

Algerian economic diplomacy towards Africa

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Received: 15/02/2025

Accepted: 16/03/2025

Published: 15/04/2025

Abstract:

This study seeks to emphasize the significant efforts made by Algeria in revitalizing its diplomacy in Africa through the establishment of trade relations, strengthening regional cooperation, and peacefully resolving regional conflicts.-* The significance of this topic stems from Algeria's attempts to diversify its economic alliances and lessen reliance on traditional markets, notably with the establishment of the African Continental Free Trade Area. The study seeks to more fully comprehend Algeria's policies for fostering its economic links with the continent, as well as to examine the opportunities and challenges it confronts in this regard. It employs a descriptive-analytical approach, focusing on economic facts and Algeria's foreign policy towards Africa. The study concludes that Algeria possesses enormous economic and diplomatic potential to increase its influence on the continent. However, the success of this plan depends on overcoming logistical and institutional challenges, as well as enhancing economic integration with African nations in the face of increased regional and worldwide competition.

Keywords: Economic Diplomacy; Foreign Policy; Africa; Algeria; Regional Competition.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Economic diplomacy has emerged as a powerful tool for harmonizing national interests and fostering of states and establishing win-win relationships. This has prompted Algeria to engage in economic diplomacy within its African depth, exploiting the continent's abundant and diversified resources at a low cost while maximizing benefits. Furthermore, Algeria endeavours to use the African Union as a forum for collaboration, coordination of efforts, and the establishment of an economic union, following the example of other continents.

To keep pace with worldwide developments, Algeria established a General Directorate for Economic Relations under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Africa remains one of the most strategically important continents, with major world powers expressing strong interest in its immense wealth and resources. This has resulted in intense competition and foreign ambitions in the region, while numerous opportunities for intra-African collaboration remain unexplored.

Problem Statement:

How has Algeria's economic diplomacy contributed to strengthening its role within its African sphere?

Sub-questions:

- What are the key determinants of Algeria's economic diplomacy?
- What are the main mechanisms and tools adopted to enhance Algeria's economic role in Africa?

Origins and Evolution:

Diplomacy evolved from a traditional practice to an economic tool, originating alongside the appearance of states, serving as a means for diplomats to transmit messages between their home country and the host state. Over time, it developed alongside international relations, becoming a key tool for negotiation between nations. By the 17th and 18th centuries, diplomacy had transformed into a system of reciprocal diplomatic representation, promoting deeper mutual interests between states. During this period, diplomacy primarily focused on regional issues, as well as matters of war and peace, while economic concerns played only a

secondary role. However, at the beginning of the 20th century, diplomacy expanded its scope, assuming a broader position as a public service compared to previous eras. A notable indication of the growing influence of economic matters in diplomacy was the imposition of economic sanctions on Germany after World War I.⁽¹⁾

This shift marked the emergence of economic diplomacy, characterized by the strategic use of a state's economic tools to advance its national interests. Economic diplomacy leverages a country's political influence to serve its economic objectives—and vice versa—positioning economic factors as essential components of international relations.

According to Alexandre Kateb, economic diplomacy is a means by which a state promotes its power in dealing with other nations through economic tools, involving global trade negotiations (such as GATT and the World Trade Organization) and measures aimed at expanding national enterprises internationally or attracting foreign investment. Others define economic diplomacy as a process through which a state influences the external world to maximize national gains across various fields, encompassing trade and investment. It is a modern approach to seizing economic opportunities, inviting foreign investors and companies to contribute to national development. Today, economic diplomacy has become the primary means of penetrating global markets and securing external economic advantages.⁽²⁾

Definitions of Economic Diplomacy

Economic diplomacy has been defined as the external economic activities of states and business sectors. According to Moon and Bergeijk, economic diplomacy includes a set of activities aimed at formulating methods and procedures for decision-making associated with cross-border economic activities. Its scope includes trade, global markets, migration, and aid, with negotiations serving as its primary tool. Similarly, Woolcock defines economic diplomacy as the process of decision-making and negotiation in international economic relations ⁽³⁾, especially in areas such as international trade, financial market policies, development policies, and environmental preservation.

Economic diplomacy can also be referred to as a set of mechanisms, skills, and practices utilized by individuals, institutions, or governmental and non-governmental entities to fulfill economic objectives for a state or a group of states grounded in political considerations—or, conversely, to achieve political objectives grounded in economic factors⁽⁴⁾. Moreover, Geoffrey Pigman and Alan James define economic diplomacy as the branch of diplomacy concerned with economic policy issues and the use of economic resources to achieve specific foreign policy objectives. Based on this definition, economic diplomacy is regarded as a tool for advancing national interests at the international level by leveraging economic capabilities to influence other countries, whether through economic pressure or assistance.⁽⁵⁾

Levels of Economic Diplomacy

There are different levels of economic diplomacy, and most researchers agree that they include the following:

A. Bilateral Economic Diplomacy

Bilateral economic diplomacy plays a crucial role in international economic relationships. It encompasses diplomatic engagements between two countries or economic entities through formal agreements sought at promoting trade, facilitating the movement of individuals and capital flows, and avoiding double taxation, among other goals. This level of diplomacy also includes informal agreements between companies and institutions operating in both countries.⁽⁶⁾

B. Regional Economic Diplomacy

Regional economic diplomacy pertains to agreements signed by countries within the same region (such as the European Union) to avoid double taxation and customs duties, open markets, and foster economic liberalization.⁽⁷⁾

It aims to create a general framework for cooperation and coordination among a bloc of countries that are usually geographically adjacent, share common cultural ties, or have similar levels of economic and scientific development.⁽⁸⁾

C. Multilateral Economic Diplomacy

Multilateral economic diplomacy is conducted through international organizations and institutions such as the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the World Trade Organization (WTO), and the Group of Twenty (G20), among others. These organizations are platforms that bring together countries and governments with shared economic interests, allowing them to develop common positions and align domestic and international objectives.⁽⁹⁾

Tools of Economic Diplomacy

The key tools of economic diplomacy are summarized as follows: financial institutions, economic blocs, various agreements, media, forums, and exhibitions.

On the other hand, with the evolution of economic diplomacy and the level of maturity it has attained, this form of diplomacy now adopts multiple tools, including economic policies that enhance trade exchanges, a focus on tariffs and taxation policies, restrictions on foreign transfers, and the provision of grants, loans, and aid.⁽¹⁰⁾

The components of economic diplomacy are divided into three elements:

- Leveraging political influence and relationships to affect all matters associated with international trade, investments, and transaction risks.⁽¹¹⁾
- Using economic assets and relationships to enhance mutual benefits, cooperation, and political stability while fostering economic security. This is fulfilled by focusing on structural policies and bilateral agreements in trade and investment.⁽¹²⁾
- Creating a favorable political climate and economic framework through multilateral negotiations, facilitated by international organizations and institutions such as the World Trade Organization.⁽¹³⁾

Additionally, economic diplomacy uses other specialized mechanisms and practices, including energy diplomacy, religious diplomacy, technological diplomacy, agricultural diplomacy, trade diplomacy, and financial diplomacy.

Tools of Economic Diplomacy: Economic diplomacy employs a range of tools to promote its effectiveness, including:⁽¹⁴⁾

- Tariff and customs tax policies, applied either as protective measures or

based on the principle of reciprocity. Some states may use preferential tariffs, providing favorable tax treatment to certain countries due to economic or political ties.

- Offering grants and loans to foreign states, often with credit facilities or interest rates lower than market levels.
- Implementing economic policies and measures that foster trade exchanges.
- Imposing restrictions on foreign transfers, levying high taxes on foreign investments, or offering selective incentives to attract strategic investments.

Role Theory

Role theory is regarded as one of the relatively older theories in the international relations. It aims to explain a state's foreign policy by focusing on variables associated with the decision-making elite, their concept of the international system, and their country's role within it. Holsti, through his new role theory, attempted to resolve certain theoretical issues, especially whether roles merely serve as categories for classifying foreign policy behavior and governmental decisions or function as causal variables in explaining how the international system operates and how states conduct their foreign policies.⁽¹⁵⁾

The concept of "role" has been interpreted in the Dictionary of Political Science and Political Institutions as the differentiation of functions among actors, based on the division of social labor observed in all groups. Each function is related to specific roles that facilitate its application and align with the expectations of other actors. Traditionally, a distinction is made between innate roles and acquired roles. ⁽¹⁶⁾

Second Section: mechanisms of Algeria's economic diplomacy towards Africa

The effectiveness of diplomacy is closely related to the decision-maker's concept of reality and the position the state aims to fulfill. Africa represents a key strategic focus for Algeria, offered alternative solutions to shared environmental, economic, political, and social challenges among African nations. Algeria's interest in Africa stems from a shared historical heritage and a common destiny, particularly in addressing economic and political issues. Its geographical proximity to the continent is further reinforced by cultural and civilizational ties, especially within the Maghreb region.

Therefore, Algeria's national interests and strategic role require a more dynamic and profound diplomatic engagement with Africa.

The economic dimension has become increasingly important for Algerian policymakers, prompting the adoption of an economic diplomacy approach. This shift recognizes economic diplomacy as a crucial tool for boosting foreign trade, attracting investments, enhancing Algerian products in international markets, and encouraging foreign direct investment. These efforts contribute to wealth creation and job opportunities, though they also present complex challenges.⁽¹⁷⁾

Similarly, Algeria's economic diplomacy has prioritized investment in Africa as a cornerstone of development. This commitment is apparent in Algeria's strategic economic orientation toward African markets, reinforced by a series of legal reforms reflecting its new diplomatic direction.⁽¹⁸⁾

Furthermore, Algeria has focused on major regional integration projects, such as the Trans-Saharan Highway Project (Algeria–Lagos, Nigeria), which includes a gas pipeline transporting Nigerian gas to Europe via Algeria and Niger. The country is also working to complete the fiber-optic project (Algeria–Abuja) and attract foreign investments to support sustainable development. The Africa Investment and Business Forum serves as a model in this regard.

To fully capitalize on Africa's vast market—consisting of 1.2 billion people and extensive trade exchanges—Algeria strives to activate its economic diplomacy effectively. The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), one of the largest free trade zones since the establishment of the World Trade Organization, presents a significant opportunity. Algeria must leverage the benefits and advantages offered by this trade bloc through economic policy mechanisms and tools that ensure its effective integration. Fostering its economic diplomacy in this way will allow Algeria to fulfill its strategic objectives and increase the benefits of expanding into African markets.

1. Determinants of Algeria's Foreign Policy:

The economic dimension has become a significant factor in Algeria's

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diplomacy, playing a crucial role in enhancing foreign trade, attracting investments, introducing the Algerian market to international partners, supporting Algerian economic operators in expanding their business relationships, and promoting trade exchanges and partnerships with institutions in host countries.⁽¹⁹⁾ Given Algeria's strategic location within Africa and its regional responsibilities, the African continent remains one of the top priorities of Algeria's foreign policy.

Economic factors are among the primary determinants of Algeria's foreign policy. The country possesses vast natural resources, especially oil and natural gas, making its economy largely rent-based. Economic considerations play a vital role in shaping foreign policy decisions due to the strong link between policy implementation and the availability of economic resources. The extent of these resources determines whether a country acts as a donor or a recipient of foreign aid. Furthermore, economic resources influence a state's ability to engage in trade and fulfill a surplus in its balance of payments, while countries with resource shortages struggle to assume major global roles. Additionally, political and security factors are inherently related to economic considerations in foreign policy, as economic tools are frequently used to achieve political and security objectives.⁽²⁰⁾

In this regard, Algeria has aimed to foster its ties and solidify its relationships with African nations, drawing upon its long history of diplomatic engagement and liberation struggles. It remains committed to supporting just African causes and promoting comprehensive development across the continent. Algeria has also played a leading role in fighting terrorism and organized crime, consolidating peace and security, and mediating to resolve conflicts and crises in Africa.

Algeria's diplomatic engagement with Africa is not a recent development. Rather, it has historically undertaken multiple economic initiatives as part of its diplomatic activities, focusing on safeguarding its economic interests on the continent. One of the most important initiatives is NEPAD (New Partnership for Africa's Development), a long-term development strategy sought at reducing economic disparities and inequalities between African nations and wealthier countries, increasing aid

to the continent, and fostering sustainable development. Algeria has played a crucial role in this initiative, highlighting that African integration and the successful funding of NEPAD depend on harnessing all available economic resources.⁽²¹⁾

Among the key determinants of Algeria's foreign policy are geostrategic factors such as geographic location, landmass, and population, alongside economic factors, including natural resources, the economic system, production capacity, trade exchanges, and economic development indicators. Algeria's African orientation remains one of its most strategic choices, serving its national interests while providing alternative solutions to common challenges encountered by African nations. Algeria's engagement with Africa has historically been driven by historical, economic, political, and social considerations. However, the evolving dynamics of its foreign policy towards Africa necessitate a proactive regional role, reinforcing key actors and institutional frameworks necessary for shaping and implementing foreign policy strategies.⁽²²⁾

Historically, Algeria's African policy has prioritized political solidarity over economic interests. Its diplomatic strength lies in its unwavering support for just causes, especially anti-colonial struggles and resistance to foreign occupation. However, for Algeria to solidify its position in Africa, its foreign policy must shift toward prioritizing economic interests, leveraging available opportunities to drive domestic development and enhance its regional and international standing.

Algeria has considerable geopolitical assets that position it as a potential regional power. It is the largest country in the Arab world, Africa, and the Mediterranean region, with a population of 47 million. As one of the world's top oil producers, Algeria holds Africa's third-largest proven oil reserves, following Libya and Nigeria. It also possesses the continent's second-largest natural gas reserves and ranks as Africa's second-largest producer of natural gas, according to 2016 statistics. Furthermore, Algeria is the world's third-largest phosphate supplier and holds vast reserves of iron, zinc, and mercury, along with extensive fertile agricultural lands, especially in its southern regions.⁽²³⁾

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Algeria's membership in several international organizations further promotes its strategic influence within Africa. Its geographic position as Africa's northern gateway, combined with its Arab and African identity, grants it a unique geopolitical standing in both regional and global affairs. By capitalizing on these advantages, Algeria can drive economic and social development through economic diplomacy.⁽²⁴⁾ Over the years, it has actively contributed to Africa's economic development initiatives, offering financial aid to African countries and implementing a debt-relief policy to foster its economic ties across the continent.

To expand its economic footprint in Africa, Algeria has funded and supported development projects in various African nations and actively worked to increase intra-African trade. This commitment is evident in Algeria's participation in the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), recognizing Africa's potential as a promising market with over 1.2 billion consumers and trade exchanges exceeding \$3 trillion.⁽²⁵⁾

By expanding trade with African nations, Algeria aims to leverage infrastructure projects to strengthen its access to African markets and enhance its foreign trade relations within the continent. Through its integration into the AfCFTA, Algeria seeks to increase the opportunities and resources available in Africa to stimulate its own economic growth and consolidate its position in African markets.

Algeria's economic diplomacy is focused on playing a pivotal role in attracting foreign investment, increasing exports, and boosting trade activities. To fulfill this, Algeria continues to consolidate diplomatic ties with neighboring countries across political, economic, and security domains, strengthening higher growth rates and advancing economic development.

The Economic Dimension of Algeria's Diplomacy:

As part of its strategy to overcome several economic crises, Algeria has pursued bilateral and multilateral agreements. These include accords with international organizations, such as agreements signed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank between 1990 and 1995 to support Algeria's economic recovery. Moreover, in 1994 and 1995, Algeria reached agreements with the Paris Club and the London Club to reschedule its debts. It also signed an agreement with the International

Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID), which led to the establishment of the Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC) on October 30, 1995.⁽²⁶⁾

At the bilateral level, Algeria has entered into various economic diplomacy agreements with other nations. These include a tax treaty with the United States, signed on October 17, 1990, and another with Canada in 2000 to prevent double taxation and tax evasion. Furthermore, Algeria has established agreements with Asian countries, especially China, which has appeared as a key financial partner, providing \$8.2 billion in funding in 2014. In Africa, Algeria has signed agreements with South Africa, Ethiopia, Mali, and other nations, mainly to prevent double taxation and safeguard reciprocal investments.⁽²⁷⁾

Algeria's foreign policy has increasingly integrated economic dimensions within its broader diplomatic strategy. At the beginning of the 21st century, Algeria adopted a liberal economic approach aligned with its national strategy and the rapid transformations of the global economic system. A key aspect of Algeria's foreign policy is its effort to integrate into the global economy, both institutionally—through organizations such as the World Trade Organization (WTO), IMF, and World Bank—and especially, by establishing multi-party partnerships, particularly with the European Union (EU).

Algeria has been actively enhancing South-South cooperation, advocating for North-South dialogue, and playing a pioneering role within regional and international organizations, especially the Group of 77, which it co-chaired with China in 2012.

One of the most important aspects of Algeria's economic diplomacy in Africa is its involvement in the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). As a key player in this initiative, Algeria has contributed to shaping NEPAD as a strategic framework for sustainable development in Africa. The initiative, also known as the New Millennium Plan, emphasizes participation and investment attraction, focusing on key priority sectors such as new technologies, information and communication technology, and security enhancement.

At the level of major projects sought at fulfilling regional integration and connectivity, Algeria has made important strides. Examples include the Trans-Saharan Highway project (Algeria–Lagos, Niger), accompanied by the gas pipeline project from Nigeria to Europe via Algeria and Niger. Furthermore, Algeria has completed its section of the fiber optic network linking Niger to Abuja.

Moreover, Algeria continuously endeavours to attract foreign investments and establish partnerships with multiple countries in support of sustainable national development programs in all their dimensions. In this context, notable examples include the Africa Investment and Business Forum, which Algeria hosted on December 3–5, 2016.

Furthermore, Algeria played a crucial role in the historic OPEC agreement reached on December 28, 2016, during a meeting held in Algiers. The agreement included production cuts aimed at restoring balance to the oil market, in coordination with oil-producing countries outside of OPEC.

Algeria's Economic Role in the African Depth:

The enhancement in Algeria's economic performance at the beginning of the new millennium had positive impacts on its African neighbors, reflected in several forms of financial aid offered by Algeria to African countries. In 2013, Algeria wrote off the debts of 14 African nations, mostly in the Sahel region, totaling \$902 million. Moreover, in 2011, Algeria granted \$10 million to Mali and, through its national oil exploration company, Sonatrach, began investing in northern Mali as early as 2007.

Algeria also extended economic support to Tunisia, offering a \$50 million grant following the country's political shift in 2014. Moreover, it deposited \$100 million in 2014, followed by another \$100 million in 2015, and an additional \$150 million in 2020.

According to official figures, trade between Algeria and African countries in 2019 amounted to only \$2.3 billion, with exports accounting for \$1.2 billion. Meanwhile, Algeria's total imports reached \$34.1 billion, based on data from the Algerian Ministry of Commerce. These figures emphasize the need for further efforts to consolidate and expand economic cooperation, ensuring greater added value for all parties involved.

One of the most recent initiatives sought at reinforcing Algeria's

economic role in Africa was announced by President Abdelmadjid Tebboune in a speech delivered on his behalf by Prime Minister Aymen Ben Abderrahmane on February 19, 2023, during the 36th African Union Summit of Heads of State and Government. The announcement included a \$1 billion investment in the Algerian Agency for International Cooperation for Solidarity and Development, designated to fund development projects in African countries. This move reflects a new strategic approach by the Algerian leadership to promote its engagement with Africa, a continent that is one of the richest in natural and human resources, yet among the poorest in terms of development and healthcare.

New and contemporary projects toward Africa:

This initiative aligns with the new vision of the Algerian leadership regarding Algeria's role in Africa. In February 2020, during his visit to Addis Ababa, President Abdelmadjid Tebboune announced the establishment of the Algerian Agency for International Cooperation for Solidarity and Development (ALDEC), with a strong focus on Africa. Tebboune stated that its primary mission would be to promote aid, assistance, and solidarity with neighboring countries, especially those in the Sahel region.

Algeria has allocated 300 billion Algerian dinars (approximately \$2.6 billion USD) from the state budget for the Trans-Saharan Highway project. The country seeks to transform this initiative into an "economic corridor," serving as a key instrument for regional integration and intra-African trade development. The Trans-Saharan Highway, linking Algeria to Lagos, Nigeria, is expected to be completed by June. Algeria sees this project as a gateway to African markets, particularly since it links over 700 million people across the countries along its route.

Furthermore, Algeria aims to collaborate with African leaders to develop a shared vision for managing competition over the continent's resources, following a "win-win" approach. Fulfilling this goal necessitates political systems committed to change, prioritizing the development, prosperity, and advancement of their nations and societies.

Modern approach of Algeria's economic diplomacy toward Africa:

As part of its economic-driven foreign policy approach, Algeria has undertaken several reform measures at various levels. These reforms align with its strategic vision and seek to promote mutual interests between Algeria and African nations. The key measures include:

- Establishment of sub-directorates at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- Algeria's cancellation of debts for some African countries.
- The role of Algerian economic diplomacy towards Africa is evident through the following:
 1. Diversifying partnerships by reducing dependence on Europe and shifting focus toward Africa.
 2. Balancing security cooperation with economic collaboration to create a more comprehensive engagement strategy.
 3. Limiting foreign influence in the region in favor of intra-African cooperation under the African Union framework.
 4. Offering technical and technological assistance to African nations.
 5. Breaking Africa's isolation by constructing trans-Saharan highways, promoting connectivity between African countries.

Challenges and Stakes:

Among Algeria's key aspirations for integrating into the African economic space are road construction, infrastructure development, and the expansion of railway networks. A major project in this regard is the Trans-Saharan Highway, complemented by efforts to improve transportation networks, including rail, air, and maritime routes. Another important initiative is the establishment of the Algerian Agency for International Cooperation, announced by President Abdelmadjid Tebboune during the 36th African Union Summit on February 19, 2023. The agency has been allocated \$1 billion to support solidarity and development efforts by financing projects across the continent.

Algeria also strives to expand air and maritime transport networks to foster economic cooperation and facilitate the movement of people, goods, and services across Africa. In line with this objective, Algeria is working toward establishing free trade zones with neighboring countries such as Tunisia, Mali, and Mauritania.

With these new economic directions, Algeria aims to build a sustainable national economy, positioning itself as an economic hub in Africa. This will be fulfilled through infrastructure development, including expanding road networks, enhancing land and maritime transport, establishing dry ports, and creating free trade zones with neighboring countries. Moreover, Algeria seeks to foster its presence in African markets. Given this context, Algeria must improve its economic diplomacy toward Africa, especially as the continent has become a focal point of competition among major powers, including France, the United States, and China.

Given its strategic location—with a 1,200 km Mediterranean coastline facing Europe—Algeria serves as a gateway to the European market. This makes economic diplomacy a significant element of its long-term strategy, exemplified by projects such as the Port of El Hamdania, which will be integrated into China's Belt and Road Initiative. Furthermore, Algeria's southern borders connect it to the African interior, positioning it as the northern gateway to Africa and the continent's largest country. Algeria has also revived the African Unity Road project, which extends from Algeria to the Gulf of Guinea via Niger and Nigeria.

To reinforce its economic influence, Algeria has launched various large-scale projects, including the Trans-Saharan Highway, which facilitates trade between North and Sub-Saharan Africa; the Trans-Saharan Optical Fiber Network, which improves digital connectivity; the Trans-Saharan Gas Pipeline, which transports Nigerian gas to Europe via Algeria; and the Tindouf-Mauritania Road, which connects Algeria to West Africa. Furthermore, Algeria possesses abundant natural resources, including hydrocarbons, precious minerals, and mining reserves, positioning itself as a key player in the African economic landscape.

Despite Algeria's steady economic progress in Africa, trade volumes with African countries remain relatively low, and economic relations with the continent are still limited. This requires a pragmatic approach to fostering Algeria's position in Africa while navigating complex regional and continental challenges. To fulfill this, Algeria must adopt a strategic and rational approach that prioritizes national interests and capitalizes on

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opportunities to promote its role in Africa. Key measures include:

- Algeria's strategic position in Africa allows it to serve as a diplomatic hub, playing a pioneering role on the continent. This includes fostering soft power tools in Africa, such as offering healthcare and educational services, as well as easing and canceling debts for certain African countries.
- Adopting a doctrine where any foreign engagement is driven by economic objectives, leveraging bilateral partnerships to promote Algeria's economic role—such as the Algerian-Turkish partnership—and capitalizing on the growth of economic ties with Turkey and its rising influence in the continent.
- Exploring membership in regional African organizations and revitalizing Algeria's diplomatic missions across the continent.
- Establishing competitive standards to promote the success of Algerian products in African markets and encouraging business leaders to engage in trade with African countries.
- Expanding communication channels by setting up agencies operating in Africa, promoting Algerian products, and increasing air transport links between Algeria and the continent.

Conclusion

Algeria's economic diplomacy toward Africa is a fundamental pillar of its strategy to foster continental economic integration, leveraging its historical and geographical ties with African nations. Through investments in key sectors, the activation of trade agreements, and participation in regional initiatives, Algeria strives to expand its economic influence and strengthen its presence in African markets—advancing its national interests while contributing to shared development.

Despite notable progress, Algeria's economic diplomacy faces various challenges, including increasing competition from global economic powers and the need to adapt policies to evolving global economic dynamics. Therefore, fostering economic cooperation mechanisms, stimulating the private sector, and capitalizing on opportunities within the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) are necessary to reinforcing Algeria's role on the continent.

In this regard, fulfilling sustainable economic breakthroughs depends on Algeria's ability to effectively deploy its economic diplomacy tools to protect its interests and establish itself as a key player in Africa. Adopting a proactive and strategic approach, one that balances economic cooperation with targeted investments will promote Algeria's economic footprint and enhance the creation of mutually beneficial partnerships, driving sustainable development at both the national and continental levels.

Suggestions and Recommendations

In the era of globalization and economic interdependence, economic diplomacy is an imperative. To bolster its position, Algeria should:

- Prioritize its economic presence in Africa, competing strategically with major global economies.
- Enhance equitable economic partnerships that foster mutual growth rather than deepening dependency.
- Promote its diplomatic missions to attract foreign investment and foster Algeria's appeal as an investment destination.
- Foster economic cooperation within the African Union (AU) to facilitate regional economic integration.
- Leverage Africa's comparative advantages to expand its footprint in regional markets and promote trade relations.
- Redefine national security with a comprehensive approach, prioritizing food and economic security as key pillars for stability and countering extremism in Africa.
- Position Algeria as a pioneering player in Africa's economic transformation by establishing a robust economic framework capable of negotiating effectively with global economic blocs.

Globalization has reshaped economic interests, making it necessary for Algeria to deepen its African economic engagements for two key reasons:

1. Africa's economic vulnerability has turned the continent into a battleground for uneven economic competition, significantly impacting development and stability. This has led to regional security threats that impact both Africa as a whole and Algeria specifically, requiring a development-driven approach to alleviate poverty and marginalization.

2. Diversifying Algeria's exports and imports by expanding trade networks in Africa is essential for national economic growth, with priority given to African nations for investment and infrastructure projects.

By leveraging these opportunities, Algeria can play a crucial role in Africa's economic revival, ensuring its long-term economic and strategic interests on the continent.

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