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21st Century Landscape Sustainability, Development and Transformations: Geographical Perceptions

Giovanni Messina, Bresena Kopliku (Eds)

14. The African geopolitical landscape: between demography and development

Giuseppe Terranova¹

Abstract

Alarmist predictions of an exponential increase in Africa's population to 4 billion by 2100 are not borne out by the statistical data available to the international scientific community. In 1972, the Club of Rome, a non-governmental scientific association, published its report *The Limits to Growth*. It was based on a Malthusian approach and warned of the serious risk that high levels of consumption caused by population growth, particularly in Africa, would lead to economic collapse. Now the Club of Rome has revised this prediction and announced that the demographic bomb may never explode, at least not in the catastrophic way predicted by various international bodies and experts. It is estimated that the population of sub-Saharan Africa could peak as early as 2060. This is 40 years earlier than predicted by the UN. Africa's population growth is still high, but Africa's fertility rate is falling faster than expected, following a dynamic seen in East Asian countries in the recent past as a result of economic development in recent years. The aim of this paper is to analyse the unexpected evolution of Africa's demographic development from a geopolitical perspective. And whether and in what way

¹ Department DEIM, University of Tuscia, giuseppe.terranova@unitus.it



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it is a sign of economic development, which, although uneven, may favour a more widespread level of prosperity, historically associated with a decline in fertility. It is a scenario that would be a game-changer for Africa's geopolitical landscape.

Keywords: *Africa, demography, development, geopolitics, Malthus.*



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