

“The African voice in the nations’ concert : diplomatic capacities and self-assertion”

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Which strategy and which collective conscience can Africa stand out for today in front of the big international issues involving its interests?

Since the independence of the 60s, Africa had understood that diplomacy should permit it to assert itself in the nations’ concert and negotiate the scarce resources to begin the construction of its development sites left by the colonial powers. It was the perspective of Haile Selassie’s wish, granted by his peers in 1963 to set the Organisation of the African Unity, so as to talk with the same voice. Even if the OAU (now AU) was often ridiculed and called commercial transactions office without effective powers, the secretary General of the UNO praised it for its capacity to get the Africans together, during the 39th anniversary of the organization.

Africa modified the panorama and the content of the United Nations five decades ago. From the summit of the ‘nonaligned’ countries in Bandoung to the earth summit of December 2009, Africa was able to make its voice heard. By discussing as well in the big playground as in the older children’s playground with the USA, the European Union, China, Japan, the ACP group among others even if in this field the ‘big’ eat the ‘small’.

In the settlement of regional conflicts, even though the solutions have not always been obvious, Africa takes more and more responsibility in terms of ‘African initiatives’.

This visibility of the continent at the international level is the evidence that of an undertaking Africa through its diplomacy and its cooperation. What are the African capacities in terms of negotiations in the international relations?

Our communication will deal with the African gains in the field of diplomacy and international relations. Gone from an African exception of Nation-state, has not less founded and carried its voice on hot issues of the humanity. On some of these issues, the participation of Africa has often been conclusive. Moreover, many development programmes would never have been implemented without successful negotiations in the world. We highlight this in the first part, and underline in the second part the necessity of harmonizing the individual political visions and at last call for the capacity reinforcement in collective negotiation.

What are the action synergies of Africa? What are the situations in which the African countries agreed to talk with the same voice whether in the regional organizations or the sub-regional CER.

What are the advantages and the lessons drawn?