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**Assemblée générale  
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**L'Afrique et les défis du XXIème siècle  
Africa and the Challenges of the Twenty First Century  
A África e os desafios do Século XXI**

**إفريقيا وتحديات القرن الواحد والعشرين**

**A Global Model of Very Long Term Economic Development**

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## **Abstract**

The model seeks to identify the very long term determinants of human economic progress based on the characteristics of Earth's geo-climatic bands, variations in the availability of natural resources and a learning process that translates into technological production functions specific to each society. The theoretical link between the variability in the availability of a society's natural resources and its long term learning opportunities and improvement in its productive capacity is examined for the specific cases of autarkic and outward societies. The model also establishes a link with theories of Nature, and proposes a behavioral equation that is consistent with Darwin's Theory of Natural Evolution. The implications on regional integration and on the direction of human migration are also discussed.

The model provides the basis for a new paradigm of economic analysis and seeks to revisit the foundations of economic and social analysis as well as the motives for inter-country collaboration or integration. It provides a departure from the usual economic analysis that is grounded solely in short term considerations without due regard to the long term factors that drive human economic activity and their resulting socio-political consequences. The very long term scope of the model makes it possible to establish its foundations not on the often postulated behavioural characteristics of Western preferences, but rather on the more universal regularities that are constant in Nature. In this sense the proposed model aims to be more universal than the currently prevailing neo-classical theory of economic development.