



ML Strategies Update

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FEBRUARY 13, 2014

AFRICA UPDATE

Leading the News

South Sudan

On February 7th, for the first time since fighting escalated in South Sudan in December, the U.N. extended its relief operations in the town of Malakal to outside of the U.N. base. While the U.N. base in Malakal is providing shelter to approximately 28,000 displaced civilians, U.N. personnel is now also providing plastic sheeting, kitchen sets, mosquito nets, sleeping mats, and blankets to an additional 10,000 displaced citizens nearby. More information is available [here](#).

On February 8th, the U.S. State Department issued a press statement expressing concern over reports that both the Government of South Sudan and anti-government forces are engaging in fighting in violation of the cessation of hostilities agreement signed on January 23rd. The State Department urged the withdrawal of forces on both sides and warned of the potential consequences of regionalization of the conflict. In addition, the State Department called on the Government of South Sudan again to release the remaining four political detainees and to cooperate with the U.N. Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). The full statement can be seen [here](#).

On February 10th, heading into new peace in Ethiopia, representatives of former South Sudanese Vice President Riek Machar indicated they would continue to demand the release of four political detainees held by the Government of South Sudan in the new round of negotiations. Opposition representatives also said they planned to request that someone other than South Sudanese President Salva Kiir lead the country in the period leading up to 2015 presidential elections. Details were shared [here](#).

On February 10th, in advance of representatives of the Government of South Sudan and anti-government rebels gathering in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, for a new round of peace talks, UNMISS reiterated its call for a national political dialogue that includes released detainees from the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM). UNMISS's position on the peace process was further

articulated [here](#).

On February 11th, U.N. Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations Herve Ladsous briefed the U.N. Security Council on the continuing crisis in South Sudan. Under-Secretary-General Ladsous said humanitarian workers have only been able to assist about one third of nearly 900,000 people displaced by violence. Alluding to new peace talks hosted by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Under-Secretary-General Ladsous also cautioned that the peace process will be long and complex. Highlights from the Security Council briefing were noted [here](#).

On February 12th, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon welcomed the start of new peace talks between the Government of South Sudan and the opposition, held under the auspices of the IGAD. Secretary-General Ban reiterated the importance of the full implementation of the cessation of hostilities agreement and continuing political dialogue. He also expressed concern for ongoing violence in South Sudan's Unity and Upper Nile states, as well as the use of cluster bombs, which were recently discovered in Jonglei state. Comments from Secretary-General Ban were shared [here](#).

On February 12th, UNMISS began using sniffer dogs, contributed by the U.N. Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), to assist in random searches at U.N. bases and the surrounding areas in South Sudan. The dogs are trained to detect weapons, explosives, and other contraband. Details on UNMISS's use of sniffer dogs in peacekeeping operations can be viewed [here](#).

Central African Republic

On February 7th, International Criminal Court (ICC) Chief Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda announced the opening of a preliminary investigation into potential war crimes committed by various groups in the Central African Republic (CAR). Prosecutor Bensouda noted that many of the crimes under examination appear to have deliberately targeted religious groups. The investigation was announced [here](#).

On February 7th, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) provided new insights on the number of people fleeing the CAR to escape ongoing violence. UNHCR suggested that as many as 9,000 people, including Central Africans and foreign nationals from Chad, Cameroon, Nigeria, and Mali, have left the CAR destined for Cameroon. Many of the refugees registered by the CAR include women, children, and handicapped individuals. More information can be viewed [here](#).

On February 10th, the U.N. Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the CAR (BINUCA) issued a press statement condemning the assassination of National Transitional Council member Jean-Emmanuel Ndjaraoua by unidentified armed attackers in the latest bout of violence in Bangui. BINUCA urged authorities to develop a process for holding attackers accountable and ending a growing culture of impunity. BINUCA's reaction to Ndjaraoua's murder can be seen [here](#).

On February 11th, the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) warned the security situation in Bangui is continuing to deteriorate and perpetuate a culture of impunity in the CAR. OHCHR observed that anti-balaka elements are increasingly making public admissions of responsibility for violent attacks, including targeted assassinations and other street crimes. More information can be found [here](#).

On February 12th, the U.N. World Food Programme (WFP) began airlifting food supplies into the CAR, with a chartered Boeing 747 from Cameroon delivering 82 metric tons of rice to Bangui. WFP has planned 24 additional food deliveries to the CAR, which will be flown in over the next four weeks. Details can be seen [here](#).

On February 12th, the *New York Times* reported that Christian militias are continuing to force Muslims to flee the CAR. According to the report, many Muslim neighborhoods in Bangui have been emptied due to continuing inter-religious fighting. Convoys of Muslims have been reported to be heading north to Chad. The full article can be read [here](#).

On February 12th, the Thomson Reuters Foundation reported that the flight of Muslims from the CAR

will only further contribute to food insecurity in the region. Experts observed that food supplies have decreased due to ongoing fighting between Christians and Muslims, pushing food prices up. Additionally, Muslims tend to control the CAR's agricultural trade networks with neighboring countries. More information was shared [here](#).

On February 13th, following U.N. personnel's discovery of a mass grave of Muslims at a military camp in Bangui, CAR President Catherine Samba-Panza declared war against anti-balaka militants who continue to kill Muslims in the country, despite the retreat of ex-Seleka members. President Samba-Panza said anti-balaka groups have lost their sense of mission and are primarily responsible for perpetuating violence. Comments from President Samba-Panza were transcribed [here](#).

Egypt

On February 6th, Egyptian Army personnel denied that Field Marshal Abdul Fattah Al-Sisi had announced his presidential candidacy to Kuwaiti newspaper, *Al Seyassah*. Army officials suggested the news outlet had extrapolated remarks delivered by Field Marshal Sisi as a declaration of his candidacy and clarified that if Field Marshal Sisi decides to run, he will announce his intentions directly to the Egyptian people. The incident was reported [here](#).

On February 6th, *Stars and Stripes* reported that Egyptian Field Marshal Abdul Fattah Al-Sisi's consideration of a presidential run is influencing an increased interest among Islamist militant groups in launching attacks in Egypt. Recent incidents suggest that the activities of extremist groups, which had previously been somewhat limited to the Sinai Peninsula, are increasingly encroaching on Cairo. The full article can be read [here](#).

On February 11th, speaking at an event on U.S.-Egypt economic relations held at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in Washington, DC, Egyptian Minister of Foreign Trade and Industry Mounir Fakhry Abdel Nour predicted that Egyptian Field Marshal Abdul Fattah Al-Sisi will be elected to serve as Egypt's next president. Minister Nour also said he believes Field Marshal Sisi's popularity will allow him to tackle social and economic reforms, which will prevent the new government from evolving into a military dictatorship. Comments from Minister Nour were captured [here](#).

On February 11th, the *Associated Press* reported that security authorities in Egypt blockaded access to Cairo's Tahrir Square on the third anniversary of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak stepping down. Meanwhile, human rights groups used the anniversary to call attention to ongoing human rights violations and to warn of the dangers of silencing dissent. Details were reported [here](#).

On February 12th, Egyptian Field Marshal Abdul Fattah Al-Sisi departed on foreign travel to Moscow, Russia, marking his first trip abroad since the ousting of Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi in July. Field Marshal Sisi is expected to meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin to discuss a potential \$2 billion arms sale. Field Marshal Sisi's trip to Russia was described [here](#).

On February 12th, a recording of a conversation between imprisoned former Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi and his lawyer Salim al-Awa leaked to the public. During the conversation, President Morsi said that street protests in Egypt are useless and he predicted that if elected as Egypt's next president, Field Marshal Abdul Fattah Al-Sisi could also be ousted from office. In addition, President Morsi articulated his belief that political dialogue will be the only way to restore stability to Egypt. Comments from President Morsi are available [here](#).

On February 12th, State Department Deputy Spokesperson Marie Harf confirmed reports that a locally employed staff member of the U.S. Embassy in Cairo was detained by Egyptian authorities, while off duty the weekend of January 25th. The State Department believes he has been held without charges since then and has followed up with the Government of Egypt for additional information. Comments from Deputy Spokesperson Harf were posted [here](#).

On February 13th, in a meeting with Egyptian Field Marshal Abdul Fattah Al-Sisi in Moscow, Russian President Vladimir Putin said he was aware of Field Marshal Sisi's decision to run for president in Egypt and expressed his support. The leaders also discussed a pending arms sale, which is rumored to include air defense missiles, MiG-29 jets and helicopters, and other weapons. The meeting was

summarized [here](#).

Uganda

On February 11th, the U.S. Embassy in Uganda issued a warning stating that it had received credible information of potential terrorist attacks against specific targets in Kampala in February or March. One of the targets identified in the warning was the national museum. The U.S. embassy has advised U.S. citizens in Uganda to avoid the vicinity near the museum, as well as other crowded public venues. More information can be seen [here](#).

United States – Africa Relations

White House

On February 10th, *This is Africa* ran an editorial by Mukoma Wa Ngugi encouraging African leaders to boycott the August Africa Leaders Summit recently announced by President Barack Obama. Instead, Ngugi suggests that African leaders should invite President Obama to attend the 2015 African Union (AU) Summit. The editorial suggests the AU Summit will be a more effective way to address regional and country-specific challenges in Africa. The full op-ed can be read [here](#).

On February 11th, President Barack Obama held a joint press conference with French President Francois Hollande. President Obama thanked President Hollande for French military cooperation in Africa, including in Mali and the CAR. He also said the U.S. and France will continue to work together on development issues in Africa, including efforts to lift 50 million Africans out of poverty and to combat infectious diseases. President Obama's remarks are available [here](#).

On February 11th, in coordination with French President Francois Hollande's official visit to Washington, DC, the White House published a detailed fact sheet on U.S.-France security cooperation. The fact sheet highlights U.S.-France cooperation on combating terrorism and enhancing regional capabilities to increase security and stability in Africa. The fact sheet can be seen [here](#).

On February 11th, the White House announced a National Strategy for Combating Wildlife Trafficking. The strategy directs U.S. federal agencies to implement a ban on all commercial imports of African elephant ivory, restore Endangered Species Act protection for African elephants, and limit the number of African elephant sport-hunted trophies that an individual can import to two per hunter per year. Details can be viewed [here](#).

State Department

On February 6th, Secretary of State John Kerry called Togolese President Faure Gnassingbe to commend him on his administration's efforts to combat wildlife trafficking, including the recent arrest of three major illegal traffickers in Togo. In the past month, Togolese authorities have seized more than four tons of illegal ivory. Additional information was shared [here](#).

On February 7th, Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Wendy Sherman met with Togolese Foreign Minister Robert Dussey at the Department of State. The meeting was listed on the State Department's daily appointment schedule, which was posted [here](#).

On February 7th, Ambassador-At-Large for War Crimes Issues Stephen Rapp continued his visit to Rwanda for meetings with government officials on war crimes issues. Ambassador Rapp's travel to Rwanda was listed [here](#).

On February 11th, Secretary of State John Kerry, joined by Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Linda Thomas-Greenfield, delivered remarks to Live@State: U.S. Africa Policy. Journalists from across the African continent participated in the event. Secretary Kerry and Assistant Secretary Thomas-Greenfield highlighted many opportunities in Africa, including a large youth population and economic growth. Secretary Kerry also noted the State Department's engagement in challenging parts of Africa, including the CAR, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and South Sudan. A

transcript from the event can be accessed [here](#).

On February 11th, Secretary of State John Kerry hosted a State lunch for visiting French President Francois Hollande. In his remarks at the event, President Hollande discussed U.S. support for French operations in Africa, including in Mali and in the CAR. President Hollande's comments were transcribed [here](#).

On February 11th, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Linda Thomas-Greenfield met with Zambian Ambassador to the U.S. Palan Mulonda at the Department of State. The meeting was noticed [here](#).

On February 12th, Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Economic and Business Affairs William Craft attended a luncheon hosted by Egyptian Ambassador to the U.S. Mohamed Tawfik in honor of Egyptian Minister of Trade and Industry Mounir Fakhry Abdel Nour, held in Washington, DC. The event was highlighted [here](#).

On February 12th, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Linda Thomas-Greenfield met with World Bank Vice President for Africa Makhtar Diop at the Department of State. The meeting was included on the State Department's daily schedule, found [here](#).

On February 13th, the State Department announced the U.S. delegation participating in the High-Level Conference on the Illegal Trade in Wildlife, hosted by the Government of the United Kingdom (U.K.) The delegation was led by Associate Attorney General Tony West, and also included Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and Environmental and Scientific Affairs Judith Garber, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Assistant Administrator for Economic Growth, Education, and Environment Eric Postel, and Counselor to the Secretary of the Interior Letty Belin. The delegation was announced [here](#).

U.S. Agency for International Development

On February 7th, USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah participated in USAID's Private Capital Group for Africa Partners Forum at USAID. Administrator Shah's participation was noted [here](#).

Department of Defense

On February 6th, the U.S. guided missile frigate USS Elrod and the Royal Moroccan Navy corvette Allal Ben Abellah conducted a series of drills in the Mediterranean Sea. The passing exercise was conducted with the objective of increasing the tactical proficiencies, partnership, and operational readiness of the U.S. and Moroccan navies. Details on the drills are available [here](#).

On February 7th, maritime personnel from West Africa, Europe, South America, and the U.S. concluded a meeting in Lagos, Nigeria, focused on planning for Obangame Express 2014. The exercise, which is the largest of its kind held in the Gulf of Guinea, will kick off later this spring with participation from 22 countries. Obangame Express 2014 will include training on counter-piracy capabilities, countering illicit trafficking, and other maritime threats. More information can be viewed [here](#).

On February 7th, Combined Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa (CJTF-HOA) reported on a training session a CJTF-HOA Functional Specialty Team recently completed for U.N. agency representatives on trauma care. The program, which was hosted at World Health Organization (WHO) headquarters in Djibouti, provided participants with a medical kit and basic training on first aid techniques in trauma situations. Details can be found [here](#).

On February 7th, *BBC News* reported on the U.S. military's efforts to ramp up operations in the Horn of Africa and to build up personnel and equipment at a base leased from the Government of Djibouti. The increased U.S. military presence in East Africa is, in part, a response to the September 2013 terrorist attack at the Westgate Mall in Nairobi, Kenya, as well as renewed efforts to combat extremist group Al Shabaab. The full article can be accessed [here](#).

On February 10th, *Marine Corps Times* published an interview with Marine Lieutenant General Steven Hummer, Deputy to the U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) Commander for Military Operations, focused on future U.S. military engagements on the continent. While AFRICOM is optimistic about economic growth on the continent, Lieutenant General Hummer alluded to ongoing interagency coordination in Africa, especially as 15 of the world's 20 most fragile countries are Africa, and as more than half of high threat U.S. diplomatic posts are located on the continent. The full interview can be read [here](#).

On February 10th, AFRICOM Public Affairs profiled an incident in which U.S. Army medic Andrew Paget provided first aid to a Djiboutian man who suffered life-threatening injuries after falling off of a moving truck. Paget and other AFRICOM personnel had been returning from a mission nearby. The full story was reported [here](#).

On February 11th, Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel called Tunisian Minister of Defense Ghazi Jeribi to congratulate him on his appointment as Minister of Defense for Tunisia. Secretary Hagel expressed that supporting the democratic transition in Tunisia is a top U.S. priority. He also thanked Tunisia for a long history of strong bilateral military relations and commended recent counterterrorism operations in the country. A read out of the phone call was shared [here](#).

On February 11th, CJTF-HOA Public Affairs reported on the conclusion of a four-week program centered on sharing best practices in health care hosted by CJTF-HOA at the Dikhil Education Center in Djibouti. Forty local women participated in the program, which addressed topics including general health and dental care, basic first aid, CPR, treatment of animal bites and stings, nutrition, and prenatal care. An article on the program can be read [here](#).

On February 11th, *Air Force Times* reported that despite the great emphasis on the U.S. military pivot to Asia, the Army and Marine Corps remain focused on increasing missions in Africa, especially due to the fallout following the September 2012 terrorist attacks in Benghazi, Libya. Speculation on future military operations in Africa can be found [here](#).

U.S. Trade and Development Agency

On February 23rd-March 5th, the U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) will host a delegation of twelve Libyan power sector officials on a visit to the U.S. to participate in a reverse trade mission (RTM) on natural gas-fired power generation. The delegation will meet with U.S. companies to gain exposure to technology, equipment, and services that can support efforts to expand and modernize electricity generation in Libya. Additional information on the upcoming RTM was shared [here](#).

Congress

On February 7th, the House Foreign Affairs Committee Republican majority staff issued the report, "Benghazi: Where is the State Department Accountability." The report finds a lack of accountability within the State Department following the September 2012 terrorist attacks at the U.S. diplomatic compound in Benghazi, Libya. The full report can be downloaded [here](#).

On February 10th, the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations released a report on its examination of the Department of Defense's (DOD) response to the September 11, 2012 terrorist attacks on U.S. facilities in Benghazi, Libya. The report finds that the White House failed to comprehend or ignored the deteriorating security situation in Libya, and that while DOD has been working to correct the weaknesses identified by the investigation, the global security situation continues to deteriorate while military resources decline. The full report can be accessed [here](#).

On February 11th, Senate Foreign Relations African Affairs Subcommittee Chairman Chris Coons (D-DE) issued a statement praising the White House's new National Strategy on Wildlife Trafficking. Senator Coons noted that he had sent a letter to the White House in December encouraging the development of such a strategy and noted that the recently passed omnibus appropriations bill includes \$45 million in dedicated funding to combat wildlife trafficking. Senator Coons' statement was issued [here](#).

On February 11th, the House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Counterterrorism and Intelligence held a hearing on Al Qaeda's expansion in Egypt and its impact on U.S. homeland security. Witnesses included Steve Cook of the Council on Foreign Relations, Thomas Joscelyn of the Foundation for the Defense of Democracies, and Mohamed Elmenshawy of the Middle East Institute. A recorded webcast of the hearing can be watched [here](#).

On February 11th, House Foreign Affairs Africa Subcommittee Ranking Member Karen Bass (D-CA), in partnership with Chairman Chris Smith (R-NJ), and Senate Foreign Relations African Affairs Subcommittee Chairman Chris Coons (D-DE) and Ranking Member Jeff Flake (R-AZ), hosted a conversation with U.S. Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) Russ Feingold. A recording of the discussion can be viewed [here](#).

On February 11th, *The Hill* reported that the new book, "HRC: State Secrets and the Rebirth of Hillary Clinton" includes comments from House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Chairman Darrell Issa (R-CA) defending former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's legacy in the wake of congressional investigations into the September 2012 terrorist attacks on U.S. interests in Benghazi, Libya. The book quotes Representative Issa as describing Secretary Clinton's legacy as mostly in tact for a possible 2016 presidential run. The book excerpt was highlighted [here](#).

On February 13th, House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Chairman Darrell Issa retracted his past praise for former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and her handling of the September 2012 attacks on the U.S. diplomatic compound in Benghazi. Representative Issa suggested that Secretary Clinton has not fully cooperated with congressional investigators, noting that he was ultimately forced to subpoena State Department officials. Comments from Representative Issa are available [here](#).

North Africa

On February 7th, the Moroccan Embassy in Washington, DC, in partnership with the U.S. Embassy in Rabat, announced a trade and investment mission to Morocco. The delegation will visit Rabat, Casablanca, and Marrakesh to meet with representatives of the Government of Morocco and leaders of Moroccan businesses. More information was shared [here](#).

On February 10th, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) concluded a staff mission to Nouakchott, Mauritania, focused on macroeconomic developments in the country. The mission met with Central Bank Governor Sid' Ahmed Ould Raiss, Finance Minister Thiam Diombar, Economic Affairs and Development Minister Sidi Ould Tah, and other economic and financial policymakers. The IMF team noted continued interest in engaging with Mauritania, as economic performance remains strong. More information on the IMF mission can be found [here](#).

On February 11th, the Brookings Institution hosted a panel discussion on inclusive growth in Egypt, Tunisia, and Morocco following the Arab Spring. Participants included Kemal Dervis and Hafez Ghanem of the Brookings Institution, Daniela Gressani of the Middle East and Central Asia International Monetary Fund, and Akihiko Koenuma of the Middle East and Europe Department of the Japan International Cooperation Agency. Additional information was provided [here](#).

On February 12th, Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika announced three days of national mourning for 77 passengers who died in a military plane crash in the mountains outside of Constantine. The sole survivor of the crash continues to suffer from head injuries. An investigation into the accident is underway. The incident was reported [here](#).

On February 12th, the authors of the e-book, "Benghazi: The Definitive Report," Army Operations Ranger Jack Murphy and former Navy SEAL Brandon Webb, announced the rights to the book have been optioned as a movie. It remains unclear when the movie will be released. The film was announced [here](#).

East Africa

On February 11th, Human Rights Watch issued a new report on Eritrean refugees. The report finds

that thousands of Eritreans have fled to camps in Egypt and Sudan, only to be kidnapped, raped, and tortured by traffickers. The report also suggests that security forces in both Egypt and Sudan have aided the perpetrators of the violence. The report's findings were summarized [here](#).

On February 13th, a vehicle near a U.N. convoy outside the airport in Mogadishu, Somalia, exploded, killing a number of people and wounding several others. Al Shabaab quickly claimed responsibility for the attack. U.N. Special Representative to Somalia Nicholas Kay condemned the attack. The incident was reported [here](#).

On February 13th, a Kenyan court charged 70 people as members of the terrorist group Al Shabaab. The defendants had been arrested during a police raid on a mosque in Mombasa, which Kenyan authorities believe may have played a role in recruiting Kenyan youth to join Al Shabaab. While the defendants denied affiliations with the militant group, the court plans to keep them in custody until February 26th, when a ruling on their applications for bail will be issued. The full story is available [here](#).

On February 13th, speaking at the Second High-Level Ministerial Meeting of the Africa-European Union (EU) Energy Partnership held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, EU Special Representative to the AU Gary Quince said an annual investment of \$40 billion is needed to meet Africa's energy needs by 2040. He highlighted investments that will need to be made in growing generating capacity, enhancing regional transmission, and integrating new capacity into Africa's existing power sector. Highlights from Special Representative Quince's presentation were noted [here](#).

West Africa

On February 10th, Chief Economic Advisor to Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan Nwanze Okidegbe discussed Nigeria's preparations to host the 25th session of the World Economic Forum Africa in Abuja this May. Industry representatives from more than 80 countries are expected to attend the event in pursuit of private sector partnerships. Advisor Okidegbe also said the Nigerian Government views the event as an opportunity for Nigeria to display economic diplomacy and to promote investment opportunities in the country. Comments from Advisor Okidegbe were posted [here](#).

On February 10th, the World Bank's Board of Executive Directors approved \$2 million for the Public Sector Modernizations Project (PSMP), with the goal of enhancing the transparency, accountability, and responsiveness of Liberia's public sector institutions. More specifically, the funds will be used to strengthen the performance standards and payroll systems within ministries and agencies of the Liberian Government. Additional details can be viewed [here](#).

On February 10th, *Bloomberg* reported that Lenovo, the world's leading provider of personal computers, plans to expand its presence in West Africa's smartphone market this year in response to a surge in consumer demand in Nigeria. Lenovo will make new phone models available in Nigerian markets this March, with the rollout of new models in Ghana and Ivory Coast planned for later this year. Lenovo's plans for expansion in West Africa were detailed [here](#).

On February 10th, McDonald's CEO Don Thompson said that the world's largest restaurant chain is looking at expanding into new markets in Africa. While Thompson indicated that the company is actively analyzing opportunities in several African markets, he suggested that Nigeria presents the greatest potential, due to its fast growing economy and rising per-capita income levels. Thompson's comments were transcribed [here](#).

On February 13th, Director-General of Nigeria's National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) Femi Ajayi reported that the agency is increasingly struggling to combat drug trafficking in Nigeria. Director-General Ajayi warned that the agency is incredibly under-resourced and said if nothing is done that drug trafficking activities are likely to negatively impact security conditions in the country. More information can be seen [here](#).

Sub-Saharan Africa

On February 6th, speaking at the opening session of the High-Level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa, hosted at U.N. headquarters, U.N. Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson and former South African President Thabo Mbeki discussed how illicit financial flows from Africa have hindered the continent's development. Experts believe Africa may lose as much as \$50 billion annually in illicit financial flows. Highlights from the meeting were noted [here](#).

On February 7th, *Time* reported that South African runner and Olympian Oscar Pistorius has hired Evidence Room, an American forensic animation firm, to help prepare for the trial over charges that he murdered his girlfriend, Reeva Steenkamp, last February. If convicted, Pistorius could face a life sentence, with a minimum of 25 years in prison. An article on Pistorius' preparations for the upcoming trial can be read [here](#).

On February 9th, *Al Jazeera* reported that approximately 3,000 Zimbabwean mothers die each year due to lack of access to quality health care services. Zimbabwean Minister of Health and Child Care Gerald Gwinji has said that Zimbabwe will fail to meet its target for reducing maternal deaths by 2015. Data suggests that Zimbabwe loses 1.23% of gross domestic product (GDP) annually as a result of maternal complications. The full report is available [here](#).

On February 10th, *Bloomberg* reported that scientists in South Africa are discovering unprecedented amounts of uranium pollution in Johannesburg resulting from years of gold mining operations. Average uranium levels in the local soil and water are nearly 400 times greater than background levels and wind-carried uranium levels are 40% higher than the World Health Organization's (WHO) safety threshold. Municipal officials disagree on the threats posed to public health, especially as the resources for monitoring uranium levels and cleanup operations are limited. The situation was detailed [here](#).

On February 10th, at least 50 people were killed in Bujumbura, Burundi, as a result of flooding and landslides. According to reports, the city experienced torrential rains for more than ten hours. Burundian Security Minister Gabriel Nizigama suggested that the death toll could increase in the coming days. More information was reported [here](#).

On February 10th, Congolese warlord Bosco Ntaganda appeared before ICC prosecutors in the start of a five-day hearing to determine if sufficient evidence exists for Ntaganda to stand trial for alleged war crimes. Ntaganda has been accused shooting and beheading civilians, raping women, and recruiting child soldiers in the DRC more than a decade ago. The hearing was detailed [here](#).

On February 10th, the families of two South African women, Onica Mothoa and Mpho Pule, contacted the executors of former South African President Nelson Mandela's will claiming they are the daughters of the recently deceased leader. Rather than seeking inheritance from President Mandela's estate, the women have simply requested recognition that they are, in fact, President Mandela's daughters. The full story is available [here](#).

On February 11th, *Voice of America* reported on a recent gathering of leaders of African think tanks in Pretoria, South Africa. The meeting, hosted by the University of Pennsylvania's Think Tanks and Civil Society Program, Zimbabwe's African Capacity Building Foundation, Kenya's African Leadership Centre, and South Africa's Institute for Security Studies, focused on agenda setting to take advantage of political and economic transformations on the continent. More information can be found [here](#).

On February 11th, South African authorities stopped an attempted prison break by Nigerian militant leader Henry Okah. Okah, the leader of the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta, was sentenced to 24 years in prison last March when a South African court found him guilty on 13 counts of terrorism charges, including a bombing attack that killed 12 people in Abuja, Nigeria. The failed prison escape was reported [here](#).

On February 13th, South African President Jacob Zuma delivered his state-of-the-nation address to the South African Parliament in Cape Town, South Africa. President Zuma's address, which comes three months ahead of general elections, prompted demonstrations in Cape Town this week that built on rioting in Pretoria last week in anticipation of the speech. Details were shared [here](#).

General Africa News

On February 6th, U.N. Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict Zainab Bangura lauded the signing of an AU agreement focused on preventing and responding to sexual violence in Africa. The agreement includes high ambitions for combating impunity for perpetrators, building the response capabilities of peacekeepers, and strengthening national policies and institutions working on conflict-related sexual violence. Remarks from Special Representative Bangura can be seen [here](#).

On February 7th, *Law 360* published an article authored by Evelyn Suarez of Williams Mullen on the importance of regional economic integration in Africa to the continent's development. Suarez suggested the World Trade Organization (WTO) Trade Facilitation agreement, which was finalized in December 2013, as well as the forthcoming African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) reauthorization, present opportunities to promote regional economic integration in Africa. The full article can be read [here](#).

On February 8th, *Voice of America* reported that African women are increasingly becoming involved in politics. Experts believe that Africa's three female presidents, including CAR President Catherine Samba-Panza, Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, and Malawian President Joyce Banda, have influenced new interested and civic activism among African women. More information can be viewed [here](#).

On February 12th, the U.N. International Labour Organization (ILO) released a new paper on the connection between rural prosperity and development in Africa. The paper suggests that boosting agriculture and linking the sector to strong rural economies will create jobs, increase wealth, address food insecurity, and promote inclusion. Excerpts from the paper were posted [here](#).

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