



(The deputy chairman of the African Union Commission on Thursday condemned the overthrow of the administration in Burkina Faso and said the AU had demanded that military leaders immediately return power to the transitional government.)

BURUNDI :

RWANDA :

RDC CONGO :

RD CONGO :: LIMOGAGE DE MINISTRES EN RDC : Le roi de plus en plus nu :: CONGO DEMOCRATIC

camer.be/18/09/2015

Faisant suite aux conclusions du Bureau politique de la majorité présidentielle, le président de la RDC, Joseph Kabila a démis de leurs fonctions son conseiller spécial pour la sécurité, Pierre Lumbi, et le ministre du Plan, Olivier Kamitatu. Motif invoqué, les deux parias ont publiquement manifesté leur opposition au maintien de Kabila au pouvoir à la fin de son deuxième et dernier mandat en 2016. Le conseiller spécial du président et son ministre du plan font partie en effet d'un groupe de sept partis politiques qui ont qualifié de « suicidaire » la volonté affichée de Joseph Kabila de s'éterniser au pouvoir, en dépit des signaux d'alerte envoyés au locataire du palais de la Nation par

plusieurs organisations internationales, par l'opposition politique congolaise et par la société civile. Cette chasse aux sorcières, qui semble être le début d'une série, est un message sans ambiguïté à tous les membres du G7 qui, selon les proches de Kabila, se sont, de fait, exclus de la majorité présidentielle.

Mais au-delà de ces couacs dans les rangs de ceux qui sont aux commandes de la RDC, c'est la question de l'alternance dans de nombreux pays africains qui est remise sur la table. Avec l'insurrection populaire qui a eu lieu au Burkina Faso en fin octobre 2014 pour mettre fin aux velléités de Blaise Compaoré de modifier la Constitution afin de demeurer au pouvoir après la fin de son dernier mandat, tous les Africains s'étaient permis de rêver enfin d'un pouvoir exercé par le peuple pour le bien-être du peuple dans tous les pays du continent. L'euphorie était telle qu'on avait fini par oublier qu'il y avait encore sous nos tropiques des chefs d'Etat que le cas burkinabè était loin de désarçonner, à l'image de ce quarteron de l'Afrique centrale (Kabila, Nkurunziza, Kagamé, Sassou Nguesso) qui se mariait des extrapolations que des analystes politiques faisaient de l'insurrection burkinabè. Depuis en effet, certains comme Nkurunziza au Burundi sont passés en classe supérieure en organisant des élections calamiteuses qu'ils ont naturellement remportées, pendant que d'autres sont encore au stade de la révision de leur Constitution pour sauter les articles rédhibitoires comme c'est le cas aux deux Congos, et au Rwanda.

Joseph Kabila, qui ne fait plus mystère de sa volonté de se porter candidat bien que la Constitution congolaise le lui interdise en 2016, est d'autant plus enclin à le faire que son homologue burundais a pu transformer l'essai alors que tous les observateurs lui prédisaient un sort à la Compaoré. Certes, au regard du chaos qui règne à Bujumbura, le président congolais pourrait être amené à réfléchir par deux fois avant de tenter le passage en force, surtout que ses proches qui n'entendent pas l'accompagner dans ses dérives dictatoriales vont faire le vide autour de lui. Malheureusement, pour ainsi dire, avec les derniers événements qui se déroulent au Burkina Faso et qui portent un coup d'arrêt à la Transition politique mise en place au lendemain de la victoire du peuple sur l'ordre ancien, Kabila fils et tous les autres dictateurs qui avançaient masqués vers des pouvoirs à vie vont définitivement sortir de la gueule de bois dans laquelle la fuite éhontée de Blaise Compaoré les avait plongés. Il ne reste plus au président de la RDC d'écarter tous les opposants à l'intérieur et à museler la presse et les organisations des droits de l'Homme et le tour sera joué. A moins que les événements en cours à Ouagadougou ne provoquent une autre réaction du peuple burkinabè, pour rappeler à tous les putschistes, que quels que soient les moyens qu'ils utiliseront, ils ne pourront jamais venir à bout d'un peuple déterminé.

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UGANDA :

SOUTH AFRICA :

South Africa's new human ancestor sparks racial row

AFP/Sep. 17, 2015

Johannesburg (AFP) - Some prominent South Africans have dismissed the discovery of a new human ancestor as a racist theory designed to cast Africans as "subhuman", an opinion that resonates in a country deeply bruised by apartheid.

"No one will dig old monkey bones to back up a theory that I was once a baboon. Sorry," said

Zwelinzima Vavi, former general secretary of the powerful trade union group Cosatu, a faithful ally of the ruling African National Congress (ANC).

"I am no grandchild of any ape, monkey or baboon -- finish en klaar (Afrikaans for "that's it")," he said on his Twitter account, which is followed by more than 300,000 people.

His comments were backed by the South African Council of Churches (SACC), which was historically involved in the fight against apartheid.

Vavi recalled that when South Africa was under apartheid rule he was a target of racist remarks: "I been also called a baboon all my life so did my father and his fathers."

Apartheid ended in 1994 after Nelson Mandela was elected as the country's first black president in a democratic South Africa.

Vavi's comments came after last week's discovery of Homo naledi, described by scientists as a new distant ancestor of humans.

The discovery of the ancient relative generated a huge amount of international interest.

But the South African backlash has perplexed people around the world at a time when Darwin's theory of evolution is widely accepted as fact.

It "breathes new life into paranoia," said prominent British biologist Richard Dawkins on his Twitter account this week. "Whole point is we're all African apes."

Lee Berger, an American working at Johannesburg's University of the Witwatersrand and overseeing the Homo naledi dig, tried to keep his distance from the charged debate, though he did specifically clarify that man doesn't descend from baboons.

"The science is not asking questions of religion nor challenging anyone's belief systems, it is simply exploring the fossil evidence for the origins of our species."

The body of Homo naledi resembles that of a modern man, but researchers say its orange-sized brain places it closer to Australopithecus, a group of extinct hominids that walked on two legs and lived around 2 million years ago.

Some 1,550 fossils were unearthed in the "Rising Star", a cave located in the "Cradle of Humankind", a site 50 kilometres northwest of Johannesburg that has proven over the years to be a rich source for palaeontologists.

The bones haven't been dated, but researchers claim they will reveal more about the transition between the primitive Australopithecus and the Homo genus, the family tree of our direct ancestor.

- 'Africans not respected'-

The discovery of the new ancestor supports the West's "story that we are subhumans," said ANC member of parliament and former chief whip Mathole Motshekga.

"That is why today no African is respected anywhere in the world because of this type of theory," he said in an interview with television network ENCA.

The finding "seems to be calculated to affirm what apartheid and colonialists did to say that we are subhumans who develop from the animal kingdom and therefore gave us the status of subhuman beings to justify slavery, colonialism, oppression and exploitation."

The South African Council of Churches (SACC), added fuel to the controversy.

"To my brother Vavi, I would say that he is spot on," SACC president Bishop Ziphozihle Siwa said in response to the former Cosatu leader's comments.

"It's an insult to say that we come from baboons. We must continue to engage," he said

Scientists should continue to provide evidence but also "listen to what God is saying to us and not make a jump to quick, foolish conclusions."

The official government reaction to the Homo naledi find was, however, positive, with Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa saying "our common umbilical cord is buried" in Africa.

Homo naledi underlines that "we are bound by a common ancestor," he declared.

Econet Launches EcoCash In South Africa

September 18, 2015/zimeye.com

Zimbabweans who live in neighbouring South Africa will soon enjoy the services of EcoCash as is set to launch it in the country early October. The largest telecommunications firm in Zimbabwe announced on Thursday that they have received approval from the South African authorities.

Since South Africa is home to around one million Zimbabweans, this is an indication that there is a potentially great market for the mobile cash transfer business.

EcoCash was launched in 2011, and has been a huge success, processing transactions worth \$11 billion in the four years and boasting 4.5 million registered users as of June 2015, making it Zimbabwe's biggest virtual bank.

Econet, in a statement said it is now primed to roll out its EcoCash South Africa service after conducting a trial run with 200 customers since August this year.

"Econet has partnered its massively popular EcoCash service with a South African company called Flash Mobile Vending, a subsidiary of retail giant Pepkor, whose mobile vending solution is used by more than 60,000 informal sector small business shop owners throughout South Africa," Econet said.

"In much the same way that EcoCash has enabled agents in almost all corners of Zimbabwe, Flash shop owners are spread throughout the territory of South Africa; operating from locations convenient to the vast majority of the Zimbabwean Diaspora who are the source of vital remittances supporting loved ones here in Zimbabwe."

Plans are underway to mobilize all PEP and PEPcell stores across South Africa to perform registrations and accept remittance "cash-in."

"We are entering a very exciting countdown to the commercial launch of EcoCash Remittance South Africa. In less than three weeks, Zimbabweans right across South Africa will finally be able

to send money home to loved ones securely, cheaply, and in a matter of seconds,” said Econet Wireless Zimbabwe chief executive, Douglas Mboweni.

“This has taken a long time to put in place but we are almost there. It will be the biggest thing that has happened to EcoCash since it was first launched.”

Mboweni said the service will only be available to Zimbabweans who have an Econet Wireless South Africa SIM card, known as “Call Home,” which is powered by Cell C.

Econet said almost a million Zimbabweans currently use Call Home which has been designed to satisfy the telecommunications and mobile financial service needs of African immigrants in South Africa.

Over the last 12 months, Ecocash has forged partnerships with international money transfer agencies such as MoneyGram, Western Union, WorldRemit, and Chitoro.-The Source

TANZANIA :

KENYA :

U.N., Kenya partner to stop AIDS epidemic

Thursday, Sep 17, 2015/by Vaccine News Report

The United Nations and the Government of Kenya recently partnered to enact a plan that would stop the AIDS epidemic in Kenya by the year 2030.

This new collaboration will use a novel data-collecting tool to watch the progress of the current HIV program. By using this new “Kenya HIV Situation Room,” the health workers will be able to gather data about the service delivery and logistics to create a comprehensive understanding about the epidemic’s reach.

“High velocity data is critical for insights into a more effective and efficient response to HIV,” UNAIDS Executive Director Michel Sidibe said. “President [Uhuru] Kenyatta’s leadership will help Africa accelerate progress towards ending the AIDS epidemic as part of the Sustainable Development Goals.”

The Situation Room was first created by the Kenyan Ministry of Health, the National AIDS Control Council and UNAIDS, with some support from the Government of Japan. The tool unites data from Kenya’s HIV estimates, the Kenya Medical Supply Agency, data from the National AIDS Control Council on service delivery and program implementers, as well as the District Health Information System.

“Our constitution guarantees every child a right to education, the highest available standard of health and protection from all forms of discrimination,” Kenyatta said. “We cannot change anyone’s HIV status but we can change our attitude. Let us stop stigma and let us stop it right now.”

ANGOLA :

Angola: MPLA Political Bureau Honors Nation's Founder

17 September 2015/Angola Press Agency (Luanda)

Luanda — The ruling MPLA party's Politburo issued, Wednesday, in Luanda, a statement which pays tribute to the first President of Angola, António Agostinho Neto, under the celebration of the National Hero's Day, to be marked on Thursday.

In the document, MPLA considers Agostinho Neto as a staunch patriot and outstanding militant, "in which gathered the superior virtues of a farsighted leader and a tireless servant of the people".

"Angolans are celebrating the September 17, National Hero's Day, in honor of the role played by the founder of the Angolan Nation, the late President Agostinho Neto, and all the heroes of the motherland, who made possible the achievement of National Independence of Angola, on 11 November 1975," it reads.

It considers that 36 years after his physical disappearance, his teachings are still alive for the building of a nation of workers, where everyone, by his example, should continue to give the best of themselves so that Angola continues to advance in the progress and well-being for its people.

"Despite the difficult economic and financial situation facing the country, MPLA considers that its key objective remains the enhanced well-being and living quality of Angolans", stresses the statement.

AU/AFRICA :

Prospects for a More Peaceful Africa: The Potential of a Monetary Union

09.18.15/internationalpolicydigest.org

John J. Pollock and William Golba

The proposed economic union of African nations has the capacity to drastically diminish conflict on the continent. The reasoning behind this is the same as the reasoning that is the basis for theories seeking to explain interactions between nations (economic peace theory, the liberal school of thought in international relations). These theories hold that the stronger the economic ties between nations the less likely they are to engage in conflict with one another. These theories are grounded in the observation that there have been no open wars between the great powers since the end of World War II, when globalization and economic integration began in earnest. Democratic peace theory observes that there has never been a war between two modern democracies which is in part attributed to the fact that democracies have free markets and a high level of trade which discourages conflicts that could lead to war.

The African Union is in the process of creating an economic and monetary union like the European Union as one of its primary goals. Though the economic institutions are still in the planning stages and not yet functional, the early results hold promise. This economic union may be of particular

benefit to Africa because of some of the disadvantages many African nations face. Among these are the geographic challenges of arbitrary borders created as the legacy of European colonialism. It is well-established that landlocked countries are at a distinct economic disadvantage. The vast majority of their imports and exports must pass through another country before finding their way to the world markets. This is problematic for a number of reasons. It can add another layer of tariffs, making a country's goods more expensive on the global market and therefore less competitive. It causes a country to rely on the infrastructure of a neighboring state. As a result, these infrastructure links may be insufficient to meet the demands of the landlocked state. An economic union where all African nations use the same currency would encourage African states to cooperate with their neighbors because their economic futures are closely tied together by the common currency.

Liberalization of markets is seen by many as an important step on the path to becoming a mature modern democracy. An economic union would also discourage protectionist practices that prevent the development and modernization of certain sectors. The restrictions on foreign development of and investment in telecommunications in Ethiopia are a prime example. Modernizing infrastructure such as telecommunications creates jobs and a healthy economy which in turn leads to greater stability, making the state less prone to conflict, especially civil strife. Internal conflict is extremely rare in countries with strong economies and consistent growth.

A drastic reduction of civil conflict in Africa will obviously benefit all. These destabilizing incidents impede the development of African nations, making it more difficult for them to overcome the many other issues they face in modernizing their economies and infrastructures. The African Investment Bank is a critical piece in the puzzle of stabilizing and strengthening those nations in Africa which are most prone to conflict. There are many places in Africa that are ignored by the international community because they have little effect on the global economy or the security of more developed nations. The African Investment Bank would be funded by nations that have a vested interest in the success of these countries. The funds available from this institution would be used to develop industry and infrastructure, thereby providing these countries an opportunity to develop once open markets and a common external tariff allow the goods they produce to pass more easily into the global marketplace.

The proposed economic union is not without its problems, and there are myriad issues that could diminish its effectiveness or scuttle it altogether. The proposed steps to be taken before the implementation of full economic union—with regional economic unions serving as precursors to the final unification of all of Africa under a single currency and economy—has some benefits, but it has one glaring weakness. It is inevitable that some of these precursor economic unions will be stronger than others and may vastly outperform the others which might result in the more powerful unions balking even though all the other unions do combine. The result could be two competing economic blocs rather than a unified Africa. While the situation may still be preferable to the current state of affairs, it is easy to imagine situations in which conflict between the states in these two potential economic blocs could develop. The ability to strengthen military capabilities in countries in the stronger economic block could cause some nations to implement revisionist policies in search of natural resources.

A more effective and less risky route to complete economic union in Africa could be the creation of a union in which all countries immediately enjoy the advantages of freer trade through more open markets, but in which certain economic benchmarks must be met before countries are allowed to join in the common currency. This prevents weak economies from being a drag on the value of the currency from the outset while also affording them an opportunity to strengthen through more open economic ties with their neighbors. This approach would also prevent the possibility of one of the precursor economic unions becoming more powerful and refusing to join the final union.

Recent events in the Eurozone have shown that it is possible for weak economies to become a drag on their stronger compatriots. The issues stem from countries like Greece, Spain, and, to a degree, Ireland, causing economic problems for stronger countries, such as Germany. These countries, however, have never come close to armed conflict in Europe. Indeed, outside of some separatist campaigns like the ETA in Spain or the IRA in Great Britain, there has been little violence in Western Europe since the end of World War II. These problem economies are dealt with in meetings where topics such as enforced austerity measures are imposed and their debts are renegotiated. It is worth asking the question if it is possible that countries in Africa, which are not so far removed from conflict as those in Western Europe, might possibly resort to military action to overthrow a problematic government that is creating a drag on this new pan-African currency through the implementation of ill-advised policies. However, there is a stronger norm against regime change and for sovereignty in Africa than in the rest of the world. After all, the charters of the OAU and, with a few more exceptions, the AU contain strong and explicit guarantees to respect the sovereignty of their member states.

This reluctance to intervene in the internal affairs of other African states stems back to the colonial history of Africa and the hard-won independence of many of its nations. Sovereignty in Africa was paramount throughout the history of the OAU, even when it may have been to the detriment of its people, and, while there are now provisions for intervention in certain cases, the AU has largely maintained this tradition.

There is certainly precedent for African leaders interfering in other countries. One need look no further than Liberia's Charles Taylor for an example of how one head of a government may try to take advantage of another it perceives as weak. Taylor armed both the Revolutionary United Front and the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council, two of the rebel groups vying for control of the country. He allowed these groups to trade blood diamonds for weapons that they used to commit atrocities on the civilian population of Sierra Leone.

West Africa has a long history of economic integration in the post-colonial era dating back as far as 1945. The Economic Community of West African States, or ECOWAS, was created in 1975 in a push for deeper economic integration of the West African states. ECOWAS has branched out beyond simple economic concerns. Recognizing that peace and security are requirements for successful economic development, the Protocol Relating to the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution, Peacekeeping, and Security was signed in 1999. This agreement created a new framework that, for the first time, allows states in the region to intervene in the internal affairs of one of their neighbors in the interest of resolving conflict and maintaining regional security.

ECOWAS represents a broader trend in Africa away from nonintervention and noninterference at any cost that had the protection of national sovereignty as its ultimate goal towards a more humanitarian approach to intra-African affairs. The relative success of ECOWAS interventions in conflict situations within the region has taught both the organization and observers at the African Union valuable lessons of the effectiveness of conflict mediation and response mechanisms. However, if ECOWAS continues to maintain and implement a strong regional peace and stability mechanism while other regional bodies and the African Union as a whole fail to do so, it could further reduce the likelihood that a strong and successful regional body would be willing to fully integrate into a weaker and less successful continental political and monetary union.

The pitfalls discussed earlier are areas that need to be guarded against as this economic union is implemented. They must be addressed if the economic union is to have the maximum chance of preventing the types of conflicts that have plagued the African continent for all too long.

The prospect of the union, however, is encouraging and if implemented correctly could go a long

way to speeding development and ending cycles of violence on the continent. The successes of West Africa's economic unions are heartening and hopefully are a harbinger of things to come for the entire continent. The potential for peace held by this economic union is tantalizing. If it lives up to its potential and avoids the traps that could derail it, then it may be the cure for many of the ills that have prevented African nations from achieving peace and economic prosperity.

AU Demands Burkina Faso Military Hand Over Power

September 17, 2015/voanews.com

Peter Clotey

The deputy chairman of the African Union Commission on Thursday condemned the overthrow of the administration in Burkina Faso and said the AU had demanded that military leaders immediately return power to the transitional government.

Erastus Mwencha said the AU Peace and Security Council would meet soon to review the situation in Burkina Faso and decide the organization's next line of action.

The overthrow of the government Wednesday in Ouagadougou came less than three weeks before the scheduled general election on October 11. The election is aimed at ushering in a new, democratically elected leadership in the West African country.

The AU has often stated it is opposed to the forceful or unconstitutional seizure of power.

"We have demanded that the military junta that has now officially announced that it is a coup hand over power to the transitional authority that was there: the president, the prime minister and other relevant authorities," Mwencha said. "Any government that is unconstitutional is automatically condemned, because we believe in the rule of law that any change of power must follow the constitutional process."

Calling for calm

Mwencha called for calm in Burkina Faso as the African Union finds ways to resolve the situation.

"We can appeal for people not to cooperate, until such time that this military junta is really made to surrender power or any other actions that will be taken," he said.

The Burkinabe presidential guard, which staged the coup, has appointed Brigadier General Gilbert Diendere, a former chief of security of former President Blaise Compaore, as chairman of the new ruling National Council for Democracy.

Compaore stepped down last October, following popular protests against his plans to amend the constitution. He had ruled for 27 years.

Diendere told VOA's French-to-Africa service Thursday that the military staged the coup against the transitional government because the country's political process was biased. He said he would start a political dialogue that included all parties and would lead to elections at a date to be determined.

The transitional government had barred Compaore supporters from seeking office, and a national reconciliation commission had recommended the powerful presidential guard be disbanded.

'No justification'

Mwencha said the African Union had poll observers in Burkina Faso ready to monitor the October general election.

“There is no justification whatsoever for this [military] to do this, especially at this point. And for that matter, if they don't accede to the demand, we have also through the chairperson of the African Union convened the meeting of the Peace and Security Council, so that the Peace and Security Council can examine the state of matter, and then take the necessary steps as would be decided by the Security Council,” he said.

Mwencha said sanctions against masterminds of the military coup would be considered as the AU Peace and Security Council considered ways to address the government overthrow.

He said the AU was working closely with the regional bloc, the Economic Community of West African States, and the U.N. Security Council to address Burkina Faso's situation, "so that we can face this as one.”

Soudan du Sud: au moins 85 morts dans l'explosion d'un camion-citerne

AFP / 17 septembre 2015

Juba - Au moins 85 personnes ont été tuées dans l'explosion d'un camion-citerne accidenté dont elles tentaient de récupérer la cargaison de carburant, a annoncé jeudi le porte-parole du président sud-soudanais Salva Kiir.

Ils ont péri quand le camion-citerne a explosé, il y a au moins 85 morts, a expliqué à l'AFP Ateny Wek Ateny, citant des responsables locaux et précisant que l'accident et l'explosion s'étaient produits mercredi sur la route reliant Juba à la petite localité de Maridi, à environ 300 km à l'ouest de la capitale.

Plus de 100 personnes ont également été blessées, souffrant de brûlures, a indiqué un responsable local, John Skia, à la station sud-soudanaise Eye Radio.

Les brûlés ont été transportés à l'hôpital de Maridi, mais le personnel soignant peine à les soigner faute de disposer de produits de base, comme de l'oxygène ou des antalgiques puissants, selon une autre station, Radio Tamazuj.

Les médicaments de l'hôpital ne sont pas réellement en mesure de calmer ce type de douleur, a expliqué à l'antenne un médecin de l'hôpital, Chandi Savior.

Les fuites sur des oléoducs ou les accidents de camion-citerne en Afrique attirent souvent d'importantes foules qui cherchent à remplir des bidons de carburant. Les explosions ou incendies ne sont alors pas rares et font souvent de très nombreuses victimes.

En juillet 2010, en République démocratique du Congo (RDC), 292 personnes avaient péri dans l'explosion d'un camion-citerne accidenté. En décembre 2006, 284 personnes étaient mortes au Nigeria dans l'explosion d'un oléoduc vandalisé à Lagos, six mois après l'explosion d'un autre oléoduc qui avait tué entre 150 et 200 personnes.

Plus jeune nation du monde née sur les décombres de décennies de guerre de sécession contre

Khartoum, le Soudan du Sud est aussi l'une des moins développées.

Indépendant depuis juillet 2011, le pays a replongé depuis décembre 2013 dans une guerre civile, qui a provoqué une grave crise économique - marquée par une grave inflation notamment des prix des denrées de base - et humanitaire, avec plus de 2,2 millions de personnes chassées de chez elles par les combats et les atrocités contre les civils qui les accompagnent.

Le gouvernement et les rebelles ont signé fin août un accord de paix censé mettre fin au conflit, mais continuent de s'accuser mutuellement de ne pas cesser les combats. Une longue série de cessez-le-feu signés depuis février 2014 ont été systématiquement violés dans les jours voire les heures qui suivaient.

Afrique: un demi-million d'enfants ont fui les récentes attaques de Boko Haram

le 18 septembre 2015/AFP

Un demi-million d'enfants supplémentaires ont fui les attaques des islamistes de Boko Haram au Nigeria, Niger, Cameroun et Tchad au cours des cinq derniers mois, a rapporté vendredi l'Unicef.

Ces derniers chiffres portent à environ 1,4 million le nombre d'enfants qui ont été chassés de chez eux dans la région du lac Tchad, ajoute le fonds de l'ONU pour l'enfance dans un communiqué.

Le Nigeria est le plus touché avec près de 1,2 million d'enfants, dont plus de la moitié âgés de moins de cinq ans, déracinés par l'insurrection qui dure depuis 2009 et est particulièrement active dans le nord-est du pays où elle est née.

Quelque 265.000 autres enfants sont également affectés dans les pays voisins où Boko Haram a étendu ses attaques: Cameroun, Tchad et Niger.

"Il est inquiétant de voir qu'on continue de tuer, enlever et utiliser des femmes et des enfants comme porteurs de bombes", a déclaré le directeur général de l'Unicef pour l'Afrique centrale et de l'Ouest, Manuel Fontaine.

Au moins 15.000 personnes ont été tuées en six ans d'insurrection de Boko Haram, dont quelque 1.100 dans des attentats-suicides, raids et attaques qui se sont succédé depuis la prise de fonction, fin mai, du nouveau président nigérian Muhammadu Buhari.

L'organisation internationale pour les migrations (OIM) a révisé à la hausse au début du mois ses estimations du nombre de déplacés dû aux violences des islamistes, les faisant passer de 1,5 à plus de 2,1 millions.

L'Unicef dit avoir accru ses opérations dans la région du lac Tchad, dont ses campagnes de vaccination, et note que près de 65.000 enfants de moins de cinq ans ont été soignés pour des cas de grave malnutrition.

Mais M. Fontaine a souligné que son organisation n'avait reçu qu'un tiers des 50 millions de dollars nécessaires pour financer ses opérations régionales cette année.

Ceci laisse plus de 124.000 enfants non vaccinés contre la rougeole, tandis que 208.000 ne sont pas scolarisés et que plus de 83.000 n'ont pas accès à l'eau potable.

"L'afflux de réfugiés et l'insuffisance de ressources compromettent sérieusement notre capacité

délivrer une aide vitale sur le terrain", ajoute M. Fontaine.

UN/AFRICA :

US/AFRICA :

Deepening Our Commercial Engagement with Africa

09/17/2015 /huffingtonpost.com

In July, President Obama visited Africa and shared an important message at the Global Entrepreneurship Summit in Nairobi and at the African Union in Addis Ababa. He said "As Africa changes, I've called on the world to change its approach to Africa. So many Africans have told me, we don't want just aid, we want trade that fuels progress. We don't want patrons, we want partners who help us build our own capacity to grow. We don't want the indignity of dependence, we want to make our own choices and determine our own future."

Today, the citizens in countries across sub-Saharan Africa are certainly making their own choices and determining their own futures, represented by the fact that the economies in this region are among the fastest growing in the world. And when it comes to the U.S.-Africa commercial relationship, more than any at other time in history, these countries are not dependent. They are equal stakeholders in our business and trade relationships.

The U.S. and Africa today stand as engines of mutual economic growth and prosperity. African exports of non-petroleum goods since 2009 have doubled, creating and sustaining more than a million jobs in Africa. The U.S. was also a leading driver behind the region achieving a record in foreign direct investment of roughly \$80 billion last year.

As the head of the International Trade Administration, an agency whose mandate is to create opportunities for U.S. businesses by promoting international trade and attracting foreign direct investment, I fully understand how African businesses are creating such opportunities. On the U.S. side, goods exports to Africa have increased by nearly 60 percent since 2009, and these exports support 250,000 American jobs.

But today, the total amount of American trade with every country on the African continent is roughly equal to our trade relationship with the single country of Brazil. There is enormous potential for us to do so much more. By deepening our commercial engagement in Africa, we can generate even greater growth and prosperity for Africans and Americans.

Trade Winds -- Africa will help ensure that our partnerships continue to deepen and expand. It is the largest-ever U.S. government-sponsored trade mission to Africa, involving approximately 108 U.S. companies. In addition to a business development forum and trade mission in South Africa, Trade Winds will stop in seven other sub-Saharan African countries--Angola, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, and Tanzania. The forum participants will include local and American market experts, Fortune 500 companies, small businesses, and government decision-makers. Our Commercial Service officers and State Department colleagues will organize business networking events with leading industry and government officials at the forum, and matchmaking meetings

with potential partners at the trade mission stops. And when it is over, not only will we have conducted the largest trade mission to the African continent in American history, I hope that we will see new trade deals that will benefit the economies of countries on both sides of the Atlantic.

Trade Winds --Africa is a critical element of our Doing Business in Africa (DBIA) Campaign. DBIA was launched as an unprecedented whole-of-U.S. government effort to deepen commercial engagement between the U.S. and African countries. Under DBIA, U.S. companies have announced new deals worth more than \$14 billion; the Secretary of Commerce has established the President's Advisory Council on Doing Business in Africa, a federal advisory committee comprised of business leaders that advise the President through the Secretary of Commerce on strengthening commercial engagement between the United States and Africa; and the President has announced the Power Africa campaign, which will work to add 30,000 new megawatts of electricity generation capacity to this part of the world.

Trade Winds -- Africa and DBIA reflect the United States' commitment to further advancing our commercial engagement with Africa. And, perhaps more importantly, they reflect our understanding that deepening our commercial engagement secures our mutual commercial interests. Also importantly, our commercial partnership is essential to the interests of maintaining the international order.

As former president of the World Bank Robert Zoellick once said, "responsible stakeholders recognize that the international system sustains their peaceful prosperity, so they work to sustain that system." Trade and investment, open markets, and strong institutions have been the core elements of that international system: from Europe, to the Asia-Pacific region, to Latin America. And these are the core elements behind the political and economic development we are seeing and will continue to see in Africa today. Just as with the U.S.-Africa commercial relationship, more than at any other time, Africa is a mutual stakeholder in the international order as well.

As we embark on this historic trade mission, it is important to recognize what Trade Winds -- Africa, as well as our larger commercial partnership, represents. That the relationship between the United States and African countries is more mutually beneficial, prosperous, and consequential than it has ever been before. And the trajectory is only pointing upward.

CANADA/AFRICA :

AUSTRALIA/AFRICA :

EU/AFRICA :

CHINA/AFRICA :

INDIA/AFRICA :

BRAZIL/AFRICA :

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