



ML Strategies Update

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David Leiter

djleiter@mlstrategies.com

Georgette Spanjich

gmspanjich@mlstrategies.com

ML Strategies, LLC

701 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

Washington, DC 20004 USA

202 296 3622

202 434 7400 fax

www.mlstrategies.com

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AFRICA UPDATE

Leading the News

African Union Summit

On January 26th, the State Department announced Deputy Secretary of State Bill Burns' travel to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on January 29th-30th. In Ethiopia, Deputy Secretary Burns will lead the U.S. delegation to the African Union (AU) Summit, where he was scheduled to meet with African leaders on economic, governance, and security issues, including the situations in the CAR and South Sudan. Deputy Secretary Burns was also expected to discuss planning for the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit, which will be held in Washington, DC, on August 5th and 6th. Deputy Secretary Burns' travel was announced [here](#).

On January 27th, the State Department issued a media note announcing the full U.S. delegation to the AU Summit. Led by Deputy Secretary of State Bill Burns, participants included Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Linda Thomas-Greenfield, Deputy to the U.S. Permanent Representative to the U.N. Rexon Ryu, U.S. Special Envoy for Sudan and South Sudan Donald Booth, U.S. Special Envoy for the Great Lakes and the DRC Russ Feingold, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Associate Administrator Mark Feierstein, USAID Assistant Administrator for Africa Earl Gast, Assistant Acting Assistant to the USAID Administrator for Food Security Tjada McKenna, Assistant to the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) for Africa Florizelle Liser, and Special Assistant to the President and NSC Senior Director for African Affairs Grant Harris. More information is available [here](#).

On January 29th, Director-General of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Jose Graziano announced the U.N.'s plans to launch the 2014 African Year of Agriculture and Food Security to promote improvements in agricultural practices as a means to boost food production and eliminate hunger. The initiative will be announced as part of the AU Summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Comments from Director-General Graziano were recorded [here](#).

On January 30th, head of the AU Commission Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma delivered remarks to the AU

Summit outlining a 50-year vision for the continent. Dlamini-Zuma said the future Africa will be home to a number of regional manufacturing hubs and a leader in renewable energy. She also expressed optimism that Africa will develop a continent-wide telecommunications infrastructure, as well as a high-speed rail network. Excerpts from Dlamini-Zuma's speech can be viewed [here](#).

On January 30th, Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta addressed the AU Summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. He expressed support for African Defense Ministers' call for commitments to establishing an African Standby Force ready to deploy by 2015. He also announced a \$1 million Kenyan contribution to the AU Peace Fund. President Kenyatta's address was summarized [here](#).

South Sudan

On January 23rd, United Nations (U.N.) Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and the U.N. Security Council welcomed the agreement reached between representatives of South Sudanese President Salva Kiir and former Vice President Riek Machar on the cessation of hostilities in South Sudan. Secretary-General Ban called for the agreement's swift implementation and commended the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) for its leadership. The Security Council condemned attacks against civilians and urged parties in South Sudan to move towards reconciliation. Feedback from the U.N. was shared [here](#).

On January 23rd, President Barack Obama issued a statement welcoming the signing of a cessation of hostilities agreement in South Sudan. He called on opposing leaders to immediately implement the agreement and to start political dialogue on a formal agreement targeting the causes of the conflict. The full statement was posted [here](#).

On January 23rd, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Robert Menendez (D-NJ) shared a statement on the announced ceasefire between South Sudanese Government and opposition forces. Senator Menendez called the agreement a breakthrough and a step in the right direction towards the complete end of violence and hostilities. Senator Menendez's full statement can be accessed [here](#).

On January 24th, U.N. Special Representative to South Sudan Hilde Johnson echoed other U.N. officials in recognizing the agreement on the cessation of hostilities in South Sudan as an important step to improving access for humanitarian aid and ending violence. Comments from Special Representative Johnson can be seen [here](#).

On January 24th, Ranking Member of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa Karen Bass (D-CA) released a statement on the ceasefire agreement in South Sudan. Representative Bass welcomed the signing of the agreement and encouraged an inclusive political dialogue to build lasting peace. The full statement can be read [here](#).

On January 25th, after a ceasefire agreement between South Sudanese Government forces and rebels entered into force on Friday night, South Sudanese Information Minister Michael Makeui Lueth reported that rebel forces had already violated the ceasefire agreement. Meanwhile, a spokesperson for rebels loyal to former Vice President Riek Machar accused South Sudanese troops of attacking rebel positions in South Sudan's Unity, Jonglei, and Upper Nile States following the implementation of the agreement. The accusations were detailed [here](#).

On January 27th-28th, U.N. Under Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Valerie Amos visited South Sudan to observe humanitarian conditions in light of the recent conflict. Under Secretary-General Amos met with displaced civilians in Malakal and in Juba, as well as with head of UNMISS Hilde Johnson and other humanitarian workers. Details on Under Secretary-General Amos' visit to South Sudan can be viewed [here](#).

Central African Republic

On January 23rd, Ranking Member of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa Karen Bass (D-CA) released a statement on the selection of Catherine Samba-Panza as transitional President of the Central African Republic (CAR). She commended the transparent selection process and

encouraged President Samba-Panza to use her experience as a businesswoman and mayor of Bangui to unite the country and put the CAR on a path to peace. The full statement can be accessed [here](#).

On January 24th, the CAR's former Minister of Housing Joseph Kalite was hacked to death by anti-Balaka forces with machetes in the Muslim area of Bangui. Kalite was attacked as he was exiting a taxi. A family member who was traveling with Kalite escaped the attack. Throughout the day, nine other people were killed in Bangui's Muslim Miskine neighborhood amidst ramped looting. The violence in Bangui was noted [here](#).

On January 24th, the U.N. World Food Programme (WFP) called on officials in the CAR to re-establish security along the main roads in Bangui in order to allow access for humanitarian aid. Thirty-eight trucks carrying food supplies remained blocked at the border between the CAR and Cameroon. A convoy from the African-led International Support Mission to the CAR (MISCA) has arrived at the border and will assist in the distribution of humanitarian supplies. More information can be found [here](#).

On January 25th, ex-members of the Seleka coalition fled Bangui following new mob violence between Christian and Muslim civilians in the capital that left at least eight people dead. The convoy of leaders who previously identified with the Muslim Seleka coalition was guarded by Chadian peacekeepers as it exited Bangui. The full story is available [here](#).

On January 26th, Secretary of State John Kerry issued a press statement expressing deep concern for renewed inter-religious violence in the CAR and attacks launched by both anti-Balaka and Seleka groups. He said the U.S. is prepared to consider targeted sanctions against those who further destabilize the situation or encourage violence. Secretary Kerry also urged the CAR's past and present political leaders to be clear in condemning the violence and reiterated U.S. support for recently inaugurated transitional President Catherine Samba-Panza. The full statement can be read [here](#).

On January 27th, following new clashes between anti-Balaka and ex-Seleka forces, U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay shared a news release calling on the international community to assist in restoring security in the CAR, including by increasing the international peacekeeping force in the country. In addition to the violence between religious groups, High Commissioner Pillay also expressed concern for the proliferation of armed groups in the CAR. More information can be seen [here](#).

On January 28th, the U.N. Security Council approved a resolution adopting new measures to address the cycle of violence in the CAR. The resolution extends the mandate of the U.N. Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the CAR (BINCUA) through January 31, 2015, authorizes European troops to use force over the next six months, and added travel bans and asset freezes to an existing arms embargo. In addition, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon also issued a statement congratulating CAR President Catherine Samba-Panza and Prime Minister Andrew Zapayeke for their efforts to put the CAR's transition on track. The new Security Council resolution was detailed [here](#). Secretary-General Ban's statement was posted [here](#).

Egypt

On January 24th, four bombing attacks were launched in Cairo targeting police and security personnel. Six people were killed in the attacks. Al-Qaeda inspired militant group based in the Sinai Peninsula, Ansar Beit al-Maqdis, translated to the Champions of Jerusalem, claimed responsibility for the attacks online and warned that future attacks are possible. The bombing incidents were reported [here](#).

On January 24th, at least 15 people were killed across Egypt in clashes between supporters of deposed President Mohamed Morsi and Egypt's military-led government. Reports suggest that Muslim Brotherhood supporters used gasoline bombs and firearms loaded with birdshot against Egyptian security forces. The violence was detailed [here](#).

On January 24th, White House Press Secretary Jay Carney condemned the bombings in Egypt,

calling on Egyptian authorities to fully investigate the crimes and bring the perpetrators to justice. In response to ongoing protests in Egypt, Press Secretary Carney said it is clear that violence will not move Egypt's political transition forward. Remarks from Press Secretary Carney were transcribed [here](#).

On January 24th, State Department Deputy Spokesperson Marie Harf condemned the terrorist attacks in Egypt and called for the crimes to be investigated and the perpetrators to be brought to justice. In addition, she called for nonviolence in recognition of the third anniversary of uprisings in Egypt and called for free and fair elections. Comments from Deputy Spokesperson Harf can be found [here](#). A formal press statement issued by the State Department can be read [here](#).

On January 25th, Ansar Beit Al-Maqdis shot down an Egyptian military helicopter with a surface-to-air missile near the city of Sheikh Zuweid. Egyptian security officials confirmed that all five Egyptian soldiers on board were killed in the attack. Additional information can be seen [here](#).

On January 25th, a number of demonstrations were held across Egypt to mark the third anniversary of the uprising that ultimately led to the ousting of former Egyptian President Mubarak. Supporters of Egypt's military-led regime held rallies encouraging Egyptian Minister of Defense General Abdul Fattah Al-Sisi to run for President. Meanwhile the Interior Ministry reported 237 protestors were arrested during demonstrations. More information was shared [here](#).

On January 26th, interim Egyptian President Adly Mansour announced that Egypt will hold presidential elections before parliamentary elections. He also promoted Defense Minister General Abdul Fattah Al-Sisi to the top military rank of field marshal. Meanwhile, General Sisi met with Egypt's Supreme Council of the Armed Forces, to discuss continuing security challenges, as well as his interest in a presidential run, which was endorsed by Egypt's top military generals. Developments in Egypt were reported [here](#).

On January 26th, the U.S. Embassy in Cairo confirmed the release of Jeremy Hodge, a U.S. citizen working in Egypt as a freelance translator and journalist who was detained in Cairo by Egyptian police last Wednesday. Hodge's Egyptian roommate, Hossam Meneai, a filmmaker who was also detained by authorities, remained in custody. News of Hodge's release was posted [here](#).

On January 27th, Egyptian Minister of Defense General Abdul Fattah Al-Sisi and U.S. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel spoke by phone about the completion of the Egyptian constitutional referendum and demonstrations over the weekend. Secretary Hagel also offered U.S. assistance following the recent terrorist attacks in Cairo. A readout of the conversation can be viewed [here](#).

On January 28th, deposed Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi stood trial alone in a soundproof glass-encased cell in new proceedings related to his role in the prison breaks during the 2011 uprising against former President Hosni Mubarak. President Morsi is standing trial with 130 others, including Muslim Brotherhood leaders and Hamas and Hezbollah militants who participated in the organized jail breaks. The trial has adjourned until February 22nd. Information on the proceedings can be seen [here](#).

On January 28th, gunmen on motorcycles shot and killed the head of Egypt's Interior Ministry's technical office, General Mohamed Saeed, outside his home. Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis claimed responsibility for the attack, calling General Saeed a criminal. Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis also claimed responsibility for attacks earlier in the week. The full story is available [here](#).

On January 29th, Egyptian prosecutors brought charges against 20 *Al Jazeera* journalists for conspiring with a terrorist group to broadcast false images of civil war in Egypt. Sixteen of the accused are Egyptians who have been labeled members of a terrorist group. The four foreign defendants will be tried for assisting terrorists in influencing international public opinion. The full story is available [here](#).

Somalia

On January 26th, U.S. military forces carried out a missile strike against suspected militants in southern Somalia. While limited information was released on the operation, it is believed the strike

was carried out in Barawe, the site of an unsuccessful U.S. military operation launched in October targeting Ikirma, a militant known for his efforts to coordinate attacks in Kenya. The strike was noted [here](#).

On January 27th, Somalia-based militant group Al Shabaab confirmed that Ahmed Abdikadir Amo Iskudhuq, a Somali national and senior leader of Al Shabaab, was killed by the U.S. missile strike in Barawe over the weekend. Iskudhuq was known to monitor aid workers and recruit foreign fighters for the organization. Al Shabaab Commander Abu Mohamed indicated the militant group was planning retaliation for the attack. Details can be found [here](#).

Tunisia

On January 26th, Tunisia's National Constituent Assembly approved Tunisia's new constitution, three years after the overthrow of President Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali. The majority approval of the new constitution coincided with Prime Minister Mehdi Jomaa's announcement of a new caretaker cabinet. Included in the new cabinet are African Development Bank (AfDB) economist Hakim Ben Hammouda, who will serve as Finance Minister, and former U.N. official Mongi Hamdi, who will serve as Foreign Minister. Developments in Tunisia were reported [here](#).

On January 26th, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon released a statement commending the ratification of Tunisia's new constitution. He called on political actors in Tunisia to ensure the next steps in Tunisia's transition are conducted in a peaceful, transparent, and inclusive manner and cautioned that economic growth must be promoted in the country in a way that is both equitable and sustainable. Secretary-General Ban's statement can be read [here](#).

On January 27th, the State Department issued a statement applauding Tunisia's National Constituent Assembly on the ratification of Tunisia's new constitution. State Department Spokesperson Jen Psaki said Tunisia's process of revising its constitution has resulted in a document that respects and guarantees the rights of all Tunisians. Encouraged by the ratification, Spokesperson Psaki said the U.S. also looks forward to the swearing-in of a new independent government and the scheduling of elections. The full statement was issued [here](#).

On January 28th, the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) called on political actors in Tunisia to ensure the independent institutions established by the newly adopted constitution promote accountability, rule of law, and respect for human rights. OHCHR's direction to Tunisia was noted [here](#).

On January 29th, Secretary of State John Kerry issued a press statement commending Tunisia for the ratification of its new democratic constitution and the installation of an independent government, led by Prime Minister Medhi Jomaa, to lead the country to new elections. Secretary Kerry also applauded the creation of the Independent Elections Commission, and encouraged Tunisian officials to quickly set a date for elections. Secretary Kerry's full statement can be viewed [here](#).

United States – Africa Relations

White House

On January 23rd, *Stars and Stripes* reported that President Barack Obama requested permission from the Spanish Government to expand the U.S. Marine crisis response team based in Moron, Spain, during Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy's visit to the White House last week. The 500-strong Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force could be increased to as many as 900 Marines tasked with responding to conflict in South Sudan, the CAR, and the Sahel region. More information is available [here](#).

On January 28th, President Barack Obama delivered his annual State of the Union address. Regarding U.S. foreign policy, President Obama noted U.S. efforts with international partners to disrupt and dismantle terrorist networks in Africa, including in Somalia and Mali. He also noted U.S. efforts to support Tunisia's democratic transition and alluded to how the Power Africa initiative is bringing together businesses with government entities to double access to electricity and address

poverty on the continent. President Obama's full speech was posted [here](#).

State Department

On January 24th, Secretary of State John Kerry delivered remarks at the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, Switzerland. Secretary Kerry noted that Africa is home to seven of the world's ten fastest growing economies, noting heavy U.S. investment in both development and trade. He also discussed U.S. diplomatic efforts to end the violence in South Sudan and Africa's Great Lakes Region. A transcript of Secretary Kerry's remarks can be found [here](#).

On January 24th, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Linda Thomas-Greenfield and Special Assistant to the President and National Security Council (NSC) Senior Director for African Affairs Grant Harris met with African representatives from the Diplomatic Corps at the Department of State. The meeting was noticed [here](#).

On January 27th, the State Department announced the travel of six alumni of the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP), including one participant from Nigeria, to the U.S. to participate in the IVLP Gold Stars initiative. The programs seeks to bring participants back to the U.S. to share their success, reconnect with mentors, and network as a means to start new initiatives in their home countries. Details were posted [here](#).

On January 28th, the State Department issued a press statement condemning Sunday's Boko Haram attacks in Borno and Adamawa, Nigeria that resulted in the deaths of dozens of civilians. The State Department urged Nigerian authorities to fully investigate the attacks and pledged to stand with Nigeria in countering the threats posed by Boko Haram and other terrorist groups. The press statement was issued [here](#).

On January 29th, Secretary of State John Kerry presented the Secretary of State's 2013 Award for Corporate Excellence (ACE) to Taylor Guitars in Cameroon in recognition of the U.S. company's efforts to use environmentally and socially responsible strategies for sourcing, harvesting, and milling ebony, hire locally, and encourage Cameroonian legal and policy reforms to improve transparency related to logging permits. The award was announced [here](#).

U.S. Agency for International Development

On January 28th, USAID announced a partnership with GE and Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB) to make up to \$10 million in local financing available for small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) to develop private health facilities in Kenya. Through the program, health care providers will be able to access financing to support small clinics, diagnostic centers, and hospitals. A press release was distributed [here](#).

Department of Defense

On January 24th, French Defense Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian visited the Pentagon to meet with Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel. During the meeting, Secretary Hagel and Minister Le Drian discussed the concentration of terrorist groups in southern Libya and the need for U.S. and European efforts to prevent a new cycle of terrorism in the region. The discussion was highlighted [here](#).

On January 27th, *The Pentagon Channel (TPC) News* distributed a recording of remarks delivered by NATO Supreme Allied Commander General Philip Breedlove on international efforts to combat piracy. Commander Breedlove said that cooperation between international partners and the shipping industry have resulted in a decrease in piracy attacks off the coast of Somalia. The video can be watched [here](#).

On January 27th, the *Army Times* provided insights on the development of the Marine Corps' post-Afghanistan deployment plans. As U.S. forces withdraw from Afghanistan, the article suggests Marines will be used with increasing frequency to beef up embassy security at U.S. diplomatic posts in North Africa. Additionally, Marines based on the east coast will be deployed to assist U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) in sending new crises response teams to respond to incidents in Africa. The

full article can be read [here](#).

On January 28th, Marines and sailors originally with the 3rd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment based in Lejeune, North Carolina, arrived at the U.S. Naval Air Station in Sigonella, Italy, to assume the new rotation of Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force Africa. The task force is charged with supporting AFRICOM and Marine Corps Forces Africa's security cooperation requirements to strengthen the defense capabilities of African partner states and regional organizations. Details can be viewed [here](#).

On January 28th, AFRICOM Public Affairs reported on a recently concluded course on "Gender Perspective in Peace Support Operations: A Comprehensive Approach," held in Karen, Kenya, at the International Peace Support Training Center. Forty students from 11 African countries attended the course, which was intended to promote the application of gender perspectives in peacekeeping operations. More information was shared [here](#).

On January 29th, *Defense News* reported on the arms package requested by Libya recently approved by the Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) and notified to Congress. The Libyan Government has requested the sale of training equipment and expertise for 6,000 to 8,000 forces. The package includes services for up to eight years of training and facilities sustainment, small arms ammunition, and U.S. Government and contractor technical and logistics support. The pending arms sale to Libya was detailed [here](#).

On January 30th, the Africa Center for Strategic Studies (ACSS) concluded its Introduction of African Security Issues (IASI) Seminar, which seeks to promote understanding of the nuances of social, economic, political, and security dynamics in individual African countries. The course attracted participants from U.S. Government agencies working in Africa, including the Department of State, Department of Defense (DOD), Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA), DSCA, USAID, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI), and AFRICOM. Details were reported [here](#).

Overseas Private Investment Corporation

On January 29th, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) published a blog post spotlighted the Hamma water facility project in Algiers, Algeria. Through a public-private partnership, the Algerian Government, OPIC, and Massachusetts-based Ionics Inc. built a water desalination plant, which provides more than 350,000 families in Algeria's capital with clean water. The OPIC blog can be accessed [here](#).

Congress

On January 23rd, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on African Affairs Chris Cons (D-DE) applauded the partnership between Bank of America, rock group U2, and global HIV/AIDS fundraising organization (RED) to fight AIDS in Africa, announced at the WEF in Davos, Switzerland. As part of the initiative, a \$10 million donation, as well as additional donations to match U2 song downloads, will be put towards furthering (RED)'s efforts to fight AIDS in eight African countries, including Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Rwanda, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, and Zambia. A press release was posted [here](#).

On January 27th, Representative Jim Bridenstine (R-OK) invited Charles Woods, the father of Navy SEAL Tyrone Woods, who was killed in the September 2012 terrorist attack on the U.S. diplomatic facility in Benghazi, Libya, to be his guest at President Barack Obama's State of the Union address. Representative Bridenstine's office indicated the invitation was extended to mark an incident of failed U.S. foreign policy. More information is available [here](#).

North Africa

On January 23rd, U.N. Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations Herve Ladsous briefed the U.N. Security Council on the security situation in Darfur. Under-Secretary-General Ladsous reported limited progress on the implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD)

and warned that humanitarian conditions in Darfur had worsened over 2013. Excerpts from the briefing were highlighted [here](#).

On January 23rd, the *New York Times* reported on a two-year effort by Imider villagers in Morocco to cut the water supply to a silver mine owned by Imiter Metallurgic Co. as an act of protest against environmental damage they blame on the facility. Villagers have also requested that 75% of the jobs related to the mining operation be reserved for local residents. The *New York Times* report can be viewed [here](#).

On January 25th, the *New York Times* ran an article describing the decentralization of Al Qaeda into regionally focused affiliated groups that operate in a franchise model. In particular, the article highlights the activities of Al-Qaeda affiliated organizations in North Africa, including in Libya, Algeria, Mauritania, Mali, and Niger. The full story can be accessed [here](#).

On January 26th, U.N. Humanitarian Coordinator Georg Charpentier announced new U.N efforts to deliver food, medicine, and other humanitarian supplies to families in Sabha, Libya, who have been displaced by violence. In early January, violence in the southern part of the country led officials in Tripoli to declare a state of emergency in the region. Details were posted [here](#).

On January 27th, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) concluded 2013 bilateral consultations with Algeria. The IMF found that Algeria's economic performance is satisfactory, due primarily to the decline in inflation and improving statistics for unemployment and inequality. The IMF recommended that Algeria continue to pursue efforts to better manage hydrocarbon revenue volatility and to advance structural reforms to accelerate economic growth and job creation. More information can be seen [here](#).

On January 27th, speaking to the National Automobile Dealers Association (NADA) conference, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said the September 2012 attack on the U.S. diplomatic compound in Benghazi, Libya, is the biggest regret of her tenure as Secretary of State. Secretary Clinton is expected to reiterate this message as she continues to consider a 2016 presidential run. A video recording of Secretary Clinton's remarks can be watched [here](#).

On January 27th, the Foundation for Defense of Democracies launched a website providing information on the weapons in the military arsenals of North African countries, including Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Sudan, and Tunisia. The website is available [here](#).

East Africa

On January 24th, the IMF's East Africa Regional Technical Assistance Center (East AFRITAC) concluded a workshop on central bank foreign exchange market operations in Nairobi, Kenya. The workshop addressed the timing of market interventions, communications, and market intervention instruments. Participants included representatives of the central banks in Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda. The workshop was reviewed [here](#).

On January 24th, Kenya's largest mobile operator, Safaricom, announced the launch of a new health care insurance product called Linda Jammi that will use mobile money service M-Pesa as the platform for premium collection. Customers will be able to subscribe to health insurance for an annual premium of \$140 for coverage of health care services including dental, maternity, optical, in-out patient, hospital care, and funeral expenses. The new service was described [here](#).

On January 27th, Kenyan Wildlife Service Spokesman Paul Muya said wildlife authorities at Kenya's Nairobi National Park are fitting lions with GPS collars that will alert rangers when lions leave the park. Recently, lions that have left the park have been killed by farmers and herdsman after the predators attacked and killed local livestock. Information on the new initiative was shared [here](#).

On January 28th, Kenya Foreign Affairs Cabinet Secretary Amina Mohamed told reporters she felt the AU has achieved most of its agenda related to the continent's relationship with the International Criminal Court (ICC) over the past year. Regarding the charges facing Kenyan leaders, Secretary Mohamed noted that the AU felt Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta should not attend his trial in The

Hague and that Deputy President William Ruto had been excused from participating in a number of court sessions. Comments from Secretary Mohamed were transcribed [here](#).

On January 28th, the U.N. Refugee Agency (UNHCR) provided an updated assessment on the number of Somali citizens fleeing their country and seeking asylum in 44 other countries, noting that casualties and internal displacement have been on the rise in Somalia over the past two years. UNHCR encouraged other countries to assess applications for protection using this updated information. Details can be seen [here](#).

On January 29th, the World Bank issued a press release on the Somaliland Economic Conference on Growth and Unemployment, Poverty and Inflation, and Budget Policy, hosted in partnership with Somaliland's Ministry for National Planning and Development in Hargeisa. The conference was held to consider World Bank analyses of GDP, unemployment, and poverty in the country, as well as recommendations for sustaining revenue generation and creating a more competitive economy. The press release can be viewed [here](#).

West Africa

On January 24th, the *Associated Press* reported on Ivorian authorities' efforts to relocate elephants from Marahoue National Park to Assangny National Park, a 10-hour drive away. Due to the 2010-2011 postelection violence, human migration has resulted in more people residing in areas previously occupied by the elephants. Details were posted [here](#).

On January 24th, UNHCR estimated as many as 6,000 may have fled from Nigeria's Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe state to Cameroon in Niger over the past two days following reports of bombing attacks in at least two villages. Authorities suspect the attacks were perpetrated by Boko Haram. UNHCR encouraged Nigeria's neighbors to keep their borders open for refugees fleeing the violence. More information can be viewed [here](#).

On January 27th, U.N. Special Representative to Cote d'Ivoire Aichatou Mindaoudou briefed the U.N. Security Council on developments in the country. While citing the effectiveness of Cote d'Ivoire's cooperation with Liberia, as well as U.N. peacekeeping missions in both countries, Special Representative Mindaoudou warned that more progress is needed on security sector reform and national reconciliation in advance of Cote d'Ivoire's 2015 presidential elections. The briefing was summarized [here](#).

On January 29th, Nigerian technology blog TechCabal.com announced it plans to offer a \$20,000 prize to the winner of its ongoing technology startup competition, twice as much as the \$10,000 prize initially envisioned. Startup companies may submit applications to participate in the February 19th Battlefield Academy through February 5th. Details on the competition can be found [here](#).

On January 29th, *Foreign Policy* published an article suggesting that while piracy attacks off the coast of Somalia are in decline, attacks off the coast of West Africa around the Gulf of Guinea have significantly increased. The article suggests that West African pirate attacks are more aggressive than those off the coast of East Africa, and that they are primarily motivated by a growth in West Africa's oil business. The full article can be read [here](#).

Sub-Saharan Africa

On January 23rd, the IMF announced plans to host a May conference in Maputo, Mozambique, focused on sustaining Africa's economic rise through foreign investment. The IMF plans to invite finance ministers and central bank governors from across the continent, to discuss ways to keep economic growth high, while financing Africa's energy and infrastructure needs. Additional information on the conference can be found [here](#).

On January 24th, lightning struck military barracks in Mbuji Mayi, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), resulting in an explosion that sparked fire in the area. At least 20 people died, 50 people were injured, and several homes were destroyed. U.N. Organization Stabilization Mission (MONUSCO) peacekeepers remain on standby to assist local authorities in the aftermath of the explosion. The full

story was reported [here](#).

On January 27th, the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), the WFP, and UNHCR encouraged continuing international support for humanitarian assistance to the DRC. According to U.N. estimates, while progress has been made towards peace, close to three million people, including a disproportionate number of women and children, remain displaced by violence and lack access to clean water and adequate food supplies. Information on the humanitarian effort in the DRC is available [here](#).

On January 27th, an IMF team concluded a visit to Lesotho focused on assessing the country's economic policies. The IMF team met with Lesotho's Ministers of Finance, Development Planning, and Trade, Industry, Cooperatives, and Marketing, the Governor of the Central Bank of Lesotho (CBL) members of Parliament, and representatives of the business community. The team observed that Lesotho's economy has performed well and encouraged officials to pursue inclusive growth and expand and deepen financial services. Additional observations were posted [here](#).

On January 27th, Euronews announced plans to launch a pan-African news service based in the Republic of Congo (ROC) in summer 2015. Africanews will launch in English and French, with plans to add additional languages, including Arabic, Portuguese, and Swahili, in later phases of development. Plans for the new news service were announced [here](#).

On January 28th, South Africa's Democratic Alliance (DA) held a press conference to announce the official merger between the DA and Agang political parties. DA leader Helen Zille also announced that former Agang leader Mamphele Ramphele will run as the DA's candidate in South Africa's 2014 presidential elections. The press conference was detailed [here](#).

On January 28th, U.N. Special Representative to Burundi Parfait Onanga-Anyanga told the U.N. Security Council that Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon plans to recommend extending the U.N. Office in Burundi's (BNUB) mission for another full year, despite Burundi's request that the U.N. mission end by mid-2014. While Burundi has made progress since the end of decades of civil ethnic war, Special Representative Onanga-Anyanga suggested that U.N. support may be needed to combat political distrust leading up to Burundi's 2015 presidential elections. More information can be found [here](#).

On January 28th, U.N. Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association Maina Kiai called on Rwandan officials to ensure the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly guaranteed by the Rwandan Constitution are protected in practice. Special Rapporteur Kiai observed that the Rwanda Governance Board (RGB) continues to interfere with the internal operations of some NGOs and noted the process for registering new political parties in Rwanda is too arbitrary. More observations from Special Rapporteur Kiai were posted [here](#).

On January 29th, a trial began in Lilongwe, Malawi, for at least 68 government officials charged with embezzling more than \$100 million dollars over ten years. The investigation was launched at the request of Malawian President Joyce Banda, who dissolved her cabinet in October when the allegations surfaced. The full story was reported [here](#).

On January 29th, the World Bank announced a \$2 million contribution to an initiative in the ROC targeting financial support to the country's poorest households. Funds will be used to develop a national registry of potential beneficiaries and to provide those households with cash transfers that can be used to pay for health care and education services. The funding was announced [here](#).

On January 29th, the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) provided an update on internal displacement in the DRC. According to the U.N., more than 400,000 people have been displaced between the towns of Pweto, Mitwaba, and Manono in Katanga province, and more than 600 homes in 11 villages have been destroyed since October. More statistics are available [here](#).

On January 29th, the World Bank released its economic update for Rwanda. While the World Bank found that economic growth decelerated in 2013, it projected that macroeconomic stability in Rwanda has been maintained and economic growth is expected to increase in 2014. The World Bank also noted a large drop in fertility rates and encouraged Rwandan officials to adopt improved health care and education policies to ensure an effective workforce. A press release can be viewed [here](#).

On January 30th, *Engineering News* ran an interview with CEO of South Africa's Office of the National Nuclear Regulator Dr. Bismark Tyobeka regarding nuclear power in South Africa and the prospects for the development of nuclear power across the continent. In the interview, Dr. Tyobeka noted the challenges of ensuring energy supply while reducing greenhouse gas emissions and acknowledged that while nuclear power holds great potential, it is capital intensive and requires a robust legal and regulatory framework. The full interview was transcribed [here](#).

General Africa News

On January 24th, the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) hosted an event on "Restoring Peace in Africa, Revitalizing European Defense, and Renewing NATO: The View From Paris." During the discussion, French Minister of Defense Jean-Yves Le Drian discussed the U.S.-French relationship in regards to combating extremist groups in Africa's Sahel region. Video from the event can be watched [here](#).

On January 27th, *Ventures* published a list of high potential companies across Africa. The list includes companies from Nigeria, Kenya, South Africa, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Ghana, Cameroon, Rwanda, DRC, Sierra Leone, Mozambique, and Egypt, spanning sectors including technology, mobile services, sustainability, gaming, accounting, and advertising. The full list of companies can be accessed [here](#).

On January 28th, *Forbes* published a list of highlights from the recently concluded WEF pertaining to Africa. Forbes highlighted the "Africa's Next Billion" panel, which emphasized economic opportunities in Africa, including fast-growing national economies, an expanding population and workforce, and the increasing utilization of mobile technologies. Speakers included Ghanaian President John Mahama, Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan, Nigerian billionaire Aliko Dangote, Winnie Byanyima of Oxfam International, Julian Roberts of Old Mutual, and Doreen Noni of Eskado Bird. Excerpts from the panel discussion are available [here](#).

On January 30th, the World Bank provided additional information on consultations between Liberia, Tanzania, and Ethiopia regarding Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) implementation. Liberia and Tanzania are both EITI-compliant countries, while Ethiopia maintains candidate status. Exchanges between the countries were detailed [here](#).

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