



ML Strategies Update

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AFRICA UPDATE

Leading the News

Egypt

On August 22nd, the *Associated Press* reported the decline in tourism sparked by violence in Egypt threatens the livelihoods of one in eight Egyptians. Prior to the unrest after the ouster of President Mohamed Morsi, tourism accounted for more than 11% of Egypt's national economy and nearly 20% of its foreign currency revenues. Just this week, the arrival of tourists has dropped more than 40%. Details can be found [here](#).

On August 22nd, the U.S. Embassy in Cairo issued a new warning advising Americans in Egypt to stay home on August 23rd due to the possibility of violence associated with continuing pro-Muslim Brotherhood demonstrations. The warning also directed Americans in Egypt to abide by the military-imposed curfew enforced between 7PM and 6AM. The embassy's message has been posted [here](#).

On August 23rd, *Reuters* reported a low turnout for the Friday of Martyrs protests called for by the Muslim Brotherhood. Accounts of the protests suggest the Egyptian military's crackdown on deposed President Mohamed Morsi's supporters have decimated the Muslim Brotherhood's support base. One person was killed during a march with approximately 1,000 participants, but no major violence was reported. The full story can be accessed [here](#).

On August 23rd, *CNN* broadcast an interview where President Barack Obama said the U.S. is now facing a more abbreviated timeframe for making a decision on the provision of foreign aid to Egypt. President Obama said the Administration is completing a full review of the U.S.-Egypt relationship and there is no doubt the U.S. can return to a business as usual relationship in light of the violence. Clips can be watched [here](#).

On August 23rd, *Politico* reported Senate Appropriations State and Foreign Operations Subcommittee Chairman Patrick Leahy (D-VT) will advocate to include a provision in either an omnibus spending bill or a continuing resolution (CR) to force a 25% reduction in U.S. aid to Egypt next fiscal year if the country does not take the necessary steps to reinstate a democratic government. Details were

reported [here](#).

On August 23rd, Republican Senate aides said Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) may have the votes needed to pass an amendment to cut off U.S. aid to Egypt when Congress returns from recess in September. It remains unclear which legislative vehicle may be targeted for an amendment, especially as Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) has provided few details on the agenda for the next work session. More information can be viewed [here](#).

On August 24th, Egypt's interim cabinet announced the shortening of the nightly curfew imposed in response to political unrest and ongoing violence. The curfew will now begin at 9PM, as opposed to 7PM, except on Fridays, the first day of the weekend when authorities have observed heightened violence. The adjustment to the curfew was noted [here](#).

On August 24th, Egyptian Minister of Defense General Abdul Fattah Al-Sisi called Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel to discuss the security situation in Egypt and progress on a political roadmap. Consistent with past conversations, Secretary Hagel urged inclusiveness, transparency, and nonviolence, and expressed appreciation for Egypt's efforts to ensure the security of the U.S. embassy and U.S. personnel in Egypt. A readout of the discussion is available [here](#).

On August 25th, former Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, who was recently released under house arrest, appeared in Court on Sunday in a retrial for charges related to his involvement of the killing of protestors in the uprising that led to President Mubarak's toppling in 2011. Spiritual leader of the Muslim Brotherhood, Mohamed Badie, who was also expected in court on Sunday, did not appear. More information was shared [here](#).

On August 25th, the *New York Times* reported the Egyptian military has launched a propaganda campaign that uses Muslim scholars to convince soldiers and police they have a religious obligation to fulfill the military-led government's orders to use deadly force against demonstrators sympathetic to deposed President Mohamed Morsi. According to the report, the campaign reveals the military's concerns regarding insubordination following recent crackdowns. The full article can be read [here](#).

On August 25th, former Secretary of State and former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Colin Powell appeared on CBS's "Face the Nation," where he said he did not believe there is anything the U.S. can do to persuade Egypt's military government to return to democracy. The discussion was recorded [here](#).

On August 26th, the *Associated Press* provided an update on the efforts of former Egyptian militant groups, the Gamaa Islamiya and Islamic Jihad movements, to promote dialogue between the military-led government and the Muslim Brotherhood. The groups are seeking a compromise in which the Muslim Brotherhood stops street protests and government authorities stop trying to disperse protestors with violence. Details can be found [here](#).

On August 26th, *Time* reported on violence against Christians in Egypt since the toppling of President Mohamed Morsi. More than 60 Christian churches have been torched since the crackdown on Muslim Brotherhood protest camps earlier this month, with Christians, who constitute approximately 10% of Egypt's population, being accused of supporting the ousting of President Morsi's Islamic regime. Details on the violence against Christians were discussed [here](#).

On August 27th, Senate Foreign Relations African Affairs Subcommittee Chairman Chris Coons (D-DE) joined other lawmakers in calling for the suspension of U.S. aid to Egypt. Senator Coons said aid should be suspended until the situation in Egypt stabilizes and the military restores civilian rule and respect for human rights. A press release was posted [here](#).

On August 28th, U.K. Business Secretary Vince Cable announced the suspension of 49 export licenses, halting the export of aircraft parts and communications equipment to Egypt. Secretary Cable said the decision was made out of concern the military and armed forces would use British technologies to continue to suppress protestors in Egypt. Comments from Secretary Cable were discussed [here](#).

Democratic Republic of Congo

On August 23rd, South African President Jacob Zuma arrived in Luanda, Angola, to meet with Angolan President Jos Eduardo dos Santos and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) President Joseph Kabila. The focus of the meeting was on current peace efforts and new violence in the DRC. The meeting was noted [here](#).

On August 24th, U.N. humanitarian agencies, including the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), the High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), the World Food Programme (WFP), and the Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), condemned civilian deaths resulting from an upsurge in fighting between the Congolese Army (FARDC) and the M23 group. At least three people were killed and five others wounded when a shell landed in Ndoshu outside of Goma. This attack followed other attacks in the region targeting civilians. Comments on the attacks are available [here](#).

On August 24th, U.N. Special Representative in the DRC Martin Kobler issued a statement deploring the deaths of two civilians killed in demonstrations against the violence between DRC Government and rebel forces in Goma. Special Representative Kobler called for a full investigation of the incident by DRC Police (PNC). More on the demonstrations can be seen [here](#).

On August 24th, U.N. Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region Mary Robinson expressed concern for renewed violent clashes in the DRC. She called for parties in the DRC to avoid escalating tensions and to engage in dialogue consistent with the Peace, Security, and Cooperation Framework for the DRC and the Region. Feedback from Special Envoy Robinson was reported [here](#).

On August 25th, the State Department addressed escalating violence in the DRC. The State Department condemned fighting between M23 rebels and the FARDC in eastern Congo and reprimanded the M23 group for civilian casualties, attacks on the U.N. Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO), and population displacement. The State Department also called on Rwanda to cease support for M23 and to respect the DRC's territorial integrity. A statement on the situation in the DRC was posted [here](#).

On August 25th, DRC radio station *Mutaani* reported six U.S. Senators, including Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC), are visiting Goma this week as part of a congressional delegation (CODEL) trip to the DRC. In addition to meeting with the local radio station, the Senators met with the Vice Governor of North Kivu and were briefed on ongoing violence in the eastern Congo by MONUSCO officials. More information on the CODEL can be found [here](#).

On August 26th, the *Associated Press* reported on developments in the DRC. Over the weekend, more than 50 M23 rebels were killed in ongoing violence, as well as 23 FARDC soldiers. Three U.N. peacekeepers were also wounded. The DRC Government has also initiated an investigation into the deaths of civilians killed during demonstrations to oppose the violence. Developments were shared [here](#).

On August 27th, UNHCR announced it has started providing assistance to refugees in Burundi who have fled the violence in the DRC's South Kivu province. UNHCR estimates in the past week and a half, approximately 1,500 people, 60% of them children, have fled from the Sange, Mutalule, and Rwanena areas of the Ruzizi Plain to Burundi. Details are available [here](#).

On August 28th, FARDC, working in collaboration with MONUSCO's intervention brigade, launched an attack against M23 fighters in North Kivu in an effort to keep rebels out of Goma. FARDC used helicopters, battle tanks, and ground forces to carry out the advance, while MONUSCO soldiers contributed mortar and artillery fire, as well as attack helicopters. At least one U.N. peacekeeper was killed in the attack. Information on the attack can be seen [here](#).

On August 28th, U.N. Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights Flavia Pansieri concluded a seven day trip to the DRC. Having been in Goma as new clashes began, Deputy High Commissioner Pansieri expressed concern for the limited presence of State institutions, the weakening of traditional customs, and reports of sexual violence. More information on Deputy High Commissioner Pansieri's travel to the DRC can be viewed [here](#).

On August 29th, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon condemned the killing of a Tanzanian peacekeeper and the wounding of 10 others in an offensive attack launched against M23 rebels in the DRC. A statement from Secretary-General Ban's office was issued [here](#).

South Sudan

On August 20th, 32 members of Congress sent a letter to South Sudanese President Salva Kiir pressing him to address corruption and violence throughout the country. While the lawmakers praised the appointment of a new cabinet, they also raised concerns about tribal violence in Jonglei State and reports suggesting South Sudan is backing rebels perpetuating violence in Sudan. The letter can be downloaded [here](#).

On August 23rd, the U.N. Security Council issued a press statement calling on all parties in South Sudan, and particularly in Jonglei State, to refrain from violence against civilians. The Security Council also stated it is the responsibility of the South Sudanese Government to protect civilians, to expedite and ensure access to humanitarian aid, and to provide freedom of movement for U.N. Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) peacekeepers. The statement was shared [here](#).

On August 23rd, the U.N. WFP announced it is need of \$84 million to expand humanitarian assistance in South Sudan. WFP's emergency operation launched in South Sudan last month, located in Jonglei State, currently serves 1.7 million people. However, as many as 2.8 million people may be in need of assistance. An article on relief efforts can be read [here](#).

Nigeria

On August 23rd, Boko Haram militants launched an assault on Demba village in Nigeria's Borno State. The group torched homes and shot and stabbed civilians, resulting in at least 44 deaths. The attacks impacted a village that was once a Boko Haram stronghold, and may have been motivated by the Nigerian military's announcement that Boko Haram leader Abubakar Shekau may have died in attacks between the military and extremists. The full story is available [here](#).

On August 26th, the State Department issued a statement condemning Boko Haram's killing of dozens of civilians in Demba village in Nigeria. In addition to condemning the attacks, the State Department also opposed the extra-judicial executions of suspected Boko Haram members. The full statement has been posted [here](#).

United States – Africa Relations

White House

On August 28th, President Barack Obama announced the appointment of Ambassador Donald Booth to serve as the new U.S. Special Envoy for Sudan and South Sudan. Ambassador Booth most recently served as U.S. Ambassador to Ethiopia. A release from the Office of the White House Press Secretary can be viewed [here](#).

State Department

On August 27th, U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator Eric Goosby departed on foreign travel to Yaounde, Cameroon, to conduct clinic site visits and for meetings with civil society groups and government officials. Ambassador Goosby's travel was noticed [here](#).

On August 28th, Secretary of State John Kerry issued a statement recognizing the appointment of Ambassador Donald Booth to serve as the new U.S. Special Envoy for Sudan and South Sudan. Secretary Kerry said the appointment demonstrates the U.S. commitment to creating conditions for peace and security in the region. The statement was posted [here](#).

USAID

On August 22nd, *USA Today* reported the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has canceled the current Sahel Resilience Learning (SAREL) program because no contractor responded to a solicitation issued in June. The solicitation sought private sector bidders to help enhance local resilience to the growth of Al Qaeda affiliated groups in Niger and Burkina Faso. USAID officials said the agency will reissue the solicitation soon in hopes of attracting a qualified bidder. Details are available [here](#).

Department of Defense

On August 22nd, the Regional African Air Chiefs Conference concluded in Accra, Ghana. The symposium allowed U.S. and African Air Force leaders to discuss variations in the scope of air capabilities in Africa and to explore partnerships and solutions for common challenges. A report on the conference can be seen [here](#).

On August 23rd, U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) reported on AFRICOM and State Department officials' participation in a recent dedication ceremony for a renovated medical dispensary in Ntem County, Gabon. The facility was updated using AFRICOM Humanitarian Assistance funding. Following the ceremony, U.S. officials visited a nearby school construction project, also financed by AFRICOM Humanitarian Assistance funds. More information was shared [here](#).

On August 26th, the Africa Center for Strategic Studies (ACSS) reported on a recent workshop held on enhancing peacekeeping operations in Africa. The workshop gathered 36 participants from 18 troop-contributing countries, the African Union (AU), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), South African Development Community (SADC), and U.N. to share best practices for improving peacekeeping missions on the continent. An article on the workshop can be viewed [here](#).

On August 26th, AFRICOM reported on progress on a humanitarian assistance project funded by AFRICOM and managed by the Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. embassy in Ghana. The \$208,700 project funds a new school in Grumesa that will house more than 150 students in grades four through six. The construction involves local workers and locally sourced materials. More information was noted [here](#).

On August 28th, *USA Today* reported the Pentagon's Office of Net Assessment (ONA) has hired Booz Allen Hamilton to study future U.S. military operations in Africa. It is anticipated the contractor's work will influence ONA's contributions to the Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR), a document produced every four years to outline U.S. defense priorities. The next QDR is due to be released in early 2014. The report can be accessed [here](#).

On August 29th, the Department of Defense (DOD) announced the transfer of Guantanamo Bay detainees Nabil said Hadjarab and Mutia Sadiq Ahmad Sayyab to the Government of Algeria. The transfer was approved by the Guantanamo Review Task Force. The Pentagon announcement on the transfer is available [here](#).

Federal Bureau of Investigations

On August 23rd, outgoing Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) Director Robert Mueller said Tunisia, Libya, Mali, Algeria, and most recently, Egypt, have become the focus of the U.S. counterterrorism strategy. He said violent extremists in these countries pose threats to both Americans overseas and to homeland security. Comments from Director Mueller can be read [here](#).

North Africa

On August 23rd, the U.N. Security Council approved a presidential statement calling for Sudan and South Sudan to implement security and economic agreements signed in September 2012 under the auspices of the AU High-Level Implementation Panel (AUHIO). The agreements outline a framework for the resumption of negotiations between Sudan and South Sudan related to outstanding issues associated with South Sudan's secession in July 2011. Details can be found [here](#).

On August 24th, the National Salvation Front coalition opposition party kicked off a week of scheduled protests in front of the national assembly in Tunis, Tunisia. The demonstrations are intended to pressure the resignation of the Islamist-led government and the installation of a new government tasked with enhancing security and jumpstarting the economy. The first protest was reported to be relatively peaceful. An account of the protest can be viewed [here](#).

On August 27th, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon appointed Major General Imam Edy Mulyono of Indonesia as Force Commander of the U.N. Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO). In his new role, Commander Mulyono will lead MINURSO in its efforts to monitor the ceasefire in the Western Sahara and to organize a referendum on self-determination for people in the territory. The appointment was announced [here](#).

On August 27th, the U.N. issued an update on emergency support provided to people in Sudan impacted by flooding. As many as 530,000 people have been impacted by heavy rains and at least 74,000 homes have been destroyed. The U.N. and humanitarian partners have been able to provide those affected with emergency water and sanitation, health items, and food. Details were discussed [here](#).

On August 27th, Libya's General Prosecutor Abdel-Qader Radwan charged Libyan dictator Muammar Gaddafi's son, Saif al-Islam Gaddafi, former intelligence chief Abdullah al-Senoussi, and 26 other Gaddafi Administration officials with murder, forming armed groups, and inciting rapes and kidnappings during Libya's 2011 civil war. Information on the charges is available [here](#).

East Africa

On August 22nd, the *New York Times* ran a story on the polio outbreak that began in Mogadishu, Somalia, in May. To date, 121 polio cases have been reported in the region, raising concerns as only 223 cases of polio were reported worldwide last year. Information on the polio outbreak in East Africa can be found [here](#).

On August 26th, approximately 800 participants from 50 countries gathered in Nairobi, Kenya, for a U.N.-organized conference on food security in Africa. The discussion focused on strengthening ecosystems to help local farmers adapt to climate change to ensure they can produce enough food to meet nutritional needs. An article on the conference can be read [here](#).

On August 26th, U.N. Special Representative for Somalia Nicholas Kay attended the 392nd meeting of the AU Peace and Security Council in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. In his remarks, Special Representative Kay highlighted state building achievements in Somalia over the past year, but warned about pressing challenges, including terrorism, piracy, and other security issues. Special Representative Kay's remarks have been posted [here](#).

On August 27th, Google's Director of Communications in East and Francophone Africa Dorothy Ooko launched Google's Africa Connected competition in Nairobi, Kenya. The competition encourages web users in Africa to share videos of success stories stimulated by use of the Internet. Submissions will be collected through October 31st and five winners will each receive a \$25,000 cash prize, as well as the opportunity to work with Google to advance their projects. News on the competition was reported [here](#).

On August 28th, U.N. Special Representative for Somalia Nicholas Kay commended Somalia's Federal Government and the Interim Jubba Administration for completing an agreement regarding the terms for governance in the Lower Jubba, Middle Jubba, and Gedo regions. Special Representative Kay also congratulated Sheikh Ahmed Mohamed Islaan Madobe on becoming the Leader of the Interim Jubba Administration. Details can be seen [here](#).

On August 29th, following a bus accident on the Nairobi-Narok highway that killed 41 people, Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta indicated the government will take steps to crack down on the owners and drivers of public service vehicles who disobey traffic rules. Deputy President William Ruto also expressed shock at the death toll in the bus accident and consoled families and friends of the victims. The full story is available [here](#).

West Africa

On August 22nd, the group of extremists led by Mokhtar Belmokhtar and the Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa (MUJWA) announced plans to merge into a single group called Al-Mourabitoun. The two groups, who recently broke away from North Africa's Al Qaeda affiliate responsible for the recent fighting in Mali, have pledged to continue to attack French interests in Africa. Information on the new terrorist group can be accessed [here](#).

On August 23rd, Nigerian authorities rescued 25 children who were being held at an illegal orphanage in Lagos and forced into child trafficking. The State Government has taken custody of the children and the owner of the illegal orphanage has been arrested and is cooperating with the police investigation. The full story can be viewed [here](#).

On August 26th, Liberian Education Minister Etmonia David-Tarpeh said she finds it difficult to believe that all 25,000 students who took the admission test for the University of Liberia failed this year's exam. The results mean the university will have no new students when it reopens next month for the new academic year. Minister David-Tarpeh indicated she will meet with university officials regarding the exam. The full story can be found [here](#).

On August 27th, in an effort to cool political tensions in anticipation of Ghana's Supreme Court's ruling on the disputed December 2012 presidential election, members of the ruling National Democratic Congress (NDC), the New Patriotic Party (NPP), and the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) teamed up to take on retired players from Ghana's national football team, the Black Stars. Information on the soccer game can be found [here](#).

On August 28th, authorities in Nigeria arrested Paul Yempe, a local correspondent for Radio Rivers who posed as a *CNN* correspondent to solicit money from government energy officials in exchange for interviews in Nigeria's Bayelsa State. Yempe was turned over to the police for questioning and the case remains under investigation. The full story was reported [here](#).

On August 29th, Ghana's Supreme Court ruled President John Mahama, who was inaugurated in January despite a legal challenge to his election, had been validly elected, endorsing his victory over NPP candidate Nana Akufo-Addo by 50.7% to 47.7% in December's presidential vote. While disappointed, Akufo-Addo said he would accept the court's ruling. An article on the decision can be read [here](#).

Sub-Saharan Africa

On August 23rd, Head of the U.N. Office for Central Africa Abou Moussa participated in the 36th meeting of the U.N. Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa (UNSAC), held in Kigali, Rwanda. Speaking on behalf of U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Special Representative Moussa called for greater collective focus on countering threats of piracy and armed robbery at sea, among other security challenges facing the region. Information on the meeting can be seen [here](#).

On August 24th, voters in Swaziland went to the polls to vote in the first round of parliamentary elections to fill the 55 of 65 seats elected by local constituencies. The remaining ten seats are appointed by the king. Because of the ban on the multiparty system, many pro-democracy political groups have expressed frustration the system will continue to support the aspirations of King Mswati III. The next round of elections will be held on September 20th. Details on the vote were posted [here](#).

On August 24th, prior to departing on an official visit to Malaysia, South African President Jacob Zuma issued a statement providing an update on the health of former President Nelson Mandela. President Zuma said while President Mandela remains hospitalized in Pretoria, he has demonstrated resilience and his condition continues to stabilize in response to medical interventions. The statement can be viewed [here](#).

On August 25th, Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe threatened targeted actions to disadvantage

U.S. and U.K. companies operating in Zimbabwe in retaliation for continuing economic sanctions. The U.S. and the European Union (EU) have maintained sanctions against President Mugabe and members of his Administration, including travel bans and asset freezes, since the 2002 presidential elections, which Western observers said were rigged. Comments from President Mugabe were transcribed [here](#).

On August 25th, Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe and Zambian President Michael Sata signed a temporary bilateral agreement establishing a one-stop Victoria Falls Border Post for the duration of the U.N. World Tourism Organization. The agreement will be in place as the two countries work to finalize a permanent agreement. The reorganization of the post is anticipated to expedite the movement of people and goods between Zimbabwe and Zambia. The agreement was described [here](#).

On August 26th, South African construction and airport workers went on strike for higher wages. The strike comes after workers in the mining and manufacturing sectors also threatened to strike for higher wages last week. Details on the tensions and the potential impacts of mass strikes on the South African economy can be found [here](#).

On August 26th, Madagascar's President Andry Rajoelina appeared on public radio and television to announce his withdrawal from presidential elections scheduled for October. President Rajoelina's announcement follows the ruling of an electoral court. More information was shared [here](#).

On August 26th, Zimbabwean Tourism and Hospitality Minister Walter Mzembe announced the Government is planning to build a \$300 million theme park near Victoria Falls, the country's most popular tourist destination. The park, which Minister Mzembe described as "Disneyland in Africa," will also include shopping malls, banks, and other entertainment facilities. More on the project is available [here](#).

On August 27th, representatives of Zimbabwe's Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) party announced plans to boycott the official opening of the seventh parliament to show opposition to President Robert Mugabe's reelection. MDC representatives in parliament have also been asked to abstain from voting for Speaker and President in order to demonstrate lack of support for Zimbabwe African National Union – Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF) candidates. Plans for the boycott were reported [here](#).

On August 27th, freelance environmental journalist Richard Blaustein published an op-ed in *The Hill* expressing support for the Nelson Mandela statue to be unveiled at the South African embassy in Washington, DC, next month. The op-ed can be read [here](#).

On August 29th, more than 5,000 people were reportedly seeking refuge at the main airport in the Central African Republic (CAR) after days of violence in the capitol city of Bangui. There are so many refugees that Bangui's International Airport's runway is blocked, resulting in incoming flights' rerouting to Cameroon. Details were shared [here](#).

General Africa News

On August 21st, in an interview with *CNN*, Prince William said he is hoping to pass his love of Africa on to his new son Prince George, noting the baby's room will be decorated with an African theme. He expressed hope his son will be able to travel to Africa, as Prince William did with Prince Harry and his parents, Prince Charles and the late Princess Diana. He also said he would like Prince George to share his dream to save endangered species on the continent. Excerpts from the interview are available [here](#).

On August 22nd, The Heritage Foundation published a blog post summarizing the recommendations of the organization's recently released policy paper on the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). The policy paper calls for the Obama Administration and Congress to work together, not only to renew AGOA, but to ultimately transform AGOA into a U.S.-Africa free trade agreement (FTA). The full policy paper can be downloaded [here](#). The blog post can be accessed [here](#).

On August 23rd, while addressing members of the diplomatic corps in South Korea, U.N. Secretary-

General Ban Ki-moon called for African nations to partner with international organizations to work towards achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). While acknowledging economic growth on the continent, Secretary-General Ban also noted poverty and hunger as significant challenges. Comments from Secretary-General Ban can be found [here](#).

On August 27th, in conjunction with the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington, the *San Francisco Bay View* reported on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s concern for global justice in Africa. The report discusses how Dr. King's views on Africa were shaped by his 1957 trip to Ghana to attend the inauguration of Kwame Nkrumah as Prime Minister. The full article can be read [here](#).

On August 27th, Google Africa called for volunteers to help assess translations for several African languages, including Hausa, Igbo, Somali, Yoruba, and Zulu. The call for volunteers has been perceived as an indicator that Google will soon add these languages to the 71 languages currently available through Google Translate. Details were posted [here](#).

On August 29th, China's Information Office of the State Council published a report on Sino-African trade, finding that China's direct investment in Africa has increased by 20.5% annually, from \$1.44 billion in 2009, to \$2.52 billion in 2012. Many of the investments were attributed to China's manufacturing sector. The report's findings were summarized [here](#).

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