



ML Strategies Update

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AFRICA UPDATE

Leading the News

African Union Summit

On January 30th, addressing the African Union (AU) Summit, United Nations (U.N.) Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson pledged the U.N. will continue to be Africa's partner as the continent pursues economic development, peace, job creation, and higher quality of life. Deputy Secretary-General Eliasson also noted the progress that many African countries have made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and expressed concern for ongoing conflicts in South Sudan and the Central African Republic (CAR). Remarks delivered by Deputy Secretary-General Eliasson are available [here](#).

On January 30th, speaking at the AU Summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Bill Burns called on the Government of South Sudan to release four remaining political detainees who are being held on suspicion of trying to stage a coup, following the earlier release of seven prisoners. Deputy Secretary Burns also expressed concern that violence continues, despite the ceasefire agreement between government and rebel forces having entered into force. Excerpts from Deputy Secretary Burns' address can be read [here](#).

On February 1st, U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization FAO Director-General Jose Graziano welcomed the approval of the 2025 target for eliminating hunger in Africa at the AU Summit. The 2025 timeline was initially conceived during a July meeting on food security in Africa. More information was posted [here](#).

South Sudan

On January 30th, the U.N. Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) announced efforts to step up patrols to collect evidence of human rights abuses in Juba and Bor, where U.N. staff are sheltering more than 10,000 displaced civilians. Within 24 hours, U.N. personnel conducted 264 military and 61 police

patrols. More information can be seen [here](#).

On February 3rd, upon concluding a two-day visit to South Sudan, U.N. Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations Herve Ladsous said UNMISS's decision to shelter 85,000 civilians on ten different U.N. bases in South Sudan may have saved tens of thousands of lives. Overall, the conflict in South Sudan has displaced more than 702,000 people internally and led 123,000 people to seek refuge in neighboring countries. Comments from Under-Secretary-General Ladsous can be seen [here](#).

On February 4th, U.N. Humanitarian Coordinator for South Sudan Toby Lanzer announced adjustments to the Crisis Response Plan for South Sudan, including a revised appeal of \$1.27 billion to provide humanitarian assistance to 3.2 million people in South Sudan through June. Nearly 60% of the funding will be used to pre-position relief supplies as the rainy season approaches. An article on the revisions can be read [here](#).

On February 5th, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) issued new statistics on food insecurity in South Sudan. FAO officials reported that up to 7 million people, nearly two thirds of the national population, are at risk of food insecurity. Approximately 3.7 people in South Sudan are already facing food insecurity at emergency levels, due to fighting resulting in market collapse, infrastructure damage, and problems for farmers looking to get their goods to market. Additional information was provided [here](#).

Central African Republic

On January 30th, U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) warned that without improvements to the security situation in the CAR, humanitarian workers will continue to lack access to civilians displaced by ongoing violence. The U.N. estimates as many as 825,000 civilians are displaced in the CAR and 400,000 of them are in Bangui. OCHA's warning was issued [here](#).

On January 31st, while U.N. Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson called attention to fighting between Christians and Muslims at the AU Summit, OCHA warned there will be dire consequences if the appeal from the U.N. and humanitarian partners for assistance in the CAR is not fully funded. Humanitarian partners have requested \$551 million to provide assistance for two million people over the next three months. To date, the request is only 11% funded. Details are available [here](#).

On February 4th, the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) announced it is setting up temporary classrooms for more than 20,000 children impacted by violence in the northwestern part of the CAR. U.N. officials reported that many schools have been destroyed in the fighting. In addition, children in the CAR continue to be in need of additional humanitarian assistance, including food supplies. UNICEF provided additional information [here](#).

On February 5th, CAR interim President Catherine Samba-Panza delivered remarks to hundreds of soldiers as part of an event intended to highlight efforts to rebuild the national army following the aftermath of the March 2013 coup. As President Samba-Panza left the event, the soldiers broke ranks to attack and kill a main in their midst and drag his body through the streets. The incident was reported [here](#).

On February 5th, the State Department issued a press release expressing concern for attacks against Muslims and Christians in the town of Boda over the past several days that have killed at least 75 people. State Department Spokesperson Jen Psaki called on the people of the CAR to seize the opportunities associated with the appointment of new transitional leadership and strong international support and to end the cycle of retribution for past violence. The full statement was posted [here](#).

Egypt

On January 30th, Egyptian Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Badr Abdelattie spoke out against comments from State Department Spokesperson Jen Psaki expressing concern for the announcement the Egypt plans to bring terrorism charges against 20 *Al Jazeera* journalists. Spokesperson Abdelattie said Egypt's judicial system ensures fair trials and is not susceptible to

political interference. Comments from Spokesperson Abdelattie were transcribed [here](#).

On February 3rd, *Defense One* ran an interview with Michelle Dunne, an expert on Egypt at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. In the interview, Dunne analyzed Egyptian Field Marshal General Abdul Fattah Al-Sisi's likely presidential run, the nature of protests in Egypt, and U.S. foreign policy towards the military-led regime. The interview can be read [here](#).

On February 4th, White House Press Secretary Jay Carney said the Obama Administration is communicating directly with the Government of Egypt to express its deep concern for the ongoing detainment of *Al Jazeera* journalists Mohamed Fahmy, Baher Mohamed, and Peter Greste. Press Secretary Carney noted that Egypt's newly approved constitution upholds basic rights and freedoms and said that Egypt's transition will only move forward if all Egyptians are free to express themselves without fear of intimidation or violence. Press Secretary Carney's comments can be found [here](#).

On February 5th, the *New York Times* published an analysis of the recent terrorist attacks in Egypt against military targets and personnel. The article suggests that Egyptians may be returning from jihad movements abroad to join in the current terrorist campaign against Egypt's military-led regime. More information can be viewed [here](#).

On February 13th, the American Security Project (ASP) will host members of the American Chamber of Commerce in Egypt (AMCHAM) and the U.S.-Business Council for a discussion of political and economic issues in Egypt, including Egypt's constitutional referendum, trade relations, cross-border investment, and regional economic stability. Event details were posted [here](#).

Democratic Republic of Congo

On January 30th, the U.N. Security Council adopted a resolution renewing an arms embargo and sanctions on the DRC through February 2015. The resolution also extends the mandate of the Group of Experts in the DRC responsible for oversight of the embargo's implementation. The U.N. also reiterated its condemnation of continuing violence in the DRC, perpetrated by armed groups including the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), Lord's Resistance Army (LAR), and Mayi Mayi rebels. An article on the resolution can be read [here](#).

On January 31st, the Regional Oversight Mechanism of the Peace, Security, and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the Region met on the sidelines of the AU Summit. Addressing representatives of 11 African countries and other partners, U.N. Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson said beyond military pressures to address violence in the DRC, amnesty laws, comprehensive disarmament and reintegration of rebels will be necessary in pursuing stability in the region. The meeting was noted [here](#).

On February 3rd, following the stoning of U.N. Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO) vehicles during demonstrations in Bunia, U.N. Special Representative to the DRC Martin Kobler urged demonstrators to use peaceful means to express themselves. The incident resulted in one U.N. peacekeeper losing control of his car and receiving serious head injuries. The incident was detailed [here](#).

On February 4th, an amnesty law covering acts of war in the DRC dating back to the mid-2000s won parliamentary approval. The law grants amnesty for acts of insurgency, acts of war, and political offenses, but excludes amnesty for genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. Approval of the amnesty law won praise from U.N. Special Representative to the DRC Martin Kobler, U.S. Special Envoy to the Great Lakes Region Russ Feingold, AU Special Representative for the Great Lakes Region Boubacar Diarra, and European Union (EU) Senior Coordinator Koen Vervaeke. Approval of the law was announced [here](#).

United States – Africa Relations

White House

On February 2nd, in a pre-Super Bowl interview with Bill O'Reilly, President Barack Obama responded

to questions regarding the September 2012 attack on the U.S. diplomatic compound in Benghazi, Libya. President Obama said the attack shows that U.S. diplomats are operating in dangerous places. He encouraged independent agencies to implement reforms to ensure the protection of U.S. personnel operating overseas. Clips from the interview can be watched [here](#).

On February 3rd, President Barack Obama called Tunisian Prime Minister Mehdi Jomaa to congratulate him on the ratification of Tunisia's constitution and the inauguration of Tunisia's transitional government that will serve through elections. President Obama also invited Prime Minister Jomaa to visit Washington later this year. A readout of the conversation was posted [here](#).

On February 4th, President Barack Obama sent a message to Congress articulating his intent to extend the national emergency in Cote d'Ivoire, first enacted on February 7, 2006, beyond February 7, 2014. While President Obama recognized the Government of Cote d'Ivoire has made progress since the inauguration of President Alassane Outtara in May 2011, he expressed concern that the situation in Cote d'Ivoire continues to threaten the national security and foreign policy of the U.S. President Obama's message to Congress can be seen [here](#).

State Department

On January 30th, *The Guardian* ran an interview with U.S. Ambassador to Nigeria James Entwistle. In the interview, Ambassador Entwistle addressed the status of U.S.-Nigeria bilateral relations, the need to balance human rights concerns with the ongoing battle against Boko Haram, and Nigeria's legislation against homosexuality. The full interview was published [here](#).

On January 31st, the State Department announced Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs Evan Ryan's travel to Uganda and Rwanda. On February 2nd-3rd, Assistant Secretary Ryan traveled to Kampala, Uganda, to sign an entrepreneurship grant in support of President Barack Obama's Young Africa Leaders Initiative (YALI) and to visit the Uganda Wildlife Education Center. On February 4th-5th, Assistant Secretary Ryan joined the TechWomen delegation at the U.S. Embassy in Kigali, Rwanda, and participated in a girls' technology fair. Assistant Secretary Ryan's travel was announced [here](#).

On February 3rd, the State Department provided additional information on the TechWomen delegation traveling to Rwanda February 2nd-7th for meetings with local organizations. The delegation includes 30 representatives of 23 companies in silicon valley. In addition to meeting with nonprofits, innovation centers, and girls' schools focused on expanding technology networks and opportunities for women in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) fields, the delegation will also meet with Rwandan Minister of Youth and Information and Communications technologies, visit the University of Rwanda's College of Science and Technology, and attend a Science and Technology fair hosted by the U.S. Embassy in Kigali. Additional information on the participants was shared [here](#).

On February 3rd, U.S. Ambassador to Djibouti Geeta Pasi delivered the keynote address at the 2014 Gulf of Aden Regional Counterterrorism Forum, hosted by the Government of Djibouti. In her remarks, Ambassador Pasi outlined the global threat environment, with specific attention paid to the global threats posed to the U.S. by Al Qaeda and its affiliates, the actions of Boko Haram in West Africa, and the challenges of combating Al Shabaab in Somalia. Ambassador Pasi's speech was transcribed [here](#).

On February 4th-6th, Ambassador-at-Large for War Crimes Issues Stephen Rapp was on foreign travel to Kinshasa, DRC, for meetings on war crimes issues and with government officials. Ambassador Rapp's travel was noticed [here](#).

On February 5th, Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Economic and Business Affairs William Craft met with Togolese Minister of Foreign Affairs Robert Dussey, at the Department of State. The meeting was included on the State Department's daily appointment schedule, which is listed [here](#).

On February 6th, Secretary of State John Kerry issued a press statement in recognition of the International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C). Secretary Kerry noted that as many as 140 million women around the global have been victims of FGM/C and more

than three million girls are at risk each year. He also reiterated the U.S. commitment to improving health care for women and children who are victims of FGM/C and eradicating the practice of FGM/C globally. The full statement was issued [here](#).

U.S. Agency for International Development

On February 3rd, participating at the high-level launch of the U.N. Sahel Humanitarian Response Plan in Rome, Italy, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Assistant Administrator for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance Nancy Lindborg announced USAID's Resilience in the Sahel-Enhanced (RISE) initiative. The program makes a \$130 million commitment to provide humanitarian assistance to an estimated 1.9 million beneficiaries in the Sahel region and to combat food insecurity. The initiative was announced [here](#).

On February 3rd, Jason Fraser was sworn in as the USAID mission director to Angola. In this role, Director Fraser will oversee a number of in-country programs that support democracy and governance, the electoral process, economic growth, and the President's Malaria Initiative. A press release was shared [here](#).

On February 5th, USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah attended the National Prayer Breakfast Africa Leader's Gathering in Washington, DC. Administrator Shah's participation was noted [here](#).

Department of Defense

On January 30th, U.S. Air Forces in Europe and Air Forces Africa concluded its participation in a disaster relief seminar hosted by the Nigerian Air Force in Abuja, Nigeria. Participants attended briefings and discussions on capabilities for contingency operations, including logistics, airlift support, and medical and public affairs. The seminar was detailed [here](#).

On January 31st, U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) Deputy Commander for Military Operations Lieutenant General Steven Hummer said that marine units that specialize in crisis response could be based in Africa in the coming years in host nations that have expressed interest in posturing U.S. troops in their countries. The units, which may be similar to U.S. crisis response units currently based in Moron, Spain, and Sigonella, Italy, could also be tasked with leading security cooperation exercises with African militaries. Comments from Deputy Commander Hummer are available [here](#).

On January 31st, AFRICOM Public Affairs reported on the second annual Family Resiliency Program, hosted by AFRICOM's Chaplain's Office. The program brought together more than 30 AFRICOM families in Garmisch, Germany, to learn communications techniques intended to strengthen the family relationships of AFRICOM service members. More information was shared [here](#).

On February 2nd, *Bloomberg News* published an interview with AFRICOM Commander Army General David Rodriguez. While AFRICOM was only getting 7% of its intelligence and surveillance requirements approved at this time last year, Commander Rodriguez reported the U.S. is now collecting greater intelligence on the activities of militant networks in Africa, including through use of surveillance satellites, drones, and spies. The interview was published [here](#).

On February 2nd, the guided missile frigate USS Elrod arrived in Morocco for a scheduled port visit. While in Morocco, U.S. Sailors will host a number of exchanges with Moroccan Royal Armed Forces personnel, including ship tours and a reception for Moroccan officials and U.S. diplomats. Details on the USS Elrod's visit to Morocco were posted [here](#).

On February 2nd, *Time* reported the U.S. military is unable to pursue an operation against the attackers in the September 2012 incident in Benghazi, Libya, because the suspected leaders involved in the attack are not covered by the Authorization for the Use of Military Force (AUMF). The AUMF, passed by Congress in September 2001, narrowly defines the terrorists covered by the authorization as the core of Al Qaeda. More information can be found [here](#).

On February 4th, U.S. Army Africa (USARAF) Counter Terrorism Desk Officer for International Military Engagements Major Albert Conley III provided an update on the security training U.S. forces are

providing to African nations during security engagements with African partners, including Guinea, Chad, Malawi, Niger, Mali, Uganda, Kenya, Djibouti, and Burundi. The goal of training is to enable African forces to address African threats through enhanced internal and external security capabilities. More information was provided [here](#).

On February 5th, AFRICOM Public Affairs reported that AFRICOM's Counter Narcotics and Law Enforcement Assistance branch is using WikiStrat tools to explore future engagement strategies to combat illicit trafficking in the Trans-Sahel region. The WikiStrat tool allows AFRICOM personnel to develop possible simulations accounting for factors such as actors, environment, trends, demographics, economics, politics, militaries, and other data. An article on the exercise can be read [here](#).

On February 6th, AFRICOM Public Affairs noted that the Chief Petty Officer (CPO) 356 training program is underway at AFRICOM headquarters in Stuttgart, Germany. The program includes both classroom and physical training sessions to foster leadership, professionalism, and team building. Details are available [here](#).

Department of Justice

On February 3rd, *Reuters* reported that the Department of Justice (DOJ) is investigating banks, private equity firms and hedge funds, including Goldman Sachs, Credit Suisse, JP Morgan Chase & Co, Societe Generale, Blackstone Group, and Och-Ziff Capital Management Group, for their dealings with the Libyan Investment Authority (LIA). DOJ is examining if the transactions occurred in violation of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA). The investigation was reported [here](#).

Congress

On January 30th, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Robert Menendez (D-NJ) issued a statement on Tunisia's democratic transition. Senator Menendez applauded Tunisia for the establishment of the Independent Elections Commission, the installation of the transitional government led by Prime Minister Mehdi Jomaa, and the ratification of a new constitution that guarantees equal rights and representation, rule of law, and institutional checks and balances. Senator Menendez's full statement can be read [here](#).

On February 3rd, Senate Armed Services Committee Ranking Member Jim Inhofe (R-OK) criticized President Barack Obama's remarks to Bill O'Reilly on the September 2012 attack on the U.S. diplomatic facility in Benghazi. Senator Inhofe said the incident was a terrorist attack that will go down in history as one of the greatest political cover-ups. A recording of Senator Inhofe's comments can be accessed [here](#).

On February 5th, House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) announced the creation of a new website for posting information and documents pertaining to the September 2012 attack on U.S. facilities in Benghazi, Libya. The website, which is part of the Republican Party website, already includes House and Senate committee reports on their investigations into the attack. The website can be found [here](#).

On February 11th, Ranking Member of the House Foreign Affairs Africa Subcommittee Karen Bass (D-CA), in collaboration with House Foreign Affairs Africa Subcommittee Chairman Chris Smith (R-NJ), and Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Chris Coons (D-DE) and Ranking Member Jeff Flake (R-AZ), will host a conversation with U.S. Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region and the DRC Russ Feingold. Event details were posted [here](#).

North Africa

On January 29th, the *Inter Press Service* reported on Egypt's Nile Delta's vulnerability to coastal erosion, salt water infiltration, and rising sea levels. The area, which is home to 40 million people and includes two thirds of Egypt's agricultural lands, could see sea level rise as much as 98 centimeters by 2100, with the potential to impact 12.5% of farming lands and to displace approximately eight million people. Details can be found [here](#).

On January 31st, the Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) completed the third review of Morocco's economic performance under a program supported by a 24-month Precautionary and Liquidity Line (PLL) arrangement. IMF analysts found that a substantial reduction in energy subsidies and greater assistance for vulnerable Moroccans helped the country's economy to improve in 2013. The IMF also encouraged Morocco to continue to pursue inclusive growth policies. A more detailed analysis is available [here](#).

On February 1st, the *Toronto Star* reported on provisions included in Tunisia's new constitution that require state officials to take actions to mitigate climate change. The country's progressive constitution obligates the state to contribute to the protection of the climate for future generations and requires the state to provide the necessary means to eliminate environmental pollution. The full article can be read [here](#).

On February 2nd, the *New York Times* reported that U.S. and Libyan efforts to destroy the remaining chemical weapons of Libyan dictator Muammar Gadhafi have concluded. Over the past three months, Libyan contractors have destroyed hundreds of bombs and artillery rounds filled with mustard gas. More information can be viewed [here](#).

On February 11th, the U.S.-Arab Chamber of Commerce and the U.S. Commercial Service for North Africa will host a webinar to discuss upcoming events in Algeria and Morocco. Panelists will include Ismael Chikhouné of the U.S.-Algeria Business Council, U.S. Ambassador to Algeria Henry Esher, David Hamod of the National U.S.-Arab Chamber of Commerce, and Consul General of the U.S. Embassy in Morocco Brian Shukan. Event details were posted [here](#).

East Africa

On January 31st, U.N. Special Representative to Somalia Nicholas Kay expressed concern for rising tensions in Somalia's Baidoa area as stakeholders come together for a federal-State building conference. Special Representative Kay said all stakeholders should play a constructive role in the process to form a federal state in the region and should avoid actions that disrupt the peace process. Comments from Special Representative Kay were highlighted [here](#).

On February 3rd, U.N. Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons Joy Ngozi Ezeilo observed a general lack of awareness for trafficking in persons in Seychelles. While noting that government officials remain committed to ending human trafficking, Special Rapporteur Ezeilo expressed concern that Seychelles may be a prime location for trafficking for sexual exploitation, as well as for labor exploitation. Comments from Special Rapporteur Ezeilo can be found [here](#).

On February 3rd, *Tech Republic* reported on the Ushahidi platform developed by a Kenya tech startup to map international crisis and disaster relief with the goal of enhancing connectivity in locations struggling with destruction and natural disasters. For example, the platform has been used globally to map water and refugee sources during Hurricane Sandy, sexual harassment incidents during the Arab spring, and the activities of women's tech startups in Africa. Details can be seen [here](#).

On February 4th, in a demonstration organized by the Foreign Correspondents' Association of East Africa, more than 100 journalists and civil rights activists marched on the Egyptian Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya, calling for the Egyptian Government to release *Al Jazeera* journalists who remain detained. An article on the demonstration can be read [here](#).

West Africa

On January 29th, upon concluding a visit to Senegal, U.N. Special Representative for Disaster Risk Reduction Margareta Wahlstrom warned that flooding in Senegal is a major problem. During her visit, Special Representative Wahlstrom met with local government officials in coastal towns that had been flooded ten months out of the past year. U.N. officials believe the unprecedented flooding is due to climate change. More information is available [here](#).

On January 31st, the Invest in Cote d'Ivoire Forum (ICI) 2014 concluded in Abidjan. The conference brought together more than 2,000 participants, including entrepreneurs, government officials,

business leaders, and development partners to mobilize private sector report for economic recovery in Cote d'Ivoire. Various workshops were held throughout the conference, including sessions to address agribusiness, economic infrastructure, public-private partnerships, small and medium enterprises (SMEs), and renewable energy. The sessions were described [here](#).

On February 3rd, the 15 members of the U.N. Security Council concluded a two-day visit to Mali to observe the country's progress on political, security, development, and humanitarian challenges. The U.N. Delegation visited Mopti, where they met with the governor, local authorities, and civil society representatives. In Bamako, the group met with Malian President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, as well as members of President Keita's cabinet and members of Parliament. The U.N. Security Council's visit to Mali was detailed [here](#).

On February 3rd, speaking at the high-level launch of the U.N. Sahel Humanitarian Response Plan in Rome, Italy, U.N. officials, including Emergency Relief Coordinator Valerie Amos and FAO Director-General Jose Graziano appealed to international partners for \$2 billion to address food insecurity for 20 million people in Africa's Sahel region. Funds will be prioritized to help ensure a successful agricultural season as planting begins over the next several weeks. More information can be found [here](#).

On February 3rd, *Reuters* reported that French nuclear group Areva resumed uranium production at the Somair and Cominak mines in Niger. Production had been stopped in mid-December to allow for maintenance activities as Areva continued to negotiate with the government to secure the renewal of its mining licenses. Details can be seen [here](#).

On February 4th, West African mobile phone operator Africell Sierra Leone reported that it had reached 2.25 million active subscribers and expects to boast more than three million subscribers by the end of 2014. Africell Sierra Leone is the largest mobile phone operator in Sierra Leone, but also has growing operations in Gambia and the DRC. An article on the increase in subscribers can be read [here](#).

On February 5th, during an interview with *Radio France Internationale*, Nigerien Interior Minister Massoudou Hassoumi said that France and the U.S. should intervene in southern Libya to address terrorist threats in the region. Minister Hassoumi said foreign partners who were involved in the overthrow of Libyan dictator Muammar Gadhafi should feel obligated to respond to the area becoming an incubator for terrorist groups. Minister Hassoumi's comments were transcribed [here](#).

On February 6th, *Venture Burn* reported on the Nigerian mobile application for taxi and delivery services, Tranzit. Tranzit surpasses previous mobile applications for taxi services by offering extended bookings for car services, location-based discovery features, and parcel delivery. Demonstrations of the application in action can be accessed [here](#).

Sub-Saharan Africa

On February 2nd, despite an announcement last week that South Africa's Democratic Alliance and Agang parties would merge to compete against the African National Congress (ANC) in upcoming presidential elections, the Democratic Alliance issued a statement indicating that Agang leader Mamphela Ramphele had reneged on a deal to merge the parties and run as a presidential candidate. The tension between the political parties was noted [here](#).

On February 3rd, the *Associated Press* reported that former South African President Nelson Mandela's \$4.1 million estate will be shared amongst his family, staff, schools he attended, and the ANC. The will was read to President Mandela's family on Monday and it does not appear that any of the provisions in the document will be challenged. President Mandela's will was detailed [here](#).

On February 3rd, the Executive Board of the IMF concluded the Article IV consultation with Namibia. The IMF found that Namibia's gross domestic product (GDP) growth for 2012 was healthy, but that growth has experienced a downturn in 2013, primarily due to weak global demand for exports, including diamonds, uranium, beef, cooper, and fish. IMF staff also forecasted future growth in Namibia's construction sector. Details were provided [here](#).

On February 3rd, Frost & Sullivan presented IBM with the 2014 Sub-Saharan African Award for Competitive Strategy Leadership. In announcing the award, Frost & Sullivan highlighted IBM's big data and analytics strategy, noting it has been helpful in allowing IBM to address the challenges of uneven market maturity and a shortage of skilled workers to become a leading player in the African market. A press release was shared [here](#).

On February 3rd, speaking at *Bloomberg's* Africa Outlook Conference in Johannesburg, South Africa, former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg announced a new, \$10 million Bloomberg Media Initiative Africa. Through the initiative, *Bloomberg* plans to offer 45 scholarships and to work with journalism and business schools in Africa to develop new curricula focused on economics, business, journalism, ethics, and public policy. The new initiative was described [here](#).

On February 3rd-6th, Mining Indaba hosted the 20th annual investing in African mining conference in Cape Town, South Africa. The conference brings together representatives from government, industry, and civil society to discuss sustainable development issues within Africa's mining sector, including governance issues, infrastructure, and local content policies. Information on the conference can be viewed [here](#).

On February 4th, a Paris court opened the first trial in France over Rwanda's genocide. The trial explored charges against former Rwandan Intelligence Chief Pascal Simbikangwa, who is accused of inciting the army to identify and kill ethnic Tutsis. Another 27 cases regarding the genocide in Rwanda remain queued in the Paris court's war crimes unit. More information can be seen [here](#).

On February 5th, mayors from more than 40 megacities met in Johannesburg, South Africa, to discuss the challenges faced by megacities, including growing populations, lack of accommodations, and a limited number of megacities that exist in Africa. Observations from the conference were highlighted [here](#).

On February 5th, Harmony Gold launched a rescue operation seeking to free 17 miners that were trapped a mile underground after a fire broke out at the Doornkop mine in South Africa. At least eight of the trapped miners are believed to be safe in a refuge bay. The incident was reported [here](#).

General Africa News

On January 31st, *Forbes* published its 2014 list of the Ten Most Powerful Men in Africa. The list includes entrepreneurs, corporate executives, and civil and political leaders who are having the greatest impacts on their communities. Topping the list are Tanzanian Deputy Minister of Communication, Science, and Technology January Makamba, Nigerian Tech Entrepreneur and Founder of Hopstop.com and Tripology.com Chinedu Echeruo, and Tanzania CEO of Mohammed Enterprises Mohammed Dewji. The full list can be accessed [here](#).

On February 3rd, Microsoft 4Afrika awarded innovation grants to five African startup companies with the goal of working with local companies in African to enhance the continent's global presence. African countries receiving funding include Africa118 of Kenya, Kytabu of Kenya, access.mobile of Uganda, Gamsole of Nigeria, and Save & Buy of Nigeria. The companies were profiled [here](#).

On February 3rd, *Business Report* ran statistics showing that the hospitality industry in Africa is expected to grow rapidly with the construction of 200,000 new hotel rooms over the next five years. The research suggests that international hospitality brands in Africa have been successful by partnering with African companies and leveraging their local knowledge. The full report can be found [here](#).

On February 4th, *Forbes* published its 2014 list of the most promising young entrepreneurs in Africa. From more than 800 nominations, this year's list highlights 30 African entrepreneurs under the age of 30 with significant influence in Africa's manufacturing, technology, real estate, media and entertainment, financial services, agriculture, and fashion sectors. The full list is available [here](#).

On February 5th, IBM launched its 10-year, \$100 million Project Lucy, which is intended to improve

quality of life in Africa through technology utilization. New IBM research labs in Africa will use IBM's Watson technology to provide researchers with the necessary resources for developing solutions to African challenges in health care, education, water and sanitation, human mobility, and agriculture. The new project was detailed [here](#).

On February 6th, ABI Research unveiled a new study estimating that 50% of the African population will be covered by LTE networks by 2018. Over the past two years, LTE networks have been launched in Angola, Namibia, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Zambia, Liberia, Mauritius, Tanzania, and Uganda. The research finds that African LTE cellular subscribers will also surpass 50 million by 2018. Additional findings were posted [here](#).

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