



ML Strategies Update

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AFRICA UPDATE

Leading the News

Central African Republic

On March 23rd and 24th, members of the Seleka rebel group entered the capital city of Bangui in the Central African Republic (CAR) and clashed with South African troops posted in the city to help support poorly trained local soldiers. South African Brigadier General Xolani Mabanga reported an unknown number of casualties. In light of the increasing violence, French President Francois Hollande deployed an additional 300 French troops to the region to protect the estimated 1,250 French nationals living in the city. An article on the increasing violence in the CAR can be read [here](#).

On March 24th, the State Department issued a statement expressing concern for further deterioration of the security situation in the CAR. The State Department called on the Seleka leadership that took control of the capital city of Bangui over the weekend to establish law and order and to restore basic services, such as water and electricity. U.S. government officials also continued to call on the Seleka leadership to recognize the Libreville Agreement and to support the government of Prime Minister Nicolas Tiangaye, established as part of the agreement. The full State Department statement on new developments in the CAR is available [here](#).

On March 25th, the office of CAR President Francois Bozize announced that the President, who had fled the capital as it was invaded by the Seleka rebel group, had taken refuge in Cameroon. According to the announcement, which was broadcasted over the national radio, President Bozize will await departure to another host country in Cameroon. An article on the statement issued by President Bozize's office can be read [here](#).

On March 25th, the African Union (AU) imposed sanctions on the CAR, including an asset freeze on leaders of Seleka. The AU said Seleka leaders could face trial, and South African President Jacob Zuma called the rebels bandits after 13 South African soldiers were killed in a firefight with Seleka. More information on the response from the AU and South Africa can be found [here](#).

On March 25th, United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon expressed concern over serious

violations of human rights in the CAR. Secretary Ban urged for restoration of constitutional order and said the Libreville Agreements are the most viable framework to ensure lasting peace in the CAR. About 1.5 million people in the CAR are in need of humanitarian assistance, and the UN has said aid workers must be allowed to help affected persons. The release from the UN is available [here](#).

On March 25th, State Department Acting Deputy Spokesperson Patrick Ventrell responded to questions about the ongoing situation in the CAR. While he reiterated that the U.S. condemns the seizing of power by force by the Seleka rebel alliance, he said the U.S. government does not yet consider the actions of the Seleka leadership a coup. The U.S. continues to be concerned that the Seleka leadership appears poised to appoint its own president. The full transcript of the exchange on the developments in the CAR can be found [here](#).

On March 25th, Michel Djotodia, a leader of the Seleka rebel group, declared himself President of the CAR, announcing that he considers himself the new head of state. Djotodia suggested that he would serve as president for three years, the time remaining in President Francois Bozize's term. Despite Djotodia's announcement, other Seleka leaders have announced their intentions to challenge Djotodia's power. More information on Djotodia's declaration is available [here](#).

On March 25th, Michel Djotodia also announced that he will suspend the CAR constitution for three years as he organizes elections in the country. Djotodia also said he will dissolve Parliament based on a consensual transition. The rebel leader did not indicate when new elections will take place. An article on the Djotodia's plans to suspend the constitution is available [here](#).

On March 26th, State Department Acting Deputy Spokesperson Patrick Ventrell indicated that the legal determination on whether or not the seizing of power in the CAR constitutes a coup is ongoing, but the results of further analysis could potentially jeopardize approximately \$2 million in U.S. aid to the country. U.S. aid is currently being provided to the CAR for military professionalization, property rights, and anti-trafficking activities. Details regarding current U.S. aid to the CAR can be viewed [here](#).

Rwanda

On March 22nd, Secretary of State John Kerry issued a statement welcoming the removal of Bosco Ntaganda from Rwanda to the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague. Secretary Kerry expressed hope that justice will be served for Ntaganda's alleged violations of international humanitarian law and atrocities against innocent civilians. Secretary Kerry's full statement can be viewed [here](#).

On March 22nd, National Security Council (NSC) Spokesperson Caitlyn Hayden issued a statement on Bosco Ntaganda's surrender to the ICC. Spokesperson Hayden said the surrender is an important milestone in international justice for the eastern regions of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). She also expressed optimism that Ntaganda's surrender will increase momentum towards a comprehensive political agreement to address the region's security, economic, and governance issues. The full NSC statement can be found [here](#).

On March 22nd, State Department Spokesperson Victoria Nuland addressed speculations regarding Bosco Ntaganda's motives for surrendering at the U.S. embassy in Kigali, Rwanda. Spokesperson Nuland said that Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Johnnie Carson has speculated that Ntaganda felt that turning himself in to the U.S. embassy would result in safe and reliable transfer to the ICC and that he would not be blocked from leaving the country. The full transcript from the State Department's daily press briefing can be read [here](#).

On March 26th, Bosco Ntaganda appeared before the ICC for the first time on charges of rape, murder sexual slavery, and using children as soldiers. Although he was not asked to enter a plea, Ntaganda informed the judge, Ekaterina Trendafilova, that he intended to plead not guilty, and simply described his profession during the times the crimes were committed as a soldier's position in the Congo. A second hearing has been scheduled for September 23rd. More information on Ntaganda's first appearance before the ICC is available [here](#).

Kenya

On March 27th, Raila Odinga, Prime Minister and a candidate in Kenya's March 4th presidential elections, suggested that broken voting machines at polling stations across the country led to ballot manipulation. Prime Minister Odinga has challenged the election results to the Supreme Court and has said he will accept the Court's decision. Details on Prime Minister Odinga's challenge of the election results, which gave victory to Uhuru Kenyatta, are available [here](#).

On March 27th, Kenya's Supreme Court began hearing arguments involving the country's disputed presidential election. Uhuru Kenyatta, who achieved a razor-thin majority in the first round of voting, could face a runoff or an entirely new election if the Court finds that fraud occurred. Kenyatta was just 8,419 votes over the 50% threshold in an election that had a turnout in excess of 12 million Kenyans. An article on the case can be read [here](#).

Mali

On March 23rd, French President Francois Hollande confirmed the death of al Qaeda leader Abdelhamid Abu Zeid, the man who ran operations for al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) and played a prominent role in the takeover of northern Mali in 2012. Abu Zeid was also allegedly involved in kidnappings of Westerners in the region. President Hollande said Abu Zeid's death, which had been rumored since February, marks an important step in the fight against terrorism in the Sahel. An article on the confirmed killing can be found [here](#).

On March 27th, Secretary of State John Kerry participated in meetings in France to discuss continued U.S. support for the French mission in Mali. While in France, Secretary Kerry was scheduled to meet with French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius. An article on Secretary Kerry's visit to France is available [here](#).

On March 27th, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon sent a report to the UN Security Council indicating that efforts in Mali might require 11,200 peacekeepers to be supported by a second force of combat troops. France has been named as a potential country to provide the secondary combat support outlined in the report. French, Chadian, and Malian troops currently perform combat operations in the country threatened by Islamic militants; Nigerian troops are present but have not been involved in combat. A *BBC* article on Secretary Ban's report can be found [here](#).

Zimbabwe

On March 25th, the European Union (EU) suspended sanctions against 81 officials and eight firms in Zimbabwe. According to a statement issued by the EU, sanctions were lifted in response to a peaceful, successful, and credible referendum on Zimbabwe's new constitution held earlier in March. Despite the significant easing of sanctions on Zimbabwean entities, EU sanctions remain in force against 10 individuals, including Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe, and two firms. A *BBC* article on the easing of EU sanctions on Zimbabwe can be read [here](#).

On March 25th, State Department Acting Deputy Spokesperson Patrick Ventrell answered media questions about the possibility for the easing of U.S. sanctions on Zimbabwe. Spokesperson Ventrell noted that the U.S. has congratulated the people of Zimbabwe on the referendum, but this was only a first step towards democratization. He noted the U.S. will continue to monitor Zimbabwe's progress towards democracy, especially as presidential elections are anticipated in October. Spokesperson Ventrell's full comments are available [here](#).

South Africa

On March 26th, South African President Jacob Zuma welcomed the other leaders of BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) nations, including Presidents Dilma Rousseff of Brazil, Vladimir Putin of Russia, Xi Jinping of China and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh of India, to Durban, South Africa, for the BRICS Summit. The BRICS Summit was held so that leaders could follow up on a series of bilateral and multilateral commitments between BRICS nations. A *Forbes* article on the kickoff of the Summit can be read [here](#).

On March 26th, the *New York Times* reported that BRICS leaders agreed to announce the creation of a new development bank, potentially challenging other global entities such as the World Bank and the IMF. The bank will allegedly focus on infrastructure and development in emerging markets. As part of the Summit, BRICS leaders were also expected to discuss the potential of pooling their foreign reserves to create protection from currency crises. The *New York Times* report on the BRICS Summit can be viewed [here](#).

On March 27th, in conjunction with the BRICS Summit in Durban, South Africa, BRICS leaders received a letter from Syrian President Bashar al-Assad requesting their assistance in ending violence in Syria. At the conclusion of the Summit, BRICS leaders issued a statement expressing concern for security in Syria and condemning human rights abuses, but did not respond directly to President Assad's request. Of the BRICS nations, Russia and China have previously defended the Assad regime, but are increasingly pressing him on aid. Meanwhile, Brazil, India, and South Africa have sought to remain neutral, while encouraging conflict resolution. Additional information on the reactions of the BRICS nations to President Assad's request is available [here](#).

United States – Africa Relations

White House

On March 28th, President Barack Obama met with President Ernest Bai Koroma of Sierra Leone, President Macky Sall of Senegal, President Joyce Banda of Malawi, and Prime Minister José Maria Pereira Neves of Cape Verde at the White House. The leaders discussed strengthening democratic institutions in sub-Saharan Africa and increasing economic opportunities, trade, and investment. USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah also participated in the meeting. The White House announcement of the meeting has been archived [here](#).

State Department

On March 20th, the State Department authorized rewards of up to \$5 million for information leading to the arrest or conviction of Omar Shafik Hammami or Jihad Serwan Mostafa, two members of the Somalia-based terrorist organization al-Shabaab. Hammami is a U.S. citizen who has served as a propagandist for al-Shabaab helping to recruit English speaking youth. Mostafa, also a U.S. citizen, has served as a media expert and a leader of foreign fighters for the terrorist group. Both men are believed to be in Somalia. Additional information on the justice awards can be found [here](#).

On March 22nd, State Department Spokesperson Victoria Nuland addressed questions regarding steps taken by Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi following Secretary of State John Kerry's dispensing of \$250 million of U.S. aid to Egypt. Spokesperson Nuland said that President Morsi has taken some encouraging steps, such as acceding to the Egyptian courts regarding the election dates and procedures and continuing discussions with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). She also indicated the U.S. is continuing to monitor progress in Egypt. The full transcript from the State Department daily press briefing is available [here](#).

On March 25th, Secretary of State John Kerry said the U.S. will provide \$51 million in humanitarian assistance to the people of the Sahel region. Citing the Sahel as an impoverished region that faces drought, flooding, and failed harvests, Secretary Kerry said U.S. efforts will address food insecurity and the needs of refugees. Since FY12, the U.S. has contributed \$520 million to the Sahel region. The press release from Secretary Kerry is available [here](#).

On March 25th, the State Department issued a fact sheet on the 22nd session of the UN Human Rights Council, which concluded on March 22nd. According to the State Department release, the Council adopted a second technical assistance and cooperation resolution on Libya to further cooperation between the Libyan Government and the UN. The Council also adopted by consensus a resolution on human rights in Mali that calls for an independent investigation of human rights abuses. The full fact sheet has been posted [here](#).

On March 25th, in light of new Chinese President Xi Jinping's travel to Africa, State Department Acting Deputy Spokesperson Patrick Ventrell addressed questions related to the relationship between Africa

and China. Spokesperson Ventrell indicated that the U.S. and China have divergent interests in various spheres of Africa, but the U.S. will continue to push forward its agenda in Africa, which is focused on democracy and development. Spokesperson Ventrell's full remarks on China's relationship with Africa have been posted [here](#).

On March 26th, the State Department announced that Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Johnnie Carson will moderate a panel discussion on "Consolidating Democratic Gains, Promoting African Prosperity" on March 29th at the U.S. Institute of Peace. Panelists will include President Koroma of Sierra Leone, President Sall of Senegal, President Banda of Malawi, and Prime Minister Neves of Cape Verde. The event is being held in conjunction with the African leaders' trip to Washington to meet with President Barack Obama on March 28th. Additional information on the panel discussion is available [here](#).

On March 26th, the State Department's Bureau of Counterterrorism issued its annual report on assistance related to international terrorism for FY12. Some of the initiatives highlighted in the report included promoting the GCTF Rabat Memorandum on Good Practices for Effective Counterterrorism Practice in the Criminal Justice Sector in East and West Africa, installation of new border security systems in Niger and Ghana, and counterterrorism projects at U.S. embassies in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Nigeria. The full report can be found [here](#).

On March 27th, Ambassador-At-Large to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons Luis CdeBaca met with Dr. Samura Kamara, the foreign minister of Sierra Leone, in Washington. The meeting was listed on the State Department's daily appointment schedule, which can be viewed [here](#).

On March 27th, the State Department issued a funding opportunity announcement (FOA) for NGOs seeking to support Malian refugees in Burkina Faso, Mauritania, and Niger. The proposal submission deadline is April 26th. The announcement can be found [here](#).

On March 28th, Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment Robert Hormats attended a dinner hosted by the Corporate Council of Africa to honor President Macky Sall of Senegal, President Joyce Banda of Malawi, and Prime Minister José Maria Pereira Neves of Cape Verde. Additional information on the dinner is available [here](#).

USAID

On March 28th, following a meeting with President Barack Obama, President Ernest Bai Koroma of Sierra Leone, President Macky Sall of Senegal, President Joyce Banda of Malawi, and Prime Minister José Maria Pereira Neves of Cape Verde at the White House, USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah met separately with President Banda of Malawi. The meeting was noticed on the State Department's daily appointment schedule, posted [here](#).

Department of Defense

On March 21st, outgoing U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) Commander General Carter Ham met with South African journalists to discuss AFRICOM's strategy and mission at AFRICOM headquarters in Stuttgart, Germany. In the discussion, General Ham emphasized his belief that a large military presence in Africa is not appropriate and not particularly helpful to achieving the shared security objectives of the U.S. and its African partners. Instead, General Ham advocated for tailored engagement strategies where small U.S. military teams focus on the specific needs and requests of individual African countries. Additional details on General Ham's discussion with reports are available [here](#).

On March 25th, U.S. soldiers deploying to Djibouti concluded participation in a one week military-to-military exchange mission on the Comoros Islands off the coast of East Africa. The objective of the mission was to provide 28 Comoran soldiers with best practices in first aid and to prepare them for future disasters, especially following the flooding that impacted the islands in April 2012. Additional information on the exercise can be viewed [here](#).

On March 26th, the *Military Times* reported that the U.S. and other allies are considering increasing

anti-piracy operations along Africa's west coast in the Gulf of Guinea. New efforts to counter piracy may be needed in West Africa due to increasing coordination between the Nigeria-based terrorist group Boko Haram and AQIM, as well as speculation that terrorists may be using profits from recent attacks in Nigeria and Cameroon for training and weapons acquisition. AFRICOM has no ships of its own to contribute to increased military presence off Africa's west coast, so U.S. military ships would need to be deployed to the regions from the U.S. or Europe. The article on counter-piracy efforts in West Africa can be read [here](#).

On March 26th, AFRICOM Commander General Carter Ham spoke with Tunisian radio and said he believes al Qaeda intends to establish a presence in Tunisia. General Ham, indicating that he has spoken with Tunisian officials, said the government in Tunis is fully committed to stopping al Qaeda from gaining a foothold in the country. General Ham's comments can be read [here](#).

On March 28th, Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel hosted an honor cordon to welcome Sierra Leone President Bai Koroma, Senegal President Macky Sall, Malawi President Joyce Banda, and Cape Verde Prime Minister Jose Maria Neves to the Pentagon. During their time at the Pentagon, the African leaders and Secretary Hagel discussed terrorism, transnational threats, and maritime security. The event was listed on the Daily Department of Defense (DOD) schedule, which can be viewed [here](#).

Department of Commerce

On March 25th, the International Trade Administration (ITA) announced that Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade Francisco Sánchez will give the keynote address at ACCESS 2013. The forum, which will be held May 1st and 2nd in La Jolla, California, will highlight business opportunities in the Africa, Near East, and South Asia (ANESA) regions. African markets being featured at the conference are Algeria, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Libya, Morocco, Nigeria, and South Africa. A press release on ACCESS 2013 can be found [here](#).

Department of Justice

On March 25th, the guilty plea of Ahmed Abdulkadir Warsame was opened by U.S. federal officials. Warsame was a militant supporting al Qaeda affiliates in Somalia and Yemen before he was captured in 2011. Warsame has cooperated with investigators and provided information leading to the capture of other terrorists. His guilty plea was filed and made secret as part of an earlier agreement with U.S. officials. Due to his cooperation, Warsame will likely receive a reduced sentence, although he could receive up to life in prison. An article on Warsame's plea can be found [here](#).

U.S. Congress

On March 21st, Representative Karen Bass (D-CA) introduced a resolution expressing concern for the ongoing conflict in the DRC and calling for international efforts to advance long-term peace, stability, and observance of human rights. The resolution, which was introduced with several co-sponsors, has been referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. Details on the proposed resolution can be found [here](#).

On March 23rd, during a series of votes on proposed amendments to the FY14 budget resolution, the Senate rejected an amendment introduced by Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) that would redirect foreign aid to Egypt to the U.S. Missile Defense Agency to be spent on enhancing land-based missile defense capability on the East Coast of the U.S. The amendment was defeated by a vote of 25-74. More information on the defeated amendment is available [here](#).

On March 26th, leaders of the Senate Intelligence Committee reacted to news that Somali terror suspect, Ahmed Abdulkadir Warsame, pled guilty to charges of supporting terrorist groups, notably al-Shabaab. Chairman Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) said the guilty plea is proof of the effectiveness of the U.S. justice system in handling terrorism cases. Meanwhile, the Committee's Republican Vice Chairman, Saxby Chambliss (R-GA) questioned the handling of the case, including Warsame's interrogation on a Navy ship and prosecution in New York, as opposed to transfer to Guantánamo Bay. A statement issued by Senator Feinstein can be found [here](#).

On March 27th, following two days of town hall meetings, Senator Chuck Grassley (D-IA) said that his constituents believe that aid to Egypt is “stupid.” After meeting with constituents in Iowa, Senator Grassley tweeted, ““A conclusion I can draw fr most of 10 town meets I had mon &tues: lowans think it stupid to give aid to Muslim brotherhood Egypt Pres.” An article on Senator Grassley’s comments on aid to Egypt can be read [here](#).

North Africa

On March 8th, Timetric released a report on the continued improvement of the tourism sector in Tunisia. The report suggests that Tunisia has largely recovered from its revolution in 2011. In 2012, Tunisia’s tourist economy experienced a 12.7% increase in revenue from 2011. A summary of the Timetric report can be viewed [here](#).

On March 20th, Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi said that he would like his country to become part of the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) group of emerging economies. President Morsi also expressed his desire for increased Indian investment in Egypt and said trade between Egypt and India could double to \$10 billion in the next couple years. Details on the president’s comments are available [here](#).

On March 23rd, the *Tripoli Post* reported that Libya’s General National Maritime Transport Company (GNMTC) may file a suit against the shipbuilder STX Europe in an effort to renew a contract that was rescinded by STX Europe due to concerns over payments during the rule of Muammar Gaddafi. GNMTC made the original order for the ship, worth \$500 million, in 2010. Additional details on the situation are available [here](#).

On March 24th, Libyan Ambassador to Egypt Mohamed Fayeiz Gibril announced that Libya was in the process of sending \$2 billion to Egypt to be deposited into the Central Bank of Egypt to support the Egyptian economy. In addition, Libya has agreed to provide Egypt with one million barrels of oil each month to be refined in Egypt and is also considering granting Egypt a share of Libyan reconstruction projects. Additional details on Libyan support for the Egyptian economy can be viewed [here](#).

On March 25th, the *Washington Post* reported that Egypt’s top prosecutor, Talaat Abdullah, issued arrest warrants against five political activists in Egypt over violence between the Muslim Brotherhood and protestors. Prosecutor Abdullah was appointed directly by Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi late last year, raising concerns that the arrests are targeting opposition figures. The *Washington Post* article on the latest developments in Egypt can be read [here](#).

East Africa

On March 22nd, Director of Water Aid International Girish Menon spoke at the International Water Day celebrations in Kampala, Uganda, and recognized Uganda for inspiring most developing countries in the water and sanitation sector. Following Director Menon’s presentation, Managing Director for Uganda’s National Water and Sewage Corporation (NWSC) announced that NWSC will become a training center for developing countries. Additional information on the International Water Day announcements in Uganda can be found [here](#).

On March 25th, new Chinese President Xi Jinping met with Tanzanian President Jakaya Kikwete to discuss China’s involvement in Africa. Xi pledged his country will train 30,000 African professionals, provide 18,000 scholarships, and renew \$20 billion in loans between 2013 and 2015 for development purposes on the continent. Xi is currently touring the continent, and his trip will include a stop at the BRICS Summit in South Africa. A report on the meeting can be found [here](#).

On March 25th, Diamond Trust Bank (DTB) and Akiba Commercial Bank (ACB) announced new initiatives in Tanzania that will allow clients to conduct certain financial transactions using mobile phones. DTB has partnered with Vodacom Tanzania to allow customers with M-Pesa counts to make withdrawals using DTB ATMs. ACB has partnered with Selcom Group in order to allow clients to use mobile phones to transfer money across their accounts. Details on these new mobile banking initiatives in Tanzania can be viewed [here](#).

On March 26th, Kenya Flower Council Chief Executive Jane Ngige announced that Kenya will aggressively begin to seek new markets to increase the competitiveness of its horticultural industry. According to statistics from the Horticultural Crops Development Authority (HCDA), Kenya's exports of flowers, fruits and vegetables are down from last year, furthering the push for greater share in new markets. An article on Kenya's horticultural sector can be read [here](#).

On March 27th, Kenyan Tourism Minister Dan Mwazo said tourism revenues declined in the country by 2% in 2012, due primarily to security concerns and travel alerts sent by foreign nations. Minister Mwazo said he expects the conclusion of the country's presidential election to increase stability and improve the tourism industry. Additional comments from Mwazo are available [here](#).

On March 27th, Honda Motor Co. said it will begin production of motorcycles in Kenya later in September of 2013. The new plant will increase Honda's production capacity on the continent to 175,000 units. Honda also has subsidiaries in South Africa and Nigeria. Information on the new plant can be found [here](#).

West Africa

On March 21st, the World Bank approved \$19.5 million for a project in southern and southwestern Niger to improve transportation access to rural areas. The goal of the project is to provide residents access to education, health, and medical centers and to create temporary construction jobs. World Bank funds will assist in the construction of the road network and in the management and maintenance of the roadway. A press release on the financing can be found [here](#).

On March 21st, Chinua Achebe, author of *Things Fall Apart* and *There Was A Country*, died at a hospital in Boston, Massachusetts. Originally from Nigeria, Achebe's work captures his memories from the Nigerian Civil War. While expressing condolences, Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan pledged to see Achebe's legacies sustained and advanced. An article on Achebe's passing can be read [here](#).

On March 21st, MTN, the leading telecom operator in Ghana, announced its plans to make \$105 million in investments to expand and upgrade its network in Ghana. The new investments are anticipated to enhance capacity for voice and data services across the country. More information on MTN's planned investments can be found [here](#).

On March 21st, the African Center for Peace Building (AFCOPB) and the Bank of Ghana signed a partnership agreement to host the first ever West Africa Micro-Finance Conference (WAMIC 2013). The conference, which will be held from April 24th-26th, will include training workshops, presentations, and exhibitions centered on the theme of economic peace in West Africa. Additional details on the upcoming conference are available [here](#).

On March 21st, Nigeria's Zenith Bank announced that it had listed \$850 million in ordinary shares on the London Stock Exchange as global depository receipts (GDRs) at \$6.80 each. Zenith Bank Chief Executive Godwin Emezie indicated the listing will allow foreign investors to buy their shares through the London Stock Exchange, thereby improving liquidity. More on the announcement from Nigeria's Zenith Bank can be viewed [here](#).

On March 24th, Nigerian architect Kunle Adeyemi discussed construction of a new floating school in the fishing village of Makoko, Nigeria, which is prone to flooding. The primary school, which is designed to accommodate more than 100 students, will be built on a foundation of 256 plastic drums and powered by solar panels. Adeyemi indicated the school may serve as a model for building floating homes in parts of Nigeria, as opposed to homes on stilts. Additional information on the new floating school in Nigeria is available [here](#).

On March 25th, UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) head Karin Landgren addressed the UN Security Council on the drawdown of UN peacekeeping troops in Liberia. Landgren said success in Liberia depends on the inclusion of all Liberians and she warned of continued social inequality and violence. In December 2012, President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf held the National Vision 2030 conference to set forward long-term economic and political goals for the country. A press release with Landgren's

statements can be found [here](#).

On March 25th, Director General of Nigeria's Debt Management Office (DMO) Abraham Nwankwo announced that Nigeria's \$1 billion Eurobond will be unveiled before the end of September 2013. The Eurobond is intended to generate funding from capital markets to fund infrastructure projects in Nigeria's gas-to-power sector. Director General Nwankwo also announced that the Diaspora Bond, which will be unveiled by December 2013, will allow the Nigerian government to collect money from Nigerian citizens living abroad. More details on Nigeria's Eurobond and Diaspora Bond can be found [here](#).

On March 26th, in recognition of the death of Chinua Achebe, the Nigerian House of Representatives adopted a motion asking the federal government of Nigeria to name the National Library Headquarters, currently under construction in Abuja, after the late author. The House of Representatives also resolved to send a letter of condolence to the Achebe family and to send a representative to the burial ceremonial. An article on the House of Representatives' actions to commemorate Achebe can be read [here](#).

On March 27th, Sierra Leone made final preparations to send 850 troops to Somalia. Sierra Leone is offering support to the AU Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) to support fighting against the Shebab militant group. President Ernest Koroma told his troops that they will be part of a "great journey of peace" in Somalia. An article on Sierra Leone's deployment of troops to Somalia is available [here](#).

Sub-Saharan Africa

On March 21st, news broke that one of the world's most famous modern paintings, the Chinese Girl, was purchased by billionaire Laurence Graff in London and is headed to South Africa. Graff, who is the Chairman of Graff Diamonds International and owner of the Delaire Graff Estate near Stellenbosch, plans to return the painting to the Western Cape, where it will go on public display with the rest of his art collection. Additional information about the painting's return to South Africa can be found [here](#).

On March 22nd, following Portugal's Secretary of State for Communities José Cesário's visit to Mozambique, Mozambique's Minister of Foreign Affairs Henrique Banze announced that Mozambique is currently issuing entry visas to approximately 200 Portuguese citizens each day – a rate more than four times the rate at which visas have been issued in the recent past. Secretary Cesário also said that the Portuguese consulate in Maputo issues entry visas to Mozambicans within 24 hours, so long as the appropriate documentation is in place. Details on consular issues between Portugal and Mozambique can be viewed [here](#).

On March 25th, Google announced the launch of a trial to use the unused channels in the broadcast TV spectrum to provide wireless broadband access to 10 schools in Cape Town, South Africa. To launch the project, Google partnered with a number of local organizations, including the Tertiary Education and Research Network of South Africa (TENET), CSIR Meraka, e-Schools Network, the Wireless Access Provider's Association of South Africa, and Comsol Wireless Solutions. The Google announcement has been posted [here](#).

On March 25th, South African energy regulator Eskom announced it will review a deal from the 1990s with BHP Billiton Ltd., an international mining company, in light of potential energy shortages. The contract allows BHP to pay less than other manufacturing and mining companies, and Eskom has been working since 2009 to renegotiate the deal. Public hearings on the deal will begin in April. An article on the review can be found [here](#).

On March 25th, Technical Director of Caminho de Ferro de Benguela Luis Lopes Teixeira discussed Angola's plans to rebuild the railway used to bring copper from the copper mines near the Zambian border to the port of Lobito. Once the line is completed, Teixeira anticipates that Lobito will become more competitive with East African ports, especially as copper will no longer need to be transported to the West African port by truck. More information on Angola's plans to rebuild the copper railway can be found [here](#).

On March 26th, the *Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society* published an article announcing the discovery of penguin fossils from 10 million to 12 million years ago that have been unearthed in South Africa. The fossils were found near a steel plant in Cape Town, South Africa. Details on the archaeological discovery are available [here](#).

On March 27th, South Africa and Russia said they will partner to form a cartel coordinating exports of platinum and palladium. The cartel would help control supply and promote price stability. The two nations hold about 80% of the world's platinum-group metal reserves. A report from *Bloomberg* is available [here](#).

On March 28th, South Africa's first black president, Nelson Mandela, was readmitted to the hospital with a lung infection. The former president contracted tuberculosis during his 27-year imprisonment for his leadership in the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa. President Mandela was also hospitalized earlier this month for a planned medical test. Additional information on President Mandela's most recent hospitalization can be viewed [here](#).

General Africa News

On March 21st, the *Los Angeles Times* reported that many technology companies, notably Microsoft, IBM, Google, Intel, and Hewlett-Packard, are increasingly growing their markets in Africa, especially as other, more mature markets, such as China, India, and Russia grow increasingly competitive. For example, last month, Microsoft launched its 4Afrika initiative, which is focused on working with the Kenyan government and Internet providers to expand wireless Internet access and to help locals develop the necessary skills to bring their businesses online. More on technology companies' interest in Africa is available [here](#).

On March 24th, the *Boston Globe* reported that African stocks offer an untapped opportunity for U.S. investors. While the opportunities are potentially great, they are typically not visible to U.S. investors because only two mutual funds specialize in African stocks and because information about the stocks of Africa's top public companies is not always readily available. The full *Boston Globe* report can be read [here](#).

On March 25th, *Reuters* reported that Malaysia is Asia's top investor in Africa, not China as is widely assumed. According to UN data, Malaysia is ahead of China in terms of foreign direct investment (FDI) into Africa and the gap is widening. The most recent data indicates that Malaysia is the third biggest investor in Africa, following France and the U.S., and trailed by China and India. Additional information on Malaysia's FDI in Africa can be viewed [here](#).

On March 26th, the ONE Campaign released a report on the development of agriculture in Africa over the last decade. ONE says many countries in Africa are on track to significantly decrease extreme poverty and accelerate growth in the agriculture sector. The report notes that many goals still need to be met, including an increased budget emphasis on agriculture in many countries. The report can be found [here](#).

On March 26th, Leti Games executives CEO Eyram Tawia and CTO Wesley Kirinya spoke about African games and the cultural diaspora at GDC 2013, hosted in San Francisco, California. According to the executives, mobile games are becoming increasingly popular on the continent. The executives also discussed the unique challenge of designing games that appeal to people living in 55 countries and more than 3,000 cultures found on the continent. More details on gaming in Africa are available [here](#).

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