



ML Strategies Legislative Update

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AFRICA UPDATE

United States – Africa Relations

State Department

On October 25th, Ambassador Rick Barton, Assistant Secretary for Conflict and Stabilization Operations issued a letter stating that Kenya remains a top priority as the country's March 2013 national elections quickly approach. Violence was widespread throughout the country in the 2007 elections, and the U.S. Bureau of Conflict Stabilization Operations (CSO) intends to support a peaceful electoral process in 2013. The letter can be read [here](#).

On October 29th through November 8th, Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Wendy Sherman was on scheduled travel to the Congo, Rwanda, Uganda, South Africa, Kenya, and Ethiopia. In addition to leading the first meeting of the U.S.-South Africa Bilateral Working Group on African and Global Affairs, Sherman promoted advanced security and strong democracy in the region. A release on Sherman's travel is available [here](#).

On October 30th, South Africa hosted the first meeting of the U.S.-South Africa Senior Officials' Working Group on African and Global Affairs. The meetings focused on the African Union, regional economic integration, the Great Lakes, Zimbabwe, Sudan and South Sudan, Iran, and the Middle East, according to a State Department release available [here](#).

On October 31st, Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs Andrew Shapiro addressed the decrease in piracy off the coast of Somalia. Shapiro said that a decrease in successful attacks on one of the world's busiest shipping routes is the result of collective efforts between the U.S., the UK, NATO, and the EU. Remarks from Shapiro to the Atlantic Council are available [here](#).

On November 2nd, the national emergency issued in [Executive Order 13067](#), which imposes economic sanctions on Sudan, was renewed by President Obama. The national emergency, which has been in place since 1997, requires yearly renewal. The State Department said progress is being made, but Sudan must address its humanitarian issues and the conflict with South Sudan before normal relations can resume. The release on the renewal is available [here](#).

On November 5th, the State Department expressed deep concern over an attack on Dr. Denis

Mukwege, founder of the Panzi Hospital, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. On October 25th, four gunmen attempted to assassinate Dr. Mukwege at his home. The State Department encouraged the Congo to investigate the situation thoroughly and hold perpetrators responsible. A release from the State Department is available [here](#).

North Africa

On November 1st, Tarek Mitri, the top UN official in Libya, congratulated Prime Minister Ali Zeidan and Libya's General National Congress on the formation of a new government in the country. Special Representative Mitri said he wishes the new government success in building security institutions, promoting national reconciliation, and upholding the rule of law. A release on Mitri's comments is available [here](#).

On November 2nd, the UN Refugee Agency reported that internal conflict in Mali has displaced a higher number of people than previously estimated. Currently, over 200,000 people are displaced in the country, up from the previous estimate of just under 120,000 people. More detailed refugee projections from the UN are available [here](#).

On November 2nd, Islamists in Cairo rallied to demand sharia Islamic law. A new assembly in Egypt is drafting a constitution that must be approved before parliamentary elections can be held, but liberal Egyptians and Christians in the country are concerned that increased Islamic language in the new constitution may lead to further social restrictions. An article on the protests and the drafting process is available [here](#).

On November 5th, Algeria announced plans to open up a bidding process to international energy companies for oil and gas blocks at the beginning of 2013. In a previous bidding round in March 2011, the country awarded just two out of 10 permits. Algeria says new laws guarantee profitability of investments. An article on the bidding process is available [here](#).

On November 5th, protests outside a main oil refinery in the Libyan capital of Tripoli shut down operations at the refinery for a second day. Employees were not being allowed to enter and tankers were not allowed to leave the refinery, according to an official who said the protesters were war veterans demanding adequate compensation. An article on the protests can be read [here](#).

Sub-Saharan Africa

On October 29th, South Africa said new bidding for alternative energy contracts should add 3,200 megawatts of power to the national grid by 2020. Energy Minister Dipuo Peters said that renewable energy will be part of the country's strategy moving forward. An article on the alternative energy initiative is available [here](#).

On October 31st, the Brookings Institution reported that Rwanda, despite barbaric conflict and genocide that rattled the country less than 20 years ago, is now one of the best places to do business in Africa. Rwanda has made concerted efforts to improve its business environment, and the country continues to invest in modern information technologies and human development. The article on Rwanda's resurgence can be found [here](#).

On November 1st, the World Bank released its biannual Tanzania Economic Update. According to the report, Tanzania experienced a growth rate over six percent in 2011 and 2012, with a fiscal deficit that declined for the first time in four years. However, the report notes that many of these economic successes have failed to benefit large portions of Tanzania's population. The full report is available [here](#).

On November 2nd, Guinea swore in a new electoral commission following intense political debate over how the commission would be comprised. The ruling and opposition parties agreed to a compromise in which the commission will include 10 members from the ruling coalition, 10 from the opposition, and five from civil society, public service, and administration. An article on the decision can be read [here](#).

On November 2nd, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) urged Nigeria to avoid expansionary fiscal

policies that may prove unsuccessful in a global economy that remains unstable. While oil prices are high, officials suggest Nigeria should use excess funds to build up its reserves. Nigeria is the only major oil producer in the world that sells 100% of its crude to private commodities traders and not directly to refineries. An article on the developments in the country is available [here](#). An article on the IMF's recommendations can be read [here](#).

On November 2nd, Nigerian oil company Serious Resource Energy was granted a license by the Republic of Niger to explore oil opportunities in the country. Serious Resource Energy agreed to pay Niger \$5 million and provide basic amenities to communities in the country for the exploration rights. An article on the agreement is available [here](#).

On November 2nd, UN Security Council members met to extend a mandate for the international peacekeeping force that is providing support to the Government of Somalia. The 10,000 peacekeepers in the area are now allowed to remain deployed through November 7th. An article on the UN's decision is available [here](#).

On November 2nd, Ghana announced it seeks investments to exploit the country's potential in renewable-energy resources. The West African nation wants Ghanaian and non-Ghanaian private operators to invest \$1 billion and partner with the government to develop solar, biomass, wind, and mini-hydro over the next eight years. An article on the proposed developments is available [here](#).

On November 4th, UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) Representative Hilde Johnson expressed deep disappointment over a decision by South Sudan to expel a UN human rights officer. Johnson said the decision was a breach South Sudan's legal obligations under the Charter of the UN. A press statement from Johnson is available [here](#).

On November 5th, Reuters reported that Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan faces increasing pressure from officials in the country to address government corruption in the oil sector. A report released in late October suggests Nigeria has lost billions of dollars over the last decade through deals made between government officials, the state-oil firm, and multinational oil companies. An article on potential corruption in one of Nigeria's key industries is available [here](#).

On November 5th and 6th, International Monetary Fund (IMF) Deputy Managing Director Min Zhu visited Senegal to discuss how the country can achieve strong, sustainable growth and reduce poverty in an uncertain global economic environment. A release from the IMF on Zhu's visit is available [here](#).

General Africa News

On October 17th, PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) released its biennial Valuation Methodology Survey, which, for the first time, expands beyond South Africa and now includes analysis of investment opportunities in East and West Africa. PwC notes barriers to trade and a lack of infrastructure present challenges in the region, but strong growth, improved technology, and an abundance of resources offer opportunities in Africa. The full report is available [here](#).

On November 2nd, the African Economic Conference (AEC) concluded in Kigali, Rwanda. The African Development Bank said the continent has the potential to become the next emerging market by the end of the decade. Not only do untapped resources offer opportunities, but there are many possibilities for clean energy on the continent. Remarks from the Development Bank are available [here](#). The AEC website can be viewed [here](#).

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