



## ML Strategies Update

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## AFRICA UPDATE

### Leading the News

#### **Somalia**

On April 14<sup>th</sup>, militants claiming to be affiliated with the Al-Shabaab terrorist group attacked the main courts and the airport in the Somali capital of Mogadishu. The bombings and gun attacks killed at least 29 people. Al-Shabaab, which seeks to establish an Islamic state in Somalia, was driven out of Mogadishu in 2011, although the group remains in other parts of the country. More information on the attacks is available [here](#).

On April 16<sup>th</sup>, the Human Rights Watch (HRW) said the attacks in Somalia were violations of the laws of war. Leslie Lefkow, Deputy Africa Director at the HRW, said the al-Shabaab group showed utter disregard for civilian life by committing the attacks. Deputy Director Lefkow also said court buildings are no exception to the laws of war, which protect all civilians and civilian buildings. An article issued by HRW on the attacks can be read [here](#).

#### **Central African Republic**

On April 15<sup>th</sup>, seven fighters of the Seleka rebel group were killed in Bangui, the capital of the Central African Republic (CAR). The fighters had been disarmed in an effort to restore order to a neighborhood in Bangui that faced continued violence and looting. The rebels were killed as they searched for hidden weapons. An article on the situation in the CAR is available [here](#).

On April 16<sup>th</sup>, the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) expressed concern over the increasing instability in the CAR and the number of refugees leaving the country. UNHCR spokesman Adrian Edwards said over 30,000 CAR refugees are in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), with over 1,000 refugees in Cameroon and over 6,700 refugees in Chad. Edwards said Seleka must end the violence and restore critical humanitarian operations in the CAR. The article from the UNHCR can be read [here](#).

#### **Mali**

On April 6<sup>th</sup>, Al Qaeda leader Ayman Al-Zawahri issued a statement addressing the terrorist organization's efforts across the world. A prominent component of the video statement was a warning to the French military that it will suffer as a result of its intervention in Mali. Al-Zawahri said he hopes French forces will meet a similar fate as the U.S. in Iraq and Afghanistan. Additional comments from the terrorist leader can be found [here](#).

On April 9<sup>th</sup>, the *New York Times* reported that a camel given to French President Francois Hollande as a thank you gift for the French intervention in Mali was mistakenly eaten by its Malian caretakers. Malian officials expressed embarrassment over the incident and said a new camel will be sent to Paris. The article on the incident is available [here](#).

On April 15<sup>th</sup>, Chadian President Idriss Deby said his country's troops were withdrawing from the fighting in Mali. President Deby said the 2,200 Chadian troops in the region do not have the necessary training to handle a guerrilla war in northern Mali. Chad has lost 36 troops and spent more than \$114 million on its assistance in Mali. More details on the Chadian role in Mali are available [here](#).

## **United States – Africa Relations**

### ***White House***

On April 15<sup>th</sup>, President Barack Obama received credentials from five foreign ambassadors who were recently posted in Washington, DC. Among the ambassadors recognized during the ceremony to mark the official start of their tenure in the U.S. was Tunisia's Ambassador to the U.S. Mohktar Chaouachi. The ceremony was included on President Obama's daily scheduled, which is posted [here](#).

### ***State Department***

On April 12<sup>th</sup>, Acting Assistant Secretary for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor Uzra Zeya met with Ibrahim El Houdaiby at the Department of State. El Houdaiby is an Egyptian activist and a former member of the Muslim Brotherhood who has become a leading researcher on democratization in Egypt. More on El Houdaiby's research can be viewed [here](#).

On April 12<sup>th</sup>, Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs Andrew Shapiro discussed his tenure at the State Department at an event hosted by the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR). During the discussion, Assistant Secretary Shapiro noted that recent challenges in Libya and Egypt have had implications for U.S. security assistance policy, but he stressed shared national security interests, especially between the U.S. and Egypt. He also cited U.S. efforts to support the African Union (AU) Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) against Al-Shabaab as a success story that could serve as a model for U.S. security assistance in Mali. A transcript and video recording of the CFR discussion can be found [here](#).

On April 12<sup>th</sup>, Ambassador-at-Large and U.S. Global Aids Coordinator Eric Goosby met with senior government officials in Windhoek, Namibia, to discuss the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). The meetings were listed on the State Department's daily public schedule, which is posted [here](#).

On April 15<sup>th</sup>, Deputy Secretary of State Bill Burns met with a delegation from South Sudan visiting the U.S. for the South Sudan Economic Partners Forum. The meeting was included in the State Department's daily appointments schedule, which is available [here](#).

On April 15<sup>th</sup>, Ambassador-at-Large and U.S. Global Aids Coordinator Eric Goosby continued his travels in Africa, arriving in Cape Town, South Africa, to meet with Dr. Trevor Peter, Chair of the Board of Directors, and Dr. Tsehaynesh Messele, Chief Executive Officer, of the African Society for Laboratory Medicine (ASLM). ASLM is a member organization for African laboratory professionals that aims advance laboratory medicine services needed to support preventive medicine, quality patient care, and disease control in Africa. More information on ASLM is available [here](#).

On April 15<sup>th</sup>, State Department Acting Deputy Spokesperson Patrick Ventrell responded to inquiries

regarding reports that Sufyan bin Qumu, the leader of an Islamist extremist group in Libya suspected of involvement in the September 11<sup>th</sup> attack against the U.S. consulate in Benghazi, had been shot. While Deputy Spokesperson Ventrell recognized reports in the press, he indicated the Government of Libya and the U.S. Embassy in Tripoli had not yet confirmed the reports. A transcript of Deputy Spokesperson Ventrell's comments on the incident in Libya can be read [here](#).

On April 16<sup>th</sup>, the U.S. Government, along with the Governments of the U.K., Norway, and the European Union (EU), hosted the South Sudan Economic Partners Forum at the State Department. The forum was held to discuss the economic and development challenges facing South Sudan and to explore potential solutions that involve partner nations and international financial institutions. Notable participants included Deputy Secretary of State Bill Burns, USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah, and South Sudan Minister of Finance Kosti Manibe Ngai. Opening remarks delivered by Deputy Secretary Burns can be read [here](#). Text of a communique issued by the participants in the forum has been posted [here](#). Further details on the South Sudan Economic Forum can be found [here](#).

On April 16<sup>th</sup>, Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Wendy Sherman met with ten Francophone African Supreme Court Justices at the Department of State. The meeting was noticed on the State Department's daily public schedule, which can be viewed [here](#).

On April 16<sup>th</sup>, Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment Robert Hormats met with a delegation of senior business leaders from the American Chamber of Commerce in Egypt. The American Chamber of Commerce in Egypt frequently hosts business missions to the U.S. to promote commerce and investment between the U.S. and Egypt. Additional information on the American Chamber of Commerce in Egypt is available [here](#).

On April 16<sup>th</sup>, Ambassador-at-Large and U.S. Global Aids Coordinator Eric Goosby attended the Second Conference on Anti-retroviral Drug Optimization in Cape Town, South Africa. At the conference, Ambassador Goosby delivered remarks on "U.S. Government Priorities for HIV Treatment in Resource-Poor Settings for the Next Decade: Working Towards an AIDS-free Generation." The speech was noted on the State Department's daily schedule, which is posted [here](#).

On April 17<sup>th</sup>, Secretary of State John Kerry spoke before the House Foreign Affairs Committee and the House Appropriations State and Foreign Operations Subcommittee on the foreign affairs budget for FY14. Secretary Kerry noted that the budget includes \$580 million for the Middle East and North Africa Incentive Fund to provide reformers in the region the tools necessary to make decisions that will benefit their citizens. Secretary Kerry said the \$8.6 billion that the budget provides to address terrorism in Africa is a reasonable investment when compared with the money spent fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan. Secretary Kerry also vowed to appoint a liaison to Congress to address continued questions related to the last year's attack on the U.S. mission in Benghazi. The opening statement delivered by Secretary Kerry can be found [here](#). A recording of the House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing can be watched [here](#). An archived webcast of the House Appropriations Subcommittee hearing has been posted [here](#).

On April 17<sup>th</sup>, Deputy Secretary of State Bills met separately with U.S. Ambassador-designate to Libya Deborah Jones and U.S. Ambassador to Egypt Anne Patterson. Both meetings were listed on the State Department's daily appointment schedule, which can be viewed [here](#).

On April 17<sup>th</sup>, Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment Robert Hormats delivered opening remarks at a screening of the film *Battle for Elephants*, hosted at the Department of State. The film, which was produced by National Geographic and PBS as a television special, tracks the ivory trade from Tanzania to China. More information on *Battle for Elephants* is available [here](#).

On April 17<sup>th</sup>, the State Department's Bureau of Political-Military Affairs issued its quarterly update on the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia. The fact sheet notes that while there were 4 attempted hijackings in the first quarter of 2013, none of the hijacking attempts were successful. The update also addresses recent developments related to apprehensions at sea, piracy trials, and prison transfers. The entire fact sheet has been posted [here](#).

On April 18<sup>th</sup>, Secretary of State John Kerry appeared before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the Senate Appropriations State and Foreign Operations Subcommittee to testify on the FY14 foreign affairs budget. Similar to his appearances before relevant House Committees, Secretary Kerry addressed aid programs to Africa, U.S. national security interests on the continent, and questions related to the September 11<sup>th</sup> attack on the U.S. diplomatic compound in Benghazi. He also addressed funding for global health funding to combat AIDs in Africa and the interests of other nations, such as China and Iran, in the continent. When speaking about increasing engagement with Africa, Secretary Kerry noted he intends to quickly fill Special Envoy positions to the DRC and Sudan. Additional information on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing can be found [here](#). More on the Senate Appropriates Committee hearing is available [here](#).

### ***Department of Defense***

On April 9<sup>th</sup>, Air Force Reserve Command Public Affairs reported on reserve personnel supporting the communications network for the African Lion 2013 exercises that continue in Agadir, Morocco through the end of this month. The Air Force Reserve communications specialists are providing Internet and video teleconferencing services to more than 1,400 U.S. military service members at 900 Moroccan soldiers participating in various training activities. Details on the Africa Lion exercise can be found [here](#).

On April 15<sup>th</sup>, U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa reported that Libyan military leaders recently traveled to Naples, Italy, to meet with U.S. Navy and Coast Guard officials to discuss maritime security. During the meeting, Libyan and U.S. military personnel exchanged information on maritime domain awareness (MDA), discussed potential cooperation between the two navies, and toured the 6<sup>th</sup> Fleet Maritime Operations Center. An article on the U.S.-Libyan meeting in Naples is available [here](#).

On April 17<sup>th</sup>, the Department of Defense (DOD) announced that Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel will be on foreign travel April 20<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>. During his trip, Secretary Hagel will visit Cairo, Egypt, to meet with senior Egyptian military and civilian officials to discuss the U.S.-Egypt defense partnership and Egypt's democratic transition. A DOD release on Secretary Hagel's upcoming travel can be read [here](#).

On April 18<sup>th</sup>, the Combined Joint Task Force for the Horn of Africa reported the U.S. Department of State has provided the Djiboutian Navy with two, high-speed aluminum coastal security boats. During the delivery and turnover ceremony held on April 4<sup>th</sup> at Djiboutian Navy Headquarters, more than a dozen Djiboutian sailors received certifications to operate the new speedboats. A press release detailing how the new boats will enhance the Djibouti's maritime capabilities has been posted [here](#).

### ***Department of Commerce***

On April 11<sup>th</sup>, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) issued awards through the agency's Patents for Humanity program, which uses competition and business incentives to promote humanitarian uses of patented technologies. Gilead Sciences received an award for expanding the availability of generic HIV drugs in Africa, and Sproxil, Inc. was recognized for its efforts in Africa to develop a system that identifies counterfeit drugs using an ordinary cell phone. A notice on all the awards is available [here](#).

On April 16<sup>th</sup>, the International Trade Administration (ITA) published a notice in the Federal Register seeking comments from stakeholders on priorities for implementation of the Doing Business in Africa (DBIA) Campaign. The DBIA initiative, which was announced in Johannesburg, South Africa, in November 2012, aims to increase U.S. exports and commercial ties with Sub-Saharan Africa. Comments are due to the ITA by May 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Federal Register notice can be downloaded [here](#).

### ***U.S. Congress***

On April 10<sup>th</sup>, Patricia Smith, the mother of Sean Smith, an IT officer at the U.S. mission in Benghazi who was killed during the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks, wrote to Representative Frank Wolf (R-VA), expressing support for his resolution that would create a select committee to investigate the attack on the U.S. diplomatic compound. Smith's letter can be read [here](#).

On April 11<sup>th</sup>, Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) introduced bipartisan legislation to create jobs in the U.S. by increasing exports to Africa by at least 200% over 10 years. The bill, which is cosponsored by Senators Jon Boozman (R-AR), Chris Coons (D-DE), Mary Landrieu (D-LA), and Ben Cardin (D-MD), has been referred to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Additional information on the bill is available [here](#).

On April 11<sup>th</sup>, as part of the congressional debate on gun control legislation, Representative Jeff Duncan (R-SC) likened the proposed national gun registry to the database used by the Hutu tribe in Rwanda in the 1990s to locate and slaughter members of the opposing Tutsi tribe, initiating a genocide that killed up to one million people. Details on the comparison, which was made on Representative Duncan's Facebook page, can be viewed [here](#).

On April 11<sup>th</sup>, Representative Frank Wolf, who serves as co-chairman of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission and the Congressional Caucus on Sudan and South Sudan, entered a statement into the congressional record criticizing the Obama Administration's policy in Sudan and calling for an appointment to fill the position of U.S. Special Envoy for Sudan and South Sudan, which has been vacant since Ambassador Princeton Lyman's departure on March 15<sup>th</sup>. Frontrunners for the position are allegedly former U.S. Ambassador to Sudan Tim Carney and former U.S. Ambassador to Indonesia Cameron Hume. Representative Wolf's full statement for the record can be read [here](#).

On April 16<sup>th</sup>, Ranking Member of the House Armed Services Committee Adam Smith (D-WA) keynoted an event hosted by the Wilson Center on partner capacity in West Africa. Representative Smith's remarks focused primarily on national security interests in the region, including U.S. involvement in efforts to combat Al Qaeda in the Islamic Magreb (AQIM) in Mali, Boko Haram in Nigeria, and other extremist groups in Somalia. A recording of Representative Smith's remarks can be watched [here](#).

On April 16<sup>th</sup>, the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on African Affairs held a hearing on the violent situation in the eastern part of the DRC. Subcommittee Chairman Chris Coons noted the U.S. has invested more than \$4 billion in the DRC since 2008 and argued that the U.S. has a responsibility to ensure its investments are effective. Witnesses included John Prendergast of the Enough Project, Mvemba Dizolele of the Eastern Congo Initiative, Ferdinand Muhigirwa of Kinshasa's Centre d'Etudes Pour l'Action Sociale, and Frederico Borello. An archived webcast of the hearing is available [here](#).

On April 16<sup>th</sup>, the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations considered a bipartisan resolution introduced by Senator Chris Coons and cosponsored by Senators Ben Cardin and Jeff Flake (R-AZ), to stand with the people of Kenya following their national and local elections in March and to urge a peaceful and credible resolution of electoral disputes in Kenya's Court systems. After adopting a substitute amendment, the Committee approved the resolution. More information on the resolution can be found [here](#).

On April 16<sup>th</sup>, the House Foreign Affairs Committee's Subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations held a hearing on Kenya's 2013 elections. Witnesses included Paul Fagan of the International Republican Institute, Keith Jennings, of the National Democratic Institute, and Bill Sweeny of the International Foundation for Electoral Systems. In his opening statement, Subcommittee Chairman Christopher Smith (R-NJ) said lessons can be drawn from the most recent elections in Kenya and applied to future U.S. election assistance. An archived webcast of the hearing can be watched [here](#).

On April 17<sup>th</sup>, Charles Woods, the father of Tyrone Woods, a former U.S. Navy Seal who was killed in the attacks on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi appeared at a news conference with Representative Frank Wolf to advocate for the formation of special congressional committee to formally investigate the attack. In the past week, Representative Wolf's resolution has gained 50 cosponsors, bringing the total number of cosponsors – all Republicans – over 100. Additional information on Woods' advocacy efforts is available [here](#).

On April 17<sup>th</sup>, House Oversight Committee Chairman Darrell Issa (R-CA) sent letters to the legal offices of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), State Department, and DOD suggesting that agency employees called to testify on the September 11<sup>th</sup> attack in Benghazi might need lawyers if the

agencies decide to retaliate against them for their testimony. In his letter, Representative Issa asks agency officials to elaborate on how to grant lawyers the security clearances necessary to allow them to represent their clients when discussing classified matters with congressional investigators. Details on Representative Issa's moves to ramp up investigations on Benghazi can be viewed [here](#).

### **North Africa**

On April 14<sup>th</sup>, the *Washington Post* reported that Niger is becoming a key partner as the U.S. expands its counterterrorism operations in Africa. Niger President Mahamadou Issoufou has recently invited the U.S. to establish a base for surveillance drone operations in the country. The growing relationship between the U.S. and Niger is viewed as beneficial for both countries. In particular, the new U.S. drone base will be strategically located with proximity to Mali and Libya, areas of focus for U.S. operations. Niger also stands to benefit from increased protection with the new U.S. presence in the country. The full *Washington Post* report can be read [here](#).

On April 16<sup>th</sup>, Sakher El Materi, the son-in-law of former Tunisian President Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali, was granted asylum in the Seychelles. Materi has been convicted of corruption in Tunisia and officials from the Seychelles said they believed Materi would not receive justice in his homeland. An article on the asylum decision can be read [here](#).

On April 17<sup>th</sup>, the Egyptian prosecutor general ordered former President Hosni Mubarak back to prison after it appeared his health had recovered enough to leave a military hospital. President Mubarak is scheduled to receive a retrial on May 11<sup>th</sup> for his alleged role in the killing of peaceful protestors during the Tahrir Square uprising in 2011. An article with the latest details on President Mubarak's court case is available [here](#).

### **East Africa**

On April 11<sup>th</sup>, the World Bank released a detailed report on steps that must be taken to end piracy in Somalia. The report suggests that efforts to end piracy must focus on rebuilding economic stability and the political institutions in Somalia. A report summary and the full report can be downloaded [here](#).

On April 12<sup>th</sup>, during his first visit to South Sudan since it gained its independence in 2011, Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir announced during a speech delivered in Juba that he has ordered the border with South Sudan to be opened. While President Bashir was in South Sudan, he also met with South Sudan President Salva Kiir and the leaders agreed to implement all cooperation agreements. An article on President Bashir's trip to South Sudan can be found [here](#).

On April 15<sup>th</sup>, before bombings interrupted the Boston Marathon, three East African runners were the first competitors to complete the race. Lelisa Desisa of Ethiopia finished with a time of 2:10:22, Micah Kogo of Kenya completed the race at 2:10:27, and Gebregziabher Gebremariam, also from Ethiopia, crossed the finish line at 2:10:28. The full results from the Boston Marathon can be seen [here](#).

On April 15<sup>th</sup>, South Sudanese President Salva Kiir stripped some power from Riak Machar, the country's vice president. A decree withdrew all powers from Machar that President Kiir is allowed to provide. The move is seen as an effort to limit the influence of Machar within the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) party. Analysts have suggested that Machar may want to seize control of the party. An article on the decision by President Kiir is available [here](#).

On April 15<sup>th</sup>, the Green Belt Movement (GBM) said Kenya is on track to meet the 10% forest cover figure before the United Nations (U.N.) deadline of 2013. GBM Executive Director Pauline Kamau has said the GBM, a private sector initiative that funds tree planting and ultimately turns trees over to the Kenya Forest Services (KFS), has helped to gradually reverse deforestation in the East African country. More information on the GBM's efforts to increase forest cover in Kenya is available [here](#).

On April 15<sup>th</sup>, *Tanzania's Daily News* reported that during an April 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> Tanzanian delegation visit to China focused on luring private investment in Tanzania's tourism sector, Chinese million Zhou Yi said he is in the initial stages of applying for an investment site in Serengeti National Park. Zhou visited the Serengeti in March and indicated that he plans to build a luxury hotel that will increase

tourism in the region. An article on Zhou's investment can be read [here](#).

On April 16<sup>th</sup>, the Kenyan Supreme Court said that while there were imperfections in the country's March presidential elections, the voting process was largely valid and without any profound irregularities. The court released a more detailed ruling on why it threw out a petition by presidential candidate Raila Odinga. The court's decision prompted Odinga to concede the race to Uhuru Kenyatta. An article on the court's ruling is available [here](#).

## **West Africa**

On April 11<sup>th</sup>, Nigerian Minister of State for Defense Erelu Olusola Obada commissioned a commercial Boeing 737 that will be used to transport Nigerian Armed Forces, policy, and other personnel supporting the military at a reduced fare. At the commissioning of the aircraft, Nigerian Chief of Air Staff, Air Marshal Alex Badeh indicated the delivery of the aircraft resulted through a public-private partnership agreement with the Aeronautical Engineering and Technical Services of the Nigerian Air Force Holding Company (NAFHC) and Solicom Engineering Nigeria Limited. Details on the Nigerian Air Force's new commercial aircraft are available [here](#).

On April 12<sup>th</sup>, Doctors Without Borders (MSF), a group of volunteer doctors and nurses who provide urgent medical care to victims of war and disaster, said approximately 74,000 Malians who have fled war and ethnic tensions for the desert of Mauritania are in need of urgent help. In total, more than 270,000 people have been displaced since last year as result of ongoing violence in Mali. An article on the need for greater humanitarian aid for Malians who have been displaced can be viewed [here](#).

On April 15<sup>th</sup>, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad embarked on a tour of Africa that included visits to Niger, Benin, and Ghana. Iranian state media did not provide a specific reason for the visits, but there is speculation among Western nations that Iran seeks the rich uranium reserves in the region. Meanwhile, Niger's President Mahamadou Issoufou denied that uranium is being transferred between the nations. An article on the trip can be read [here](#).

On April 15<sup>th</sup>, a gold mine collapse in Ghana killed at least 16 people working near the town of Kyekyewere. The people killed had been working illegally and were asked to leave the mine before it collapsed. More details on the incident are available [here](#).

On April 15<sup>th</sup>, IBM and Airtel Ghana announced a new partnership to help drive innovations in mobile technology in Ghana. As part of the new initiative, the companies have opened a Mobile Center of Excellence at the University of Ghana that will allow students access to cutting edge mobile technology. In conjunction with the launch of the center, IBM and Airtel have also announced a competition at the university that challenges students to develop mobile solutions as the foundation for startup enterprises. Additional information on the partnership between IBM and Airtel can be read [here](#).

On April 15<sup>th</sup>, the *Africa Report* noted that despite efforts made by the Government of Ghana to raise revenue from policies targeting its mining sector, multinational mining companies remain confident on business prospects in the country. Last year, Ghana increased its royalty tax to a flat 5% and hiked corporate tax rates from 25% to 35%. Leaders in the mining industry have indicated that despite Ghana's tax reforms, other factors continue to make Ghana a relatively stable environment for international business. The *Africa Report* article on mining in Ghana can be found [here](#).

On April 15<sup>th</sup>, Nigerian Minister of Communications Technology Omobola Johnson announced the Nigerian government has made \$1 billion available for the construction of incubation centers to stimulate growth in local software content. Two centers at Yaba in Lagos and Tinapa in Calabar will be unveiled this week. The objective of the new centers will be to create 25 successful Nigerian information technology (IT) firms by 2015. Details on Nigeria's new IT initiative can be read [here](#).

On April 16<sup>th</sup>, South African President Jacob Zuma paid a one-day official visit to Nigeria to meet with Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan in Abuja. While the relationship between South Africa and Nigeria has been strained due to economic competition, immigration issues, and corruption, experts suggest that economic growth across the continent could be jeopardized if South Africa and Nigeria

do not work together to advance common interests. President Zuma is expected to host President Jonathan in South Africa for an official state visit to continue partnership discussions next month. A report on President Zuma's visit to Nigeria has been posted [here](#).

On April 16<sup>th</sup>, *Reuters* reported that Africa's richest man, Aliko Dangote, will plans to invest up to \$8 billion to build a new oil refinery in Nigeria. Nigeria, which relies on subsidized imports for 80% of its fuel needs, currently has the capacity to produce 445,000 barrels per day, but outputs are not efficient due to mismanagement and corruption. Dangote has indicated the new refinery, which will be completed by 2016, will have the capacity to produce 400,000 barrels per day, nearly doubling the country's output capacity. Additional information on the new refinery in Nigeria can be viewed [here](#).

On April 16<sup>th</sup>, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) formally established the border between Burkina Faso and Niger and settled a disagreement that went back to 1927. Officials from both countries expressed satisfaction with the ruling and said it will end confusion over patrols and tax collection. Information on the ICJ decision can be found [here](#).

### **Sub-Saharan Africa**

On April 11<sup>th</sup>, the Mozambique government said it would meet with Renamo, a conservative political party in the country, in an effort to address new threats of violence from the former rebel group. Renamo wants the government to renegotiate terms of a 1992 peace accord. An article on the renewed tensions can be read [here](#).

On April 12<sup>th</sup>, *Bloomberg* reported that despite a decline in visits by European tourists, tourist arrivals in Mauritius grew by 1.5% in the first quarter of 2013 due to an increase in visitors from Asia and continental Africa. Travelers from Asia have increased by 37%, while the number of tourists visiting from Africa has grown by 16%. Based on first quarter figures, tourism in Mauritius is up 9.5% from this time last year. Details on tourism in Mauritius are available [here](#).

On April 14<sup>th</sup>, the *Wall Street Journal* reported on a rise in gold smuggling from Congo to jewelry markets in the Middle East and Asia. Over the past year, many miners in Congo have turned to gold smuggling in light of the high price of bullion and a provision in 2010 U.S. Dodd-Frank legislation that requires U.S.-listed companies to disclose whether their products have been manufacturer with any metals that may have been used to finance violence in Congo. Congo's Prime Minister Augustin Ponyo Matata has denied the involvement of Congolese troops in illicit mineral trade and has blamed the M23 rebel group. The full *Wall Street Journal* article can be read [here](#).

On April 15<sup>th</sup>, South Africa Finance Minister Tendai Biti announced that South Africa has approved \$100 million in budgetary assistance to support upcoming elections in Zimbabwe. Zimbabwe has failed to raise the money to fund its October elections and is prohibited from borrowing from the World Bank because it has defaulted on its loans. A request for U.N. funding has also stalled because Zimbabwe would not allow a visit by a U.N. assessment team. Additional information on South Africa's budgetary assistance for the Zimbabwean elections can be found [here](#).

On April 15<sup>th</sup>, John Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) hosted a briefing titled, "From the Framework Agreement to a 'Peace Architecture' in the Democratic Republic of Congo: What is Needed?" U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Cynthia Akuetteh, Assistant Professor of Political Science at Barnard College and Columbia University Severine Autesserre, and winner of the "Miss Leader DRC" contest and community manager at BANRO Corporation spoke at the event. An archived webcast of the discussion can be watched [here](#).

On April 16<sup>th</sup>, *The Guardian* reported on the increasing lion trade in South Africa. The report notes that lion breeders can earn up to 30% in returns by selling bones and other parts of a lion once it is hunted and killed by a trophy hunter. Officials say it is difficult to adequately address the lion trade with the current emphasis on stopping rhino poaching in the region. The article on the lion trade can be read [here](#).

On April 16<sup>th</sup>, Director of the Environment Protection and Conservation Organization Keshwar Beeharry-Panray said that due to climate change, Mauritius, an island located off the coast of

Madagascar, will see increased flooding, landslides, and cyclones and the country's government is not adequately prepared to respond. Mauritius experienced major flooding in March that killed 11 people and injured more than 100 others. A report on flooding in Mauritius can be viewed [here](#).

On April 17<sup>th</sup>, *Bloomberg* reported that "supermajor" oil companies are being pushed out of Africa's natural gas market due to increasing competition from Asian state producers. Notably, there is no supermajor involved in a major liquefied natural gas (LNG) plant project under development in Mozambique. The Mozambique LNG plant project, led by Eni and Anadarko Petroleum Corp., is on track to become the second largest LNG export site, trailing the Ras Laffan site in Qatar that Exxon Mobil helped develop. Details on the Mozambique LNG project are available [here](#).

On April 17<sup>th</sup>, *Bloomberg* reported that Rwanda will begin marketing \$400 million of debut Eurobonds this week. By marketing bonds, Rwanda is pursuing an approach that has been successful in Zambia and Tanzania to accelerate the growth of its national economy. Rwanda's bonds will be priced at a premium to other sub-Saharan Eurobonds, but are anticipated to yield 7%-8%. The *Bloomberg* report on the debut of Rwanda's Eurobonds can be found [here](#).

On April 17<sup>th</sup>, South African Airways (SAA) received two major accolades in the airline industry. According to FlightStats, Inc., a leading provider of global flight and airport information services, SAA is the most on-time airline, with 92.26% of flights arriving on times. German travel magazine *FVW* also announced that SAA is the best business class product amongst Star Alliance carriers, following a mystery shopper project. Additional information on SAA's recent industry recognition can be viewed [here](#).

On April 18<sup>th</sup>, Zimbabwe, formerly a British colony, celebrated its 33<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of independence. In recognition of the occasion, the state Electoral Commission announced it had struck 345,000 dead people, including Ian Smith, the former Prime Minister and last white leader of Zimbabwe, from official voting rolls. In the upcoming elections to be held later this year, President Robert Mugabe will be challenged by Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai. An article on preparations for the elections made in conjunction with Zimbabwe's independence day can be read [here](#).

On April 18<sup>th</sup>, Madagascar's former President Didier Ratsiraka returned to Madagascar following 11 years of exile in France. President Ratsiraka, who served as president from 1975-1991 and 1996-2002, fled to France following post-election violence that ensued when he refused to concede defeat to Marc Ravalomanana. Current president of Madagascar Andry Rajoelina, who ousted Ravalomanana in an army-backed coup in March 2009, has welcomed President Ratsiraka back to the country. Information on the end of President Ratsiraka's exile can be viewed [here](#).

### **General Africa News**

On April 11<sup>th</sup>, Google announced the new availability of driving and walking directions generated by Google Maps in four more Africa countries, including Kenya, Ghana, Senegal, and Ivory Coast. In addition to providing users in Africa with directions, the GPS navigation system also includes features such as voice guidance, automatic rerouting, and access to information about local points of interest. The Google announcement has been posted [here](#).

On April 15<sup>th</sup>, the World Bank reported that economic growth in Sub-Saharan Africa is expected to exceed 5% on average from 2013-2015. High commodity prices and an improving worldwide economy will contribute to growth, according to the release available [here](#).

On April 15<sup>th</sup>, speaking at the opening day festivities of The London Book fair, William Boyd announced the new James Bond novel, *Solo*, will focus on Africa. In Boyd's latest novel, James Bond will pursue a self-appointed mission that takes him to three continents. However, Bond's encounters in Africa will inspire his urge to go solo and take matters into his own hand in the U.S. The latest Bond novel is due to be published in September. Details about the forthcoming book's focus on Africa are available [here](#).

On April 16<sup>th</sup>, *Daily Nation* reported that consumer goods manufacturers are altering their products and delivery channels to appeal to a fast-growing middle class. According to the African Development

Bank (AfDB), between 1970 and 2010, Africa's middle class tripled to exceed 313 million people, or roughly 34% of the continent's population. As a result of an expanding middle class, manufacturers selling to Africa have noticed that consumers are willing to pay more for higher quality products and are increasingly becoming more brand conscious. An article describing how the growing middle class is impacting the strategy of manufacturers in Africa can be read [here](#).

On April 16<sup>th</sup>, Edward George, head of soft commodities research for Ecobank, said he anticipates that Africa will become a net exporter of sugar in the next seven years, despite rising demand for sugar on the continent. Increased sugar production could potentially compete with sugar exported from Brazil. Currently, the top sugar producing nations in Africa are South Africa and Egypt. However sugar production is expected to significantly increase in Ethiopia, Sudan, Nigeria, Mali, and Ghana. Additional projections for Africa's sugar trade can be found [here](#).

On April 16<sup>th</sup>, e-Learning Africa Forum, an organization focused on promoting information and communications technology enhanced learning in Africa as part of achieving the U.N. Millennium Goal of education for all, forecasted that Africa's e-learning revenues will rise to \$512.7 million by 2016. E-Learning Africa Forum will host its annual e-Learning Africa 2013 conference May 29<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> in Windhoek, Namibia. More information on the increase in e-learning initiatives across Africa and the upcoming conference is available [here](#).

On April 17<sup>th</sup>, the Brookings Institution hosted South Africa Minister of Finance Pravin Gordhan for a discussion on inequality and inclusive growth in South Africa and the entire African continent. A video replay of the event can be viewed [here](#).

On April 17<sup>th</sup>, Mexican candidate to succeed Pascal Lamy as the next Director-General of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Herminio Blanco noted the growing importance of Africa in global affairs. It is largely speculated that African countries will play a key role in selecting the next leader of the WTO, especially as 42 of 159 WTO members are African countries. Alan Kyerematen of Ghana and Amina Mohamed of Kenya had previously been candidates for the position, but were eliminated in the first round of the race. A second round of eliminations is anticipated April 26<sup>th</sup>, with a successor to be named by May 31<sup>st</sup>. More information on Africa's role in the race can be found [here](#).

On April 18<sup>th</sup>, 30 African ministers of health and finance participated in *Africa Health Forum 2013: Finance and Capacity for Results* to outline health priorities for the continent. The event was held in Washington, DC, as part of the World Bank-IMF Spring Meetings. More information on the event is available [here](#).

On April 18<sup>th</sup>, Ghanaian academic Adams Bodomo announced new research that shows Africans are helping themselves more than foreign aid. Bodomo has found that Africans living outside the continent send more money to Africa than is sent to the continent as official development assistance (ODA) from Western nations. According to 2010 data, African remittances to the continent totaled \$51.8 billion, while the World Bank reports that ODA was just \$43 billion over the same period. More of Bodomo's research can be viewed [here](#).

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