



The Rebirth: Tunisia's potential development pathways to 2040

Purpose and scope

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This report presents an integrated analysis of Tunisia's likely future development trajectory (or Current Path) to 2040, using the International Futures (IFs) forecasting platform. The analysis is then complemented by presenting the impact of three policy orientations that prioritise growth, sustainability and equality, and leapfrogging, respectively. The three pathways frame the choices for resource allocation and accompanying trade-offs that need to be made for the future. Underpinning all three scenarios is the need to reform governance. All monetary values in this report have been converted from 2011 US\$, used by IFs, into 2019 euro values, unless indicated otherwise.

Chart 1: Comparison groups

To create comparisons across countries and regions, we use the World Bank's classification of economies into low-income, lower middle-income, upper middle-income and high-income groups for the 2020 fiscal year. [1]

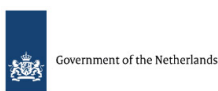
The World Bank classifies Tunisia as one of 21 lower middle-income economies in Africa. The other lower middle-income countries in North Africa are Egypt, Mauritania and Morocco. However, Tunisia straddles various identities that complicate income-based comparisons. It is part of both the African region and the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, and shares many characteristics with both. For this reason we tend to use the global lower middle-income group of countries for comparative purposes in addition to regions such as sub-Saharan Africa, where appropriate.

When Tunisia is compared with country groups, it is excluded from that group to maintain the accuracy of the comparison, hence the use of 'other' (e.g. 'other lower middle-income' or OLMICs). When using the upper middle-income group of countries (UMICs), we exclude China, as its large population and economy tends to skew comparisons with other income groups.

Endnotes

1. See World Bank, [New country classifications by income level: 2019–2020](#), 1 July 2019, Because the IFs system does not calculate gross national income (GNI), we use GDP per capita in purchasing power parity as a proxy.

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About the authors

Dr Jakkie Cilliers is the ISS's founder and former executive director of the ISS. He currently serves as chair of the ISS Board of Trustees and head of the African Futures and Innovation (AFI) programme at the Pretoria office of the ISS. His 2017 best-seller *Fate of the Nation* addresses South Africa's futures from political, economic and social perspectives. His three most recent books, *Africa First! Igniting a Growth Revolution* (March 2020), *The Future of Africa: Challenges and Opportunities* (April 2021), and *Africa Tomorrow: Pathways to Prosperity* (June 2022) take a rigorous look at the continent as a whole.

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