

AFRICA : 9 JUIN 2017 : (Au Maroc, une découverte pourrait remettre totalement en question tout ce que l'on croyait savoir de l'origine de l'Humanité)



Photo : Via Le Monde

Le premier homme était-il marocain ? Jusqu'à présent, le plus ancien fossile jamais trouvé d'*Homo sapiens* avait été découvert dans la corne de l'Afrique, plus précisément en Éthiopie, et était âgé d'un peu moins de 200 000 ans. C'est donc en toute logique que le consensus scientifique s'accordait à dire que les premiers représentants des hominidés modernes étaient apparus dans cette région de l'est de l'Afrique, qui était *de facto* considéré comme le berceau de l'humanité.

BURUNDI :

Burundi : La preuve de l'implication UE dans l'insurrection de 2015

SECURITE NATIONALE – Le Gouvernement du Burundi prend connaissance de documents qui montrent comment l'Union Européenne UE a financé l'insurrection au Burundi de 2015, dès 2014.

A Bujumbura, ce lundi 5 mai 2017, M. Nzobonariba Philippe, Secrétaire Général et Porte-parole du Gouvernement du Burundi, a annoncé, au travers d'un communiqué, avoir pris connaissance de la circulation d'un document portant sur la probable implication de l'Union Européenne UE dans la déstabilisation des institutions du Burundi.

Voici le document : http://burundi-agnews.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Bdi_burundi_securite_UnionEuropeenne-Changeementderegime_REVOLUTIONDECOULEUR-contreleBURUNDI2015.pdf ; <http://burundi-agnews.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/UnionEuropeenne-REVOLUTIONDECOULEUR-contreleBURUNDI2015.pdf>

Voici ce qu'en dit M. Nzobonariba :

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=54V2U7g_ViE

Selon ce communiqué lu par le Secrétaire Général et Porte-parole du Gouvernement Philippe Nzobonariba, il est rapporté dans ces documents en circulation que l'Union Européenne a procédé à des financements à de personnes physiques ou morales impliquées dans la déstabilisation du Burundi, actuellement sous mandats d'arrêts internationaux émis par le Burundi.

Le Burundi a subi, en 2015, une REVOLUTION DE COULEUR ou une TENTATIVE DE CHANGEMENT DE REGIME, organisée par l'administration USA (OBAMA+SOROS), la FRANCE (RESEAU HOLLANDE), la BELGIQUE (RESEAU MICHEL), le RWANDA (RESEAU KAGAME), et le RESEAU BUYOYA. Elle s'est soldée par le COUP D'ETAT MILITAIRE RATE DU MERCREDI 13 MAI 2015. Ces documents démontrent l'implication de l'UNION EUROPEENNE UE dans cette attaque contre le BURUNDI en 2015 qui a fait de nombreux morts et de réfugiés burundais. Ces informations capitales pour comprendre vont être rajoutées dans le dossier judiciaire qui est consacré à l'insurrection et au Coup d'Etat du 13 mai 2015 au Burundi [cfr.

https://www.fidh.org/IMG/pdf/20150909_justice_burundaise_rapport-commission-enquete_insurrection_final.pdf].

DAM, NY, AGNEWS, <http://burundi-agnews.org>, le mardi 6 juin 2017

[Source : <http://burundi-agnews.org/sports-and-games/burundi-la-preuve-de-limplication-ue-dans-linsurrection-de-2015/>]

RWANDA :

Rwanda — Belgique : Kagame attendu au tournant à Bruxelles

Publié : le 6 juin 2017 à 1:15 | Par Emmanuel Hakuzwimana |
Catégorie: A la une, Actualité

Ce mercredi 7 juin 2017, le président Paul Kagame sera à Bruxelles pour participer aux European Development Days 2017. À l'occasion de sa présence dans la capitale belge une mobilisation sans précédent se prépare pour dénoncer le pouvoir « dictatorial et criminel » de Paul Kagame.

Une visite périlleuse

C'est une semaine très importante pour le président Paul Kagame qui se rendra à Bruxelles à l'invitation des organisateurs des European Development Days. À deux mois des élections présidentielles, Paul Kagame se rendra en Belgique, là où se trouve la communauté rwandaise à l'étranger la plus fervente dans son opposition au pouvoir du FPR. Il n'était pas venu en Belgique depuis 2014 et une visite éclair de 24 h pour participer au sommet Union européenne — Afrique. À quelques mois des élections présidentielles prévues en août prochain, Kagame avait longtemps hésité à venir sur ce terrain hostile de peur d'écorcher son image internationale.

À l'appel des organisations de la société civile, d'organisations de défense des droits de l'homme et en collaboration avec les partis politiques d'opposition, la communauté rwandaise de Belgique, mais également d'Europe est attendue ce mercredi à 12 h 30 à Tour & Taxis à Bruxelles pour une grande manifestation contre la présence de Kagame à Bruxelles. Cette manifestation, dénommée par les organisateurs « #KagameGetOut » (en Français : Kagame dégage) est très attendue dans la communauté. Natacha Abingeneye, présidente de Jambo ASBL, nous a affirmé que « les organisateurs ont très naturellement souhaité nommer cette manifestation #KagameGetOut, tout d'abord parce qu'après 23 ans d'un pouvoir sans partage, dictatorial et criminel, il est temps que cela cesse, que Kagame quitte le pouvoir et qu'une transition démocratique et pacifique puisse s'amorcer ». La mobilisation a dépassé les frontières belges, puisque de nombreux manifestants viendront d'Angleterre, d'Allemagne, des Pays-Bas et de France. « Nous viendrons de loin pour nous unir à nos compatriotes de Belgique pour manifester contre ce dictateur sanguinaire qui non seulement a confisqué la démocratie et la liberté du peuple rwandais, mais massacre aussi son peuple et les populations de la sous-région dans une impunité totale depuis 23 ans ! » nous a confié Leon Ruhungira, le président la Communauté rwandaise de Lyon, qui fera près de 750 km pour répondre à cet appel. Joseph Matata, activiste rwandais des droits de l'Homme rwandais, a également appelé les Rwandais et amis du Rwanda à participer au Sit-in hebdomadaire qui se tient devant l'ambassade du Rwanda en Bruxelles. Il a tenu à souligner le caractère « exceptionnel » du

sit-in qui doit avoir lieu ce mardi 6 juin en raison de l'arrivée du président dans la soirée.

Les congolais de Belgique pleinement mobilisés

La communauté congolaise est également pleinement mobilisée. Dans le quartier africain de Bruxelles, Matonge, c'est le sujet sur toutes les lèvres. Junior, un jeune activiste congolais nous a affirmé, au sujet de Paul Kagame, que : « À chaque fois que cet assassin est ici, je dois être là, il faut que le monde entier sache qui il est vraiment, et ce qu'il représente. Il faut qu'on lui fasse sentir qu'on ne veut pas de lui en Belgique, ni même chez nous au Congo où il vient piller nos terres, tuer nos frères, violer nos sœurs et massacrer nos enfants. »

En réponse à la grande mobilisation qui se prépare, l'ambassade du Rwanda a réagi en organisant un rassemblement de soutien qui devrait se tenir tôt dans la matinée du mercredi 7. Une source proche de l'ambassade nous a affirmé : « Cette réunion de soutien a été organisée afin de tenter de répondre à la masse attendue pour manifester contre le Président Kagame ». Il a également été décidé d'un « Rwanda Day ». C'est une journée où le président Kagame rencontre la diaspora rwandaise dans un pays étranger. Attendu au tournant par ses nombreux opposants, ce rendez-vous, organisé dans la hâte, avec ses fans bruxellois est censé redorer une image qui risque d'être ternie par les manifestations de contestation prévues.

La Belgique est le pays regroupant le plus grand nombre de ressortissants d'origine rwandaise en dehors du Rwanda. D'après l'ambassade du Rwanda à Bruxelles, la communauté rwandaise de Belgique atteint 35 000 membres, d'autres sources vont jusqu'à 50 000 et plus. La Communauté rwandaise de Belgique est aussi renommée pour être libre et très fervente dans son combat pour les droits de l'homme, la démocratie et la justice au Rwanda. Elle comporte un grand nombre de partis politiques d'opposition au FPR installés à l'étranger et de nombreuses organisations de la société civile très critique contre le pouvoir du Président Kagame. Kigali a depuis plusieurs années essayé de faire vaciller cette communauté en l'infiltrant ou en faisant rallier à sa cause, moyennant compensation, des personnalités réputées influentes de celle-ci. La dernière tentative de déstabilisation en date est l'apposition de Olivier Nduhungirehe, ancien membre de la communauté et maintenant rallié au FPR, comme ambassadeur du Rwanda à Bruxelles afin de coordonner son noyautage.

Kagame en campagne pour redorer son image internationale

L'élection présidentielle se tiendra le 4 août prochain. Qualifiée de « mascarade » par les principaux partis d'opposition, ils ne présenteront pas de candidat. Qui sera face à Kagame ? C'est encore l'incertitude. Si Frank Habineza, le président du Parti démocratique vert, sera certainement candidat, la participation de Diane Rwigara et Phillipe Mpayimana, tous deux candidats indépendants, est loin d'être assurée. Le Rwanda est accusé par les

organismes internationaux des droits l'Homme de vouloir verrouiller son espace politique et médiatique au bénéfice du FPR et de Kagame. Alors que les rapports critiques sur l'état de pauvreté, la spoliation des paysans, la famine qui fait rage dans le pays, les manipulations des statistiques de développement ou encore la liberté de la presse s'amoncellent et que les langues se délient à l'image de Diane Rwigara, le FPR essaye de reprendre le contrôle de la situation. La récente tentative de verrouiller la communication sur les réseaux sociaux des candidats à la présidentielle par la Commission électorale nationale a été tuée dans l'œuf en raison de la masse de critiques provenant principalement de l'international. La guerre médiatique et de communication fait rage. Ces derniers mois, Kigali a fait appel à ses soutiens historiques tels que François Soudan de Jeune Afrique ou Louis Michel pour soutenir l'image internationale de Paul Kagame. Cette visite à Bruxelles, sur un terrain hostile pour lui, est une prise de risque pour Paul Kagame qui pourrait s'avérer très négative si la mobilisation à son encontre est très suivie.

Découvrez ci-dessous le mémorandum rédigé par la communauté rwandaise d'Europe pour l'occasion:

<http://www.jambonews.net/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/M%C3%A9morandum-de-la-communaut%C3%A9-des-Rwandais-vivant-en-Europe-concernant-l'invitation-du-Pr%C3%A9sident-Paul-Kagame-aux-journ%C3%A9es-europ%C3%A9ennes-de-d%C3%A9veloppement-du-7-au-8-juin-2017-%C3%A0-Bruxelles-.pdf>

Découvrez ci-dessous les appels à manifester réalisés par la communauté rwandaise et congolaise de Belgique:

<http://www.jambonews.net/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Memorandum-from-the-Rwandan-community-of-Europe-on-the-invitation-of-President-Paul-Kagame-to-the-European-Development-Days-from-7-to-8-June-2017.pdf>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dbVpeT6hmU0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ha2emZXaD-M>

Emmanuel Hakuzwimana

www.jambonews.net

[Source : <http://www.jambonews.net/actualites/20170606-rwanda-belgique-kagame-attendu-au-tournant-a-bruxelles/>]

RDC CONGO :

La RD Congo accepte une enquête de l'ONU au Kasai

juin 07, 2017 à 15:11 104 APA Kinshasa (RD Congo).-

Le gouvernement congolais a accepté, mardi 6 juin 2017, de collaborer avec l'ONU pour mener une enquête indépendante sur les violences dans les Kasai, au centre du pays, a fait savoir la ministre des droits humains, Marie Ange Mushobekwa.

«Le gouvernement de la RD Congo n'a rien à cacher. Nous restons ouvert à tout appui logistique et technique. Si l'ONU veut nous envoyer des experts en appui aux enquêteurs congolais pour faire la lumière dans l'assassinat de Sharp et Catalan et d'autres Congolais assassinés par la milice de Kamwina Nasapu, ces équipes sont les bienvenues», a déclaré Marie Ange Mushobekwa sur radio Okapi.

La RD Congo accepte la collaboration de l'ONU mais entend « garder la direction de l'enquête », a précisé la ministre des Droits humains.

Le mardi 06 juin, à l'ouverture du 35ème Conseil des droits de l'homme, à Genève en Suisse, le haut-commissaire de l'ONU aux

droits de l'homme, Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, lançait un ultimatum à la RD Congo sommée de prendre, « dans les deux jours à venir », des engagements au sujet des enquêtes relatives aux violences qui secouent la région du Kasai. « À moins que je ne reçoive des réponses appropriées du gouvernement concernant une enquête conjointe avant le 8 juin, j'insisterais sur la création d'un mécanisme d'une enquête internationale pour les Kasai », menaçait le haut-commissaire Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein.

En plus du haut-comme aux droits de l'homme, les Etats-Unis ont aussi appelé lundi les Nations unies à créer une commission d'enquête sur les meurtres en mars de deux experts de l'ONU.

L'Américain Michael Sharp et la Suédo-chilienne Zaida Catalan, deux experts de l'ONU qui enquêtaient sur les violences dans la province du Kasai-central, avaient été enlevés le 12 mars et leurs corps retrouvés 16 jours plus tard dans une fosse commune.

Ces exigences d'une commission d'enquête internationales intervenaient malgré l'ouverture le lundi 5 Juin dernier à Kananga, au Kasai centra, du procès sur le double meurtre des experts onusiens. Un autre procès ouvert le même jour à Mbuji-Mayi, au Kasai oriental, concernait les militaires présumés auteurs des massacres de Massacres de Mwanza Lomba dont la vidéo y relative avait circulé sur internet au mois de février dernier.

Au mois de mai dernier, les Nations Unies avaient remis en cause les conclusions de l'enquête menée par les autorités congolaises dans les violences au Kasai ayant causé notamment le meurtre des deux experts onusiens Michael Sharp et Zaida Catalan, estimant qu'elles avaient été tirées avec « pas mal de rapidité »

MYW/of/APA

[source : <http://apanews.net/index.php/fr/news/la-rd-congo-accepte-une-enquete-de-lonu-au-kasai>]

CONGO :

Centrafrique: Scandales sexuels ,des casques bleus du Congo-Brazzaville menacés d'expulsion

Casques bleus / © Koaci.com- Mercredi 07 Juin 2017-Accusés d'abus sexuels , des casques bleus du contingent congolais ont été menacés d'expulsion en Centrafrique.

Balla Keita, chef militaire de la Mission de l'ONU en Centrafrique (Minusca) s'est dit prêt à renvoyer chez eux des Casques bleus congolais accusés d'abus sexuels et d'indiscipline , suite à la publication d'un document confidentiel .

Le document a été rendu public par l'ONG Code Blue Campaign, qui cherche à dénoncer les cas d'abus sexuels et d'exploitation parmi les Casques bleus.

Sans mâcher ses mots , le général sénégalais Balla Keita a indiqué que le Congo devrait "améliorer sans délais les critères pour ses unités ou alors "une décision devra être prise pour remplacer les bataillons congolais.

Notons que ce contingent a déjà vu 120 de ses hommes rapatriés l'an dernier, certains étant impliqués dans des affaires de viols .

La crédibilité de l'organisation internationale a été entachée par des centaines d'accusations d'abus et de violences sexuelles impliquant ces dernières années des personnels de l'ONU, civils et militaires.

En dépit des promesses de « tolérance zéro », le nombre des victimes croît.

KOACI

[Source : <http://koaci.com/centrafrique-scandales-sexuels-casques-bleus-congo-brazzaville-menaces-dexpulsion-109996.html>]

UGANDA :

Transparency & Accountability: The missing link between Uganda and Vision 2020

By Admin / Added 9th June 2017 10:21 AM

We cannot talk about middle income status by 2020 when we are oblivious to the fact that proper planning means aligning national budgets to the NDP

By Christine Byiringiro Ayebazibwe

Simply put, transparency is honesty in all dealings while accountability is taking responsibility, explaining and justifying one's actions. The two are inevitable in any meaningful discourse pertaining to our country's development agenda.

It, therefore, follows that effective national planning must be in the interest of all citizens, but also highlight the importance of monitoring, transparency and accountability as key components of good governance.

Cognizant of the importance of citizen participation in their development, the Government has actively engaged the public particularly in the national budget process and indeed Uganda scooped second position in Africa in the Open Budget Index (OBI) survey 2015.

The budget consultative meetings with the citizens and the budget website created by the Ministry of Finance inter alia indicate progress, despite related challenges like inability of most citizens especially in rural areas to access internet.

As a key tool in the planning process, the national budget gives projections of the country's income and expenditure annually to enable the planning process. The National Development Plan (NDP) II, which is expected to propel Uganda to middle income status in the next 3 years prioritizes investment in five areas which include infrastructure development and agriculture.

The NDP II states: "...as a major sector in the economy, the NDPII emphasises commercialisation of agriculture, to increase production and productivity along the value chains.

It emphasises agro processing and marketing as a launch path to industrialisation." How ironic that this 'major' sector has consistently been allocated one of the smallest shares of the national budget, with 3.9% in FY 2017/18.

We cannot, therefore talk about middle income status by 2020 when we are oblivious to the fact that proper planning means aligning national budgets to the NDP.

On the other hand, infrastructure development which has constantly taken the lion's share of the national budget over the past five years is still leading with a whopping 21% in FY 2017/18 of the total sh29 trillion budget. Despite giving such high importance to the sector, Government has failed to match it with the commensurate level of monitoring and evaluation. This has cost the country a substantial amount of resources in terms of money and time. For instance over sh4 trillion was misappropriated under UNRA during the seven years preceding 2016 as revealed by the Justice Bamugemereire Commission of inquiry in 2016. This amount is the equivalent of one year's highest budget allocation (sh4trillion to infrastructure in FY

2017/18). The weak accountability institutions and limited oversight as well as absence of political will to squarely deal with the corrupt are all responsible for such practices.

With the domestic revenues estimated at only sh15 trillion in FY 2017/18 yet external debt continues to rise, currently at UGX32 trillion from sh29 trillion in June 2016 according to Bank of Uganda statistics, Government must be frugal and stringent on how these resources are spent. Unless monitoring and accountability for public resources is strengthened, Uganda will have no return on investments to cater to the rising public debt which will unfortunately spill over to the ordinary taxpayer.

Uganda must draw lessons from past experiences to inform future planning. Our desire to achieve growth and development is undoubted but our efforts towards the development path are decelerated because we have failed to strengthen transparency and accountability in the utilisation of public resources. It is our obligation as citizens to take keen interest in our governance, this calls for constantly monitoring and demanding accountability for public resources which helps us identify injustices and take corrective action in time.

Writer is a Programme Officer with Uganda Debt Network.

- See more at:

http://www.newvision.co.ug/new_vision/news/1455166/transparency-accountability-missing-link-uganda-vision-2020#sthash.RfGcM4jI.dpuf

TANZANIA :

Tanzania introduces new mining tax in budget plan for 2017

Friday June 9 2017 / By THE CITIZEN

The Tanzanian government has introduced a clearing fee of one per cent of the value of minerals that will be paid in clearing houses before export.

Finance minister Dr Philip Mpango announced the new tax on Thursday as he tabled the 2017/18 national budget in parliament.

He said the government would not allow direct exportation of minerals from the mines to other countries and would instead establish clearing houses.

The clearing houses are based at international airports, mining areas and other areas where the minerals will be verified and issued export permits.

Undervalued

The move comes after a special committee formed by the President reported that mineral ores destined for export were being undervalued

The report showed that an average of 1,400 grammes of gold per tonne of mineral sands in containers, yet the Tanzania Minerals Audit Agency (TMAA) indicated an average of only 200 grammes.

The committee also reported disparities in copper and silver ratios, while no royalty was paid for other compounds like iron, sulphur, rhodium, iridium, and lithium despite there being smelted from the concentrates.

[<http://www.nation.co.ke/business/Tanzania-introduces-new-mining-tax-in-budget-plan-for-2017/996-3962616-mqupn3z/index.html>]

KENYA :

Will Kenya get value for money from Sh327 billion SGR ?

Jun. 08, 2017, 9:00 am By BBC [http://www.the-star.co.ke/news/2017/06/08/will-kenya-get-value-for-money-from-sh327-billion-sgr_c1576426]

The first major new railway line in Kenya for more than a century, running between the capital Nairobi and the coastal city of Mombasa, faces an immediate challenge of justifying its relatively high cost.

At \$5.6 million per kilometre for the track alone, Kenya's line cost close to three times the international standard and four times the original estimate.

So it is perhaps not surprising that Kenyans have been asking why they seem to have paid so much.

Kenya's new 472km (293 mile) railway is the country's biggest infrastructure investment since its independence in 1963. Built to a modern "standard gauge", it runs parallel to the now-dilapidated metre gauge railway line from the colonial era.

While everyone agrees that Kenya desperately needs more infrastructure, not everyone agrees that this was the most economically sensible solution.

More on this: Account for extra Sh100 billion for SGR or I will stop launch, Joho tells Uhuru

Also read: Sh327bn SGR cost not inflated, that's propaganda, says NLC chairman Swazuri

Cost comparisons have been made between this line and Ethiopia's 756km Addis Ababa-Djibouti line launched last year.

Both are Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) projects financed by Chinese loans, costing \$3.4bn (£2.6bn) for Ethiopia and \$3.2bn for Kenya.

Ethiopia's line is more than 250km longer and is electrified, which is typically more expensive; trains running on Kenya's line will be diesel-powered.

The Kenyan government has said the reasons for this high cost include the terrain that required many bridges and tunnels, land compensation and a need for specifications that would handle greater cargo volumes than Ethiopia's line.

Therefore, it says, the two projects are not directly comparable.

About 80 per cent of the money for the new railway came through loans from China.

The loans are the country's biggest yet - amounting to roughly six per cent of Kenya's gross domestic product, which is a measure of a country's economic activity, including all the services and goods produced in a year.

Before Kenya started building the railway, government advisers Canadian Pacific Consulting Services challenged its economic viability in a 2009 study.

It concluded that the benefit of building a new standard gauge railway would be marginal. It was considered "cost prohibitive"

using "even the most optimistic" traffic and income projections, it said.

But Transport CS James Macharia has said the Kenyan government expects the new line to boost GDP by 1.5 per cent, allowing the Chinese loans to be paid back "in about four years".

Read: Cost notwithstanding, SGR could be a game changer

That projection runs counter to recent fears that Kenya may soon become unable to pay the large amounts owing on existing loans.

Heavy borrowing has seen public debt rise to more than half of GDP in the last four years, yet there has been no corresponding growth in revenue.

Most of the railway's revenue is expected to come from transporting cargo. Only five per cent of cargo is currently being transported on the old railway line while 95 per cent goes by road, but Kenya Railways is aiming to push its share to 40 per cent by 2025 with the new track.

It is possible that a law will be passed requiring certain goods to be transported by rail to ensure a massive transfer of freight away from the roads.

The new railway also faces a regional contest. Tanzania and Kenya compete to serve the transit trade of landlocked Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi.

A 2013 World Bank study predicted that freight traffic on the entire East Africa Community rail network would grow to approximately 14.4 million tonnes per year by 2030.

The same study found that investment in a standard gauge railway appeared "only to be justified if the new infrastructure could attract additional rail freight in the order of 20-55 million tonnes per year".

By that measure, the railway would need to win all of the freight currently trucked to and from Mombasa - and more. According to the Kenya Ports Authority, Mombasa port handled a total of just over 26 million tonnes of cargo in 2015.

Despite these challenges, the new railway will undoubtedly bring several long-term economic benefits.

Passengers will enjoy a faster, cheaper journey and the increased freight-carrying capacity reduces wear and tear on the roads.

Freight costs per kilometre in the region are more than 50 per cent higher than in the United States and Europe, so a more affordable rail option is a relief for businesses.

Jobs have been created directly from the construction and maintenance of the SGR, and more opportunities could come as towns and businesses grow along the railway line.

Kenya is the largest exporter and importer in East Africa, and the new railway is a critical part of the plan to connect neighbouring states by rail, making it easier to trade with each other and the rest of the world.

There is no doubt that the project is a gleaming symbol of progress, but now it is up to the volume of business it can attract to prove that it was worth the cost.

SOUTH SUDAN :

Let us create an atmosphere for Pope Francis to visit South Sudan

The Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Tombura-Yambio and President of the Sudan Catholic Bishops' Conference (SCBC), Barani Eduardo Hiiboro Kussala has blamed the continued armed conflict in South Sudan as the main reason that led Pope Francis to postpone his planned Apostolic Journey to the country. Pope Francis had intended to visit the country in the company of Anglican Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, this year.

“Pope Francis for a very long time now has been so much concerned about South Sudan and its people. On several occasions in his traditional prayers of the Angelus and weekly Audience, has prayed and called on the world to come to the aid of South Sudan,” Bishop Kussala said. According to the Bishop, the ongoing insecurity and other challenges in the nation led to the postponement of the visit.

“All we need to do now is embark on a very serious spiritual self-discernment ... peace-building in order to create a conducive atmosphere for the possibility of the visitation of the Holy Father in due course,” Bishop Kussala encouraged his compatriots. He made these remarks in a media statement Tuesday.

In February, Pope Francis announced that his staff were “studying the possibility” of a visit to South Sudan. Towards the end of last month, the Director of the Holy See Press Office, Greg Burke told media that Pope Francis had postponed the trip. According to Burke while “the trip is still being considered it is “not for this year.”

In the media statement, Bishop Kussala emphasised Pope Francis' concern for peace in the world.

“Pope Francis continues to remind us of the cost of war, particularly on the powerless and defenceless, and urges us towards the imperative of peace,” Bishop Kussala said. He further challenged the people of South Sudan to themselves embrace peace.

“We, as the SCBC urge all our faithful and the entire people within the country to strive and promote peace (each one) in his or her own capacity! Be that agent of change needed in South Sudan! Pray a lot more in sincere repentance of heart with the aim of consolidating peace in the country. It is only such activities that can bring the Holy Father to South Sudan in a no distant period,” the President of the Bishops' Conference underlined.

South Sudan Bishops would continue to look forward to a day Pope Francis would visit the country.

“Our great desire, hope and expectation as the Sudan Catholic Bishops' Conference for the Sudan and South Sudan is that, the visit of the Holy Father hasn't been put off completely, but the pastoral visit will be reconsidered and that South Sudan as a new nation will be graced by His Holiness - Pope Francis,” Bishop Kussala said.

(Email: engafrica@vatiradio.va)

[Source
:http://en.radiovaticana.va/news/2017/06/08/let_us_create_an_atmosphere_for_pope_francis_to_visit_sudan/1317834]

SOUDAN :

Sudan's Struggle to Win U.S. Approval

In July, the White House will decide whether to relieve several sanctions on Sudan based on an executive order signed by former U.S. President Barack Obama.

Sanctions relief would provide incentive for Sudan to continue working to improve human rights issues and solve internal conflicts.

Until Sudanese President Omar al Bashir, charged with war crimes by the International Criminal Court, leaves power, the lifting of all sanctions will remain a distant prospect.

Sudan has made some major adjustments to its diplomatic posture over the past year and a half. In that time, the nation abandoned its long-standing relationship with Iran and instead began working closely with Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries. This policy shift has earned Sudan both financial gain and a certain amount of diplomatic credit in the Western world. But the real prize for the country would be a normalization of relations with the United States, and there are signs that Sudan may be able to make progress toward that end.

Waiting For a Review

As one of his last acts in office, former U.S. President Barack Obama signed an executive order in January raising the possibility that Washington could lift a limited number of the trade and investment sanctions on Sudan that have been in place for years. The order required that, after a six-month review period, the U.S. government, now led by President Donald Trump, would evaluate Sudan's progress in improving its human rights record.

The results of the review could represent Sudan's greatest step to date in improving its historically fraught relationship with the United States. The stakes are high, as the nation would benefit massively from the trade, military, aid and investment opportunities that come with the lifting of U.S. sanctions. And even though a positive assessment would put Sudan only a few steps onto a very long path toward normalization, a negative decision could very well erase that path completely.

Before June is out, various U.S. agencies and departments will be required to brief Trump on the progress Sudan has made since Obama signed the order. In addition to improving its human rights record, Sudan was also expected to cease hostilities in the nation's many internal conflicts, including Darfur in the west and Kordofan and Blue Nile in the south. If the overall assessment of Sudan's progress is considered satisfactory, and the Trump administration decides to act on Obama's executive order, the United States will relieve some trade and investment sanctions.

But that would still leave Sudan far from a true normalization with the United States. The East African country remains on Washington's list of state sponsors of terrorism, where it has been for 20 years under Sudanese President Omar al Bashir, and Obama's order suggested no change in that status. Additionally, many sanctions, including ones limiting arms exports and potential U.S. aid as well as those specific to the Darfur conflict, would remain.

Breaking Ties With Iran

In the eyes of the United States, Sudan's slate is still far from clear. However, it has made strides to improve its standing with

Washington, most notably by breaking off its relationship with Iran in favor of U.S. ally Saudi Arabia.

Sudan was once a loyal Iranian partner. The 1989 coup that brought to power al Bashir — a leader who later earned warrants from the International Criminal Court for charges of crimes against humanity, war crimes and genocide — severely damaged Sudan's relationship with the United States. It was natural that Iran, whose 1979 Islamic Revolution put the country in a similarly reviled position, would form a friendship with Sudan. After all, Sudan's geographic position near several Iranian proxies — Gaza, Yemen, Eritrea and Somalia — made it an ideal transit point for smuggling. In exchange for Sudan's cooperation, Iran provided it with financial and military support, not to mention oil.

Before the 2015 Iranian nuclear deal, both pariah states assisted each other with arms smuggling and supporting terrorist groups. In the early 1990s, before the 1998 East Africa embassy bombings made Osama bin Laden the most wanted man in the United States, Sudan hosted the terrorist leader. At the time, bin Laden was believed to be using his business activities in Sudan as a front for establishing the foundations of al Qaeda, particularly its East Africa network, which at one point was one of its most prominent branches.

But after the bombings, Sudan began cooperating with the United States in its counterterrorism efforts, particularly through intelligence sharing. Following the 9/11 attacks, Sudan even conducted its own internal crackdown on radical elements, prompting hard-liners in the country to accuse the government of appeasing the United States.

Then in 2011, following decades of civil war, South Sudan split from Sudan to become its own independent nation, taking many of the nation's oil reserves with it and leaving Sudan in dire financial straits. Sudan's economy struggled, and Saudi Arabia, which had long been making overtures toward Khartoum, stepped in to take advantage. Riyadh poured investment into Sudan, promising more in exchange for military support in its conflict in Yemen. Entering into the Saudi sphere of influence also allowed Sudan to take a step toward a better relationship with the West. By 2016, Sudan had officially severed ties with Iran, and its substantial army had joined the Saudi-led coalition fighting Houthi rebels in Yemen.

The United States itself is still considering whether it will play a larger role in the Yemen conflict, though it currently supports Saudi air operations with tanker aircraft and planning aid. Sudanese forces, however, have already been visibly present on the battlefield, securing critical locations in and near the port city of Aden and joining the front lines of multiple offensives against the Houthis throughout the country. That represents quite a shift for the nation that at one point had helped Iran support the same rebels. Saudi Arabia's successful attempt to break Sudan's links to Iran turned the tables in the conflict, cutting crucial support for the Houthis while adding capacity to Saudi Arabia's fight.

Confronting Conflict Internally

Unfortunately for Sudan, the case for sanctions relief from the United States does not depend entirely on its newfound position in the international community. Though Obama's executive order does take into consideration Sudan's counterterrorism track record, it focuses primarily on Khartoum's ability to make progress on other issues — specifically, ceasing hostilities in Sudan's internal conflicts and improving its human rights record. These historically have not been strong areas for Sudan. Several rebel groups have

long been fighting al Bashir's government, and under him, Sudan has been accused of engaging in a number of human rights violations, especially against the people of Darfur.

Recently, though, with his nation needing the international trade relationships that sanction relief could allow, al Bashir has taken pragmatic steps to court approval from the United States. These include enacting a series of unilateral cease-fires in internal Sudanese conflicts to offer the space necessary for mediation. There have been setbacks, though: Most opposition groups and armed rebels alike have continued to boycott the peace process, saying that current peace offers are not sustainable. So while Khartoum may be able to show positive intentions, it has not been able to make significant progress.

The government has also promised opposition parties that the national dialogue the country has seen for several years now would lead to a new unity government. So far, this has not been the case, and opposition leaders are not hopeful. But in some instances, the government has demonstrated a willingness to cooperate and even has offered limited practical compromises with opposition groups. For example, opposition leader Sadiq al-Mahdi, who remained in self-imposed exile even after the government dropped treason charges against him, returned to Sudan in January in a sign of potential rapprochement between the government and opposition groups. However, these limited achievements may not be enough for the United States to drop sanctions.

The Barriers Ahead

There is no clear answer to the question of what Washington will decide. Despite its international policy advancements, Sudan may not objectively have done enough over the past six months to

improve human rights or resolve conflicts to warrant U.S. approval. However, the United States may also consider the potential consequences of rejecting sanctions relief, an action that could signal to Sudan that it is futile to try to continue making progress. Conversely, a positive assessment and sanctions reductions may well provide necessary encouragement for Khartoum.

Ultimately, a real normalization of relations with the United States will continue to be out of reach for Sudan as long as al Bashir remains in power. The International Criminal Court warrants are a significant barrier to any real reconciliation, a situation illustrated recently when the United States allegedly refused to let al Bashir attend a U.S.-Arab summit in Saudi Arabia. It's clear that even if the United States is interested in bringing Sudan back in from the cold, it's not interested in Sudan bringing al Bashir with it.

A post-al Bashir era is coming, though. The leader announced that he would step down in 2020. It is critical for Sudan that the transition to a new leader be a stable one, and that will require a major national dialogue. Sudan has not redeemed itself in Washington's eyes, but limited sanctions relief would go a long way toward fostering the changes needed for the country to one day enjoy normalized relations with the United States.

[Source : <https://worldview.stratfor.com/article/sudans-struggle-win-us-approval>]

ETHIOPIE :

Ethiopia restores internet access after shutdown for exams

Abdur Rahman Alfa Shaban / Ethiopia

Ethiopian authorities have restored internet access across the country a little over a week after imposed a blackout, the BBC reports.

According to the authorities, the blockage was to preserve the integrity of nationwide examinations that were slated between May 31 and June 8.

The Grade 10 and 12 exams are for university entrance purposes and also for enrollment into national vocational courses.

Thousands of students took the Grade 10 exams between May 31 until June 2 while others took the Grade 12 papers between June 5 and June 8.

We are being proactive. We want our students to concentrate and be free of the psychological pressure and distractions that this brings.

“The shutdown is aimed at preventing a repeat of leaks that occurred last year,” Mohammed Seid, public relations director of Ethiopia’s Office for Government Communications Affairs, told Reuters.

“We are being proactive. We want our students to concentrate and be free of the psychological pressure and distractions that this brings,” he added. There was a widespread leakage of exams papers last year leading to a cancellation of papers.

There were exceptions to the blackout as diplomatic and international institutions, banks and top hospitality outfits still had access amidst the blackout.

Beside shutdowns related to education, the government has also blocked internet in the wake of anti-government protests that hit the country last year. Addis Ababa said social media was to blame for spreading protests in the Amhara and Oromia regions.

The government said social media was being used to instigate the mass action that led to deaths of protesters. Ethiopia filters internet regularly using firewalls which often slows network access.

Across Africa, internet blackouts are increasingly becoming popular especially for political reasons. Uganda and Congo

Republic blocked access during presidential elections in 2016. The most recent one was a three-month blockage by authorities in Cameroon's anglophone region.

A United Nations Human Rights Council resolution last year declared the restrictions of internet access as a violation of human rights.

[Source <http://www.africanews.com/2017/06/08/ethiopia-restores-internet-access-after-shutdown-for-exams/>]

EGYPTE :

With Eyes on Libya, France Cements Egypt Security Ties

| June 8, 2017, at 2:32 p.m. By John Irish

CAIRO (Reuters) - France's foreign minister said on Thursday he had firmed up security ties with Egypt, which was the "central element" to ensuring regional stability as the two countries seek to break the political impasse in neighboring Libya.

Paris and Cairo have nurtured closer economic and military ties in recent years and with the rise to power of President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi that relationship has improved with both sides concerned by the ongoing political vacuum in Libya and the rise of jihadist groups in Egypt.

Speaking after a day of meetings in Cairo, including with Sisi, Jean-Yves Le Drian, who in his previous role as defense minister had developed a personal relationship with Sisi, said the two allies had a "common vision" on how to tackle Islamist militants.

"We had meetings on fighting terrorism and the stabilization of Libya," Le Drian said during a meeting with Pope Tawadros II, head of the Egyptian Coptic Orthodox Church.

An attack at the end of May on the Coptic community in the southern city of Menya by Islamist militants killed 29 people.

"Egypt is the central element for regional stability and when it sways the whole region sways," Le Drian said.

Le Drian's visit was the second by a French minister this week. Defence Minister Sylvie Goulard held talks with her Egyptian counterpart on Monday on how to reinforce security cooperation including the best way to enhance monitoring of Egypt's borders.

Diplomats have said that Paris is reviewing its position on the Libyan conflict, with new President Emmanuel Macron deciding to push the issue to the top of his foreign policy agenda.

"Libya is a priority for France," a French diplomat said.

Libya is split between a U.N.-backed government in Tripoli, which is loosely supported by militias in the west that includes Islamist groups backed by Turkey and Qatar, and eastern military commander Khalifa Haftar, which the United Arab Emirates and Egypt support.

The UAE sees Egypt's leadership as a firewall against militants and has given Cairo financial and military support, Western and Arab diplomats say.

"We cannot let the situation of instability that is benefiting terrorists and traffickers continue on Egypt's borders and at the gates of Europe continue," Le Drian told reporters.

Some Western states, including France, have also given Haftar military support to help fight Islamists in Libya's east, but diplomats say that he will ultimately have to sit down and negotiate with the U.N.-backed government of Fayeze al-Seraj and militias in the west.

French officials said there was now a growing convergence of views with Egypt and the UAE to push all sides back to the negotiating table, which would see a round of shuttle diplomacy in the coming weeks to form a consensus among the outside players to first push Haftar and Seraj together.

The diplomatic row between Qatar and major Arab states including Saudi Arabia and Egypt may also provide an opportunity to pressure western militias, officials said.

(This version of the story was corrected to show attack on Coptic Christians was in Menya in paragraph 5)

(Editing by Andrew Roche)

Copyright 2017 Thomson Reuters.

[Source : <https://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2017-06-08/with-eyes-on-libya-france-cements-egypt-security-ties>]

SOUTH AFRICA :

Over 400 000 people murdered in South Africa since 1994

Chilling numbers. By Alexis Haden - June 8, 2017

That South Africa has a high murder rate is hardly a surprise, but when the numbers are laid out so prominently, it really hits home.

A report released by the Institute of Race Relations (IRR) on Thursday revealed that around 445 835 murders had been recorded in the country between April 1994 and March 2016.

In 1994/95 financial year, an average number of 71 people were killed per day. In 2015/16, that number was at 51 per day.

The report used data from the South African police service and shows that for every 100 000 people in the country, 34 were murdered. The deadliest year on record in democratic South Africa was in 1995/96 with 26 877 being killed, according to the report.

Crime analyst Kerwin Lebone said that the country holds a much higher murder rate compared to other countries.

It is almost 29 times higher than Australia, 30 times higher than the United Kingdom and 45 times higher than Germany.

“South Africans live with horrific levels of violent crime. While the murder rate has fallen since 1994, at 31.9 per 100 000 people, it remains one of the highest in the world,” said Lebone.

In the 2015/16 financial year, almost 900 children were murdered.

According to TimesLive, Lebone said South Africa's murder crisis is so serious that some South Africans are more likely to be murdered than the residents of many terror-affected countries.

Previous reports have shown that the Western Province is one of the worst affected, with gang violence on the Cape Flats having a terrible impact on residents, with young children often getting caught in the crossfire.

[Source : <https://www.thesouthafrican.com/over-400-000-people-murdered-in-south-africa-since-1994/>]

ANGOLA :

Angola aims to be a central tech force in Africa

Published on 09 June 2017 By Chris Tredger

Angola has ambitions to emerge as a competitive technology force and internet hub in Africa. Telecommunications professionals focused on the market, like Hans Geldenhuys, Managing Sales Director at Intelsat Africa, say the Southern African country is undergoing a technology transformation underpinned by an increasing need for connectivity and innovations across key sectors.

Geldenhuys says according to the latest data sourced from the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), Angola's ICT and telecoms sector has recorded an annual growth rate of 55% over the past 10 years and has 14 million consumers.

He says that key verticals, including energy, banking and government, are either diversifying their networks or expanding geographically and this is fuelling the high demand for broadband, especially mobile.

Reaching rural areas with connectivity and routing the benefit to sectors like agriculture, education and healthcare remain priorities for the country's government, says the Intelsat Africa executive.

Its fixed telecommunications market is also an area where improving network quality and coverage could have a great impact on the local economy.

However, as Geldenhuys points out, the ITU also states that access to the internet remains low and Angola's penetration rate was 12.4% in 2015.

According to internetlivestats.com, in 2016 the country was home to almost 6 million internet users or 23% of the population.

"Angola represents one of the largest opportunities for infrastructure providers in the region. We are talking with local service providers who need support expanding the reach of broadband networks, creating infrastructure that connect last-mile deployments to remote businesses and residences and help Angola compete in the competitive African economy," says Geldenhuys.

He asserts that a new unified licensing regime should accelerate growth in the mobile sector. "Taking into account the growth of the entire economy and the focus of the local government in the ICT industry as a catalyst for the country's development, Angola is a land of opportunity for ICT players of all sizes and flavours."

Investment in satellite

While the country continues to invest in the development of its telecommunications infrastructure, Geldenhuys is adamant that no single technology can solve all the connectivity needs.

At the same time he believes that with recent technological advances significantly increasing throughput, the satellite sector is ideally positioned to meet the demand for broadband. The technology, he says, provides ubiquitous and multipoint communications "and remains a flexible and cost-effective solution for domestic and international networks."

He says satellite broadband services will support new bandwidth-heavy, cloud-based applications, as well as enable new applications such as the Internet of Things, Machine-to-Machines (M2M) operations, and the connected car sector.

"Communications networks going forward will increasingly be a hybrid solution combining fibre, wireless networks and satellite. This is why we have made it easier to integrate satellite solutions into existing networks and are also driving ground innovations, such as smaller, portable, solar-powered antennas, that will make it even easier to deploy satellite solutions."

The focus going forward will be on infrastructure that can connect last-mile deployments to remote businesses and residences.

[Source : <http://www.itwebafrica.com/satellite/817-angola/237983-angola-aims-to-be-a-central-tech-force-in-africa>]

MAROC :

Au Maroc, une découverte pourrait remettre totalement en question tout ce que l'on croyait savoir de l'origine de l'Humanité

Par Nathan Weber -

Le premier homme était-il marocain ? Jusqu'à présent, le plus ancien fossile jamais trouvé d'Homo sapiens avait été découvert dans la corne de l'Afrique, plus précisément en Éthiopie, et était âgé d'un peu moins de 200 000 ans. C'est donc en toute logique que le consensus scientifique s'accordait à dire que les premiers représentants des hominidés modernes étaient apparus dans cette région de l'est de l'Afrique, qui était de facto considéré comme le berceau de l'humanité.

Mais une nouvelle découverte, exceptionnelle, chamboule tout ce que nous pensions savoir de nos origines : En effet, des restes de cinq individus, âgés d'environ 315 000 ans, viennent d'être découverts au Maroc !

Crédits photo : Skeleton and archaeological tools / Shutterstock

C'est une équipe internationale de chercheurs, dirigée par le paléoanthropologue français Jean-Jacques Hublin, qui est responsable de cette découverte capitale, dont les résultats détaillés ont été publiés aujourd'hui dans la revue scientifique Nature.

Avec ces éléments cruciaux en leur possession, les scientifiques sont obligés de reconsidérer tout ce qu'ils pensaient savoir. Non seulement notre espèce est plus ancienne que nous ne pensions,

puisque la date possible de l'apparition d'Homo sapiens se voit reculée de plus de 100 000 ans. Mais ce nouvel élément déplace aussi le foyer d'apparition de l'espèce... de l'Afrique Noire au Maghreb.

Via Le Monde

En réalité, explique Jean-Jacques Hublin, ce n'est pas aussi simple que cela. Il est pour l'heure très délicat de se risquer à donner un point d'origine de l'humanité, d'autant plus que l'on ne parle bien ici que d'Homo sapiens, l'espèce qui correspond à ce que nous appelons l'homme moderne, et qui est la seule de son genre à exister encore aujourd'hui.

Les premiers représentants connus du genre Homo, comme Homo habilis (2,5 millions d'années) proviennent d'Afrique orientale, si l'on en croit les plus anciennes traces d'eux retrouvées à ce jour. Et si l'on remonte encore dans la lignée humaine, des homininés encore plus anciens, comme Toumaï (découvert au Tchad, vieux de 7 millions d'années) ou encore la célèbre australopithèque Lucy (découverte en Ethiopie, âgée de 3,2 millions d'années), l'Afrique de l'ouest semble avoir été le terreau d'origine d'espèces qui sont à l'origine des humains modernes.

Cependant, la découverte du plus ancien Homo sapiens au Maroc remet en cause pas mal de choses, surtout en ce qui concerne l'établissement initial des premières colonies d'humains modernes. Pour M. Hublin, « cette découverte ne signifie pas forcément que l'espèce est apparue au Maroc, mais surtout qu'il s'agissait d'un phénomène panafricain », c'est-à-dire quelque chose qui est peut-être apparu au cours d'une période donnée, dans plusieurs endroits en Afrique.

[Source : <http://www.demotivateur.fr/article/le-maroc-serait-il-le-vrai-berceau-de-l-humanite-une-nouvelle-decouverte-paleontologique-de-grande-envergure-semblerait-le-prouver-10311>]

AFRICA UNION :

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has called on African leaders to reinstate Israel's observer status in the African Union (AU).

[Source : <http://www.africanews.com/2017/06/04/it-s-in-the-interest-of-africa-for-israel-to-be-reinstated-in-au-netanyahu/>]

Israel lost its observer status in 2002 when the Organisation of African Union was dissolved and replaced by the AU.

“Israel should once again be an observer state of the African Union ... I fervently believe that it's in your interest too, in the interest of Africa. And I hope all of you will support that goal,” Netanyahu told West African leaders at the 51st ECOWAS Summit of Heads of State in Liberia's capital Monrovia on Sunday.

“I ask for your support in rejecting anti-Israel bias at the United Nations, and in bodies such as the General Assembly, UNESCO and the Human Rights Council,” he appealed.

Israel should once again be an observer state of the African Union ... I fervently believe that it's in your interest too, in the interest of Africa. And I hope all of you will support that goal.

He likened Israel to Africa and said a change of mind is what will bring peace to the world.

“With determination and conviction, you won your independence ... This is very much our story. Our people too were denied independence ... Many Arab countries no longer see Israel as their enemy. They see Israel as their ally, I would even say, their

indispensable ally in the fight against terrorism and in seizing the future of technology and innovation,” he said.

Netanyahu added that the change of attitude in the Arab world “is new and I believe it’s the best hope for peace, not only between Israel and the countries in the region, but ultimately between Israel and the Palestinians. This is what changes minds and hearts.”

Palestine was granted an observer status in the African Union in 2013 and its leader Mahmoud Abbas has addressed the Union on a number of occasions.

Israel strongly believes its absence in the African Union has affected the country in terms of votes in international forums as a result of the country’s voice not being heard.

Before his visit to Liberia, he told local media that the purpose of the trip was to “dissolve this majority, this giant bloc of 54 African countries that is the basis of the automatic majority against Israel in the U.N. and international bodies.”

“Israel is a small nation that dreams very, very big. Lets work together to realize big dreams for all our people. Let our dreams be so audacious. But just as those who doubted Israel were proven wrong, let us ensure that the skeptics who doubt Africa are also proven wrong,” he told the West African leaders.

Netanyahu concluded by saying: “Israel is a nation that loves and respects all ... In Israel, Jews, Christians and Muslims live side by side as equal citizens. This is the real Israel.”

USA – AFRICA :

Dénis Hankins, ambassadeur des USA : « les manifestations de l'opposition... »

Facebook icon Twitter icon

Accord politique

L'ABE-Le diplomate américain basé à Conakry observe de près l'évolution du climat politique guinéen. Dans un entretien accordé à un journaliste de notre rédaction, Dénis Hankins est revenu sur les accords politiques dont l'application pose quelques difficultés. Lisez !!!

Africaguinee.com : Vous avez suivi entièrement le dialogue politique interguinéen qui a abouti aux accords politiques du 12 octobre 2016. L'opposition menace de faire des manifestations de rue pour son application. Comment observez-vous cette situation ?

DENIS HANKINS : Je pense que le plus important, c'est le fait que ces accords se sont faits entre les guinéens. Quand j'ai voyagé j'ai constaté que les guinéens sont bien conscients qu'il n'y avait pas un modérateur étranger. C'était un accord entre les guinéens. Dans son application, il y a certains aspects qui sont déjà faits comme la libération de tous les prisonniers arrêtés dans les protestations. C'est une disposition des accords.

L'application de ces accords que vous aviez signés rencontre des difficultés. Comment sortir de cet imbroglio ?

Je dois même me rendre à N'Nzérékoré avec le secrétaire général du ministère de l'administration du territoire y compris les représentants de la mouvance et de l'opposition pour parler des accords.

Nous sommes là, les Etats unis, la France, l'Union Européenne, nous avons vu qu'ils ont fait un accord. Donc pour nous, c'est de donner un appui moral. Ce n'est pas d'imposer notre position mais plutôt donner notre appui à un accord bien africain. Du fait que nous sommes là, nous avons été invités pour être des témoins, donc nous devons donner la force morale. Nous étions dans la salle et nous sommes très conscients des engagements qui ont été pris.

Mais jusque maintenant je sais que c'est difficile les élections. Même le changement de moyens de faire l'élection des chefs de quartier et de district. Ils ont dit c'était une question de faire 3000 élections. C'est difficile de faire 3000 élections. J'ai bien compris pourquoi ils ont décidé de changer les lois. Pour nous, c'est toujours important parce qu'ils ont gardé l'idée dans l'accord d'avoir des candidatures indépendantes, c'est important.

Parce que ce n'est pas seulement les partis mais l'idée avec les élections, c'est d'avoir beaucoup plus de participation locale avec des gens qui ne sont pas liés à des partis politiques. Alors nous sommes toujours là.

Finalement au niveau de l'assemblée nationale il y a eu le changement de législation, la décision de la cour constitutionnelle est attendue. Nous sommes toujours engagés. Je participe souvent aux réunions de comité de suivi. Mais c'est vraiment la responsabilité de toutes les institutions d'avancer.

Avez-vous d'autres remarques ?

J'ai noté pendant les négociations et pendant les sessions de comité de suivi, qu'il y a beaucoup plus de choses communes

entre les guinéens que ce qui les divise, alors on peut travailler. Quand il y avait les crises, j'ai vu pendant les élections présidentielles et même pendant les crises d'Ebola les responsables peuvent être très responsables.

Même avec les manifestations de l'UFDG au mois d'aout, pour la première fois c'était bien organisé, il n'y avait pas eu de violence. Je pense que ça donné plus de confiance entre les deux parties.

En même temps les forces de sécurité ont bien travaillé avec l'opposition pour éviter les violences et le policier qui a tiré sur quelqu'un qui est mort par la suite a été arrêté immédiatement. On n'avait jamais vu un type de réaction aussi rapide. Alors il y a les bases de confiance.

Votre démocratie est assez jeune, vous avez été en même temps le pays francophone le plus vieux en Afrique mais avec une démocratie plus jeune. Alors il y a un système, il faut avancer. Nous sommes ici nous pouvons aider, nous sommes là pour aider.

Entretien réalisé par Alpha Ousmane Bah

Pour Africaguinee.com

Tel : (00224) 620 93 45 45

[Source : <http://www.africaguinee.com/articles/2017/05/11/denis-hankins-ambassadeur-des-usa-les-manifestations-de-l-opposition>]

CHINA – AFRICA :

Tensions between US and China threaten catastrophe for Africa

By Eddie Haywood and Thomas Gaist

8 June 2017

Tensions on the African continent are rising with China's surge of economic investment and business ties with a host of countries. In response, Washington and Europe are countering this 'economic trespassing' by Beijing with the utilization of massive military power across the continent. Underpinning the conflict are the Western corporations and banks eager to capture the profits extracted from Africa's vast economic resources and its working masses.

China's expansion of economic investment in Africa is a part of its "One Belt, One Road" initiative through which Beijing seeks to revive a modern-day "Silk Road" trade route connecting China and Asia with Europe. The proposed expansion of transport and communications infrastructure is aimed at boosting the trade and economic interlinkages of China across Eurasia and with Africa and the Middle East at the expense of the US, thus undermining its global domination.

The profiteering and exploitation of cheap labor by China in Africa is hardly benign and has prompted criticism, some of which, but not all, is prompted by those seeking to limit the expansion of China's economic influence. While China is not an

imperialist power, its capitalist operations in Africa are no less predatory than its rivals in the United States and Europe.

The Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, held in Beijing May 14-15, marks a significant turning point in China-Africa relations and in world politics as a whole. From all appearances, at least three strategically crucial East and Central African states, Kenya, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, all military allies of the United States, are shifting decisively toward the Chinese government and its One Belt, One Road (OBOR) agenda.

This expansion of Chinese influence in Africa directly threatens American imperialism's control over the lion's share of Africa's natural riches and disrupts Washington's efforts to encircle China and strangle it economically.

In an interview following the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta signaled his government's readiness for closer ties with China, necessarily at the expense of US-Kenya relations, in exchange for a reduction of Kenya's trade deficit.

"If their win-win strategy is going to work, it must mean that, just as Africa opens up to China, China must also open up to Africa," Kenyatta said. "The Belt and Road initiative gives our continent the opportunity to make a paradigm shift. Post-colonial Africa has been stuck in a rut."

Even though Rwanda, one of the US military's favored allies on the continent, was not invited to Beijing, Rwanda's envoy to

China, General Charles Kayonga, celebrated China's OBOR as a positive development for Africa's economy.

"The Belt and Road project, reaching Rwanda and beyond, will be a leap forward in the process of integrating Africa into the global economy and enhancing its political integration," Kayonga said. "Western countries are critical because of their history in Africa. They were in Africa for centuries, but what do we see in the continent of Africa? Colonization and neo-colonization. Now, there's a change on the face of Africa with Chinese involvement in the last three decades."

"The Western kind of aid, most of the times, is political and is tied to some conditions, which China doesn't do. I see China-Rwanda cooperation as a win-win partnership. I think this is the best for Africa," he said.

The enthusiasm of Africa's capitalist elites for the OBOR is a powerful index of the realignments taking place within the continent's political order. Immense pressures are being brought to bear on Africa's political system.

African governments and political establishments are torn between their military-political ties to the flagging American superpower and the potential gains from closer ties with Beijing, whose economic investments on the continent increasingly dwarf those of the US. The politics of the entire continent are being set on knife's edge by the explosive interaction between the US drive to counter the breakdown of its hegemony through war and the emergence of China as a leading global economic power.

As part of the OBOR China is seeking to extend its new maritime Silk Road to Africa, and has committed \$3 trillion to developing shipping lanes in the Indian and Atlantic Oceans linking the west and east of the continent to Asia and southern Europe. Beijing is also proposing massive investment in highway and rail line projects that will span the continent.

For their part, the African governments are seeking out economic agreements with Beijing because the terms are seen as more beneficial. Chinese loans are tied to more market-based interest rates compared to the strings attached to financial aid programs and loans offered by the US and Europe.

US and Europe seek to impose conditions, such as favorable tax rates (or none) for their corporations doing business in the country, and the agreement to hand over the reins of entire economic sectors and industries completely to Western corporations and banks.

Over the past decade, China has made deep economic inroads into Africa. In the 2000-2015 period, China has invested or loaned \$94.4 billion. In the last year alone, China committed \$30 billion to Kenya alone.

The extensive investment projects China has undertaken in Africa include infrastructure, such as roads, power generation, telecommunications, and hospitals; and in the development of Africa's resources, such as mining and oil extraction and refinement. Additionally, China has established trade relations with many African nations, exporting many Chinese products to the continent.

In the Congo, China has secured a contract with the government of Joseph Kabila for the largest cobalt mine in the world, representing some 62 percent of global production.

On June 1, Kenya's Standard Gauge Railway opened a new line for passengers between the port city of Mombasa and the capital Nairobi, thanks to a \$3.2 billion loan from Beijing. In addition, a line is now open for commercial freight traffic between the two cities, and is expected to greatly enhance and streamline cargo transport.

Plans for the railway include the extension of the line into the neighboring countries of Uganda, Rwanda, and the Congo.

The African component of OBOR includes linkages connecting economic centers in Kenya, South Sudan, Uganda, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Tanzania and Angola to ports on both Africa's Indian Ocean and Atlantic coastlines. The Chinese government is currently planning or building port complexes in Cameroon, Ghana, Tunisia, Gabon and Senegal, as well as pursuing dozens of other major infrastructure projects across the continent, including airports, power plants, sports arenas, and bridges.

The maritime component of China's OBOR runs alongside thousands of miles of Africa's eastern seaboard, from Mombasa north along the entire coastline of Somalia, where half of Chinese oil imports must pass through the narrow Mandeb Strait, just beside the largest US military base in Africa, Camp Lemonnier in Djibouti.

The contradiction between the interests of American imperialism and those of Chinese capitalism is fueling militarism and wars

across the African continent. The American ruling class will never peacefully accept the realization of Beijing's OBOR agenda in Africa, nor on any other continent.

It is increasingly clear that US military operations in Africa are focused on projecting power against Chinese interests. US Africa Command (AFRICOM) deployments are concentrated on Africa's central heartland and around the transport corridors and port facilities that feed into the Indian Ocean.

The US-China strategic conflict in Africa finds sharpest expression in Congo. Congo's mineral fields alone contain over 90 percent of the world's cobalt, the rare earth metal necessary to the production of modern electronics and smart phones.

Washington's drive to assert control over the mineral fields in eastern Congo has already produced two Congo wars in the two decades, leading to the deaths of millions. US aggression against the Congo, driven inexorably forward by the insoluble crisis of American and world capitalism, is leading a third and larger Congo war.

There are increasing signs that Washington is preparing to move against the Kabila government in Kinshasa. President Kabila bucked Western demands that he leave office at the beginning of 2017, and on May 11 announced the formation of a new government, appointing Bruno Tshibala as prime minister.

Kabila faces a country in chaos. The value of Congolese currency has plunged by 50 percent since beginning of 2017. The American media is promoting Moise Katumbi, former governor of Congo's Katanga province, as a suitable replacement. Reports indicate that

Katumbi has travelled to Europe in an effort to position himself as the leader of de-stabilization operations against Kabila.

A logical infrastructure plan for linking Africa's Indian and Atlantic Ocean coasts would cut directly through the heart of Congo, the largest and wealthiest country in the region. Instead, Beijing plans to bypass Congolese territory with two corridors, skirting around the northern and southern borders of Congo. This decision was obviously taken in consideration of the dozens of feuding militias and mercenary groups which emerged directly out of the CIA-backed wars. Washington has employed these forces for decades in an effort to seize direct control of Congo's resources on behalf of American corporations and destabilize Congo's central government.

INDIA – AFRICA :

Thinking Africa: India, Japan, and the Asia-Africa Growth Corridor

Outlining India and Japan's approaches to Africa, separately and bilaterally.

By Titli Basu June 03, 2017

[Source : <http://thediplomat.com/2017/06/thinking-africa-india-japan-and-the-asia-africa-growth-corridor/>]

Prime Ministers Narendra Modi and Shinzo Abe have looked to the Indo-Pacific theater to further expand the scope of India-Japan cooperation. The 2016 India-Japan joint statement underscored the importance of coordinating bilaterally and with other countries for developing better regional economic linkages, connectivity, and facilitating industrial networks employing collective capabilities. Besides exploring prospects for cooperation in Southeast Asia, South Asia, and adjoining regions like Iran and Afghanistan, Indian and Japanese leaders have marked Africa as a priority in this regard.

While the continent has been included in Tokyo and New Delhi's bilateral discussions since the institution of India-Japan Dialogue on Africa in 2010, the leadership infused further momentum with the conceptualization of the Asia-Africa Growth Corridor (AAGC) in November 2016. The AAGC is an important component of the India-Japan Vision 2025 for Indo-Pacific Region. It further converges with Japan's Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy and Expanded Partnership for Quality Infrastructure (EPQI) and India's development cooperation with Africa and Act East Policy.

Following up, India hosted a special session on India-Japan cooperation for the development of Africa at the 52nd Annual Meeting of the African Development Bank (AfDB) in May 2017. Reiterating the bilateral commitment toward African development, Modi argued that India, in cooperation with Japan and African stakeholders, is committed to pursue developmental cooperation that is “responsive to the needs of African countries.” The AAGC Vision Document, jointly crafted by India’s Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), Indonesia’s Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), and Japan’s Institute of Developing Economies (IDE-JETRO), underscores that this growth corridor is focused on four priority areas, including development projects, quality infrastructure and institutional connectivity, skill development and capacity building, and people-to-people cooperation. The objective is to pursue joint initiatives in various sectors such as health, infrastructure, manufacturing, and connectivity, in keeping with the development priorities of Africa and the Sustainable Development Goals. Enjoying this article? [Click here to subscribe for full access.](#) Just \$5 a month.

Japan is pushing for collaboration with India to decrease market risks in Africa. Combining India’s experience and understanding of the African market with Japan’s technological know-how and funding capabilities will lead to a “win-win scenario” in realizing Africa’s growth opportunities. At the special session of the AfDB, stakeholders deliberated on the prospects of promoting African business through private-public partnerships. Aligning with the African Union (AU)-designed Agenda 2063 founded on inclusive growth, AAGC aims to advance sustainable development and interconnectedness between and within the two growth poles of Asia and Africa to encourage a free and open Indo-Pacific.

While India instituted the India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) to further its engagement with Africa, Japan's Africa outreach is done primarily through the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD). Tokyo is concentrating on three important areas, in keeping with the focus of Japanese private sectors, including the Northern corridor, Nacala corridor, and the growth area in West Africa; resources and energy development; and urban development. Japanese investment will be effected partially by using the Enhanced Private Sector Assistance for Africa (EPSA), conceived in partnership with the AfDB. In addition, Japan under the Abe Initiative 2.0 aims to nurture "manufacturing and maintenance service personnel" and capacity building of technical personnel in the field of natural resource development. Besides the economic rationale, Japan also aims to garner African nations' support for its ambitions at the UN Security Council.

Japan's Africa policy is founded on resource and economic diplomacy, especially the export of infrastructure. The estimated infrastructure financing deficit of Africa stands at \$100 billion annually. Abe, committed to a "quality, resilient, and stable Africa," has pledged \$30 billion in investment by 2018, including \$10 billion in infrastructure development. Japan aims to promote high quality infrastructure partnerships and facilitate expansion to emerging markets. The June 2013 Japan Revitalization Strategy articulated the significance of creating new frontiers for growth by capturing the international infrastructure market. It argued for tripling infrastructure sales by 2020. The Strategy looks to Africa while discussing strategic initiatives for obtaining overseas markets. The Keidanren (Japan Business Federation) also identified African countries as priority region in its "Toward Strategic Promotion of the Infrastructure Export" policy proposal.

India, meanwhile, has invested in the continent based on a “model of cooperation... free of conditions,” prioritizing the needs of the African stakeholders. The Delhi Declaration 2015, “Partners in Progress: Towards a Dynamic and Transformative Development Agenda” adopted at the IAFS is aligned with the objectives of Agenda 2063. India’s Africa policy draws strength from India’s support for democracy, anti-colonialism, anti-racism, and India’s contribution by way of developmental aid and participation in the UN peacekeeping operations in Africa. At the 2015 IAFS, India extended \$10 billion aimed at development projects over five years and offered \$600 million in grant assistance, including an India-Africa development fund of \$100 million. Indian engagement has focused on education, capacity building, skill and human resources development, and the Pan-African e-network supporting tele-education, tele-medicine, and e-commerce.

Meanwhile, as Africa’s economic growth gathers momentum, India’s interests are shaped by expanding African markets. The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), in its report “The Rising Africa,” argued that resources, a mounting consumer base, and generally positive economic projections influence interest in the continent as a business and investment target. With an objective of achieving \$100 billion in bilateral trade in the next two years, the focus is on power, pharmaceuticals, ICT, and services.

India’s energy stakes are another important variable shaping New Delhi’s approach toward Africa. Africa’s hydrocarbon sector is of interest in order to fuel the Indian economic engine. 2014 crude import statistics reflect that India sourced 16 percent of its consumption (32 million metric tonnes, or MMT) from Africa: 3 MMT from North Africa and 29 MMT from West Africa, primarily from Nigeria and Angola.

Drawing from India and Japan's respective stakes in the continent, as well as their bilateral and regional ambitions in the Indo-Pacific, Tokyo and New Delhi have paved the way for greater coordination in Africa. Where there is an alignment of interests, India has invested in strengthening relations with likeminded countries. New Delhi is working with Washington and Tokyo to support African development.

Founded on a consultative and inclusive approach, the idea of AAGC is aimed at cultivating value chains, integrating and developing a competitive economic bloc, thereby accelerating Africa and Asia's development trajectory. However, translating the idea into deliverables will require India and Japan to conceive of joint projects aiding capacity building, infrastructure, and connectivity; synergize their resources and capabilities; and most importantly ensure the efficient implementation of these projects to demonstrate bilateral commitment to African partners.

Titli Basu is an associate fellow at the Institute for Defense Studies and Analyses (IDSA), New Delhi.

EUROPE – AFRICA :

EU commits \$50 million to combat terrorism in West Africa

The vast Sahel region south of the Sahara is a breeding ground for terrorism, since security gaps between territories loom large. EU funding aims to enhance regional cooperation against jihadist terrorists and druglords.

The European Union is funding 50 million euros (\$56 million) to fight terrorism in the vast West African Sahel region south of the Sahara desert that is a breeding ground for jihadists. Some militants have ties to al Qaeda and so-called Islamic State (IS) in a terrorist hot spot that has been dubbed the "arc of instability."

EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini released a statement on Monday during a visit to Bamako, the capital of Mali.

"The stability and development of the Sahel region are crucial, not only for Africa but also for Europe. We are neighbors and what happens on one of our continents has an impact on the other," Mogherini said at the annual conference of EU representatives and the five francophone countries known as the Sahel G-5.

Those countries are Mauritania, Mali, Chad, Burkina Faso and Niger. At a summit in the Chadian capital of N'Djamena in November 2015, the G-5 agreed to create a multi-lateral force in the region to combat terrorism.

"The idea is for regional forces to improve their cooperation in tackling jihadist terrorism, since terrorist attacks go beyond national frontiers," said Paul Melly, a fellow of the Africa program at the London-based think tank Chatham House.

"In the long term it's a building block for the day when the UN forces and potentially the French deployment in Sahel are withdrawn in several years time. The hope is by that stage the Sahel countries will have a strong enough military capacity of their own," Melly said in an interview with DW.

French president Emmanuel Macron meeting French soldiers in Mali (Reuters/C. Petit Tesson)

New President Emmanuel Macron greets French troops in Gao, underscoring the importance of the Sahel region.

The EU force is expected to become operational at the end of this year and will reinforce the French and UN peacekeeping troops already stationed in the region.

Development aid spending much higher

France has already deployed about 4,000 troops across the five G-5 countries since January 2013 when Islamist insurgents who had hijacked a Tuareg-led rebellion in the north of Mali attacked civilians and security forces. Although French efforts to drive out the militants were successful, the UN mission still remains under threat from sporadic attacks that have left over 100 peacekeepers dead over the past four years. Furthermore, the violence has spread into other parts of Mali in the south and has spilled over into neighboring countries such as Burkina Faso, Niger and Ivory Coast.

The EU funding however is a drop in the bucket compared to the 1.8 billion euros the bloc is already investing in development aid for the region. Poverty and harsh environmental conditions in the

vast arid region has made the Sahel countries particularly vulnerable to terrorism as well as narcotics smuggling.

"It is a great place for terrorism and drug trafficking to develop. The borders are not well-controlled. The area is huge. Just Mali alone is three times the size of France," said Remi Hemeryck, director-general of SOS Sahel, a grassroots NGO organization that seeks to tackle the root causes of poverty and food insecurity in the region.

An army helicopter flies over the desert landscape of northern Mali (Pascal Guyot/AFP/Getty Images)

Poverty and security gaps in the vast Sahel makes the region vulnerable to terrorists and drug trafficking.

"It makes sense for all the states to coordinate efforts for protecting civilians and organizations working in development, but at the same time it is necessary to invest in social and economic development, too. The 50 million euros may be a beginning for better coordination between the G-5 countries. It is important not to leave gaps between the territories," he added.

Just last week France retaliated against some 20 Islamist militants and killed them after several French peacekeepers in a UN camp in the north of Mali had been wounded by a mortar attack.

Underscoring the importance of security and coordinated efforts for the Sahel region, French President Emmanuel Macron paid a visit to Mali in May shortly after taking office. It was his first official trip outside Europe. Macron called on other European countries, including Germany, to provide additional military assistance and development aid.

Diana Fong (Reuters/AFP)

[Source : <http://www.dw.com/en/eu-commits-50-million-to-combat-terrorism-in-west-africa/a-39134173>]

A trade deal between the EU and east Africa is in trouble

The EU's push for new trade deals in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific faces headwinds

May 25th 2017 | KAMPALA

THE winds that waft along the Swahili coast change direction with the seasons, a boon to traders in times past. Shifts in the political winds are harder to predict. Last July a proposed trade deal between five countries of the East African Community (EAC) and the EU was thrown into disarray when Tanzania backed out at the last minute. An EAC summit, scheduled for months ago, was meant to find a way forward. Held at last on May 20th in Dar es Salaam, after many postponements, only two presidents showed up. The deal is in the doldrums.

The pact is one of seven “Economic Partnership Agreements” (EPAs) the EU wants to sign with regional groups in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific. The first was agreed with the Caribbean in 2008; southern Africa followed suit last year. But progress in west Africa has also stalled, with Nigeria raising objections. The EPAs were promoted as a new breed of trade deal, and were supposed to bring development and regional co-operation. So far they have brought neither.

Negotiations on EPAs began in 2002. Under previous conventions, the EU gave favourable market access to African, Caribbean and Pacific countries, most of them former colonies. That fell foul of World Trade Organisation rules. Hence the idea of EPAs: reciprocal deals, requiring both parties to open their markets.

Two obstacles have to be surmounted. First, EPAs overlap with existing trade arrangements. The poorest countries, like Tanzania, already enjoy duty-free and quota-free access to the EU under an initiative called “Everything But Arms”. That could one day be withdrawn, but at present they see little to gain by opening their markets.

Second, countries within the same region face different incentives. Take Kenya, richer than Tanzania and not eligible for Everything But Arms. It ratified the EPA last year and needs others to do so for the deal to come into force. It recalls the pain of 2014, when the EU briefly slapped tariffs on its exports, such as cut flowers, and is frustrated by Tanzanian foot-dragging.

A more profound question is whether EPAs really are good for development. African manufacturers worry about European competition: nascent industries are “prone to being overrun” by imports, warns Segun Ajayi-Kadir of the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria, which lobbies against the west African deal. EU officials point out that slashing tariffs will help manufacturing by making imported machinery cheaper. African markets would open gradually, and some sectors are excluded. Details vary, but EPAs typically liberalise about 80% of imports over 20 years. Many of those goods already enter duty-free.

The EPAs would make it harder (though not impossible) for countries to use certain kinds of industrial policy, such as export

taxes. The EU does not think such policies do much good anyway. But some governments do, and do not want their hands tied. They fear that promised safeguards, such as an “infant industry” clause, to protect some domestic businesses, would be hard to invoke. They will also lose tariff revenues, an important source of income in countries where other taxes are tricky to raise. It all adds up to a “form of colonialism”, fumes John Magufuli, Tanzania’s interventionist president.

Economic evidence is mixed. Although models typically find trade gains on both sides, it is European exporters that would be the biggest winners. Within Africa, gains would mostly accrue to better-off countries in sectors such as sugar, meat and dairy (rather than to manufacturing industry). Their extra sales to the EU would come partly at the expense of trade with African partners, says David Luke of the UN Economic Commission for Africa.

Ultimately “it’s about politics”, argues San Bilal of the European Centre for Development Policy Management, a think-tank. The EPAs are mired in regional rivalries, he notes, against a backdrop of global trade uncertainty after the Brexit vote and Donald Trump’s election. The next step for the east African deal is a quixotic mission to Brussels with Yoweri Museveni, the Ugandan president, at the helm. Don’t expect the trade winds to start blowing.

This article appeared in the Finance and economics section of the print edition under the headline "Blown off course"

[Source : <http://www.economist.com/news/finance-and-economics/21722684-eus-push-new-trade-deals-africa-caribbean-and-pacific-faces>]