activities, especially commercial ones. Since these initiatives did not differ significantly from each other, African leaders at the Lusaka Summit welcomed the two proposed initiatives - Plan Omega - and decided to combine them into a single initiative expressing a unified African position to be presented to Africa's international partners. The final version of this initiative became known as the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)[30]

Anyone who follows Algeria's activity in the African continent and its support for the NEPAD initiative can notice that the role it played in the NEPAD initiative cannot be achieved in isolation from its foreign policy orientations in general, and its orientation towards the development of the African Sahel countries in particular. As for Algeria, its support for the initiative comes within the framework of attempts to strengthen its regional role and emerge from the isolation imposed on it by its internal situations during the years of terrorism. Algeria also worked, through its adherence to the NEPAD initiative, to launch development projects in Africa in general and the African Sahel countries in particular, by strengthening the role of regional institutions and ensuring peace-building measures in the post-war phase, and supporting good governance as a central requirement for security, peace, and political, social, and economic stability.[31]

Algerian diplomacy has been able to obtain the support of various international parties for the initiative. The China-Africa Forum, which was established in 2000, took an interest in the initiative and began working to align cooperation programs between China and Africa with NEPAD programs. The United Nations also approved the initiative as a framework for development in Africa, in addition to the support of the Group of Eight and the African-European summits[32].

Within the framework of this partnership, Algeria is responsible for the human development file, which includes capacity-building programs to create national cadres capable of enabling African countries to fulfill their responsibilities in achieving political, economic, and social development. Many donor countries and institutions have shown great interest in supporting programs for this sector, especially in light of the intensive contacts that Algeria is conducting to attract the attention of these partners.[33]

Algeria also contributed to the establishment of the African Peer Review Mechanism in March 2003, which is one of the main NEPAD bodies. Its mission is to review and evaluate the extent to which member states adhere to the standards for project management and economic management. Under this mechanism, member

states are allowed to visit it and write reports on what is happening in it with regard to democracy and human rights. The procedures for this mechanism are carried out voluntarily, without any external interference. It is a dialogue between friends to learn about successful experiences in this field in some countries to draw from them, or to accept recommendations from others to improve the performance and efficiency of government agencies.[34]

Algerian diplomacy has been able to obtain the support of various international parties. The China-Africa Forum, which was established in 2000, took an interest in the initiative and began working to align cooperation programs between China and Africa with NEPAD programs. The TICA Forum, which is sponsored by Japan, in cooperation with the United Nations and other donor countries, supported NEPAD programs. The United Nations also approved the initiative as a framework for development in Africa, in addition to the Group of Eight's support for it through its various summits[35].

Algeria has also tried to enhance South-South cooperation in various fields, as 7 South African doctors performed surgeries within the framework of a bilateral agreement signed between the two parties in 2003, in addition to establishing various projects such as the African Highway project, linking railway networks, the Nigerian-Algerian gas pipeline, and fiber optic connectivity[36].

2. Obstacles to Algerian investment orientation towards Africa

Investment across African countries encounters a wide range of intertwined challenges, many of which stem from persistent security threats within the region, while others arise from structural economic pressures linked to the involvement of major international actors. These external powers often attempt to integrate African economies into the global capitalist system, seeking to dominate local markets and impose patterns of consumption that primarily serve their own interests. Among the most pressing concerns is the issue of insecurity, which remains a fundamental obstacle to intra-African investment. This insecurity is reflected in the proliferation of terrorism, the spread of organized crime, the escalation of human trafficking networks, as well as the frequent cases of kidnapping of foreign nationals accompanied by ransom demands. In addition to these dangers, there are also instances of encroachment upon existing investment frameworks, further complicating the continent's path toward sustainable economic growth and development[37].

Despite the ambitious goals included in the NEPAD program, field work has proven difficult to achieve these goals, which have been hindered by a number of obstacles. NEPAD has only obtained promises, not tangible things, and has not achieved the desired goals of reaching a growth rate estimated at 7% and reducing the poverty rate to 7%, especially in light of the limited capabilities of the continent's countries. Algeria's advocacy on behalf of the African continent before international parties, especially the most industrialized countries in the world, has had very limited results in light of the absence of an international will to lift the continent out of

poverty and weakness, as it realizes that this is not in its interest and affects the relationship of dependency between the two parties. However, despite this, the New Partnership for Africa's Development remains an ambitious development program 17, the success of which requires the availability of political and popular will from all parties to advance the African continent and the African Sahel region[38].

Conclusion

Through the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), Algeria sought to move African countries from the cycle of conflict and poverty to new horizons of development and progress. Algerian diplomacy has achieved numerous successes, and Africa has become an economic hub in the global economy.

NEPAD represented a serious attempt to radically change the economic situation in Africa, and through it, Algeria adopted several important projects, such as the Trans-Saharan Highway and the fiber optic network project.

NEPAD faced numerous challenges, most notably funding, weak infrastructure, and a lack of coordination and organization among its structures, which led to slow implementation of its objectives.

Despite development efforts, the African continent still needs to expedite the implementation of pending projects in order to achieve the goals of this initiative.

It is necessary to expand the scope of this partnership to achieve regional integration on the continent and to focus on concluding strategic partnership agreements with various countries on the continent to benefit from the advantages of trade exchange.

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