



[Burkina Faso's military must return the country to civilian rule within the next two weeks or face sanctions, the African Union has said. The interim president promised a "consensus" leader ahead of the AU demand. The African Union (AU) gave the army two weeks to transfer power to the civilian authorities and threatened to target the country's economy if it didn't comply.]

BURUNDI :

RWANDA :

RDC CONGO :

RDC : Beni, symbole du mal congolais

mardi, 04 novembre 2014/afrikarabia

Multiplicité de groupes armés, inefficacité de l'armée congolaise, impuissance des Nations unies et silence de Kinshasa... Les tueries à répétition de Beni rappellent aux Congolais que le pays ne s'est pas encore débarrassé de ses vieux démons.

L'émotion et la colère sont toujours vives à Beni, une ville du Nord-Est de la République démocratique du Congo (RDC). Entre le 2 octobre et le 2 novembre 2014, une vague de massacres

à répétition a coûté la vie à 120 civils, tués par des assaillants, essentiellement à la machette. Ces attaques ont été attribuées par l'armée congolaise aux rebelles ougandais des ADF-Nalu. Le dernier carnage en date remonte à la nuit du 1 au 2 novembre dernier, pendant laquelle 11 personnes ont été tués et 2 militaires abattus dans un quartier de Beni. Ironie du sort, le président Joseph Kabila, en visite dans la région, venait tout juste de quitter la ville. Comme un pied de nez des groupes armés à l'inaction des forces de sécurité. La colère de la population est très vite montée. Contre les casques bleus de la Monusco tout d'abord, censée les protéger, puis contre le gouvernement de Kinshasa, qui semble les abandonner. Il aura fallu attendre deux semaines de massacre et de troubles pour le président congolais se rendre à Beni. Résultat : les attaques continuent, le mécontentement de la population s'est transformée en émeute et la ville est désormais placée sous couvre-feu. Pire, les assaillants auraient laissé un message annonçant leur intention de venir « égorger les gens de Butembo », un ville voisine.

Une cinquantaine de groupes armés toujours actifs

Après les tueries est très vite venu le temps des questions : les ADF-Nalu sont-ils réellement les auteurs des attaques ? Quel rôle a joué l'armée congolaise ? Pourquoi la Monusco n'est pas intervenue ? Pourquoi Kinshasa a mis deux semaines à réagir ? Autant de questions qui résument bien l'extrême fragilité de la situation sécuritaire en République démocratique du Congo, alors que les rebelles du M23 ont déposé les armes depuis la fin 2013. La chute du M23, présentée par Kinshasa comme une « victoire » de l'armée congolaise (avec tout de même l'aide de la Brigade de l'ONU) a fait croire que les FARDC étaient en passe de re-sécuriser la région. D'ailleurs, en janvier dernier, l'armée congolaise, soutenue par la Monusco, avait mené une série d'attaque contre les ADF-Nalu dans la zone. Des communiqués gouvernementaux affirmaient que le mouvement avait été fortement affaibli par ces raids. Visiblement il n'en est rien. Il faut noter que ce mouvement, en lutte contre le régime du président ougandais Museveni, est installé en RDC depuis... 1995 ! En 19 ans de présence sur le sol congolais, les ADF-Nalu ont donc noué des alliances (souvent de circonstances) avec les nombreux autres groupes armés présents dans la région, et notamment Maï-Maï. Ce qui fait dire à beaucoup, que la responsabilité des seuls ADF (estimés entre 800 et 1.000 combattants), n'est pas établie dans les massacres de Beni. Le chercheur Christoph Vogel recense la cartographie des groupes armés dans l'Est de la RDC. Malgré la défaite du M23, il en reste encore une petite cinquantaine, du Nord-Kivu au Katanga. Pire, entre le mois de juin et octobre 2014, le nombre de groupes armés n'a pas diminué et leur territoire d'influence s'est élargi, comme on peut le voir sur (...)

UGANDA :

SOUTH AFRICA :

Selling China on South Africa

By Yang Lan /Source:Global Times/2014-11-3

During the last 14 days of October, representatives from 51 South African companies visited Hong Kong, Shenzhen, Chengdu, Shanghai and Beijing to exhibit their products and services at the fourth South African Expos in China.

The Department of Trade and Industry of South Africa held a media conference Wednesday to share their accomplishments of this most recent trip.

According to the trade department, 51 South African companies from sectors such as agro-processing, chemicals, plastics, steel, aluminum, automotive, electro-technical, manufactured products, capital equipment, paper and pulp, energy and renewable energy, infrastructure, information and communication technology (ICT), transport, mining and minerals beneficiation participated in the expos in China this year.

Some of the companies are exhibitors, and some are investors who came to find partners and opportunities in the Chinese market.

"The delegation has found an interest from Chinese companies in automotive and heavy industries. We hope that there will be a number of opportunities in that particular area," said Mzwandile Masina, the Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry of South Africa. "We also see a huge interest from the Chinese market in value-added goods like food processing and wine. We have signed one or two contracts with Chinese companies. We hope that when President Jacob Zuma comes to China in November, he will finalize the deals and sign the contracts with local companies."

To celebrate the 16th year of diplomatic relations between South Africa and China, 2014 has been christened "The Year of South Africa in China."

"South Africa in China celebrations have coincided with South Africa's celebration of 20 years of freedom and democracy. South Africa is holding activities including cultural promotions, art shows, trade exhibitions and fairs, academic research and educational exchanges in China, with China undertaking a variety of introduction, promotion and exchange activities in South Africa," Rob Davies, Minister of Trade and Industry, said in statement from the Department of Trade and Industry.

China is South Africa's No.1 trade partner. The relationship between South Africa and China has been in favor of China for a long time. However, in recent years, trade has increased in favor of South Africa.

"In 2013, the trade volume between the two countries was 247 billion rand (\$22.29 billion), and this year it has grown to 280 billion rand. It represents a big increase. The structure of trade has improved in favor of South Africa," Masina told the Global Times.

South Africa is seeking to modernize its agricultural sector. There is more focus on the agro-processing industry. South Africa's canned food exports to China total almost 300 million rand. But it remains insufficient. South Africa will upgrade this industry and export more value-added products to the Chinese market.

While China's economy continues to grow, there will be a lot of investment into South Africa. South African companies have begun to realize some of the potential investment opportunities in China too. As China's economic growth slows, South Africa's new strategy is to develop the local market.

According to Masina, there is no Ebola in South Africa, since South Africa is located in the southern end of Africa. However, the South African government is well-prepared to fight the virus.

Concerned about the situation in western Africa, South Africa has deployed its medical team to help countries there fight the virus.

"Africa is an emerging market. South Africa wants to make sure that it is free of diseases like Ebola, so that if a country trades with South Africa, it can trade with the rest of the continent," Masina said, adding that South Africa has made great progress in the research for a cure for Ebola.

TANZANIA :

'Fast asleep' Tanzanian port wakes up to solar power

Source: Thomson Reuters Foundation /Tue, 4 Nov 2014

KISIJU PWANI, Tanzania (Thomson Reuters Foundation) - This Indian Ocean port town is among the poorest villages in Tanzania. But residents once starved for electricity can now watch television or listen to the radio at home, or eat dinner in the evenings at one of the well-lit open-air food stalls. What has changed? The arrival of solar power.

Before the panels were set up last year, "the village was fast asleep," admitted Kisiju Pwani executive secretary Sadiki Chande Matonela.

Now, street lights have let food vendors stay open into the evening and security lights at the port have helped curb once rampant theft, he said.

A stable power supply also has enabled Ramadhani Dau, 34, and his wife Zainabu Thabiti, a former health officer, to open the Kisiju Pwani village pharmacy, saving villagers a long journey to the nearest town. A building materials and hardware shop also has opened since the solar energy arrived.

Kisiju Pwani was singled out to receive solar panels from a shortlist of a dozen of the poorest rural villages in Tanzania, and the equipment was subsequently installed by the University of Dar es Salaam in collaboration with the University of Oslo, with \$430,000 in financial backing from the Norwegian development agency, NORAD.

The village itself also contributed 20 percent of the cost by providing land for the mini-grid and security guards to ensure its protection.

The new 12-kilowatt system includes 32 photovoltaic solar panels and a battery bank of 120 batteries that store the sun's energy for use at night.

The mini-grid is big enough to benefit in some way about half of the 3,994 villagers, officials say. Its backbone is a power line running through half the village, with cables buried a metre underground for safety.

So far, the system powers 20 street lights and provides energy for 68 homes, 15 businesses, the sea port, the village government offices and two mosques.

LIGHTS, FANS AND PHONES

Now villagers in the coverage area can switch on their lights and fans, charge their mobile phones, listen to radio, watch television and say their prayers in well-lit rooms for just 10,000 to 20,000 Tanzanian shillings (\$6 to \$12) a month, village officials say.

Villagers were involved in planning and carrying out the project, and a village committee is

responsible for managing the mini-grid, with a technical team in charge of operations and maintenance.

The project was also purposely sited near the most visible parts of the community “to attract the attention of many passersby” and help popularise the technology, said Bakari Mwinyiwiwa, an energy professor at the University of Dar es Salaam.

Kisiju Pwani lies in the Coast region, considered one of the poorest regions on the Tanzanian mainland in terms of access to services.

Located 50 km (30 miles) from Mkuranga, the closest town connected to the national grid, and 100 km (60 miles) from rapidly growing Dar es Salaam, the village relied mainly on kerosene for lighting and wood for cooking before the arrival of the solar panels. It had little prospect of being linked to grid power, Mwinyiwiwa said.

Plans for the Tanzania Electric Supply Company (TANESCO), the country’s sole electrical supplier, to extend grid services to remote rural areas have foundered, largely because of the high costs and the inability of rural residents to bear the costs.

Around 36 percent of Tanzanians have access to electricity. But in rural areas, where 80 percent of people live, only 7 percent can get electricity, government figures show.

KENYA :

Louisville teacher resigns after parents raise Ebola concerns over trip to Kenya

By Herald-Leader Staff Report/November 3, 2014

A teacher at a private school in Louisville has resigned rather than take a paid leave because of fears over Ebola.

Susan Sherman, a teacher at St. Margaret Mary Catholic School who also is a registered nurse, recently returned from a medical mission trip to Kenya, The Courier-Journal reported.

Though Kenya, in eastern Africa, has not had any reported cases of Ebola, the school asked Sherman to take a 21-day paid leave as a precaution because parents had raised concerns, according to the newspaper.

Sherman also was asked to get a note from her doctor giving her a clean bill of health, the newspaper reported.

Sherman's husband, Paul Sherman, said in a letter sent last week to Louisville Archbishop Joseph Kurtz that parents and staff had "unfounded fears" that were "triumphing over truth and reason." The couple wanted to have an informational meeting about their trip and Ebola, but "were put off until our 'quarantine' is over," Paul Sherman wrote.

Susan Sherman, who the newspaper said was not immediately available to comment, began teaching at the school this year, though she has taught in the archdiocese in various capacities since 1998.

Paul Sherman said the couple planned to return to Kenya next year with the same organization, Kenya Relief.

Kenya to Hold Rate as Inflation Over Mid-Target, Survey Says

By David Malingha Doya /businessweek.com/November 04, 2014

The Central Bank of Kenya will probably hold its benchmark interest rate as inflation remains at the upper end of the target range.

The Monetary Policy Committee led by bank Governor Njuguna Ndung'u will leave the key rate unchanged at 8.5 percent, according to four of five economists and analysts in a survey by Bloomberg News. One forecast an increase of 50 basis points. The bank is scheduled to announce its decision today.

"Inflation has receded, but it is still high," Robert Bunyi, managing director of Nairobi-based Mavuno Capital, said by phone. "The policy committee's natural comfort zone for the inflation rate is 5 percent."

Ndung'u said in September he expects the inflation rate will range between 5 percent and 7 percent for the rest of the year because the outlook for prices remains stable. The bank has left the policy rate unchanged since July 2013.

Consumer-price growth in East Africa's largest economy came back within the 2.5 percent to 7.5 percent range in September due to the base effects of a tax increase a year earlier, after hitting a more than two-year high of 8.4 percent in August. Inflation slowed further to 6.4 percent in October on lower food and transportation costs.

The inflation rate in Kenya is the highest in the region after Tanzania's, which stood at 6.6 percent in September. In neighboring Uganda, the rate was 1.8 percent last month, 0.2 percent in Rwanda in September and Burundi recorded 5.5 percent price growth in August, according to the latest data.

GDP Overhaul

Pressure on Kenyan policy makers to boost the economy eased after the statistics bureau adjusted last year's growth rate to 5.7 percent from 4.7 percent during an overhaul in the calculation of gross domestic product.

The data revision announced in September increased the size of the economy by a quarter to \$55 billion. The government hasn't provided a new projection for this year's growth rate.

The shilling depreciated for a second day, falling less than 1 percent to 89.65 per dollar by 8:40 a.m. in the capital, Nairobi, taking its decline this year to 3.8 percent. A close at this level would be the weakest since Dec. 6, 2011.

ANGOLA :

Angola's Sonangol to supply Pertamina

Raras Cahyafitri, The Jakarta Post, Jakarta/Tue, November 04 2014

Angolan oil and gas giant Sonangol EP expects to start delivering crude oil to PT Pertamina as early as next year to help the country secure supply of the valuable commodity amid growing demand.

“It may take between one to three months” to detail the cooperation — including the contracts, shipping and the number of cargoes to be delivered —, Sonangol board of directors chairman Francisco de Lemos Jose Maria said after a meeting with Pertamina and the energy and mineral resources minister on Monday. “We are talking about around one cargo a month,” Lemos said when asked about the volume the company would send to Indonesia.

Angola currently produces about 1.7 million barrel of oil per day (bopd) while domestic consumption is only at 128,000 bopd, according to figures from the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). Angola's proven crude oil reserves now stand at 9 billion barrel.

Meanwhile, Indonesia, a former member of OPEC, is currently suffering from higher oil consumption amid declining national output as old oil fields have been depleted due to past exploitation. The country's oil production currently stands at around 800,000 bopd while consumption has hit 1.6 million bopd.

“[Indonesia] is a big country with 200 plus million consumers that need energy supplies,” Lemos spoke of the country's promising market.

Sonangol and Pertamina signed last week a framework of agreement, under which the two firms have agreed to cooperate in the upstream sector of the oil and gas business, development of petroleum refinery and petrochemical refinery, as well as cooperation in the import and export of refined products, crude oil and natural gas.

“The basic principle of a good supply chain is that we must have alternative sources, fair relation with the market and independency. This is the start that we look for when looking at alternatives and whenever possible, make a direct purchases,” Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Sudirman Said said.

Under Sonangol and Pertamina's agreement, the two firms will also assess the possibility of building refineries in the country.

Pertamina acting president director Muhammad Husen said the two firms had established task force teams to work on details of their cooperation, including refinery development. The economical capacity of a refinery in the country would be 200,000 to 300,000 bopd, he added.

“We expect to have a long-term contract for supply guarantee for 15 to 20 years. We hope to break ground [on development] as soon as possible,” Husen said.

The cooperation is also expected to open opportunities for Pertamina to do business overseas, including in Angola. Pertamina is currently undergoing a massive overseas expansion to boost its hydrocarbon portfolio as domestic oil production continues to decline.

The company said earlier that it expected to have 600,000 barrel of oil equivalent per day (boepd) of oil and gas production from overseas blocks by 2025.

The overseas portfolio is part of the company's ambitious goal to book 2.2 million boepd in total production, from domestic and international operations, by 2025.

This year, Pertamina aims to report 554,174 boepd in output, which would be a 19 percent increase compared to 465,220 boepd in 2013. However, it would likely reach only 94 percent of the target, Husen said. For 2015, Pertamina, which ranks 122nd on the prestigious Fortune 500 list, is targeting to see 9 percent growth in production, according to Husen.

AU/AFRICA :

African Union gives Burkina Faso army ultimatum

03.11.2014 /dw.de

Burkina Faso's military must return the country to civilian rule within the next two weeks or face sanctions, the African Union has said. The interim president promised a "consensus" leader ahead of the AU demand.

The African Union (AU) gave the army two weeks to transfer power to the civilian authorities and threatened to target the country's economy if it didn't comply.

"The African Union is convinced the change has been against democracy," the head of the AU's Peace and Security Council, Simeon Oyono Esono, said on Monday in Addis Ababa.

However, noting that "popular pressure" had forced long-time leader Blaise Compaore to step down, Esono said that the AU had "determined a period of two weeks, and after that period we are going to apply sanctions."

The threat of sanctions followed words of condemnation [from the United Nations, the United States and the European Union](#) over the weekend in reaction to the military's taking control of the country.

If the army refuses to hand power back, "the consequences are pretty clear," said UN envoy for West Africa Mohamed Ibn Chambas. "We want to avoid having to impose sanctions on Burkina Faso."

Army chief promises 'consensus' leader

Ahead of the AU's announcement on Monday, Burkina Faso's interim president, Lieutenant Colonel Isaac Zida, had vowed that the army would be quick to give up power and transfer the rule to a

transitional government. Zida said that his role was to ensure a "smooth democratic transition," during a meeting with diplomats in the capital city Ouagadougou.

"We are not here to usurp power and to sit in place and run the country but to help the country come out of this situation," Zida said. He gave no timeframe for the transition, but said he wanted a new government in place within the "shortest possible" period of time.

The Monday talks built on meetings between Zida and the ambassadors of former colonial power France, the United States and the European Union Sunday evening.

Calm returns to the capital

After naming Zida as interim head of state two days ago, the military said that "power does not interest us." Still, its takeover sparked angry protests over the weekend and was criticized by opposition, the African Union and Western powers demanding civilian rule.

On Sunday, [troops dispersed thousands of demonstrators](#) gathered at a rally against the military takeover in the capital city, using armored vehicles. One person was killed Ouagadougou appeared calmer on Monday, with banks reopening and traffic returning to the streets. An overnight curfew remained in place.

Compaore fled

According to the Burkina Faso constitution, the head of the National Assembly is to take office if the president resigns, with a mandate to organize elections within 90 days.

However, this official has reportedly fled the country, along with now ex-President Blaise Compaore and other senior members of his regime.

One of the representatives of the opposition party UNIR/MS, Benewende Stanislas Sankara, expressed concern at the army's role in overseeing governance.

"Nobody can place their confidence in the army. But the military authorities in power now appear to be acting in good faith," he told Reuters news agency.

dj/kms (AP, Reuters, AFP)

Attentat au Nigeria contre une cérémonie chiite, 29 morts

Le 03-11-2014/ Reuters

YOBE [Nigeria](#) (Reuters) - Vingt-neuf personnes au moins ont péri dans un attentat suicide qui a visé une procession chiite à l'occasion du rituel de l'Achoura, lundi dans le nord-est du Nigeria, ont rapporté des témoins.

Le kamikaze s'était joint à la procession avant d'actionner ses charges, alors que les participants traversaient un marché de la localité de Potiskum, dans l'Etat de Yobe, en proie à l'insurrection des islamistes de l'organisation Boko Haram.

Lors de l'Achoura, les chiites marquent l'anniversaire de la mort de l'imam Hussein, petit-fils de Mahomet, en l'an 680, à la bataille de Kerbala en Irak.

Dans la nuit de dimanche à lundi, dans le centre du pays, des hommes armés ont par ailleurs investi à coups d'explosifs une prison de la ville de Lokoja.

Une personne a été tuée et 144 détenus ont été libérés, a déclaré à Reuters le coordinateur des

prisons de l'Etat de Kogi, Adams Omale, selon lequel 26 fugitifs ont par la suite été repris. Il n'a pas voulu préciser si certains prisonniers étaient membres de Boko Haram.

Ces nouvelles violences ont entraîné de nouvelles critiques de l'opposition nigériane contre le président Goodluck Jonathan, qui briguera un second mandat en février prochain et dont le gouvernement avait affirmé le mois dernier qu'un accord de cessez-le-feu avait été conclu avec les islamistes.

"Le président a échoué dans sa mission la plus importante: assurer la sécurité et le bien-être des Nigériens", a accusé le Congrès progressiste (ACP), qui regroupe quatre partis d'opposition, dans un communiqué.

World Bank chief urges Asian health help in Africa

04 Nov 2014 /- AFP/rw

World Bank President Jim Yong Kim has urged Asian countries to send their healthcare experts to West Africa to help fight the spread of Ebola.

SEOUL: World Bank President Jim Yong Kim on Tuesday (Nov 4) urged Asia to send trained health workers to Ebola-stricken West Africa, warning the focus on stricter border control was not the solution.

"I call on countries across Asia to offer trained health workers now to help stop Ebola at its source," Kim told reporters in Seoul. He welcomed efforts by South Korea, China and Japan to send medical personnel or equipment to combat the outbreak. Asia has a wealth of medical personnel who could be "among the heroes needed now on the frontlines" Kim said, but added that many Asian countries "who could help simply are not - especially when it comes to sending health workers".

"Focusing only on border control is not the right response. The world needs to put the fire out because if it doesn't Ebola could spread to any country, including those here in Asia," Kim said. Asia must send "trained health professional teams" to the three worst-hit countries - Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone, he said, adding just 30 medical teams from around the world have gone to the epicentre of the growing crisis so far.

The World Bank has warned of potentially catastrophic economic losses from the outbreak in West Africa where the deadly disease has killed almost 5,000. The World Health Organization, has so far recorded more than 13,000 cases but admits the real number of could be much higher.

In early October, the World Bank joined the WHO and the UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response to set a "70/70/60" goal: to isolate and treat 70 per cent of suspected Ebola cases in West Africa and safely bury 70 per cent of the dead within the next 60 days. It has marshalled some US\$500 million to help battle the disease as well as strengthen social services in the three countries over the medium term.

Sierra Leone Loses Fifth Doctor to Ebola

3 November 2014 /allafrica.com

Sierra Leone has lost its fifth local doctor to Ebola. Dr. Godfrey George had driven himself to Freetown after feeling unwell. Sierra Leone's meager health system has just over 100 doctors for its 6 million people.

Sierra Leone's chief medical officer Brima Kargbo said Dr. George had checked himself into "the Chinese hospital at Jui outside Freetown," but died of the virus on Monday.

He said the late Dr. George, who was medical superintendent at Kambia Hospital in northern Sierra Leone, might have contracted the virus from a patient he treated for another illness. He had not directly treated Ebola patients.

Stop touching

Although international help is gradually arriving, the head of the UN mission in Sierra Leone, Anthony Banbury, said more assistance was needed. He also urged Sierra Leoneans to stop touching their sick and dead.

"If people do not change their behavior, more people will continue to die," he said.

Even before this year's Ebola outbreak in western Africa, Sierra Leone's medical system lacked basic resources such as protective gloves as it tried to recover from its civil war between 1991 and 2002.

Ebola has killed 100 Sierra Leonean health workers this year, including the five doctors, and as well as nurses and other medical staff.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has recorded more than 4,900 Ebola deaths across West Africa among 13,500 cases of infection.

Liberian Assistant Health Minister Tolbert Nyenswah warned on Monday against complacency, saying although Liberia's outbreak had slowed, "it will not be over until all countries report zero cases for over 21 days."

'Stop the virus at its source'

UN chief Ban Ki-moon has criticized countries outside West Africa for imposing "unnecessarily" strict restrictions on travelers.

Ban said the best way to tackle Ebola was to "stop the virus at its source, rather than limiting and restricting the movement of people and trade."

Authorities should regard health workers, whom he described as "extraordinary people," just like anyone else as long they were symptom-free, Ban said.

Singapore to impose controls

Singapore media said Monday that the Asian nation would impose visa restrictions on residents from Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia from Wednesday.

On Saturday, Canada said it would suspend the processing of visa applications from people who had been in West Africa.

The WHO said Mali appears to be free of Ebola despite the death of an infected toddler from

Guinea.

UN/AFRICA :

After botching Ebola, WHO to pick new Africa boss

By MARIA CHENG/AP Medical Writer/November 3, 2014

LONDON — After acknowledging that it bungled the response to the biggest Ebola outbreak in history, the World Health Organization is electing a new regional director for its Africa office this week. Critics say it's about time.

WHO Africa is widely acknowledged to be the U.N. health agency's weakest regional office. In an internal draft document obtained by the Associated Press last month, WHO blamed its staff in Africa for initially botching the response to Ebola, describing many of its regional staff as "politically-motivated appointments" and noted numerous complaints about WHO officials in West Africa.

WHO has six regional offices including Africa — all of them are largely autonomous and do not answer to the Geneva headquarters. The U.N. agency was intentionally set up as a fragmented organization in 1948 because it was feared existing regional health organizations wouldn't want to join WHO unless they had a high degree of independence.

Whoever is chosen as Africa's new WHO head probably won't have a big role in ending Ebola since the U.N. has already taken charge of control efforts, but the new director could be key to preventing similar disasters in the future.

First, its structure must be overhauled, experts say.

"Everyone working in global health knows that if you want anything done in the African region, the last people you go to is (WHO) Africa," said Kelley Lee, an associate dean in health sciences at Simon Fraser University in Canada, who has studied the governance of public health agencies. She said the WHO Africa office is plagued by a profound lack of transparency and said many top jobs are doled out as political favors.

The outgoing director of WHO Africa, Dr. Luis Sambo, rejected the need for major change when he was elected in 2005, vowing that "there will be no radical shake-up." Sambo oversaw the WHO Africa response to Ebola and has declined numerous interview requests.

Having already served two terms as regional director, he is ineligible to run again in the elections held at a committee meeting in Benin this week.

There are five candidates jostling to be the new Africa director: Jean-Marie Okwo-Bele, a Congolese doctor in charge of the vaccination program at WHO Geneva, Mali's Dr. Fatoumata Nafou Traore, director of the Roll Back Malaria partnership, Dorothee Akoko Kinde-Gazard, Benin's health minister, Therese N'Dri Yoman of Cote d'Ivoire, a past health minister, and Dr. Matshidiso Moeti of Botswana, who previously ran the country's epidemiology department.

In a report on lessons learned from Ebola released ahead of this week's meeting, the WHO Africa office said the explosive spread of the lethal virus was due to issues including poor awareness and badly trained health workers. It didn't mention several problems detailed in the internal WHO document written in Geneva, which observed that WHO staff in Africa refused to help get visas for outbreak experts to fly to Guinea and were compromising Ebola containment efforts.

Lee said WHO headquarters in Geneva should have jumped in sooner to seize control of Ebola from its Africa office, but that agency politics likely complicated that.

"There were enough voices raising the alarm outside of WHO to suggest that something exceptional was going on," she said. "Serious questions need to be asked within WHO Geneva about why these other sources were ignored for so long."

In a speech at the Benin meeting on Monday, WHO chief Dr. Margaret Chan stayed away from any critical remarks and instead thanked Sambo for his "years of dedication to WHO and to the health of the African people."

Some experts doubted that whoever is elected as new WHO Africa head would do much to change the stagnant culture there.

"There is no appetite for reform among senior WHO leaders," said Dr. Donald A. Henderson, who headed the agency's smallpox eradication efforts. He called the WHO Africa office "completely out of touch" and said it was so bereft of competent people when Ebola in Guinea was identified in March that "there was no one left to raise the alarm."

Others said the fumbled response to the Ebola epidemic has further undermined WHO's credibility.

"This Ebola outbreak should have justified WHO's existence but it has become completely sidelined and irrelevant," said Lawrence Gostin, a professor of global health law at Georgetown University. He said regional directors, including the one in Africa, should be more accountable to Geneva but couldn't see them willingly relinquishing power.

"Seeing thousands of Africans die of a preventable disease should teach us to make sure the right systems are in place to avoid a similar outbreak in the future," he said. "But if history is any guide, then crises will come and go and nothing will change."

UNICEF to double staff in west Africa to fight Ebola

[English.news.cn](http://English.news.cn/2014-11-04) /2014-11-04

UNITED NATIONS, Nov. 3 (Xinhua) -- A United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) official said here Monday that the agency will be doubling its staff from 300 to 600 in the three most-affected countries -- Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

Global Ebola Emergency Coordinator for UNICEF Peter Salama told reporters that children account for 20 percent of all Ebola cases in these three countries, noting that an estimated 5 million children are affected and some 4,000 children have become orphaned from the current epidemic.

"Schools are closed, children are confined to their homes and discouraged to play with other children," said he.

According to the World Health Organization, the ongoing Ebola epidemic has killed some 5,000 people.

Seen from the eyes of the millions of children in the three most affected countries, the epidemic is terrifying as "death is all around them," he said.

"If we don't stop the outbreak, if we don't defeat Ebola, it is going to defeat everything that we've been doing in support of children collectively in these countries for many years. And we are already seeing that detrimental impact on education services, on primary health care services," he said.

"So for us the number one priority for the next few months has to be to put all of our efforts, all of our staffing, all of our resources, behind stopping the outbreak," he added.

Calling the situation "a twin epidemic," Salama said "it is the epidemic of a virus, but also an epidemic of global fear and ignorance."

"And with fear and ignorance sadly comes stigma and discrimination. We must tackle both epidemics to be successful," he said.

Meanwhile, Anthony Banbury, head of the UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER), arrived in Sierra Leone on Monday after visiting Guinea over the weekend.

Banbury visited Ebola treatment centers in remote areas of the two countries to see how the UN mission can fill the gaps in the response, met with survivors and visited a logistics base, said UN spokesperson Stephane Dujarric at a regular briefing.

"He also visited the newly-opened Command and Control Center, which is in charge of coordinating burials and ambulance pick-ups," he said, adding that Banbury will also visit Liberia on Tuesday before briefing the UN Security Council next week.

Somali MPs demand apology from UN envoy

04 November 2014 Tuesday/ World Bulletin

U.N. Special Envoy Nicholas Kay claimed that some MPs had been bribed in order to influence their vote in a no-confidence vote on Prime Minister Abdiweli Sheikh Ahmed.

A number of Somali lawmakers have demanded an apology from U.N. Special Envoy Nicholas Kay for allegations that some MPs had been bribed in order to influence their vote in a no-confidence vote on Prime Minister Abdiweli Sheikh Ahmed.

"It is an insult to the Somali Parliament," MP Dalha Omar told Anadolu Agency on Monday.

"Kay is implicating that Somali MPs can be used to manipulate the future of this country. This is untrue," he said.

"Yes, we may be facing challenges within the government but we also have ways to deal with that. Kay's approach was more of interference by an outsider," Dalha said.

The issue is likely to be tabled in the Somali Parliament on Tuesday.

Lawmaker Ali Nur, for his part, called on the Somali government to officially write a protest letter to the U.N. over the statements.

"Kay's remarks were careless," Nur said.

"What Somali MPs want is for Kay to apologize to not only the Somalia Parliament but to the Somali people too. The U.N. envoy may be having a hidden agenda on Somalia," he said.

Somalia has recently seen infighting between President Hassan Sheikh Mohamoud and his prime

minister.

On Sunday, Kay said that the infighting in the Somali government was having a cost on the "functioning of the federal institutions and Somalia's state and peace building goals."

He further said that he had received allegations that some Somali MPs had been bribed in order to influence their votes in case a vote of no confidence is introduced in Parliament against the prime minister.

The Somali president fell out with his prime minister over a cabinet reshuffle last month. Two ministers, who are close allies to the President, were moved to less privileged portfolios

In an apparent reaction to Kay's allegations, the Somali President called on the international community to respect Somalia's sovereignty.

"While I appreciate the concerns of the international community the best way to support Somali leaders and institutions is to respect and allow them to resolve their differences through legitimate means and within the existing and maturing institutions," Mohamud said in a statement availed to AA on Monday.

Last year, former premier Abdi Shirdon was removed in a no-confidence vote that followed differences between him and the President over the formation of the cabinet.

Somalia has remained in the grip of on-again, off-again violence since the outbreak of civil war in 1991.

The country appeared to inch closer to stability after government troops and African Union forces – deployed in the country since 2007 – drove the Al-Qaeda-linked Al-Shabaab group from most of its strongholds.

US/AFRICA :

Coup leader in Burkina Faso received U.S. military training

By [Craig Whitlock](#) /washingtonpost.com/November 3

The army officer who has seized power in Burkina Faso amid popular protests in the West African country was twice selected to attend counterterrorism training programs sponsored by the U.S. government, U.S. military officials said.

Lt. Col. Isaac Zida, the former deputy commander of the presidential guard, emerged Saturday as the country's ruler — at least on an interim basis — after angry demonstrators attacked government buildings and forced Burkina Faso's longtime strongman to flee the country.

In 2012, when he was a major, Zida attended a 12-day counterterrorism training course at MacDill Air Force Base in Florida that was sponsored by the Defense Department's Joint Special Operations University, said Army Lt. Col. Mark R. Cheadle, a spokesman for the U.S. Africa Command.

That same year, Zida attended a five-day military intelligence course in Botswana that was financed by the U.S. government, Cheadle said.

The U.S. military has developed a close relationship in recent years with Burkina Faso, which has allowed the Pentagon to operate [a secretive Special Operations base that it uses to conduct reconnaissance flights](#) across West Africa.

Although the training he received was relatively brief, Zida's experience [carries echoes of other African military officers who went on to topple their governments](#) after being selected by the U.S. government for professional military education courses.

In March 2012, an army captain in Mali who had attended a half-dozen military training courses in the United States led a coup that deposed his democratically-elected government. The captain, Amadou Sanogo, was ousted and arrested 18 months later, but not before pushing Mali into turmoil and enabling Islamist insurgents to take over much of the country.

The United States generally is required by law to suspend military relations and security assistance to countries when elected civilian leaders are overthrown by an armed coup. Washington has not taken that step with Burkina Faso but has condemned the military takeover and urged a quick restoration of civilian rule.

"We are certainly encouraging movement to a civilian-led transition and then, of course, elections," State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki told reporters Monday.

Citing a "power vacuum" and the unclear makeup of Burkina Faso's interim government, Psaki said U.S. officials had not decided whether to cut off aid. "The situation on the ground now is still very fluid," she added.

The U.S. government has allocated more than \$15 million in counterterrorism funding for Burkina Faso over the past two years.

The African Union said Monday that it will impose sanctions against Burkina Faso if it does not transfer power to a civilian government in the next two weeks.

Zida and the military took power last week after longtime president [Blaise Compaoré fled the country under duress](#) from huge crowds angry with his plan to rewrite the constitution to keep himself in charge.

About 20 U.S. military personnel are assigned to the U.S. embassy in Ouagadougou, the capital, according to Air Force Lt. Col. Vanessa Hillman, a Pentagon spokeswoman.

That figure, however, does not include U.S. Special Operations forces deployed to the country on secret or sensitive missions. Dozens of those personnel and U.S. military contractors run a Joint Special Operations Air Detachment in Ouagadougou that coordinates reconnaissance flights and medical evacuation missions in the region.

The U.S. military for years also has operated an intelligence fusion cell in Ouagadougou and trained counterterrorism forces for Burkina Faso. Although Burkina Faso does not face an internal threat from terrorist groups, many of its neighbors in West Africa have been plagued by Islamist insurgencies.

CANADA/AFRICA :

AUSTRALIA/AFRICA :

Ebola crisis: Government to announce plans to help Australian medical staff fight virus in Africa

By political reporter [Andrew Greene](http://abc.net.au/2014-11-04)/abc.net.au/2014-11-04

The Federal Government is on Wednesday expected to announce plans to help Australian medical staff fight the Ebola virus in Africa.

The ABC has been told Cabinet's National Security Committee had decided to assist volunteers who want to travel to Ebola hotspots in Sierra Leone.

For weeks the Government has refused to dispatch doctors or soldiers to West Africa unless it had "iron clad" commitments from other nations to evacuate medical staff who got infected with the deadly disease.

It is understood Australia has reached an agreement with the British government to treat Australian workers.

Foreign Minister Julie Bishop is expected to make the announcement tomorrow.

Any contribution from Australia, on top of funds already committed to the global effort against the virus, would be "prudent and proportionate", a spokeswoman for Prime Minister Tony Abbott said.

"In recent weeks, the Government has discussed the evolving situation, including measures to treat health workers, with our partners, in particular the United Kingdom and the United States," the spokeswoman said.

"The Government is considering these discussions and how it might best contribute further to the response."

The spokeswoman said Australia's contribution would not involve the deployment of hundreds of Australians.

"Indeed, the Government will not direct Australians to deploy to the region," she said.

The Australian Medical Association (AMA) has welcomed the reports.

Over the weekend AMA president Brian Owler accused the Government of running out of excuses for not helping send medical personnel.

"There is no reason stopping the Australian Government from resourcing those volunteers to go, it's only a matter of the willingness of the Australian Government to act," Dr Owler said.

EU/AFRICA :

CHINA/AFRICA :

China sending more aid to West Africa

CCTV.com/11-04-2014

China has so far sent 750 million yuan, that's 120 million US dollars, to countries in Africa to deal with the Ebola virus. Public health experts are also on the way to help stop the spread of the virus that has killed more than 5,000 people.

China has sent four rounds of humanitarian aid, including personnel and funds to the epidemic hit areas in Western Africa.

A commission of public health experts and medical workers will soon be sent to Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea at the heart of the crisis.

And China's People's Liberation Army will set up a treatment center in Liberia. The Foreign Ministry says it's the first such facility to be constructed in West Africa and run by a foreign country.

"We will send a team of 160 medical staff to operate and manage the center. In building the center, we have fully drawn upon China's experience in dealing with SARS. We will try to detect, report, diagnose, quarantine and treat ebola patients in a timely manner. We have also optimised diagnosis and treatment procedures, and the function and layout of the facility," Wang Shengwen, director of foreign assistance of Ministry of Commerce, said.

The large number of Chinese workers in Africa has prompted warnings that China may be vulnerable to a possible spread of the virus.

There are as many as 190 flights between Africa and the southern Chinese province of Guangdong every month, with a passenger flow of more than 45,000 people. Health officials say various measures are in place to ramp up Ebola surveillance.

"We have set up a 22-department system to cope with any ebola epidemic. We have strengthened preventive measures including expanding testing procedures and designating hospitals to handle Ebola cases," Wang said.

No Chinese citizens in Africa have so far been found with Ebola infection.

A daily communication system has been set up between Beijing and the Chinese medical team in Africa. None of the Chinese medical workers have been infected so far.

INDIA/AFRICA :

India, U.S. Sign Document to Expand Cooperation in Asia and Africa

Tuesday, 04 November 2014/siliconindia.com

NEW DELHI: India and the U.S. signed the Statement of Guiding Principles on Triangular Cooperation for Global Development which provides a framework for promoting greater cooperation in addressing development challenges in Asia and Africa.

The document, inked after nearly three months of fifth Indo-U.S. Strategic Dialogue, helps fulfil the joint commitment of both nations to work together and leverage their combined capacities to provide demand-driven cooperation firmly rooted in third country leadership, a U.S. Embassy release said here.

The Statement was signed by Kumar Tuhin, Joint Secretary in Development Partner Administration in MEA and John A Beed, Mission Director for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in India.

"Both India and the U.S. will continue to collaborate closely with third country partners to strengthen institutions and build capacity. Initial efforts include continued training for African government, private sector and academic professionals in food processing and expanding collaboration for women's empowerment. Public-private partnerships may also be established that complement government-led initiatives and optimise overall impact," the release said.

BRAZIL/AFRICA :

EN BREF, CE 04 Novembre 2014... AGNEWS/DAM, NY, 04/11/2014

