



ML Strategies Update

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Africa Update

Leading the News

Libya

On July 24th, Turkey issued a statement saying it may evacuate its embassy in Tripoli, Libya. Turkey already advised all citizens to leave the country due to the security situation. Turkish officials expressed concern about the potential for the violence to escalate, especially following the capture of 49 Turkish citizens from the diplomatic mission in Mosul, Iraq. Details on the announcement can be seen [here](#).

On July 25th, Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) Fatou Bensouda said she was greatly troubled by the increased violence in Libya. She encouraged all parties to refrain from committing criminal acts that may fall within the jurisdiction of the Court. She said irrespective of official status or affiliation, anyone who commits a crime under the Court's jurisdiction will be investigated and prosecuted. Prosecutor Bensouda's comments were shared [here](#).

On July 26th, the U.S. State Department announced the temporary relocation of all U.S. personnel out of Libya and to Tunisia due to the ongoing clashes between Libyan militias. State Department Deputy Spokesperson Marie Harf said the State Department is currently exploring options for a permanent return to Tripoli as the security situation improves, and noted that staff is operating from other posts in the region. In addition, the State Department thanked the Government of Tunisia for its cooperation and support and called on all Libyans to immediately cease hostilities and begin negotiations to resolve their differences. The relocation of U.S. personnel out of Libya was announced [here](#).

On July 26th, Pentagon Press Secretary Rear Admiral John Kirby issued a press release confirming that the U.S. military assisted in the relocation of personnel from the U.S. Embassy in Tripoli, Libya, to Tunisia, at the State Department's request. All personnel were relocated, including the Marine security guards who were providing security at the embassy. During the mission, F-16s, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) assets, and an Airborne Response Force with MV-22 Ospreys provided security. The press release was issued [here](#).

On July 26th, House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ed Royce (R-CA) expressed appreciation for

the efforts of the Department of State and the Department of Defense (DOD) to safely evacuate U.S. embassy personnel from Libya. However, he criticized the Administration for demonstrating a lack of direction and leadership since the ousting of Libyan dictator Muammar Gadhafi, which he said has led extremist forces to gain strength and threaten U.S. interests. The Committee also noted that last year the House passed bipartisan embassy security legislation that has yet to be considered by the Senate. More information can be found [here](#).

On July 26th, House Armed Services Committee Chairman Buck McKeon (R-CA) expressed gratitude for the U.S. forces that have been on alert in Tripoli, Libya, and assisted in the evacuation of U.S. personnel. He wished all Americans in Libya safe return, as well as safety for the American troops watching over them. Congressman McKeon's statement on the situation in Libya was published [here](#).

On July 26th, House Intelligence Committee Chairman Mike Rogers (R-MI) released a statement on the evacuation of U.S. diplomats from Libya. While stating he was pleased that U.S. diplomats are safe, Congressman Rogers blamed the deteriorating security situation in North Africa, the Middle East, and Eurasia on the U.S. not taking a leadership role on foreign policy. Congressman Rogers' statement was posted [here](#).

On July 27th, U.S. President Barack Obama sent a War Powers Resolution Letter to Senate and House leadership detailing the military's participation in the evacuation of U.S. diplomatic personnel from Libya to Tunisia over the weekend. President Obama reported that all U.S. forces involved in the operation have now returned to military bases in Europe. The letter can be downloaded [here](#).

On July 27th, following the evacuation of U.S. diplomatic personnel from Libya, *Reuters* reported that at least 36 people had been killed in Benghazi in clashes between Libyan Special Forces and Islamists militants over the weekend. In addition, 23 Egyptian workers were killed in Tripoli when a rocket hit their home in fighting between militias seeking control of the international airport. Since fighting at Tripoli International Airport began, Libyan officials estimate that 94 people have been killed in Tripoli and more than 400 have been injured. An update on the situation in Libya was provided [here](#).

On July 28th, House Intelligence Committee Ranking Member Dutch Ruppersberger (D-MD) released a statement after being briefed on the evacuation of the U.S. Embassy in Tripoli. Congressman Ruppersberger applauded the collaborative work of the Department of State and DOD in assessing threat levels and ultimately deciding to temporarily move the personnel at the U.S. Embassy in Tripoli to safety. His full statement can be read [here](#).

On July 28th, a fuel depot in Tripoli burned after it was ignited by a missile strike. Conflict over the control of Tripoli International Airport forced fighters to withdraw and halt their attempts to extinguish the flames. The strike hit more than 1 million gallons of fuel. Mohammed al Harari, the spokesman for the Libyan National Oil Company, said the fire could spread if it is not brought under control. More information on the clashes can be found [here](#).

On July 30th, rival militias fighting for control of the airport in Tripoli agreed to a temporary ceasefire to allow firefighters to address the fire at a fuel depot caused by the fighting. In addition, France decided to evacuate its embassy in Tripoli. Meanwhile, in Benghazi, authorities collected 75 bodies that were found after two days of fighting with Islamist militants at an army base. Developments in Libya were reported [here](#).

West Africa Ebola Outbreak

On July 26th, thousands of protestors marched on an Ebola treatment center in Sierra Leone following allegations by a former nurse that the virus was invented to conceal cannibalistic rituals. Police responded to the protests with tear gas and gunfire. The crowds threatened to burn down the center and free its patients. Police are now guarding the clinic. Additional details on the protests are available [here](#).

On July 26th, officials in Sierra Leone located a missing Ebola patient. The patient's family forcefully removed her from a treatment center and took her to a traditional healer. She was located in the house of a healer and died in an ambulance on her way back to the hospital. There is great mistrust of health workers in Sierra Leone, where many people have more faith in traditional medicine. Some even see the

outbreak as a conspiracy. More information can be read [here](#).

On July 27th, the Government of Liberia closed most border crossings and introduced stringent health measures to curb the spread of Ebola. Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf said the government is doing everything to fight the virus, including inspecting all outgoing and incoming passengers by Liberia's airport and all other remaining entry points. The new measures also restrict public gatherings, marches, demonstrations, and promotional advertisements. Despite the new efforts the disease continues to spread and two American doctors addressing the outbreak have tested positive. The full story was reported [here](#).

On July 27th, the *Associated Press* reported on the death of Dr. Samuel Brisbane, a top Liberian health official who had been treating Ebola patients in Monrovia and died after contracting the virus on Saturday. In addition, American physician Dr. Kent Brantly fell ill while treating victims of the disease in Liberia and is currently in stable condition, while American missionary Nancy Writebol is gravely ill and in isolation in Monrovia. The Ebola outbreak has killed more than 670 people in West Africa. The full story is available [here](#).

On July 27th, the *New York Times* reported that fear of aid workers in West Africa is contributing to the spread of Ebola virus. In parts of Guinea, village youths have reportedly blocked entrances into the village to prevent health workers from entering. In addition, aid workers for Doctors Without Borders reported that health workers are increasingly being threatened and their vehicles are being surrounded by angry mobs. The reaction to health works in West Africa was detailed [here](#).

On July 28th, a hospital in Lagos, Nigeria, shut down and implemented a quarantine following the first Ebola death in the country. On July 20th, Patrick Sawyer, the victim, collapsed upon his arrival in the Lagos airport. The primary source of the infection was eliminated and now the government is working to decontaminate all of the affected areas. Hospital staff that had been in close contact with Sawyer have been isolated and the hospital will be shut for a week. The health ministry is also monitoring 59 people who were in contact with Sawyer, but his airline has not provided the flight manifest. More information on the situation can be viewed [here](#).

On July 29th, Sierra Leone's leading doctor for treating Ebola, Sheik Umar Khan, died less than a week after being diagnosed with Ebola. His death came on the same day that President Ernest Bai Koroma was due to visit Khan's treatment center in Kailahun. Khan has been credited with treating more than 100 Ebola patients and is being hailed as a national hero. More information on his work was shared [here](#).

On July 31st, Liberian Information Minister Lewis Brown announced that Liberia will close schools and consider quarantining some communities in response to the worsening Ebola outbreak. Security forces in Liberia were ordered to enforce the action plan, which also included placing all non-essential government workers on 30-day compulsory leave. In addition, the Peace Corp announced plans to temporarily remove 340 volunteers from Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea. Developments in Liberia were reported [here](#).

On July 31st, Director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Thomas Frieden said the Ebola outbreak in West Africa poses little risk to the general U.S. population. While Director Frieden noted that an outbreak of Ebola in the U.S. is unlikely, he said the CDC is advising Americans against any non-essential travel to Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone. More information on the CDC's monitoring of the Ebola situation in West African is available [here](#).

Mali

On July 24th, the Malian Government and Tuareg-led rebels signed an agreement for a roadmap towards a peace deal. The plan calls for a first round of negotiations between August 17th and September 11th, and then a second round in October to discuss areas such as security, reconciliation, and humanitarian issues. Both groups expressed hope that the agreement will lead to a lasting peace. Details of the peace plan can be read [here](#).

On July 24th, Malian President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita announced that the wreckage of an Air Algerie

flight that had gone missing on Thursday morning had been spotted in the northern desert region of Mali between Aguelhoc and Kidal. The initial discovery of the wreckage was announced [here](#).

On July 25th, French aviation experts, criminal investigators, and soldiers converged around the site of the Air Algerie Flight AH 5017 plane crash in a remote part of Mali. French authorities reported the crash was likely caused by extreme bad weather, but are looking at all possible causes as part of the ongoing investigation. All 118 passengers flying from Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, to Algiers, Algeria, were killed in the crash. Details on the investigation can be found [here](#).

On July 25th, Air France-KLM ended a temporary diversion of air traffic away from the site of the crashed Air Algerie flight. Air France said the diversion was a precautionary measure. Fifty-four French citizens were killed in the crash. Additional information can be found [here](#).

On July 25th, United Nations (U.N.) Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon congratulated the Malian parties on the adoption of the roadmap and the successful end to the first round of peace talks. Although he was excited by the progress made, he expressed concern with the deteriorating security situation in northern Mali. He encouraged the parties to honor the ceasefire, cooperate with the joint security commission, and remain committed to the future peace negotiations. The statement was shared [here](#).

On July 25th, the U.S. Department of State applauded the agreement reached in Algiers, Algeria, on July 24th to establish a roadmap for talks between northern groups and the Government of Mali. State Department Deputy Spokesperson Marie Harf commended the Governments of Algeria, France, Burkina Faso, Mauritania, Niger, and Chad, the U.N. Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the African Union (AU), and the European Union (EU) for facilitating the agreement. In addition, Deputy Spokesperson Harf said the U.S. looks forward to the next steps in the inclusive inter-Malian dialogue outlined in the roadmap agreement, underscoring the need to end hostilities in northern Mali through a negotiated, inclusive political process. The State Department's support for the agreement was noted [here](#).

On July 25th, U.S. State Department Deputy Spokesperson Marie Harf answered reporters' questions on Air Algerie flight AH 5017. She said the U.S.'s thoughts and prayers were with the families of the victims and she confirmed that no U.S. citizens were onboard. Reporters asked if the plane was shot down, and Deputy Spokesperson Harf said the cause had not yet been determined, but was thought to be severe weather. Her comments can be seen [here](#).

On July 26th, the White House issued a release expressing condolences to all those who lost loved ones on board Air Algerie's flight AH 5017. White House officials also thanked France, Mali, the Netherlands, Algeria, Burkina Faso, and the U.N. for their coordinated response. The statement can be seen [here](#).

On July 28th, the United Nations Security Council asked Secretary-General Ban to review the transition from African Union (AU)-led International Support Mission in Mali (AFISMA) to the U.N. Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA). The request came a year after the switch. Council members asked the Secretary-General Ban to initiate, in cooperation with the AU, a lessons learned exercise and to produce specific recommendations by December 31st. Details on the request can be viewed [here](#).

On July 28th, the U.N. Security Council commended the Malian Government and Tuareg led rebels on the recent adoption of a roadmap and called on them to fully comply with their commitments and comprehensive peace talks. It also reiterated its concern about the security situation and encouraged both groups to respect the May ceasefire agreement. The statement can be read [here](#).

On July 28th, the *Associated Press* reported that Air Algerie Flight AH5017's black boxes were returned to France. Six engineers have already started working on the devices, but analyzing the information will take several weeks. Experts from France, Mali, Algeria, and Spain are processing the remnants of the plane at the crash site. Further details on the crash site can be seen [here](#).

Nigeria

On July 23rd, 82 people were killed in two suicide bombings in Kaduna, Nigeria. A suicide bomber approaching and detonating near the congregation of a moderate Muslim cleric caused the first attack. A bomber in a car full of explosives caused the second attack, which killed at least 50 people. The two bombings were aimed at ex-president Muhammadu Buhari and a moderate Muslim cleric preparing to lead a crowd in prayer. No one has taken responsibility for the attacks, but it may be linked to Boko Haram. Details on the attacks can be found [here](#).

On July 23rd, U.S. State Department Deputy Spokesperson, Marie Harf issued a release condemning the bombings in Kaduna, Nigeria. The bombings targeted Shaykh Dahiru Usman Bauchi, one of the country's most respected Muslim scholars. The U.S. encouraged the authorities to investigate the attacks and all Nigerians to avoid reprisals. The release can be viewed [here](#).

On July 24th, a bomb killed one person and wounded eight others at a crowded bus park in Kano, Nigeria. The bomb was hidden in a refrigerator. No group has claimed responsibility, but Boko Haram was suspected. The full story was reported [here](#).

On July 24th, U.N. Special Representative for West Africa Said Djinnit condemned the Boko Haram group's latest round of violence targeting civilians. Violence over the weekend led to the death of 130 people and the displacement of 15,000 more. Special Representative Djinnit, who also currently serves as the head of the UN Office for West Africa (UNOWA), highlighted the need for a regional response and called on the Nigerian authorities to do all that they can to bring the perpetrators to justice. His statement was shared [here](#).

On July 26th, Ibrahim Zakzaky, the leader of the fringe Shi'ite group the Islamic Movement of Nigeria, reported that his group was fired at by the military. He claimed that three of his sons and 30 supporters were killed. The military challenged the account and said they were only returning fire. The Islamic Movement of Nigeria was marching to protest the attacks on Gaza and in observance of a holy day when a troop convoy tried to pass. The government also challenged the group's death toll and said nine marchers were killed and two soldiers were wounded. Further details on the incident were reported [here](#).

On July 27th, two militant attacks occurred in Kano, Nigeria. First, an assailant threw a bomb at worshippers leaving a Catholic church, killing five people in the attack. Second, a female suicide bomber tried to attack police officers on the streets. She killed herself and wounded two officers. More information on the attacks can be seen [here](#).

On July 28th, two female suicide bombers killed one another and injured six bystanders. The first bomber detonated at a trade fair complex. The second bomber detonated at a petrol station. The two women were thought to be a part of Boko Haram. An article on both attacks can be read [here](#).

On July 30th, a female suicide bomber blew herself up at Kano State Polytechnic college in Kano state, Nigeria. The blast killed three people and critically wounded several others. In a separate incident in Katsina state, security forces arrested three suspects believed to be members of Boko Haram, including a ten-year-old girl with explosives strapped to her chest. Both incidents were detailed [here](#).

Cameroon

On July 25th, Boko Haram killed four Cameroonian soldiers in two cross-border attacks. In response to the attack, Cameroon sent reinforcements to the area. An anonymous soldier said 13 soldiers were also missing following the attack. Pressure from Nigeria encouraged Cameroon to deploy over 1,000 soldiers along the border. Additional information on the attacks can be read [here](#).

On July 27th, Boko Haram kidnapped the wife of Cameroon's Vice Prime Minister and killed three people in Kolofata, Cameroon. A local religious leader and five members of his family were also kidnapped. The cross-border attack involved over 200 assailants. A Cameroonian military commander confirmed that the military had taken back control of Kolofata and the Vice Prime Minister was evacuated to another town. Details on the attack are available [here](#).

Central African Republic

On July 24th, the U.N. Security Council issued a statement commending the ceasefire agreement in Central African Republic (CAR). The announcement highlighted the need to follow up the agreement with national reconciliation and reconstruction efforts. The statement also reiterated the need for parties to remain committed to the promises they made in the negotiations. Details on the announcement can be seen [here](#).

On July 24th, U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Samantha Power, commended the ceasefire agreement for the CAR. She thanked the principle mediator, President Denis Sassou Nguesso of the Republic of Congo (ROC), and the supporting mediators of the AU, the U.N., and the International Contact Group on CAR. She called on all actors to respect the terms of the agreement and to work with local and national authorities to reach a lasting peace. She also reiterated the U.S.'s commitment to the people of CAR and the effectiveness of the democratic political process in CAR. Ambassador Power's remarks can be seen [here](#).

On July 25th, the U.S. Department of State welcomed the decision by all parties to end the violence in the CAR by signing a cessation of hostilities agreement. The agreement was signed in Brazzaville, ROC, by representatives of the ex-Seleka and anti-Balaka armed groups, as well as representatives from the National Transitional Council, political parties, civil society, and religious communities. U.S. officials urged all parties to fully implement the agreement and to conclude further talks in the CAR on a political way forward. In addition, State Department Deputy Spokesperson Marie Harf thanked ROC President Denis Sassou Nguesso for his constructive role in facilitating the peace process. A press release was issued [here](#).

On July 30th, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon selected Cameroonian Major General Martin Chomu Tumenta to lead the U.N. Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the CAR (MINUSCA). Major General Tumenta currently leads the African-led International Support Mission in the CAR (MISCA), which will transition into MINUSCA in mid-September. More information was shared [here](#).

South Sudan

On July 25th, the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) and World Food Program (WFP) called for action to stop a potential famine in South Sudan. UNICEF Executive Director Anthony Lake said the world was allowing the famine to occur by not acting. Nearly one million children under five years of age in South Sudan will require treatment for acute malnutrition in 2014 and 3.9 million people are dangerously food insecure. UNICEF estimated that 50,000 children could die from malnutrition by the end of 2014 if aid cannot be distributed. Information on the situation can be seen [here](#).

On July 25th, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry also issued a press statement expressing concern that South Sudan now faces the worst food security crisis in the world, with more than 1.5 million people displaced from their homes since mid-December and more than 50,000 children at risk of dying from malnutrition this year. Secretary Kerry again called on South Sudanese President Salva Kiir and former Vice President Riek Machar to share responsibility for ending the crisis and urged them to participate in negotiations led by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). In addition, Secretary Kerry called on all parties in South Sudan to abide by the ceasefire agreement. Secretary Kerry's comments can be viewed [here](#).

Sudan

On July 24th, U.S. National Security Advisor Susan Rice released a statement indicating that U.S. government officials are delighted that Meriam Yahya Ibrahim Ishag is safe and free and will soon be traveling to the U.S. after being relieved of a death sentence for the alleged crime of apostasy in Sudan. National Security Advisor Rice said the incident serves as a reminder that all countries, including Sudan, must uphold the universal right to freedom of religion. The statement was published [here](#).

On July 24th, U.S. State Department Deputy Spokesperson Marie Harf reported that the U.S. Embassy in Sudan worked closely with the Government of Italy and the Government of Sudan to arrange for Meriam Yahya Ibrahim Ishag's departure from Sudan for Italy. She noted that the Embassy had been working

with the Ishag family for some time to provide the travel documents needed for them to travel to the U.S. and the timing for that travel will be left up to the family. Deputy Spokesperson Harf's readout of the situation was posted [here](#).

On July 25th, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry made a statement celebrating the arrival of Meriam Yahya Ibrahim Ishag and her family in Rome, Italy, and thanking the Government of Italy for working with the Government of Sudan to enable Ishag and her family's departure. Secretary Kerry also applauded the efforts of the U.S. Embassy related to Ishag's case and more broadly to advocating for the right to freedom of religious worldwide. Secretary Kerry's statement was transcribed [here](#).

United States – Africa Relations

Young Africa Leaders Summit

On July 24th, the State Department announced Secretary of State John Kerry's participation in the Presidential Summit of the Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, held July 28th-30th in Washington, DC. The event brought together 500 young leaders from sub-Saharan Africa to meet with Members of Congress, leaders in international development, and representatives of non-governmental organizations. The Summit follows six weeks of academic study at 20 institutions across the U.S. An agenda for the Summit can be accessed [here](#).

On July 25th, State Department Deputy Spokesperson Marie Harf detailed plans for the opening of the Presidential Summit of the Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders on July 28th. Deputy Spokesperson Harf explained that the Summit will bring together 500 young leaders from sub-Saharan Africa under the umbrella of the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI). U.S. Government participants were to include President Barack Obama, First Lady Michelle Obama, U.S. National Security Advisor Susan Rice, U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Samantha Power, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Administrator Rajiv Shah, Senator John Boozman (R-AR), and House Foreign Affairs Africa Subcommittee Ranking Member Karen Bass (D-CA). A transcript from the daily press briefing can be seen [here](#).

On July 28th, President Barack Obama addressed the inaugural Presidential Summit of the Washington Fellowship for Young African leaders, where he announced that the program will be expanded and named after former South African President Nelson Mandela. President Obama also discussed the importance of female empowerment on the continent and noted this will also be a topic of discussion at next week's U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit. In addition, he announced the launch of four regional centers in Ghana, Kenya, Senegal, and South Sudan, to further youth training programs on the continent. Additional excerpts from President Obama's speech were highlighted [here](#). The President's full remarks can be read [here](#). A press release on the new YALI centers in Africa can be accessed [here](#).

On July 28th, the White House released a fact sheet on the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders. The fact sheet outlined the goals and accomplishments of the fellowship, the host institutions, and plans going forward. The fact sheet was posted [here](#).

On July 28th, Secretary of State John Kerry participated in the Presidential Summit of the Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, held in Washington, DC. The Summit included 500 fellows from all 49 countries in sub-Saharan Africa. Addressing the Summit, Secretary Kerry noted that because 65% of Africa's population is under the age of 35, the U.S. looks forward to taking its partnership with Africa to the next level by investing in its human resources. Secretary Kerry's remarks were shared [here](#).

On July 29th, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources Heather Higginbottom delivered remarks at the Presidential Summit of the Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders in Washington, DC. Deputy Secretary Higginbottom also participated in the Private Sector and Civil Society Partnership Expo with USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah. Details can be found [here](#).

On July 29th, Deputy Secretary of Commerce Bruce Andrews authored a blog post on the Presidential Summit of the Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders. Deputy Secretary Andrews noted that the Department of Commerce is also working closely with young entrepreneurs to help spur economic growth by helping them to gain the skills and connections the need to launch new businesses and create

jobs in their communities. In addition, he said that Africa is an area of focus for the Presidential Ambassadors for Global Entrepreneurship (PAGE) initiative. The blog post can be seen [here](#).

On July 30th, Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs Evan Ryan attended the plenary session on Enabling Inclusive Economic Development at the YALI Presidential Summit. Assistant Secretary Ryan's participation was noted [here](#).

On July 30th, Coordinator for International Information Programs Macon Phillips moderated a panel at the Presidential Summit of the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders on technology and citizen engagement. Information on the panel can be viewed [here](#).

Planning for the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit

On July 25th, U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) Director Leocadia Zak authored a post for the *White House Blog* on the upcoming African Leaders' Visits to be held July 30th - August 1st in conjunction with the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit. In the blog post, Director Zak announced USTDA's plans to co-host the upcoming African Leaders' Visit: Transport in Chicago, Illinois, with U.S. Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx. She will also co-host the African Leaders' Visit: Energy in Houston, Texas, with U.S. Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz. The blog post can be read [here](#).

On July 28th, ahead of the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) pushed out a blog post highlighting key facts about the challenges and opportunities the continent is facing and the ways OPIC is helping Africa to prepare for the future. In particular, OPIC noted Africa's young and growing population, lacking electricity access, food shortages, diseases, and the potential for new technologies. The blog post was published [here](#).

On July 30th, the Department of Energy (DOE) and USTDA kicked off the African Leaders Visit: Energy for delegates from Kenya and Tanzania who are facing important decisions on how best to develop significant recent natural gas discoveries. The visit will include tours of major gas infrastructure sites near Houston, Texas, and will last until August 1st. More information on the event is posted [here](#).

On July 30th, the African Leaders Visit: Transport began with two events welcoming transportation ministers from Algeria, Angola, Ethiopia, Nigeria, and South Africa to Chicago, Illinois. Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx and USTDA Deputy Director Peggy Philbin led a roundtable discussion on U.S.-African cooperation in the transportation sector. Chicago Mayor Steven Koch also welcomed the delegation to the city at a reception with state and local government officials, U.S. companies, and trade associations. A press release was issued [here](#).

On July 31st, despite the Department of State issuing a travel warning for Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Guinea, the three countries that have been most affected by the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest signaled that President Obama plans to proceed with next week's U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit as planned. Meanwhile, President Ernest Bai Koroma of Sierra Leone officially announced the cancelation of his trip to Washington due to the health emergency in his country. Government officials from Guinea and Liberia are also reportedly considering canceling their participation in the Summit due to the Ebola outbreak. Details can be found [here](#).

On July 31st, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Africa Subcommittee Chris Coons (D-DE) held a press conference to preview the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit and to discuss goals for U.S.-Africa trade policy. The event was noticed [here](#).

On July 31st, as a preview to next week's U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit, the Atlantic Council hosted a discussion to preview the upcoming events associated with the Summit. Participants included Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Linda Thomas-Greenfield and Director of the Atlantic Council's Africa Center J. Peter Pham. The event was described [here](#).

On August 1st, in coordination with the White House, USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah will host a U.S.-African Leaders Summit event, entitled "Faith Works: Honoring the Contributions of the Faith Community to Peace and Prosperity in Africa." As part of the event, Administrator Shah and other U.S. Government officials will meet with religious leaders, faith-based organizations, and representatives of the African

diplomatic corps to discuss the faith community's role in advancing peace, prosperity, and development throughout Africa. The event was detailed [here](#).

On August 4th, in conjunction with the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit, African Leadership Magazine and Global Political Solutions, LLC will host a U.S.-Africa Private Sector Forum at the National Press Club. The forum will include sessions on direct opportunities for investment and business development in Africa, strategies for market entry, political risk analysis, and legal investment structures, and the presentation of African Leadership Magazine's 2014 Awards. Presidential delegations from Tanzania, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Seychelles, Mauritius, and South Africa are expected to participate. Details can be seen [here](#).

On August 4th, the U.S.-South Africa Business Council will host the U.S.-South Africa Business and Investment Forum. The event will include a keynote speech by South African President Jacob Zuma, who will be visiting Washington to participate in the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit. The event will also include panel discussions on investments in infrastructure and how innovation can foster economic growth in South Africa. Event details are available [here](#).

On August 4th, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce will host a Presidential Plenary featuring Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn, Mozambican President Armando Guebuza, and Ghanaian President John Dramani Mahama. The event will also include the release of a report on the ways U.S.-Africa engagement can be deepened. More information can be viewed [here](#).

On August 6th, the Corporate Council on Africa and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce will host a Presidential Dinner Discussion with Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan, who will be in the U.S. as part of the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit. The event was announced [here](#).

White House

On July 27th, President Barack Obama issued a statement wishing all Muslims in the U.S. and around the world Eid Mubarak. He said that Eid al Fitr is a reminder of the common values across all religions. The President's statement can be viewed [here](#).

On July 30th, National Security Advisor Susan Rice spoke at an event at the U.S. Institute of Peace (USIP), where she noted that the U.S. is not looking to militarize Africa or maintain a permanent military presence on the continent. Instead, she described the U.S. role in Africa as part of the U.S. commitment to assisting African partners in combating mutual transnational threats. Ambassador Rice's speech was also attended by Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Conflict and Stabilization Operations Erin Barclay. Highlights from Ambassador Rice's remarks can be seen [here](#).

Office of the U.S. Trade Representative

On July 29th, U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) Michael Froman delivered remarks at the National Press Club on the benefits of increased trade and the economic benefits of trade for developing countries. In the question and answer portion of the event, Ambassador Froman was asked about expiration of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) next year. Ambassador Froman said that while Congress has the prerogative Obama Administration to change products that are excluded from receiving AGOA benefits, USTR does not plan to ask Congress to make African agricultural products eligible for benefits. Highlights from Ambassador Froman's speech were noted [here](#).

State Department

On July 25th, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry returned to Cairo, Egypt, to continue to participate in peace negotiations surrounding the escalation in fighting between Israel and Hamas in Gaza. Secretary Kerry met with U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry, and Arab League Secretary General Nabil al-Araby. The leaders' remarks on the status of negotiations were transcribed [here](#).

On July 25th, Secretary of State John Kerry delivered remarks congratulating Liberia on 167 years of independence. Secretary Kerry said the U.S. and Liberia share a special bond dating back to the first

days of the Liberian republic and that the U.S. remains committed to working with Liberia to consolidate peace and reconciliation, support economic development, and strengthen democratic institutions. In addition, Secretary Kerry said he looks forward to hosting Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and next week's U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit. Secretary Kerry's statement on Liberia's national day can be viewed [here](#).

On July 25th, State Department Deputy Spokesperson Harf conveyed dismay by the sentencing of human rights lawyer Thulani Maseko and magazine editor Bheki Makhubu in Swaziland. They were sentenced to two years in jail without the option of parole for a contempt of court conviction for publishing an article critical of the High Court of Swaziland. The statement emphasized the U.S.'s concern and that the treatment of the Maseko and Makhubu is in conflict with Swaziland's constitution and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Deputy Spokesperson Harf's statement is available [here](#).

On July 28th, the State Department released the 2013 Report on International Religious Freedom. During his speech at the release of the report, Secretary of State John Kerry again welcomed the release of Meriam Yahya Ishag Ibrahim, the mother of two young children who had been imprisoned on charges of apostasy in Sudan. Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights and Labor Tom Malinowski also spoke at the report's release and highlighted the religious conflict in the CAR. Secretary Kerry's speech was posted [here](#). Assistant Secretary Malinowski's remarks were transcribed [here](#).

On July 28th, Ambassador Samantha Power, U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations, spoke at an Open Debate on Regional Partnerships and Peacekeeping. She highlighted the importance of AU efforts to protect civilians and combat atrocities and the support the U.S. is providing to the AU missions across the continent. She said regional organizations have shown that not only can they do more, but they are willing to do more, and the U.S. is committed to aiding them in their efforts. Ambassador Power's speech can be accessed [here](#).

On July 28th, State Department Spokesperson Jen Psaki responded to reporters' questions on the Ebola epidemic in Liberia and the security situation in Libya. Regarding Liberia, she explained the U.S.'s support for all people affected by the virus. She also clarified that two Americans have contracted Ebola and that the U.S. is taking every precaution. USAID, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), CDC, the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, and the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases are supporting the response effort. Regarding the situation in Libya, she clarified that the removal of Embassy employees was only a temporary reduction because the staff are still working, but in locations outside of Libya, and they will be returning once their safety is guaranteed. She also said local, Libyan, forces are guarding U.S. facilities. Finally, she discussed Libya's future explaining the time that democratic transitions take and emphasizing the need for political solutions to the political problems. The full transcript of the briefing was posted [here](#).

On July 28th-August 15th, the State Department hosted the African Women's Entrepreneurship Program (AWEP). On Monday, 29 women entrepreneurs from 26 African countries arrived in the U.S. The program allows the women to visit local businesses, business incubators, schools, and non-governmental organizations to engage with diverse organizations on ways to transform their societies through economic development and social advocacy. Participants in this year's AWEP represent Angola, Botswana, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the CAR, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritius, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. The program's highlights can be seen [here](#).

On July 30th, Secretary of State John Kerry extended his best wishes, on behalf of President Obama and the American people, to King Mohammed VI and the Moroccan people as they celebrated the Feast of the Throne. He praised the strong bond between the U.S. and Morocco and then wished the African nation peace and prosperity for the coming year. The Secretary's remarks can be found [here](#).

On July 30th, State Department Deputy Spokesperson Marie Harf provided an update on the impact of the West African Ebola outbreak on Americans. She confirmed the death of one U.S. citizen in Nigeria who contracted the virus while visiting Liberia and noted that the U.S. Embassy in Abuja, Nigeria, is aware of the case and coordinating with local authorities. In addition, she noted that at least two

additional U.S. citizens have been affected. Deputy Spokesperson Harf's comments were transcribed [here](#).

On July 30th, Ambassador-At-Large and Coordinator to Combat HIV/AIDS Deborah Birx met with African journalists to provide an overview of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). The meeting was held at the Foreign Press Center and listed [here](#).

On July 31st, Assistant Secretary of State for Population, Refugees, and Migration Anne Richard attended an Eid celebration at the Embassy of South Africa. The celebration and Assistant Secretary Richard's participation were noted [here](#).

On July 31st-August 22nd, tech-savvy teenagers from Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, and Tunisia will participate in the third TechGirls exchange program. While in the U.S., the girls will be exposed to knowledge, resources, peer networks, and mentor relationships to encourage them to pursue higher education and careers in technology. In addition to attending an interactive technology and computer camp, program participants will meet with leading U.S. technology companies and work on community service projects. The program was explained [here](#).

Department of Defense

On July 25th, U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) hosted a social evening for the media delegation visiting AFRICOM headquarters from Angola and Mozambique. The potluck social allowed 11 journalists invited by AFRICOM Public Affairs and selected by U.S. embassy staff to meet AFRICOM officials in an out of uniform setting around families. The event was hosted as part of a five-day program designed to enhance journalists' understanding of AFRICOM's mission in Africa. An article on the program was published [here](#).

On July 28th, the Government of Mozambique in partnership with AFRICOM's Disaster Preparedness Program (DPP) completed the first day of a Cabinet Simulation Exercise on Disaster Preparedness and Response in Maputo. As part of the exercise, which attracted more than 140 representatives from Mozambique, African partner nations, and international organizations, officials revealed Mozambique's National Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response Plan and Military Support to Civil Authorities Disaster Contingency Plan. The exercise will continue over the next week and will focus on the National Emergency Operations Center (CENOE), information and planning, communications, infrastructure, and social sectors. The exercise was described [here](#).

On July 29th, Pentagon Press Secretary Rear Admiral John Kirby said U.S. airmen at Ramstein Air Base in Germany discovered the body of an adolescent boy in the wheel well of a C-130J cargo plane. He reported that the body is possibly of African origin and an investigation is ongoing. The aircraft had just returned from AFRICOM operations, including stops in Senegal, Mali, Chad, Tunisia, and Italy. The incident was detailed [here](#).

On July 31st, AFRICOM Commander General David Rodriguez and AFRICOM Command Senior Enlisted Leader Sergeant Major Darrin Bohn held an all-hands meeting at AFRICOM headquarters in Stuttgart, Germany. The meeting allowed AFRICOM staff the opportunity to ask senior leadership questions about quality of life and workforce issues. More information was shared [here](#).

On July 31st, Exercise Southern Accord (SA) 14 concluded in Lilongwe, Malawi. With more than 200 participants from ten countries, SA14 facilitated collaborative training to help provide participating military forces the skills required to enable readiness in support of peacekeeping and humanitarian support operations. Next year's Southern Accord exercise will be held in Zambia. An article on the conclusion of SA14 can be read [here](#).

Treasury Department

On July 23rd, the Department of Treasury announced awards for exceptional development projects undertaken by the multilateral development banks. The winning projects delivered clear results in combating food insecurity, creating jobs, expanding the use of clean energy, promoting infrastructure development and increasing access to education and health care. Of the winning projects, one was

focused on development in Africa. The New Rice for Africa Project was developed by the African Development Bank (AfDB) and it serves Benin, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Nigeria, Mali and Sierra Leone. The project works to better rice varieties and introduce new technology to improve food security and reduce poverty. More information on the winners and their work is available [here](#).

Department of Commerce

On July 25th, the Department of Commerce shared a blog post describing how the agency assisted Kodak in completing \$185,000 in export sales of film scanners to Egypt. The deal with one of Egypt's largest state-owned banks, Banque Misr, was completed with support from the Rochester U.S. Export Assistance Center (USEAC), and the U.S. Commercial Service. The full story is available [here](#).

On July 30th, the Department of Commerce ran a blog post detailing how the agency helped Hann Powerboats land Nigerian oil and gas company MOP Marine as a customer. The Tampa Bay USEAC and the U.S. Commercial Service team in Lagos, Nigeria, assisted Hann Powerboats in vetting potential partners and in facilitating meetings with the customer. In addition, the Department of Commerce helped Hann Powerboats connect with the Nigerian Embassy in Washington, DC, to acquire the proper documentation for the transaction. Further details can be found [here](#).

Department of Justice

On July 28th, U.S. District Court Judge Lewis Kaplan unsealed court documents revealing that the Government of Libya is funding the defense of Nazih Abdul Hamed al Ruqai, the accused conspirator in the Al Qaeda 1998 bombings of two U.S. Embassies in East Africa. Judge Kaplan has scheduled a hearing next month to consider whether the payment scheme creates a conflict of interest for Ruqai's defense lawyer, Bernard Kleinman. Details were reported [here](#).

Congress

On July 29th, the Senate approved the nominations of Larry Edward Andre Jr. to serve as U.S. Ambassador to Mauritania, Michael Stephen Hoza to serve as U.S. Ambassador to Cameroon, and Joan Polaschik to serve as U.S. Ambassador to Algeria. The votes were noted [here](#).

On July 29th, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee held a business meeting to consider three resolutions and a number of pending nominations. The Committee passed S. Res. 502, concerning the suspension of exit permit issuance by the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) for adopted Congolese children seeking to depart the country with their parents, and S. Res. 522, expressing the Senate's support for the upcoming U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit. In addition, the Committee approved the nomination of Erica Barks Ruggles to serve as U.S. Ambassador to Rwanda. Following the business meeting, the Committee held a hearing to consider the nominations of Donald Heflin to serve as U.S. Ambassador to Cabo Verde and Earl Robert Miller to serve as U.S. Ambassador to Botswana. The Committee's full agenda can be seen [here](#).

On July 29th, the House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Trade held a hearing on "Advancing the U.S. Trade Agenda: Trade with Africa and the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA)." The hearing explored deepening and expanding trade and investment ties with sub-Saharan Africa, the effectiveness of AGOA and potential revisions to the program, barriers to trade in Africa, barriers to regional integration in Africa, and capacity building and efforts to promote regional integration and integration into global supply chains, including through implementation of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement. Witnesses included Ben Leo of the Center for Global Development, William McRaith of PVH Corp., and Witney Schneidman of the Brookings Institution. More information was posted [here](#).

On July 29th, Ranking Member of the House Select Committee on Benghazi Elijah Cummings (D-MD) said the Committee would meet privately with the family members of the victims of the September 2012 attacks in Benghazi, Libya this week. A spokesperson for Chairman Trey Gowdy (R-SC) also confirmed the meeting, but said the Committee would not release any additional information in order to respect the privacy of the families. The meeting was confirmed [here](#).

On July 30th, the Senate Finance Committee held a hearing titled, “AGOA at 14: The Road Ahead.” USTR Michael Froman was the sole witness to provide testimony. An archived webcast of the hearing can be watched [here](#).

On July 31st, the Senate held a voice vote on the nomination of Cynthia Akuetteh to serve as U.S. Ambassador to the Gabonese Republic and the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe. Additional details on the vote are included [here](#).

On July 31st, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee held a business meeting and voted on five ambassadorial nominations. Donald Heflin’s and Earl Robert Miller’s nominations to serve as U.S. Ambassadors to Cabo Verde and Botswana, respectively, were approved and now await full Senate consideration. The announcement of the meeting can be seen [here](#).

North Africa

On July 24th, the World Bank’s Board of Directors approved a loan of \$500 million to increase natural gas access to 1.5 million Egyptian households. The Egypt Household Natural Gas Connection Project will support the Egyptian Government’s program to replace household consumption of Liquefied Petroleum Gas. Additional information on the loan can be found [here](#).

On July 28th, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) approved a new \$5 billion, 24-month long arrangement for Morocco under the Precautionary and Liquidity Line (PLL). The Moroccan authorities have stated that they intend to treat the arrangement as precautionary, and will only draw from it if Morocco experiences actual balance of payments needs from the deterioration of external conditions. Also, the PLL arrangement will allow the authorities to pursue their reform agenda aimed at achieving rapid and more inclusive economic growth. Details on the loan can be read [here](#).

On July 28th, the Executive Board of the IMF discussed the first review of Sudan’s performance under its Staff-Monitored Program (SMP). Overall, Sudanese authorities’ performance under the SMP has been broadly satisfactory despite the major challenges the country has been facing. One major issue is external debt, Sudan’s external debt is high and largely in arrears, cutting off the country from access to most external financing sources. Additional information on the discussion was reported [here](#).

On July 29th, the *Wall Street Journal* posted a story about the growing use of ransom by Al Qaeda-linked groups for funding. Islamic extremist groups in the Middle East and North Africa have been receiving ransom payments from many Persian Gulf and Western European nations. From 2004 to 2012, these militant organizations have raked in over \$120 million. Furthermore, groups in North Africa have made sufficient use of kidnapping as a funding source. In 2010, it was alleged that France paid \$17 million to free four French hostages. More information on the matter can be found [here](#).

On July 30th, the Atlantic Council hosted a briefing on Tunisia’s political prospects in light of the parliamentary elections approaching later this year. Presenters included Duncan Pickard and Karim Mezran of the Atlantic Council’s Rafik Hariri Center for the Middle East and Fatima Hadji of the National Endowment for Democracy. Event logistics can be seen [here](#).

On August 4th, the Atlantic Council will host an event titled “Morocco’s Emergence as a Gateway to Business in Africa.” Invited speakers include Moroccan Minister of Industry, Trade, Investment and the Digital Economy H.E. Moulay Hafid Elalamy, Mohamed El Kettani of Attijariwafa Bank, Karim Hajji of the Casablanca Stock Exchange, and Nabil Habayeb of GE. J. Peter Pham and Frederick Kempe of the Atlantic Council will facilitate the dialogue. More information can be viewed [here](#).

East Africa

On July 24th, a criminal gang killed a German female tourist in Mombasa, Kenya. The woman was shot in Kibokoni, the same area where a gang killed a Russian woman in early July. Information on her identity has not been released, but it was revealed that unlike the Russian woman, she was not robbed. The full story can be seen [here](#).

On July 25th, Kenyan police killed two men suspected of planning an attack on the Mombasa ferry port.

According to the police, the two men were stopped by police while traveling to the ferry. They responded to the police cornering by throwing a grenade and drawing pistols. Both suspects were killed before they could harm the police officers or others. Police believe they were planning to attack the busy Likoni ferry that travels between Mombasa and the south coast. Details on the incident are available [here](#).

On July 30th, the Government of Ethiopia signed a \$10 million grant agreement with the World Bank. The grant funds the implementation of programs supporting the sustainable management of Ethiopia's forests. The grant specifically provides funds for Ethiopia's REDD+ Readiness program, an initiative that helps countries reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, foster conservation, and enhance forest carbon stocks. More information on the grant can be seen [here](#).

On July 30th, U.N. Special Representative to Somalia Nicholas Kay welcomed the signing of an agreement stating intent and principles for forming a new regional administration in central Somalia. While noting that the agreement is the first step in a process of state formation in central Somalia, Special Representative Kay urged participants to include women in the new administration. Feedback from Special Representative Kay can be seen [here](#).

On July 30th, U.N. Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation Catarina de Albuquerque reported on her recent visit to Kenya. Special Rapporteur de Albuquerque said that while Kenya remains a role model due to its constitutional recognition of water and sanitation as human rights, the country has a long way to go to make these rights reality. She also noted that investing in sanitation would also help Kenya to make economic gains. Special Rapporteur de Albuquerque's trip to Kenya was described [here](#).

West Africa

On July 23rd, Nigeria, Niger, Chad, and Cameroon pledged to mobilize a joint force to tackle the regional threat posed by Boko Haram. Each nation will contribute 700 men to the force. The agreement came out of a meeting of all of the countries' defense ministers, but specifics on the deployment have not been given. Details on the deployment were reported [here](#).

On July 24th, thousands of workers across Ghana took to the streets to demonstrate against the rise in the cost of living. The strike was organized by the country's largest trade union. Protestors called on Ghanaian President Johan Dramani Mahama to restore the 23% subsidy for petroleum products and to address the depreciation of Ghana's national currency, the cedi. The protests were detailed [here](#).

On July 25th, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) issued a statement requesting further assistance in their fight against hunger and food insecurity in the Sahel. The statement emphasized that the cycle of constant crises cannot end without food security. In February the FAO appealed for \$116 million, but thus far only \$16 million has been pledged. Terrorism, weak governance and recurrent droughts in Africa's Sahel have only exacerbated the food insecurity crisis in the region. The joint statement can be viewed [here](#).

On July 28th, the World Bank Group released a story titled, "Making Mining Work for West Africa". The feature piece highlighted the upcoming regional conference on sustainable mining in the Ivory Coast and the potential for African mining to secure development. According to the piece, mined resources could underpin diversified economic development, transforming the prospects of Western African nations. The full story was posted [here](#).

On July 29th, an IMF mission concluded a visit to Guinea-Bissau to discuss recent economic developments. The mission met with President Jose Mario Vaz, Prime Minister Simoes Pereira, and Minister of Economy and Finance Geraldo Martins. The IMF team found that Guinea-Bissau's economic activity is expected to accelerate this year, yielding real GDP growth of 2.7%. The mission urged Guinea-Bissau's economic leaders to look at initiatives to help improve the country's business environment. Further analysis was provided [here](#).

On July 30th, Guinean President Alpha Conde called for a week of national mourning after 34 people were killed in a stampede during a concert marking the end of Ramadan. Following the incident, President Conde also removed government officials tasked with overseeing entertainment events. The

full story is available [here](#).

Sub-Saharan Africa

On July 25th, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) issued its notes on the Article IV consultation with the ROC. In general, the ROC is doing well. Growth in the last 5 years has averaged about 5% per year, which is higher than the ROC's regional peers. However, more work is needed to contain government spending and fiscally consolidate. A summary of the assessments can be accessed [here](#).

On July 28th, the National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa (NUMSA) accepted a wage increase from employers. Their acceptance of the offer ends a four-week long strike. Under the terms of the strike the lowest-paid workers will accept a 10% annual pay increase fixed for three years. Work at the plants will begin on Tuesday. Further details on the agreement are available [here](#).

On July 31st, Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe's wife, Grace Mugabe, was nominated to serve as leader of the Zimbabwe African National Union - Patriotic Front's (ZANU-PF) Women's League. Confirmation in December would give her a much larger role in Zimbabwe's political scene. Experts, however, believe that the nomination only exacerbates the power struggle within the ruling ZANU-PF party and raises concerns about a Mugabe dynasty in Zimbabwe. More information can be found [here](#).

On July 31st, in partnership with Internet.org, Facebook launched a new plan to help expand internet access in Zambia. The initiative seeks to address the challenges to internet access, including affordability and awareness. In Zambia, mobile operators will begin offering an Internet.org app for free that will supply Facebook and a number of other web services, such as Wikipedia, job sites, weather forecasts, and health information. The project was described [here](#).

General Africa News

On July 24th, GlaxoSmithKline said it was applying for regulatory approval of the world's first vaccine against malaria, designed for children in Africa. The drug, called RTS,S, is intended for use in Africa, but it will be evaluated by the European Medicines Agency in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO). The final-stage trial in babies showed the shot only provided modest protection. The WHO has previously indicated it may recommend use of RTS,S from as early as 2015 if the EMA drug regulators back its license application. More information on the vaccine is available [here](#).

On July 28th, the World Bank reported on the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS), which recently brought 40 African farmers to Kenya to learn from China's achievements in the agricultural sector. For example, China feeds over 20% of the world's population, using only 7% of its arable land. While in China, African farmers visited research fields and spoke with Chinese scientists and researchers exploring many of the challenges that are also faced by farmers in Africa. An article on the program can be read [here](#).

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