



ML Strategies Update

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AFRICA UPDATE

Leading the News

Central African Republic

On April 5th, National Public Radio (NPR) reported on the impact of the leadership change in the Central African Republic (CAR). The report noted that many people in the capital of Bangui are tired of constant violence in the country. However, the Seleka rebel group has provided an opportunity for young men in the CAR to join the new rebel army. The story can be heard [here](#).

On April 6th, Julius Agbor and Michael Rettig of the Brookings Institution released an analysis on the current violence and instability in the CAR. Agbor and Rettig note that a history of French involvement in the country and a lack of solid government and media institutions suggest that the CAR is a long way from stability and democracy. The analysis can be read [here](#).

On April 7th, self-declared CAR President Michel Djotodia said he will step down if he is not selected by a council created to choose an interim president for the country. The establishment of a transitional council is seen as a move by Djotodia to gain legitimacy in the international community. It is unclear how the council will select the interim president. An article on the upcoming vote can be read [here](#).

On April 8th, the United Nations (U.N.) Children's Fund (UNICEF) provided more than 23 tons of drugs, obstetric supplies, and water tanks to the capital city of Bangui in the CAR. About 200,000 people are expected to use the supplies. Health care facilities in the CAR were ransacked following a coup by the Seleka rebel group in late March. More information on the aid is available [here](#).

On April 9th, South Africa said it will withdraw all troops from the CAR. More than 200 South African troops were in the CAR to train local forces. Seleka rebels killed 13 South African soldiers as the rebels took control of Bangui in late March. An article on the withdrawal can be read [here](#).

Egypt

On April 6th, violence broke out between Muslims and Coptic Christians in the city of Khosous that

killed five people and injured several others. The violence occurred after the Christians drew crosses on a Muslim school. An article on the violence is available [here](#).

On April 7th, clashes between Muslims and Coptic Christians continued in Cairo following the funerals of the four Christians killed in Khosous. Two people were killed near the main Christian cathedral in Egypt. A report on the violence at the cathedral is available [here](#).

On April 9th, Coptic Christian Pope Tawadros II said Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi was negligent in reacting to deadly violence at the main cathedral of the Coptic Church. Pope Tawadros said that President Morsi did not act on his promise to protect the cathedral and that the violence against Egyptian Christians is unprecedented. Additional comments from Pope Tawadros are available [here](#).

On April 9th, State Department Acting Deputy Spokesperson Patrick Ventrell urged President Mohammed Morsi and the Egyptian government to fully investigate violence at the cathedral in Cairo where violence erupted following the funeral of Christians who were killed in violence with Muslims. The issue was addressed during the daily State Department press briefing. A transcript is available [here](#).

Kenya

On April 5th, U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for War Crimes Issues Stephen Rapp said indictments from the International Criminal Court (ICC) helped promote peace during Kenya's recent presidential elections. Ambassador Rapp, referring to Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta, said heads of state are not immune from the rules of the ICC. Additional comments from Ambassador Rapp are available [here](#).

On April 7th, *News24* reported that Uhuru Kenyatta, Kenya's new president, intends to maintain his strong relationships with Western nations, even as he faces charges from the ICC. The report suggests that because the majority of foreign investment in Kenya comes from Western companies, it would be difficult for Kenyatta's to focus solely on China as President. The *News24* article can be read [here](#).

On April 9th, Uhuru Kenyatta was sworn in as Kenya's new president. Thousands of supporters packed a stadium in Nairobi and watched as President Kenyatta took the oath of office. Dignitaries from throughout the world attended the event. Details on the ceremony are available [here](#).

Mali

On April 8th, French forces began a major offensive against Islamist militants in a river valley near the city of Gao. The offensive is the last major operation before France begins a troop drawdown in Mali. Details on the offensive, which was intended clear out any remaining militants, are available [here](#).

On April 9th, France began withdrawing troops from Mali. About 100 troops belonging to parachute units have withdrawn to Cyprus. France expects to decrease its troop presence to about 2,000 in July, when Malians are scheduled to vote in national elections. An article on the withdrawal can be read [here](#).

South Sudan

On April 8th, a Sudanese official said the country's president, Omar al-Bashir, will visit the South Sudan capital of Juba on April 12th. The visit is President Bashir's first since he attended South Sudan's declaration of independence in 2011. More information on the trip can be found [here](#).

On April 9th, United Nations (U.N.) Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon said he was appalled by an attack on a U.N. Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) convoy that killed five Indian peacekeepers, two UNMISS national staff, and five civilian staff contractors. At least nine other people were injured in the attack waged by approximately 200 unidentified men against the civilian convoy that was traveling near the Gumuruk settlement. Comments on the attack are available [here](#).

On April 9th, State Department Acting Deputy Spokesperson Patrick Ventrell said the U.S. strongly condemns the attack on UNMISS personnel. Deputy Spokesperson Ventrell, speaking on behalf of the U.S., encouraged South Sudan to fully investigate the attack and said the U.S. remains a strong supporter of UNMISS. The comments were made at the State Department's daily press briefing. Deputy Spokesperson Ventrell's full comments are available [here](#).

Democratic Republic of Congo

On April 6th, Bertrand Bisimwa, the president of the M23 rebel group in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), said his group will fight back against any U.N. forces that enter areas under his control. A U.N. intervention brigade of 2,000-3,000 troops has been authorized to use force to end the rebellion. Additional information on the tensions between the M23 rebel group and the U.N. is available [here](#).

On April 9th, M23 and the Government of the DRC resumed peace talks in the Ugandan capital of Kampala. M23 was assured that it would not be attacked by a U.N. intervention force as long as the group continues to participate in peace discussions. During the peace talks, M23 leaders indicated they would prefer to avoid bloodshed. Details on the meeting are available [here](#).

United States – Africa Relations

White House

On April 4th, White House Deputy National Security Advisor for International Economic Affairs Michael Froman participated on a panel at the Export-Import (Ex-Im) Bank's annual conference. During his panel presentation, Deputy National Security Advisor Froman expressed the Obama Administration's commitment to renewal of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). He also said that leading up to the expiration of the current authorization in 2015, U.S. and sub-Saharan stakeholders should engage on identifying how AGOA can be improved. Details on the Ex-Im Bank conference are available [here](#).

On April 7th, President Barack Obama issued a statement recognizing the 19th anniversary of the genocide in Rwanda. In the statement, President Obama honored the victims and expressed solidarity with survivors. President Obama also articulated a renewed commitment to human rights and the rule of law as a means to prevent future atrocities. President Obama's statement on the anniversary of the genocide in Rwanda can be read [here](#).

On April 8th, President Barack Obama sent a memo to Secretary of State John Kerry that indicated providing light arms weaponry to the government of Somalia will strengthen U.S. security and promote world peace. The memo does not provide immediate weapons assistance to Somalia, but Secretary Kerry is now authorized to take steps to provide light arms to Somalia in the future. Details on the decision are available [here](#).

On April 10th, the White House released its proposed budget for the 2014 fiscal year. The budget includes \$4 billion for security and overseas personnel and facilities. President Barack Obama also highlighted proposed allocations of \$580 million to promote economic and political reforms in the Middle East and North Africa. The full proposed budget for the Department of State can be viewed [here](#).

State Department

On April 4th, State Department Spokesperson Victoria Nuland addressed inquiries related to the recent Human Rights Watch report that questions the impartial application of justice in the Government of Cote d'Ivoire's prosecution of perpetrators of human rights violations and abuses on both sides of the post-election crisis in 2010 and in 2011. Spokesperson Nuland indicated the State Department is engaged in ongoing conversations with Government of Cote d'Ivoire to stress the need for accountability for all those responsible for serious crimes during the conflict. A full transcript from that State Department's daily press briefing has been posted [here](#).

On April 5th, the State Department announced that the U.S., in partnership with the U.K., Norway, and the European Union (EU), will host a South Sudan Economic Partners Forum in Washington, DC, on April 16th. The forum, which will also include the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the African Development Bank, will focus on economic and fiscal challenges facing South Sudan and how South Sudan can work with partner nations and financial institutions to address them. The State Department announcement can be viewed [here](#).

On April 7th, Secretary of State John Kerry issued a statement recognizing the 19th anniversary of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda. In the statement, Secretary Kerry recognizes the resilience of the Rwandan people in overcoming the tragedy. Secretary Kerry's full statement has been posted [here](#).

On April 8th, the State Department's Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation issued a statement recognizing the new members of the Biologic and Toxin Weapons Convention (BWC), including Cameroon, Guyana, and Malawi. The BWC, which has the objective of preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs), now has 170 State Parties. The full State Department statement welcoming new members of the BWC can be found [here](#).

On April 9th, Assistant Secretary of State for Economic and Business Affairs Jose Fernandez delivered the keynote address at the Middle East & North Africa Consultants Association (MENACA) launch reception. MENACA is a trade association for consultants, lawyers, and business development professionals. More information on MENACA is available [here](#). A copy of Assistant Secretary Fernandez's remarks can be read [here](#).

On April 10th, Assistant Secretary of State for Economic and Business Affairs Jose Fernandez met with Gabonese Ambassador to the U.S. Michael Moussa-Adamo in Washington, DC. The meeting was noted on the State Department's daily public schedule, which is available [here](#).

On April 10th, Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs Andrew Shapiro appeared before the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure's Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation to provide an update on efforts to combat piracy in Somalia. In his update to the Subcommittee, Assistant Secretary Shapiro noted that progress has been made, with a 75% decline in overall pirate attacks in 2012 compared to the previous year. Remarks from Assistant Secretary Shapiro have been posted [here](#).

On April 10th, Ambassador-at-Large and U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator Eric Goosby departed on foreign travel to meet with senior government officials in Namibia. The meetings were listed on the State Department's daily appointment schedule, which can be viewed [here](#).

On April 11th, the State Department released a statement on the G8 Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in London on April 10th-11th. During the meeting, the G8 leaders noted the 50th anniversary of the founding of the African Union (AU), as well as economic growth, political stability, and democratization across the continent. The G8 Ministers also discussed the progress and challenges in Mali, Somalia, the DRC, and Sudan and South Sudan. The full State Department release on the G8 Foreign Ministers' Meeting can be read [here](#).

On April 11th, Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) William Brownfield, International Development Law Organization (IDLO) Director-General Irene Khan, and Ambassador Thomas Pickering, a member of the IDLO International Advisory Council, participated in a panel discussion on justice sector reform initiatives in nations in transition. The discussion highlighted how the INL and IDLO have partnered in South Sudan on projects that support institutions such as the Judiciary of South Sudan and the Ministry of Justice's Legal Training Institute. Details on the panel discussion have been posted [here](#).

Department of Defense

On April 4th, the Shongani Village Primary School in South Africa reopened after the small school trailer had been torn to shreds in a tornado. Thanks in large part to U.S. Africa Command's (AFRICOM) Humanitarian Assistance Program the school is now housed in a \$200,000 building that

includes multiple classrooms and restroom facilities. While the school was under construction, classes were conducted outside. More information on the reopening of the school can be found [here](#).

On April 4th, AFRICOM Commander General Carter Ham relieved Commander of the Combined Joint Task Force in the Horn of Africa Major General Ralph Baker of his post in connection with alcohol and sexual misconduct charges. Major General Baker has appealed the dismissal to Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel and returned to Washington, DC, where he is now serving as a special assistant to new Army Vice Chief of Staff Lieutenant General John Campbell. An article on Major General Baker's dismissal can be read [here](#).

On April 5th, General David Rodriguez assumed command of AFRICOM, becoming the third Commander since AFRICOM was established in 2008. General Rodriguez has previously served as the Commanding General of U.S. Army Command, Commander of the International Security Assistance Force Joint Command (IJC), and Deputy Commander of U.S. Forces-Afghanistan (USFOR-A). Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Martin Dempsey presided over the Change of Command Ceremony at AFRICOM headquarters in Stuttgart, Germany. An AFRICOM press release on the Change of Command is available [here](#). A video recording from the ceremony can be watched [here](#). Additional comments from General Rodriguez are available [here](#).

On April 5th, the Pentagon released the text of a message from Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel that was read during Friday's AFRICOM Change of Command ceremony. In his message, Secretary Hagel thanked outgoing Commander General Carter Ham for his service in strengthening relationships with key U.S. allies in Africa, and welcomed General David Rodriguez to the post. Secretary Hagel's full message has been posted [here](#).

On April 5th, U.S. and Cameroonian forces concluded a month-long effort to bring improved health care services to people throughout Cameroon. Activities included the construction of two health outposts and a medically-focused professional exchange to increase the capacity of military and civilian medical practitioners. The final health outreach mission provided health services to 1,300 people in Cameroon over a five-day period. A summary of the partnership's activities can be found [here](#).

On April 6th, as part of Exercise African Lion 13, a joint force of Marines, Airmen, Sailors, and Soldiers conducted a maritime prepositioning offload at the port of Agadir, Morocco. A U.S. Navy cargo transport ship delivered more than 250 short tons of equipment to be used in joint, multi-lateral exercises later this month. An article on the delivery of military equipment to Agadir can be viewed [here](#).

On April 8th, the U.S. Combined Joint Task Force in the Horn of Africa reported on the relationship between U.S. Marines and Ugandan soldiers. Marines are in the region to help the Ugandans increase their military capabilities and survival skills and to contribute to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). U.S. officials praised the enthusiasm and responsiveness of the Ugandan volunteers. The report on the partnership can be read [here](#).

On April 8th, U.S. Army Africa Public Affairs reported that U.S. Army Africa Chaplain (Lieutenant Colonel) Sid Taylor and Lieutenant Colonel Graeme Bicknell of U.S. Army Medical Command recently traveled to Burundi where they provided resiliency training to chaplains, psychologists, and medical staff. The training was intended to Burundi personnel to cope with the stressors of deployments to assist with the AMISOM. Details on the training sessions in Burundi are available [here](#).

Department of Commerce

On April 8th, Acting Deputy Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade Ken Hyatt announced he will lead a multi-sector trade mission to Egypt April 13th-15th. The trade mission will allow representatives of nine U.S. companies, including Green Inc., Google Inc., Greeley and Hansen LLC, Maybe Inc., Pioneer Solar, SunEdison, Rapiscan Systems Ltd., Raytheon International Inc., and Vanguard Defense Industries LLC, to better understand the challenges and opportunities for doing business with Egypt. A press release on the upcoming trade mission to Egypt has been posted [here](#).

U.S. Congress

On April 9th, OPSEC, a group of former U.S. intelligence and special forces operatives, sent a letter to Representative Frank Wolf (R-VA) asking him to work with other members of Congress to create a Select Committee on Benghazi for the purpose of investigating remaining questions related to the September 11th attack on the U.S. diplomatic compound in Benghazi, Libya. Representative Wolf recently introduced a resolution to establish the committee. The OSEC letter can be downloaded [here](#).

On April 10th, following the unveiling of President Barack Obama's FY14 budget request which included more than \$4 billion for State Department security programs, Representative Frank Wolf continued to call for the creation of a select committee to investigate the September 11th attack on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi. Representative Wolf expressed optimism that the committee will be formed and noted that his resolution had attracted 85 co-sponsors. An article on Representative Wolf's continued advocacy for a Select Committee on Benghazi can be read [here](#).

On April 11th, National Intelligence Director James Clapper testified in a closed hearing before the House Intelligence Committee. During his testimony on worldwide threats, Director Clapper allegedly disclosed that Defense Department drones had conducted surveillance in Libya ahead of the September 11th attack on the diplomatic compound in Benghazi. Director Clapper noted the military drones were unarmed. Additional information on the House Intelligence Committee hearing can be found [here](#).

North Africa

On April 8th, the Government of Qatar pledged \$500 million to rebuild the Darfur region in Sudan. The announcement was part of a two-day donor conference in Doha to raise billions of dollars to rebuild Darfur. More details on the Qatar pledge and the conference can be found [here](#).

On April 9th, Mohamed al-Ghattous, an aide to Libyan Prime Minister Ali Zeidan, was released following nine days in captivity. The capture was reportedly the work of a militia group that had been formed to fight and overthrow Muammar Gaddafi in 2011. More details on the kidnapping are available [here](#).

East Africa

On April 3rd, Korean electronics company Samsung announced plans to open a television, laptop, and printer assembly plant in Nairobi, Kenya by the end of the year. The plant is anticipated to employ 900 people directly and more than 1,000 others across the supply chain. The Samsung plant in Kenya will be the latest addition to a chain of Samsung plants throughout Africa, including in South Africa, Sudan, and Senegal. Additional information on Samsung's presence in Africa can be found [here](#).

On April 4th, the Moffet Group registered under the Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA) to provide public affairs and lobbying services to the Central Bank of Somalia. According to its FARA filings, the Moffet group will be determining where funds that belong to Somalia remain frozen in U.S. banks and financial institutions. The Moffet's FARA filings on behalf of the Central Bank of Somalia can be viewed [here](#).

On April 5th, the official SUNA news agency in South Sudan announced that oil production in South Sudan has been resumed and the country will begin exporting oil by the end of May. South Sudan had halted crude oil production in early 2012 as a result of tensions with Sudan. An article on the resumption of oil production and exports from South Sudan can be read [here](#).

On April 5th, Maasai tribesmen in Tanzania said the government is preparing to kick them off cattle-grazing land near the Masai Mara Game Reserve and will cede the land to a hunting company originating from the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Tanzania's Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism announced last week that it would not allow Maasai on a section of the Loliondo Game Controlled Area in order to resolve existing conflicts and save the ecology of the Serengeti. Details on the dispute between the Natural Resources and Tourism Ministry and the Maasai tribesmen can be

viewed [here](#).

On April 7th, Rwanda marked the 19th anniversary of the Rwandan Genocide with a public holiday. To recognize the anniversary, President Paul Kagame and other government officials laid a wreath on the mass grave, containing the remains of more than 250,000 genocide victims, at the Kigali Genocide Memorial Center. Over the course of the week, which is designated as a week of public mourning, Rwandans are expected to lay wreaths at memorial sites and attend public lectures and candlelit vigils. An article on the recognition of the genocide in Rwanda can be found [here](#).

On April 10th, Kenyan oil company KenolKobil saw its stock reach a 15-month low on the Nairobi Securities Exchange All-Share Index. The company, which operates in 10 countries, experienced a \$74 million loss over the past year, partially due to a 40% increase in administrative costs. More information on the company's current financial stability is available [here](#).

West Africa

On April 5th, Jose Americo Bubu Na Tchuto, a Rear Admiral in the Guinea-Bissau Navy, was arrested in international waters. Admiral Na Tchuto is a suspected kingpin in the massive drug trade in Guinea-Bissau. The U.S. imposed a travel ban and asset-freeze on Admiral Na Tchuto in 2010, and it is believed that he will be prosecuted in the U.S. Full details on the arrest are available [here](#).

On April 5th, *Ghana Business News (GBN)* reported that more than 90% of mining licenses granted by Ghana to date have been given to Ghanaian owned mining companies. Representing the Minerals Commission at a two-day extractives reporting training workshop held in Accra, Jerry Ahadzi said small-scale mining (SSM) is reserved for Ghanaians according to law. The *GBN* report on Ghana's mining sector can be viewed [here](#).

On April 7th, Guinea's opposition coalition agreed to resume negotiations for legislative elections that will complete a transition to civilian rule in the country. Aboubacar Sylla, an opposition spokesman, said the Guinea government agreed to release opposition supporters and suspend the electoral commission while negotiations take place. The opposition coalition has previously suggested that the government is trying to rig the national elections. An update on the negotiations can be read [here](#).

On April 8th, Mauritania announced plans to more than double the amount of land it cultivates in the upcoming year. Minister of Rural Development Brahim Ould Mohamed Ould El M'Bareck Mukhtar said the country aims to cultivate 200,000 hectares under its 2013-2014 agriculture program, a 110% increase. Mauritania hopes the effort will help it support over one-third of its cereal needs. An article on the proposed increase is available [here](#).

On April 8th, Mali announced that its .ML domain, which is currently used by fewer than 50 active websites, will be free beginning in July. General Manager for Mali's Agence des Technologies de l'Information et de la Communication said the announcement is intended to bring in outside investment and to boost Malian businesses. Mali anticipates that countries like Manila and Malaysia may be interested in the .ML domain because of the resemblance between the letters and their own country's names. More on Mali's announcement on the availability of free domain space can be viewed [here](#).

On April 8th, telecommunications service provider Airtel Nigeria introduced the WhatsApp data application package to prescribers. Airtel Nigeria has the exclusive right to launch WhatsApp packages in Nigeria. The new package, which is available to all prepaid subscribers, allows instant chat features and file and location sharing. Information related to the availability of WhatsApp in Nigeria is available [here](#).

On April 9th, Guinea reduced some taxes in its mining code as a way to potentially improve investments in the country. The National Transitional Council cut mining profit taxes from 35% to 30% and significantly decreased the tax on bauxite. Additionally, companies are now able to hold five mining licenses instead of three. Details on the changes can be found [here](#).

Sub-Saharan Africa

On April 4th, the Sabi Sand Game Reserve in South Africa announced it is injecting non-lethal chemical mixtures into rhino's horns to prevent poaching and to safeguard the number of rhinos on the reserve. The horns are injected with parasiticides and pink dye that when consumed can make people seriously ill. More than 200 rhinos have been poached in South Africa since the start of this year and their horns have been sold in Asia where they are ground into powder and consumed as a delicacy. More information is available [here](#).

On April 5th, *BBC News* reported that Portugal's staggering economy is causing many of Portugal's unemployed to settle in the former Portuguese colony of Mozambique. The recent migration represents a reverse in movement following Mozambique gaining its independence in 1975. The *BBC News* report on Portuguese travel to Mozambique can be viewed [here](#).

On April 9th, South African Water and Environmental Affairs Minister Edna Molewa announced South Africa's first offshore marine protected area, spanning 180,000 square kilometers around the Prince Edward and Marion Islands. The announcement is in alignment with South Africa's new National Protected Areas Expansion Strategy, which seeks to maximize environmental conservation. Additional information on the Department of Environment Affairs announcement has been posted [here](#).

On April 9th, First National Bank (FNB) launched an instant money transfer service in South Africa that will enable customers in South Africa to send funds to Zimbabwe using mobile devices. World Bank research shows that approximately 20% of the money currently sent to Zimbabwe from South Africa was spent on getting it there. FNB also reports that approximately 1.9 million Zimbabweans live in South Africa and send roughly \$748 million to Zimbabwe each year. Details on the new mobile funds transfer service are available [here](#).

On April 9th, Standard Chartered CEO Diana Layfield attended the Reuters Africa Investment Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa, and announced that Standard Chartered has opened two new branches in Cape Town and Durban. Layfield indicated the new branches are looking to serve local retailers and trading houses with aspirations to expand across the continent. More generally, Standard Chartered plans to invest \$100 million in Africa to double its business on the continent in the next five years. Information on Standard Chartered's operations in Africa can be read [here](#).

On April 10th, Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) President Joseph Kabila met in Nairobi and agreed to renew a Joint Commission for Cooperation (JCC) to strengthen relations between the two countries. Both presidents emphasized the importance of peace and stability in the region, and they agreed that a strengthened relationship could prove beneficial to people in both countries. A notice on the renewed agreement can be found [here](#).

On April 10th, officials in South Africa said bird flu has been detected on an ostrich farm in the country. The H7N1 strain of the flu was discovered near the town of Oudtshoorn. The strain is unrelated to one that recently killed eight people in China. A recent ban on imports of South African ostrich meat by the European Union (EU) has decimated the country's ostrich industry. An article on the flu discovery can be read [here](#).

On April 10th, PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) India published a report finding that mobile health (mHealth) applications could potentially save more than one million lives in Sub-Saharan Africa over the next five years. According to the report, Africa's low adoption of mHealth solutions is primarily due to a lack of health literacy among patients. However, mHealth technology could impact deaths in Africa related to HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis (TB), malaria, and pregnancy-related conditions. Details on the report can be found [here](#).

On April 10th, Goldman Sachs economist Jim O'Neil, who invented the BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India, China) acronym and has questioned the inclusion of South Africa among the BRICS nations, said that Africa could be a dominant force in the world's economic landscape for the next several decades. Speaking in Cape Town, South Africa, at an African Venture Capital Association conference, O'Neil also said that South Africa has an important role to play in the rest of the continent's success. Additional remarks from O'Neil are available [here](#).

General Africa News

On April 4th, the *Wall Street Journal* reported that investors hunting for yield are increasingly buying African sovereign debt. For investors, the debt sales offer exposure to growing economies and yield a better return than they would receive in more development markets. In particular, African countries including Kenya, Rwanda, South Africa, and Tanzania are increasing their presence in the bond market. The *Wall Street Journal* article on investments in African sovereign debt can be read [here](#).

On April 4th, following U.N. approval of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), *The Guardian* reported on the potential for a rise in international arms sales from Russia to Africa. Russia already has a history of military-technical cooperation with several African nations, including Algeria, Angola, Burkina Faso, Botswana, Ethiopia, Ghana, Libya, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Sudan, South Africa, and Uganda. International arms sales may increase given Africa's increased demand for military hardware and Russia's increasing interest in exerting influence in the region. More information on Russian arms sales to Africa can be found [here](#).

On April 6th, more than 1,000 runners from nearly 50 countries embarked on the 28th year of Marathon des Sables, known as the world's toughest footrace. The race covers more than 220 kilometers over six days in the Sahara Desert. An article detailing the challenge and pictures from the event can be viewed [here](#).

On April 8th, Barclays Bank UK published research revealing South Africa, Ghana, and Kenya as the top three most preferred markets for expansion of British retail businesses. A survey found that 18% of participants identified South Africa as their top choice, followed by Ghana and Kenya at 6% and 4% respectively. The survey also found that Chad, Congo, Morocco, and Nigeria provide significant revenue for British retailers. Details on the survey have been posted [here](#).

On April 9th, Japanese automaker Toyota's Africa CEO Johan van Zyl told the Reuters Africa Investment Summit that he expects the East and West African auto markets to grow by up to 5% this year. Toyota sold \$237,000 vehicles in Africa last year, giving it 14% market share. Details on the auto market in Africa can be found [here](#).

On April 10th, the multinational brewing company SABMiller said it plans to increase beer sales in Africa by 7% to 9% per year. Jonathan Kirby, the SABMiller Africa Finance Director, said the company will cut prices, use more local grains, and negotiate better tax terms with governments to meet its sales goals. More information on the SABMiller business plan is available [here](#).

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