



OVIDA AFRIDO

Observatoire de la vie Diplomatique en Afrique
African Diplomacy Observatory

AFRICAN DIPLOMACY OBSERVATORY (AFRIDO)

Information Monitoring | Analysis & Studies | Debate



*Striving for an effective and efficient participation of Africa
to international decision making processes*

October 2011



The international arena is currently shaped by significant mutations: political, security, economic, financial, cultural, social and technological. Actors evolving within that framework consequently face complex challenges. That situation requires from them, particularly from African States a permanent vigilance, sound and without concession analysis and an understanding of global logics, and of their interests.

It is within that framework that the *Observatoire de la Vie Diplomatique en Afrique (OVIDA)/African Diplomacy Observatory (AFRIDO)*, a Swiss-based not-for-profit association operating within and from the “*International Geneva*”, was formally constituted in September 2010. The *Observatory* is set as an organisation devoted to information monitoring, analysis, studies, as well as to the promotion of debate. It thus constitutes a unique platform and gateway to international affairs, through the African diplomatic practice lens.

MISSION

The *Observatory* aims, by providing a basis of facts, analysis, and promoting debate, to contribute to a better visibility and understanding of dynamics shaping African diplomatic action; with the ultimate view of allowing an effective and efficient participation of Africa in international affairs.

OBJECTIVES

The *Observatory* pursuit the following objectives:

- ◆ Monitoring & relay information on African diplomacy;
- ◆ Highlight challenges & dynamics shaping international relations & African affairs;
- ◆ Mobilise an expertise in analyzing & understanding issues relating to African diplomacy.



AREAS OF INTEREST

The *Observatory* addresses the African diplomatic practice and conducts its activities in the four following area:

- **Peace, Defence & Security:** Crisis, conflicts and other factors of political instability still represent some of the main impediments to Africa development. The *Observatory* therefore aims to monitor conflict prevention, peacemaking, mediation and conflict resolution efforts as they try to pave the way for sustainable peace and development throughout Africa. Issues shaping and challenges underlying conflictuality in Africa, as well as military and security cooperation, particularly efforts and assistance in building African peacemaking capacities and setting up the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) are monitored and analyzed;
- **Economy & Commerce:** The search for economic and commercial opportunities, as a mean for contributing to economic and social development of African countries, as well as Africa effective and successful involvement in international efforts to liberalize trade are of vital important for the continent. In that regard, the *Observatory* work in these areas builds on its advantageous position in the heart of the “*International Geneva*”, where key organizations such as the World Trade Organization (WTO), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and International Trade Center (ITC) have their headquarters;
- **Human Rights:** Issues and challenges relating to the promotion and protection of fundamental rights and freedoms remain of relevance in Africa. Moreover, human rights have increasingly became a key issue in the international agenda, and therefore one of the fields around which international and African contemporary diplomacy practice develop. The presence of the UN Human Rights Council and of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in the “*International Geneva*” therefore provides the *Observatory* with a privileged access to the dialogue between key players of the “Human Rights Diplomacy”.
- **Environment:** Environmental issues, including in terms of economic and social development and international peace and security maintenance, benefit from an increasingly attention in international affairs. They are even more vital for Africa, the part of the world that is most vulnerable, also because less well equipped, to deal with the consequences of climate change and other environment challenges. In that regard, the *Observatory* also benefits from the presence in Geneva of Secretariats of some multilateral environmental agreements on some issues of interest for Africa (transboundary movements of hazardous waste, disasters management or international trade of endangered species).



THE *OBSERVATORY* OFFERS A SET OF PRODUCTS & SERVICES...

... targeting actors of diplomacy (governmental and intergovernmental), from the media (generalist and specialized medias on Africa), academia (*think tank*, research centers, scholar and students), NGO, the private sector and any passionate of African affairs.

A WEB PORTAL (www.ovida-afrido.org)...

... serving as a communication instrument on and for the *Observatory* monitoring, analysis and studies activities. The portal will also host some resources to be developed on international affairs: lexicons and glossaries, chronologies, bibliographies, lists of websites, *who's who*.



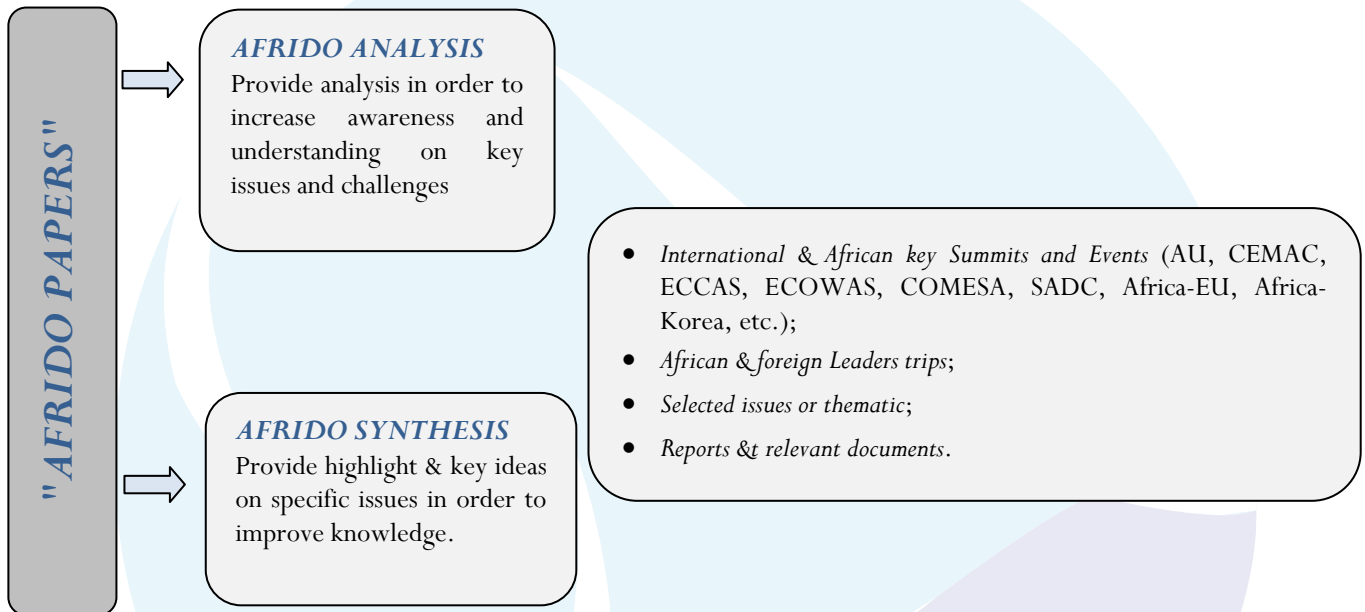
STUDIES...

... that *Observatory* plans to initiate on its own or in response to tenders within its areas of expertise and carry on, if possible, in cooperation with other academic institutions, intergovernmental or nongovernmental organizations.



“AFRIDO PAPERS”...

... illustrating the *Observatory* willingness to offer synthesis and analysis on challenges and issues relating to African diplomatic practice.





AFRIDO MONITOR...

... that illustrate the systematic and ongoing monitoring work the *Observatory* conducts on African diplomatic activity, issues and challenges in the following areas: **Peace, Defence & Security** (weekly); **Economy & Commerce** (bimonthly); **Human Rights** (monthly); and **Environment** (monthly); allowing to keep up with and get a sound sense of key the evolution and transformations of some dynamics and therefore being able to anticipate possible changes.

PEACE, DEFENCE & SECURITY ISSUES

LETTRE-MENSUELLE DE L'OBSERVATOIRE DE LA VIE DIPLOMATIQUE EN AFRIQUE (OVIDA)
SPÉCIAL: LUNDI 23 FÉVRIER 2015 (N° 2015-01)

LA DIPLOMATIE AFRICAINE A L'ÉPREUVE DE LA CRISE LIBYENNE

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Quelle note et pourquoi pour l'UA sur la crise libyenne?

Il est intéressant que nous voyions, à la fois, une note négative et une note positive. Cela signifie que l'UA a fait un travail de médiation et de dialogue, mais qu'elle n'a pas réussi à résoudre la crise libyenne.

HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES

LETTRE-MENSUELLE DE L'OBSERVATOIRE DE LA VIE DIPLOMATIQUE EN AFRIQUE (OVIDA)
SPÉCIAL: MARDI 24 FÉVRIER 2015

SESSION EXTRAORDINAIRE DE LA COMMISSION AFRICAINE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME ET DES PEUPLES

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Aux côtés de chaque mois l'Observatoire de la Vie Diplomatique en Afrique propose un dossier thématique de la vie diplomatique en Afrique.

ECONOMY & COMMERCE ISSUES

LETTRE-MENSUELLE DE L'OBSERVATOIRE DE LA VIE DIPLOMATIQUE EN AFRIQUE (OVIDA)
SPÉCIAL: LUNDI 23 FÉVRIER 2015 (N° 2015-01)

ANALYSE - CATASTROPHE DE FUKUSHIMA: QUEL IMPACT POUR LES RELATIONS NIPPO-AFRICAINES?

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Une fois de plus, l'Observatoire de la Vie Diplomatique en Afrique propose un dossier thématique de la vie diplomatique en Afrique.

PUBLIC EVENTS...

... the *Observatory* intends to organize in order to promote debate on issues and challenges Africa and African countries are facing in the context of their diplomatic action.

AFRIDO EVENTS

- ANNUAL FORUM**
Offers opportunity for retrospective as well as for some prospective on relevant issues relating to African diplomatic action
- CONFERENCES**
• Interventions by personalities on specific topics;
• Presentation of a study;
• Debate on a specific or topical issue.
- AUDIENCE**
 - Geneva Diplomatic community;
 - NGOs and think tanks;
 - Academia;
 - Private sector;
 - Media.



THE OBSERVATORY AT A GLANCE

The *Observatory* aims, by providing a basis of facts, analysis, and promoting debate, to contribute to a better visibility and understanding of dynamics shaping African diplomatic action; with the ultimate view of allowing an effective and efficient participation of Africa in international affairs.

OBJECTIVES

Monitoring & relay information on African diplomacy

Highlight challenges & dynamics shaping international relations & African affairs

Mobilise an expertise in analyzing & understanding issues relating to African diplomacy

ACTIVITIES

Information monitoring

Systematic & ongoing monitoring of information & news on key issues & challenges to African diplomatic action

Studies & Analysis

Synthesis, analysis & studies on key issues & challenges to African diplomatic action

Promotion of debate

Public events aim to increase the visibility on Africa agenda and issues & challenges to African diplomatic involvement in international affairs

PRODUCTS & SERVICES

AFRIDO Monitor

Peace, Defence & Security Issues
Economy & Commerce Issues
Human Rights Issues
Environment Issues

"AFRIDO Papers"

AFRIDO Analysis
AFRIDO Synthesis

AFRIDO Studies

AFRIDO Events

CONTACT

Tel.: +41(0)78.683.23.58/+41(0)76.580.98.42

E-mail: info@ovida-afrido.org

Web Portal: www.ovida-afrido.org/fr

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/ovida.page

Twitter Account: www.twitter.com/africa_diplo