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Editorial

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Marcel Kitissou

Dear friends and readers,

From the liberation struggles in Africa, digital diplomacy in Kenya-South Africa relationships, the management of geopolitical stability between Malawi and Mozambique, to the transformation of foreign policy after the 2020 constitution in Algeria, Africa is becoming more assertive in international and intra-continental affairs in face of a rapidly changing global environment. Last summer, the French President recognized Western Sahara as part of Morocco. The newly reelected President of Algeria cancelled his long-expected visit to Paris. The re-election of Donald Trump as President of the United States will affect world affairs including US policy vis-à-vis Africa. The aftermath of the climate change conference in Baku, Azerbaijan (November 2024), one hopes, will somehow help Africa mitigate the negative effects of climate change. In all cases, it is important that, through improvements in domestic and intercontinental affairs, Africa prepare to assume its role in the future because Africa is the future of the world. Its population is 1.5 billion. It is a “treasure island” in terms of natural resources. It holds 30% of the world’s critical mineral reserves. The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) alone holds 70% of the world cobalt (of which Chinese companies control 80%) used in batteries that power cell phone, computers, and electric vehicles. The richest mineral country in the world, DRC has an untapped mineral reserve worth more than \$24 trillion. Add the critical minerals of South Africa, Gabon, Zambia, Zimbabwe,

Mozambique, and Guinea, and you understand that the new “Scramble for Africa” is more than about Africa. As stated in *The Epoch Times* (October 23-29, 2024), it is a competition for the future of the world. These minerals play a critical role in precision weapons, in the transition to electric vehicles, and alternative energy solutions. I hope you will enjoy reading this issue of the *Journal of African Foreign Affairs*.

Marcel Kitissou

Editor