



## ROBERT DOSSOU

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Mr. Alain Antil will make the background introduction. As for myself, I would like to say this. Since the African countries declared their independence, their successive governments have been in charge of building States that did not exist, because their boundaries were arbitrarily drawn up at the Berlin Conference.

So, the first need was to build a nation-state and then the new societies' socio-economic foundations. Sixty years on, has the mission been accomplished? What are the challenges? Nothing is out of bounds. Everyone comes with his or her own concerns and we will try to identify the issue in the observation, and the issue in perspective.

I would like to draw your attention to the fact that the proportion of young people in all our countries has skyrocketed. I was reading recently that there is a mass of young people there, and things are simmering a little. The author concluded that a volcano is waiting to erupt. We have had signs of this in recent years.

I think that this is the perspective in which we can try to see all the issues that will be brought up.