



ML Strategies Legislative Update

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AFRICA UPDATE

United States – Africa Relations

State Department

On October 29th, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton traveled to Algeria to meet with President Abdelaziz Bouteflika. Discussions focused on the conflict in Mali and followed up on conversations on economic and security cooperation that took place at the U.S.-Algeria Strategic Dialogue held in Washington on October 19th. An article on the discussions between Secretary Clinton and President Bouteflika can be read [here](#). A statement from Secretary Clinton following the meeting is available [here](#).

Defense Department

On October 18th, Department of Defense (DOD) Secretary Panetta announced that President Obama intended to nominate Army Gen. David M. Rodriguez to be the next commander of U.S. Africa Command. The U.S. Africa Command, which encompasses all of Africa except for Egypt, is the newest combatant command. Rodriguez must be confirmed by a vote in the Senate. The release from the DOD can be read [here](#).

On October 29th, Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Martin Dempsey indicated that the departure of Gen. Carter Ham from U.S. Africa Command has nothing to do with the September 11th attack in Benghazi, Libya. Gen. Dempsey and Pentagon Press Secretary George Little have expressed full confidence in the Africa Command team. No timetable was provided on when expected replacement Gen. David Rodriguez might take over for Gen. Ham. A release from the DOD can be read [here](#).

U.S. Trade Representative

On October 19th, the United States and the East African Community (EAC) announced further progress under the U.S.-EAC Trade and Investment Partnership. Both sides recognize that the partnership can have a positive impact on economic development and job creation in the United States and East Africa. A release on the partnership is available [here](#).

North Africa

On October 23rd, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) warned of impending locust swarms in Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, and Morocco. Weather conditions are ideal for the locusts,

which pose a catastrophic threat to crops in the region. The alert from the FAO can be found [here](#).

On October 29th, a *Time* magazine article on the conflict in Mali reported that U.S. Special Forces are playing an increasing role in training African militaries to prepare for an invasion into the northern portion of the Saharan country. Islamist militant groups took control of the northern region of Mali in April, but Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta has expressed that the United States must ensure al-Qaeda is not provided with a safe haven. Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) is widely viewed as one of the largest threats to stability in North Africa. The article from *Time* can be read [here](#).

On October 31st, the Libyan General National Congress approved a new government that will be led by Prime Minister Ali Zidan. The Congress elected to oust previous Prime Minister Mustafa Abu Shangur. The assembly met to vote and was abruptly adjourned because of security concerns. An article on the vote is available [here](#).

On October 31st, Egypt announced it detained 12 Islamist militants with suspected ties to al-Qaeda. Egypt, which has been conducting raids to reduce Islamist violence in the country, said three of the militants were arrested while trying to cross into Libya. An article on the arrests can be read [here](#).

Sub-Saharan Africa

On October 26th, the Brookings Institution released a paper on the impact of worldwide efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and control malaria in sub-Saharan Africa. The paper indicates that noticeable progress has been made toward reducing infant mortality and overcoming other health disparities in the region. The full paper can be read [here](#).

On October 29th, the International Maritime Bureau (IMB) announced piracy in the Indian Ocean has reached a three year low, with just 70 attacks on ships in the first three months of 2012, compared with 199 attacks during the same period last year. IMB Director Captain Pottengal Mukundan said the high naval presence in the region must be maintained. An article on the decreased attacks can be read [here](#).

On October 29th through October 31st, influential leaders in the West African energy industry met in Accra, Ghana, to discuss how the region could secure \$500 billion committed during the Rio+20 conference. The leaders attempted to meet three targets set by the UN and the Sustainable Energy for All Initiative (SE4ALL). The West African bloc agreed to double its share of renewable energy in the global energy mix and increase the region's energy efficiency. An article on the proposed initiatives can be viewed [here](#).

On October 30th, public and private representatives from across the globe agreed to provide \$2 billion to Burundi to assist the developing nation in its move toward a more prosperous future. Burundi President Pierre Nkurunziza said his country is rich in talent and resources and is eager to progress forward. An article on the higher-than-anticipated financial commitments to Burundi is available [here](#).

On October 30th, Ethiopian policy leaders began meeting in Addis Ababa to discuss how the country can meet its zero carbon emissions goal by 2025. The three-day international forum is set to discuss the country's commitment to avoid global warming and will focus on the \$150 billion implementation of the Climate Resilient Green Economy strategy that was developed in 2011. An article with additional details on the conference is available [here](#).

On October 31st, Nigeria said it will consider closing down oil fields in an effort to reduce gas flaring, the burning of excess gas, in the country. While gas flaring has been reduced in Nigeria, government officials say additional efforts are required, even if a loss of revenue results. An article on the potential flaring reductions is available [here](#).

On October 31st, the largest steelmaker in Africa, ArcelorMittal South Africa, announced a third-quarter loss of \$17 million, with greater losses anticipated in the fourth quarter of 2012. Company stock reached its lowest level since February of 2004. An article on the decline can be read [here](#). A statement from the company can be found [here](#).

General Africa News

On October 24th, the World Bank released a report stating that Africa has the ability to feed itself and avert food crises in the future. With the demand for food in Africa expected to double by 2020, the report urges African leaders to eliminate trade barriers and promote regional cooperation. The full report from the World Bank is available [here](#).

On October 30th through November 2nd, the African Economic Conference (AEC) will bring leaders together in Kigali, Rwanda, to discuss sustainable and inclusive growth. The AEC seeks to promote knowledge sharing, foster innovative thinking, and encourage research that will create future economic solutions for the continent. The AEC website can be viewed [here](#).

On October 31st, an article by Robert Bates indicates Africa may largely be avoiding the recession that has negatively impacted the Western world, but questions remain if the good economic news from the continent is merely hype. The full analysis by Bates on the situation in Africa can be read [here](#).

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