



ML Strategies Update

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AFRICA UPDATE

Leading the News

U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit

On January 21st, the White House announced plans to host the first U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit in Washington, DC, on August 5th and 6th. The Summit will build on the progress made since the President's trip to Africa in summer 2013 and will focus on increasing trade and investment in Africa, as well as enhancing the U.S. commitment to Africa's security and democratic development. Invitees will include African leaders in good standing with the U.S. and nations that are not currently suspended by the African Union (AU). At the moment, seven African nations will be excluded from the Summit, including Egypt, the Central African Republic (CAR), Madagascar, and Guinea-Bissau, which have been suspended from the AU, and Eritrea, Sudan, and Zimbabwe, countries that are subject to U.S. or United Nations (U.N.) sanctions. A press release issued by the White House can be accessed [here](#).

On January 22nd, Egyptian Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Badr Abdelatty confirmed that Egypt was not invited to participate in the recently announced U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit planned for this summer. Spokesperson Abdelatty said the U.S. decision to exclude Egypt from the Summit was wrong and shortsighted. Feedback from Spokesperson Abdelatty can be seen [here](#).

On January 22nd, following the White House's announcement of the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit, State Department Deputy Spokesperson Marie Harf answered questions regarding the White House's decision not to invite Egypt. She said Egypt was not invited because the country's AU membership has been suspended. Comments from Deputy Spokesperson Harf can be viewed [here](#).

On January 23rd, George Charamba, a spokesperson for Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe commented on the White House's decision not to invite President Mugabe to participate in the newly announced U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit. Spokesperson Charamba said Zimbabwe is not bothered by the lack of an invitation, expressing President Mugabe's belief that the world is larger than America. In

addition, he said it would be cynical for an American president presiding over sanctions on Zimbabwe to invite President Mugabe to the White House. Comments from President Mugabe's spokesperson are available [here](#).

On January 23rd, Madagascar's President-elect Hery Rajaonarimampianina said he hopes to attend the AU summit to be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia next week and to ultimately be invited to participate in the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit in August. Madagascar was suspended from the AU after former President Marc Ravalomanana was removed from office by a military coup in 2009. Details can be found [here](#).

On January 23rd, the U.S. Embassy in Kenya encouraged Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta's participation in the recently announced U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit planned for this summer. Despite facing International Criminal Court (ICC) charges, it was announced that President Kenyatta plans to participate in the upcoming Summit. U.S. Ambassador to Kenya Robert Godec said the Summit will enhance Africa's relationship with the U.S., and specifically U.S.-Kenya relations. Comments from Ambassador Godec were posted [here](#).

South Sudan

On January 17th, the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) unveiled plans to build new and expand upon existing refugee camps to address a surge in civilians continuing to flee South Sudan. New facilities will be made available to South Sudanese refugees in Uganda, Ethiopia, and Kenya. Since fighting broke out in December, 45,579 South Sudanese refugees have arrived in Uganda, 20,624 in Ethiopia, and 8,900 in Kenya. More information was shared [here](#).

On January 17th, U.N. Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights Ivan Simonovic concluded a four-day visit to South Sudan, where he traveled to Juba, Bentiu, and Bor. During his travel, Assistant Secretary-General Simonovic met with Government officials, anti-Government forces, armed groups, U.N. officials, the diplomatic community, civil society actors, and community leaders. He expressed concern that South Sudan is on the brink of full blown internal armed conflict. Assistant Secretary-General Simonovic's travel was detailed [here](#).

On January 18th, South Sudanese military officials announced that government forces had recaptured control of Bor from rebels. Bor, the capital city of Jonglei state, has changed hands several times over the past month as fighting between government and rebel forces draws on. Ugandan military officials also confirmed the retaking of Bor, while a spokesperson from rebel forces denied the characterization of the incident, describing the rebels' retreat as a tactical withdrawal. Various accounts of the fighting in Bor are available [here](#).

On January 18th, Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) peace talks between representatives of the South Sudanese Government and representatives of Rebel leader Riek Machar had to be moved temporarily from conference facilities in the Sheraton Hotel in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to a disco located in the basement of the hotel due to the official visit of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. Opponents remained deadlocked in negotiations and the subsequent meeting lasted only 30 minutes. Details were reported [here](#).

On January 18th, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Administrator Rajiv Shah issued a statement on developments in South Sudan. Administrator Shah condemned recent attacks targeting U.N. Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) personnel and humanitarian workers and called on all parties to permit immediate and unconditional access for U.N. and humanitarian organizations to all parts of South Sudan. The full statement can be found [here](#).

On January 19th, following reports that members of the South Sudanese military threatened U.N. personnel who refused to allow the Army to forcibly enter the U.N. compound in Bor, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon issued a statement voicing alarm regarding the incident. The U.N. base in Bor is one of several facilities providing protection to civilians displaced by the conflict in South Sudan. Secretary-General Ban's statement was issued [here](#).

On January 20th, UNMISS reported heavy fighting between Government and rebel forces near the

U.N. base in Malakal, South Sudan. The fighting injured at least 32 civilians and two U.N. contractors seeking refuge at the U.N. base. UNMISS reported that the base hospital was also considerably damaged in the recent fighting. The incident at the U.N. base in Malakal was reported [here](#).

On January 21st, an emergency regional summit planned to be held under the auspices of the IGAD in Juba, South Sudan on January 23rd was canceled. The summit was scheduled as IGAD talks in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, between troops loyal to South Sudanese President Salva Kiir and former Vice President Riek Machar remained deadlocked. The cancellation of the summit was announced [here](#).

On January 21st, the first of two planes chartered by the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) arrived in Juba carrying supplies for women and children affected by continuing violence in South Sudan. Among the supplies delivered were treatments for malaria, pneumonia, diarrhea, and malnutrition, vitamins, antibiotics, and painkillers, midwifery and obstetric surgery kits, and tents and blankets. A second plane was due to arrive on Thursday to deliver additional medical supplies, water, and sanitation equipment. Details are available [here](#).

On January 22nd, State Department Deputy Spokesperson Marie Harf provided an update on U.S. diplomatic efforts aimed at resolving the crisis in South Sudan. Deputy Spokesperson Harf confirmed that IGAD meetings scheduled for this week have been postponed, but noted that IGAD's heads of state will meet next week on the margins of the AU Summit in Ethiopia to discuss next steps and to keep up pressure on both parties to resolve the conflict. Comments from Deputy Spokesperson Harf were transcribed [here](#).

On January 23rd, the Government of South Sudan and rebels loyal to former Vice President Riek Machar signed a ceasefire agreement in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. While both parties agreed to lay down their arms, there was also acknowledgement that the cessation of hostilities is a temporary measure as negotiations continue on a longer term peace agreement. Breaking news on the ceasefire agreement can be seen [here](#).

On January 23rd, White House Press Secretary Jay Carney welcomed the agreement on the cessation of hostilities in South Sudan, calling it a first critical step in ending the violence and building sustainable peace. Press Secretary Carney urged the South Sudanese Government and rebel opponents to quickly implement the agreement and move towards inclusive dialogue on a more formal peace deal. Press Secretary Carney's comments were noted [here](#).

On January 23rd, the State Department issued a press statement welcoming the signing of a cessation of hostilities between the Government of South Sudan and opposition forces. The State Department congratulated the IGAD mediation team for achieving this first step towards resolving the conflict in South Sudan and alluded to a longer process focused on resolving the underlying causes of conflict, fostering reconciliation, and holding accountable those responsible for abuses against the South Sudanese people. The statement was issued [here](#).

Central African Republic

On January 16th, Director of the Operational Division at the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) John Ging announced the U.N. appeal for \$247 million to fund humanitarian operations in the CAR is only 6% funded. Following a recent visit to the CAR, Director Ging warned that 900,000 people in the country lack access to food, water, medical care, and shelter. More information can be viewed [here](#).

On January 17th, UNICEF observed more than 6,000 child soldiers may now be involved in the enduring conflict in the CAR. UNICEF reported that children are being recruited by all sides to participate in the fighting. UNICEF also expressed concern that children are especially vulnerable to recruitment due to poverty, despair, and the desire for revenge. Observations from UNICEF are available [here](#).

On January 19th, two Muslim men were lynched in Bangui by a Christian mob and their bodies were dragged through the streets and burnt in a public square. The incident follows another instance of sectarian violence on Friday in which a Christian mob armed with machetes and clubs killed 22

people in an attack on a convoy of Muslims trying to flee the violence. Both incidents were reported [here](#).

On January 19th, two U.S. Air Force C-17 Globemaster III aircraft airlifted a Rwandan mechanized battalion to the CAR to support French and AU operations in the country. The operation, which was staged out of Entebbe, Uganda, transported 850 soldiers and more than 1,000 tons of equipment from Kigali to Bangui. Details on the operation can be found [here](#).

On January 20th, lawmakers in the CAR selected Catherine Samba-Panza, mayor of Bangui, to serve as interim President. As citizens in Bangui celebrated President Samba-Panza's new leadership role, President Samba-Panza called on Muslim rebels and Christian militias to lay down their weapons. Comments from President Samba-Panza were transcribed [here](#).

On January 20th, U.N. officials called new attention to the humanitarian crisis in the CAR. On behalf of U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Acting Director-General of the U.N. Office in Geneva Michael Moller cautioned a special session of the U.N. Human Rights Council that the CAR is in freefall and urged funding contributions to support the implementation of an emergency intervention plan. The Human Rights Council concluded its meeting condemning all violence and human rights violations in the CAR and urging all parties to protect civilians and allow for access to humanitarian aid. Highlights from the meeting were noted [here](#).

On January 20th, at the conclusion of a two-day visit to the CAR, USAID Assistant Administrator for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance Nancy Lindborg announced nearly \$30 million in additional U.S. humanitarian assistance for the CAR. The new funding will be used to provide food, medical care, and relief supplies to internally displaced persons in the CAR and to refugees in neighboring countries. The new humanitarian aid was announced [here](#).

On January 21st, Secretary of State John Kerry issued a press statement welcoming the CAR's National Transition Council's (CNT) selection of Catherine Samba-Panza to serve as transitional President. President Samba-Panza will serve as the CAR's first woman head of state since the country gained its independence. Secretary Kerry said the U.S. hopes to work with President Samba-Panza to advance the CAR's political transition process and to avoid any resurgence in violence. The full statement can be seen [here](#).

On January 22nd, U.N. Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict Leila Zerrougui briefed the U.N. Security Council on violence against children in the CAR. Special Representative Zerrougui warned that the international response must be ramped up as brutality against children in the CAR reaches unprecedented levels. Excerpts from the briefing were highlighted [here](#).

On January 22nd, *Stars and Stripes* reported on the challenges faced by U.S. forces in the effort to support African and French forces in the CAR. For example, airlift operations are made difficult by the fact the airfield in Bangui is surrounded by smoke, the radar system on the ground is weak, control tower operators are difficult to communicate with, the tarmac is short, and internally displaced persons are frequently wandering the runway. A full report on conditions for military operations in the CAR can be accessed [here](#).

On January 23rd, interim President Catherine Samba-Panza was officially inaugurated as the CAR's transitional head of state. President Samba-Panza took the oath of office amidst reports of widespread looting and continuing sectarian violence. President Samba-Panza is expected to quickly appoint an interim prime minister and cabinet. A story on the inauguration was shared [here](#).

Egypt

On January 16th, following the end of Egypt's constitutional referendum, the *Associated Press* reported that Egyptian Defense Minister General Abdul Fattah al-Sisi will turn his focus to domestic policies issues, including health care, education, government subsidies, and investment as he plans to run for president. The *Associated Press* article can be read [here](#).

On January 16th, despite Egyptian media reports that the revised constitution had been

overwhelmingly approved, State Department Spokesperson Jen Psaki cautioned the Egyptian government had yet to announce the official results of the referendum. As the U.S. waits for additional feedback from Egyptian and international elections observers Spokesperson Psaki expressed ongoing concern for politically motivated arrests and detentions of peaceful activists, demonstrators, and protestors. Comments from Spokesperson Psaki can be found [here](#).

On January 18th, Secretary of State John Kerry issued a statement on Egypt's constitutional referendum. Secretary Kerry noted the vote is just one step in Egypt's transition and the country's next steps will shape Egypt's political, economic, and social future. He called on the Egyptian Government to implement the rights and freedoms guaranteed by the new constitution and to take steps towards political reconciliation. The full statement is available [here](#).

On January 21st, an Egyptian court scheduled a February 16th trial date for deposed President Mohamed Morsi to stand trial on charges of colluding with foreign militant groups, including Hamas and Hezbollah. President Morsi faces a total of four trials on charges related to incitement to kill demonstrators outside the presidential palace, insulting the judiciary, and other lesser charges. More information was reported [here](#).

On January 23rd, Egypt's Interior Ministry confirmed that five Egyptian police officers were killed by two masked gunmen on motorcycles at a security checkpoint in Egypt's Beni Suef province. Two additional police officers were wounded. No group has claimed responsibility for the attack. The incident was described [here](#).

On January 23rd, the Atlantic Council hosted a briefing entitled, "Getting U.S. Policy Right in Egypt: Where Does Democracy Fit?" Speakers included Michele Dunne of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Amy Hawthorne of the Atlantic Council, and Shibley Telhami of the University of Maryland. Event details were posted [here](#).

United States – Africa Relations

State Department

On January 16th, State Department Spokesperson Jen Psaki condemned the murder of former Rwandan Government official Colonel Patrick Karegeya, whose body was found in a hotel in Johannesburg, South Africa, where he lived in exile. She welcomed the South African Government's prompt and thorough investigation of his death and its pledge to bring those involved to justice. In addition, Spokesperson Psaki expressed concern for what appears to be the succession of politically motivated murders of prominent Rwanda exiles. Spokesperson Psaki's comments were transcribed [here](#).

On January 16th, the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) issued a statement on the implementation of legislation in Nigeria criminalizing same sex marriage and instituting harsh prison sentences for members and supporters of LGBT organizations. HRC President Chad Griffin called on Secretary of State John Kerry to direct a strong and proactive American response to this humanitarian crisis. A letter sent by President Griffin to Secretary Kerry can be downloaded [here](#).

On January 17th, Ambassador-At-Large to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons Luis CdeBaca met with Ambassador of Equatorial Guinea to the U.S. Dr. Reuban Maye Nsue Mangué at the Department of State. The meeting was noticed [here](#).

On January 18th, the State Department issued a press statement on the announcement of the final results of Madagascar's presidential election. The State Department welcomed the election Hery Rajaonarimampianina as Madagascar's new president as an opportunity for Madagascar to make progress on strengthening democratic institutions, improving respect for human rights, combating corruption, and rebuilding its economy. The full statement can be read [here](#).

On January 22nd, Deputy Secretary of State Heather Higginbottom met with Egyptian-American Enterprise Fund Chair James Harmon at the Department of State. The meeting was listed [here](#).

U.S. Agency for International Development

On January 17th, USAID, the American Apparel and Footwear Association (AAFA), and the African Cotton and Textile Industries Federation (ACTIF) entered into a memorandum of understanding to expand trade and investment relations between the U.S. and sub-Saharan Africa in the cotton textile and apparel sectors. The goal of the new initiative is to enhance U.S.-Africa cooperation through the exchange of market and import/export policy information, guidance on requirements and best practices, and discussion of joint solutions to address market restraints. A press release was issued [here](#).

Department of Defense

On January 21st, *Stars and Stripes* reported on the U.S. Navy's approach to combating piracy in West Africa and its distinction from the tactics used to address piracy off the coast of East Africa. Piracy solutions in West Africa are primarily shore-based, with local governments in the lead rather than international navies. While piracy attacks in East Africa occur primarily off the coast of Somalia, in West Africa local government participation is more of a necessity because attacks frequently occur near the territorial borders of multiple countries, including Ivory Coast, Gabon, and Nigeria. The article can be accessed [here](#).

On January 22nd, U.S. Air Forces in Africa provided commentary on the role of Uganda as a key U.S. strategic partner in Africa. Most recently, U.S. Air Force operations to airlift soldiers and supplies to the CAR have been staged out of Entebbe. Additionally, Uganda allowed three CV-22 Ospreys to divert to Entebbe when they were fired upon when attempting to land in Bor to facilitate evacuations from South Sudan. An article on U.S.-Ugandan military cooperation can be read [here](#).

Department of Commerce

On January 22nd, the Department of Commerce announced an energy business development mission to West Africa to be led by Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker from May 18th-23rd. The mission will visit Accra, Ghana, and Lagos and Abuja, Nigeria, with the goal of helping U.S. companies to launch or increase their business in West Africa and to increase U.S. exports. Representatives from the U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA), the Export-Import (Ex-Im) Bank, and the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) will also participate. Details can be found [here](#).

Overseas Private Investment Corporation

On January 22nd, the OPIC Blog featured a post on OPIC Vice President for Structured Finance Michael Whalen's contribution to Project Finance International's 2014 Yearbook on the changing investment climate in sub-Saharan Africa. In particular, Vice President Whalen highlighted the Obama Administration's Power Africa initiative, which he suggested has created momentum for increased electrification of the continent after years of missed opportunities. The full blog post can be read [here](#).

North Africa

On January 20th, *The Guardian* ran an interview with Jehane Kingsley, director of the Egyptian documentary, "The Square." The documentary, which chronicles the past three years of political revolution in Egypt through the eyes of Tahrir Square demonstrators, is the first Egyptian film to earn an Oscar nomination. The interview was transcribed [here](#).

On January 22nd, Tunisia's National Constituent Assembly (NCA) concluded its session with heated debate on Article 6 of Tunisia's revised constitution, which passed earlier this month by a large margin. Article 6 addresses the relationship between religion and state. The initial language, which codified freedom of beliefs and religious practices, was amended as part of the earlier debate to include bans on making accusations against nonbelievers and inciting violence over religion. Clips of the NCA debate can be watched [here](#).

On January 23rd, the Moroccan parliament voted unanimously to amend Article 475 of the country's penal code, which previously allowed for individuals accused of raping underage girls to avoid

prosecution by marrying their victims. The provision has been controversial since 2012, when Amina Filali, a 16-year-old rape victim in Morocco, killed herself after being forced to marry her attacker. The vote to alter the penal code has been praised by human rights groups. More information can be found [here](#).

On January 23rd, Norwegian state oil company Statoil ASA announced it will soon begin sending foreign workers back to work on the In Salah gas project in Algeria. Expat workers had been withdrawn from the natural gas fields in Algeria following the January 2013 terrorist attack at the In Amenas complex that killed 40 people, including five Statoil employees. An updated from Statoil's Executive Vice President for International Development and Production Lars Bacher was provided [here](#).

On January 23rd, the European Union (EU) approved a 5 million Euro project to support the efforts of Tunisian authorities to improve environmental governance in Gabes. The project will focus on increasing public awareness of the impacts of pollution and encourage better management of industrial waste with input from local stakeholders. The project was detailed [here](#).

East Africa

On January 16th, the Kenya Agricultural Carbon Project (KACP), which is focused on supporting more productive, sustainable, and climate-friendly farming practices, issued its first carbon credits under the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) for sequestering carbon in soil, due to changed agricultural and land management techniques. The credits represent a reduction of 24,788 metric tons of carbon dioxide. Details were shared [here](#).

On January 17th, Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni indicated he would not sign a bill passed by the Ugandan parliament last month require the imprisonment of homosexuals in the country for life. While President Museveni reiterated his belief that homosexuality is an abnormality caused by random breeding or a need to make money, he also said he believes improving Uganda's economy will help to curb such abnormal behavior. Comments from President Museveni were posted [here](#).

On January 20th, U.N. Special Representative to Somalia Nicholas Kay attended an inauguration ceremony for the Interim Jubba Administration in Kismayo. Special Representative Kay congratulated Leader Sheikh Ahmed Madobe Islan on the formal inauguration, as well as other appointed deputy leaders and ministers. He also commended the Administration for adhering to the agreement on governance in the Jubba, Middle Jubba, and Gedo regions that was finalized in August. Details on the inauguration can be found [here](#).

On January 19th, Kenyan Director of Public Prosecutions Keriako Tobiko announced the creation of a new unit to spearhead the prosecution of cyber criminals. According to Director Tobiko, Kenya loses more than \$23.3 million annually to cybercrime. Director Tobiko also said his office is convening a workshop to review existing laws for the prosecution of cybercrimes and to produce a draft bill to update Kenyan policies so they are consistent with international best practices. Comments from Director Tobiko can be viewed [here](#).

On January 20th, Ethiopian Airlines CEO Tewolde Gebrenaruan said the airline is looking to place an order for 10-20 new narrow body jets, worth as much as \$2 billion. Allegedly in the running are proposals from Boeing, Airbus, and Bombardier. More information was shared [here](#).

On January 21st, Kenyan author and founder of the Nairobi-based literary network Kiwani Binyavanga Wainaina published an autobiographical short story online revealing his homosexuality. Binyavanga published his story in protest to Nigeria's recent enactment of anti-homosexuality legislation, as well as recent comments made by Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni suggesting that homosexuality is abnormal behavior. The full story can be seen [here](#).

On January 22nd, 4,000 Ethiopian troops officially joined the AU Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), bringing AMISOM's total force level to the 22,000 figure mandated by the U.N. Security Council. The Ethiopian troops, who have been combating Al Shabaab in Somalia for the past several years, will be primarily responsible for security in the areas of Gedo, Bay, and Bakool. More information can be

seen [here](#).

On January 22nd, the World Bank issued a press release noting the success of Kenya's Health Sector Support Project. Leveraging World Bank financing, the project has improved health care services for an estimated 39.5 million people in Kenya. Initial funding was used to improve the delivery of essential health services, to increase the efficiency of medical planning and procurement, and to manage pharmaceutical and medical supplies. Additional credit will be used to provide new health and nutrition services. Details are available [here](#).

West Africa

On January 16th, U.N. Special Representative to Mali Bert Koenders briefed the U.N. Security Council on developments in the country. While reporting that Mali has made significant progress in the past six months, Special Representative Koenders cautioned that the country remains at a crossroads and will continue to rely on support from the international community. Highlights from the briefing were noted [here](#).

On January 17th, the *New York Times* reviewed the newest album released by Angelique Kidjo, a singer and songwriter from Benin. The new album, "Eve," was influenced by Kidjo's recent visit to Kenya as a UNICEF good will ambassador. Like many of Kidjo's past albums, her most recent album conveys themes of village traditions, cosmopolitan transformations, female solidarity, and African pride. The full review can be read [here](#).

On January 18th, Ghanaian *BBC TV* presenter Komla Dumor died of a sudden heart attack at his home in London. After spending a decade as a leading journalist in Ghana, Dumor joined *BBC* in 2006, where he was a presenter for "BBC World News" and its "Focus on Africa" program. Dumor's passing was mourned by Ghanaian President John Dramani Mahama, among other African journalists. Dumor was eulogized [here](#).

On January 21st, Nigerian officials hinted that a forthcoming analysis on the size of the Nigerian economy could revise Nigeria's gross domestic product (GDP) figure up by as much as 60%. According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Nigeria's GDP was \$292 billion last year. If the speculation holds true, Nigeria could potentially outpace South Africa, whose GDP last year was \$354 billion, as Africa's largest economy. Details can be viewed [here](#).

On January 21st, Liberian Finance Minister Amara Konneh presented to Liberia's House of Representatives on the state of the Liberian economy. While acknowledging a revenue shortfall and a surge in exchange rates, Minister Konneh reported the fundamentals of the Liberian economy remain stable. He also announced a forthcoming campaign to boost revenue collection across the country. Minister Konneh's presentation was summarized [here](#).

On January 21st, *Bloomberg* reported the Dangote Group, owned by Africa's richest man, Aliko Dangote, is considering the purchase of Nigerian oil fields as international companies plan to sell onshore and shallow-water fields in Nigeria. The move is being contemplated as Dangote Group seeks to identify a supply of crude oil for a \$9 billion oil refinery and petrochemical complex project in southwest Nigeria. The company's interest in purchasing the oil fields was noted [here](#).

On January 22nd, Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan, Nigerian Finance Minister Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala and President of the Dangote Group Aliko Dangote arrived in Davos, Switzerland, to participate in the World Economic Forum (WEF). The Nigerian delegation noted it was seeking to gain insights on taking unemployment, social inclusion, and infrastructure deficit, which will be key to sustaining Nigeria's economic growth. More on Nigeria's participation in the WEF can be found [here](#).

On January 22nd, *The Guardian* ran an article authored by Guinean President Alpha Conde calling on Western partners to assist African nations in addressing corruption leading up to the WEF. In particular, President Conde called attention to Guinea's natural resources sector, noting reforms that have been made to address a lack of transparency that resulted in exploitation by foreign companies. The full article can be read [here](#).

On January 23rd, the U.N. Security Council issued a Presidential Statement on the security situation in Mali. Acknowledging that terrorist factions and armed groups are beginning to reorganize and regain functional capabilities, the U.N. Security Council pressed all U.N. Member States to support the complete operational deployment of the U.N. Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA). Input from the U.N. Security Council on the situation in Mali was posted [here](#).

Sub-Saharan Africa

On January 16th, the IMF completed the first review under the three-year Policy Support Instrument (PSI) for Mozambique. The IMF found Mozambique's macroeconomic performance remains strong with real GDP growth for 2013 estimated at 7.1%. The IMF projected 2014 real growth at 8.3% and recommended that Mozambique further strengthen its debt management and investment planning, and complete new mining and hydrocarbon legislation and related regulations to help facilitate the economic development of the country's natural resources. More information can be seen [here](#).

On January 16th, Guinness released a new commercial paying tribute to the Congolese subculture of sapeurs. Beyond the commercial, Guinness also produced a documentary to share the stories of the Congolese men featured in the advertisement. Both the commercial and the documentary can be watched [here](#).

On January 17th, Madagascar's special electoral court (CES) declared Hery Rajaonarimampianina the winner of the December 20th presidential runoff. In the official results, President-elect Rajaonarimampianina won 53.49% of the vote, while his opponent, Jean Louis Robinson, won 46.51%. The election results were announced [here](#).

On January 17th, the IMF completed the third and fourth reviews of Malawi's economic performance under the existing IMF Extended Credit Facility (ECF) arrangement. The IMF found Malawi's macroeconomic performance remains satisfactory and that policy reforms implemented in May 2012 are yielding positive results. Following the review, the IMF immediately disbursed \$20 million, bringing the total amount of disbursements under the arrangement to approximately \$79.8 million. More information can be accessed [here](#).

On January 19th, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon issued a statement welcoming the validation of Hery Rajaonarimampianina's victory in Madagascar's presidential election. Secretary-General Ban called on the new Administration to reach out to the opposition in Madagascar to further reconciliation, democratic development, and economic recovery. Secretary-General Ban's statement was posted [here](#).

On January 20th, *CNN* reported on the two year anniversary of the launch of Tohoza.com in Rwanda. The website developed by siblings Chance Tubane and Patience Nduwawe, two orphans separated during the Rwanda genocide, operates similar to the Western website Craigslist. The site allows Rwandans to post or look for job vacancies and to sell or rent real estate and consumer goods. Information on the website can be seen [here](#).

On January 20th, *The Guardian* aired its monthly global development podcast, focused this month on advances in Rwanda's health care sector. The podcast, which features a conversation with Rwandan Health Minister Agnes Binagwaho, highlights Rwanda's relatively low spending on healthcare, health insurance, improvements in the treatment of HIV/AIDS, and the implementation of a human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccination campaign. The podcast can be accessed [here](#).

On January 21st, *The World Post* published an article authored by Rwandan President Paul Kagame on the role of women and youths in the Rwandan economy. President Kagame noted that Africa has the world's fastest growing and most youthful population, with 50% of people on the continent under the age of 20. To grow African economies, President Kagame also recommended establishing business-friendly environments for domestic and foreign investments, increasing investment in Africa's agricultural sector, and embracing mobile technologies. The full article can be read [here](#).

On January 21st, *The Telegraph* reported Malawian President Joyce Banda may still be using the private jet she sold at the beginning of her presidency. The Dassault Falcon 900EX aircraft was

purchased by Bohnox Enterprises and has since then been loaned to VIPs by the jet company Fortune Air. Both companies fall under the umbrella of Paramount Group, Africa's largest private defense and aerospace firm. Reports suggest that since the plane was sold, President Banda has used it, free of charge, for at least 20 private flights across the continent. The full story is available [here](#).

On January 21st, an IMF mission completed a visit to Swaziland. During the trip, the mission met with Swaziland Prime Minister Sibusiso Dlamini, Minister of Finance Martin Dlamini, Minister of Economic Planning and Development Prince Hlangusemphi, Governor of the Central Bank of Swaziland Majozo Sithole, and other government officials regarding macroeconomic developments and economic planning for 2014 and 2015. The IMF mission was detailed [here](#).

On January 22nd, the MT Kerala, a Liberian-flagged fuel tanker, was suspected of being hijacked by pirates off the coast of Angola. If the vessel was, in fact, targeted by pirates, the incident would become the most southern pirate attack along Africa's west coast to date. The full story was reported [here](#).

On January 22nd, a South African court delayed a ruling on whether an Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union (AMCU) strike planned to begin on Wednesday would be protected, effectively delaying a strike of up to 20,000 gold producers until January 30th. If the strike is deemed protected, workers can participate without being fired or disciplined. Meanwhile, platinum workers continued to prepare to go on strike on Thursday. More information can be found [here](#).

On January 22nd, the *Associated Press* reported South African officials are demanding that a rabbit sculpted into one of former South African President Nelson Mandela's ears be removed from the largest statute of the South African leader that was installed outside the government complex in Pretoria a day after President Mandela's funeral. The artists, Andre Prinsloo and Ruhan Janse van Vuuren, claim the rabbit was used as a trademark because government officials declined their request to engrave their signatures on the statute. The full story was shared [here](#).

On January 22nd, the U.N. World Food Programme (WFP), the Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF) and other partners of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) initiative launched a \$10 million project in central Malawi to address stunting. The project is designed to reduce stunting, which currently affects close to one million children in Malawi under the age of five, by 5-10% and to build evidence for the best solutions for tackling stunting, which is caused primarily by food insecurity, poor dietary diversity, and repeated illness. The new initiative was described [here](#).

On January 22nd, a rare blue diamond was unearthed at the Cullinan mine outside of Pretoria, South Africa. The mine is owned by London-based Petra Diamonds. The 29.6 carat diamond is estimated to be worth between \$15 and \$20 million. The discovery was announced [here](#).

On January 22nd, founder and Chairman of Econet Wireless, Zimbabwe's biggest wireless network operator, Strive Masiyiwa said he is looking to make the company's mobile money service technology, known as EcoCash, Zimbabwe's primary payment method by replacing paper money. It has been suggested that EcoCash could help address the problem of low currency circulation, which tends to result in difficulties in making change in Zimbabwe. More information can be viewed [here](#).

General Africa News

On January 16th, *Memeburn* reported that e-learning techniques are taking hold in Africa, with continent-wide e-learning rates currently at 15.2%. According to the analysis, high-tech educational options are positively impacting Africa's future by reducing poverty, promoting women's rights, and encouraging healthy lifestyles. The full report can be accessed [here](#).

On January 21st, Bill and Melinda Gates published their annual letter seeking to debunk claims about global poverty that hinder humanitarian aid from reaching developing countries in need. In this year's letter, the Gates refute the claim that "there is no hope for Africa," by noting a number of development achievements. The letter notes that life expectancy for women in Sub-Saharan Africa has increased, that more than 75% of African children are now pursuing an education, and that the number of AIDS-

related deaths has dropped by 38% across the continent in the past decade. The full letter can be downloaded [here](#).

On January 22nd, the *War is Boring* blog published a post authored by Peter Dorrie on the changing nature of military interventions in Africa. The post suggests a growing trend in African countries intervening on behalf of other African governments, as opposed to against them. The full blog post can be read [here](#).

On January 23rd, the World Bank hosted an event on youth employment in sub-Saharan Africa. Speakers included World Bank economists Francisco H.G. Ferreira, Deon Filmer, and Louise Fox, and Mwangi S. Kimenyi of the Brookings Institution. Event details were posted [here](#).

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