

AFRICA : 29 OCTOBRE 2019 : [Nucléaire: Moscou offre sa technologie clé en main à l'Afrique]



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BURUNDI :

Le Burundi félicite les partis pour leur tolérance politique mutuelle

[<http://burundi-agnews.org/politique/le-burundi-felicite-les-partis-pour-leur-tolerance-politique-mutuelle/>]

POLITIQUE, ELECTIONS 2020 – Le gouvernement du Burundi se félicite du pas de géant déjà accomplis pour la tolérance politique à quelques mois des 4èmes élections démocratiques consécutives depuis 2005.

BUJUMBURA, Mardi 22 octobre 2019 – Dans le cadre de la Politique Intérieure, des Partis Politiques des Barundi, M. BARANDAGIYE Pascal, Ministre burundais de l’Intérieur, a déclaré, au cours d’un point de presse, que le gouvernement du Burundi saluait “le pas de géant déjà fait” dans la tolérance politique, à 7 mois des prochaines élections démocratiques de 2020, à la sortie d’une réunion qui rassemblait les chefs des 36 partis politiques agréés au Burundi et les gouverneurs des 18 provinces burundaises dont la Mairie de Bujumbura.

Au Burundi, les partis politiques sont exogènes à la société des Barundi. Ils sont nés à la veille des indépendances pendant la colonisation Belge par le décret intermédiaire Belge du vendredi 25 décembre 1959, sans le consentement des Barundi [<http://burundi-agnews.org/histoire/burundi-1959-naissance-des-partis-et-de-la-democratie-occidentale/> ; <http://burundi-agnews.org/histoire/burundi-le-2eme-coup-detat-belge-de-1959-a-destitue-mwambutsa-iv/>].

DAM, NY, AGNEWS, <http://burundi-agnews.org>, Lundi 28 octobre 2019

RWANDA :

La Russie et le Rwanda vont construire un Centre de technologies nucléaires au Rwanda

Dans Société / 25 octobre 2019 / Hubert Leclercq [<https://afrique.lalibre.be/42649/la-russie-et-le-rwanda-vont-construire-un-centre-de-technologies-nucleaires-au-rwanda/>]

Quelques heures après la fermeture du premier forum Russie – Afrique, organisé à Sotchi sous l’égide du président russe Vladimir Poutine, les annonces des premiers accords se multiplient. L’un des plus étonnants est sans conteste celui signé entre Moscou et Kigali pour la construction d’un centre des sciences et technologies nucléaires au Rwanda.

Au centre de ce projet, la société nucléaire publique Rosatom, qui regroupe plus de 300 entreprises et centres de recherche et développement, répartis dans 44 pays. ROSATOM fournit, selon son site Internet, des « services nucléaires complets allant de l’enrichissement de l’uranium à la construction de centrales nucléaires ». ROSATOM est d’ailleurs le plus grand constructeur mondial de centrales nucléaires de dernière génération.

L’accord a été signé par Alexey Likhachev, Directeur Général de Rosatom, et par Claver Gatete, ministre de l’Infrastructure du Rwanda.

A Sotchi, la Russie se présente en protectrice de l’Afrique souveraine

Le CSTN deviendra une plate-forme moderne pour mener tout l’éventail des recherches scientifiques et des mises en œuvre pratiques des technologies nucléaires. Il permettra la production de radio-isotopes destinés à une utilisation généralisée dans l’industrie et l’agriculture ainsi qu’en matière de santé, notamment pour le traitement du cancer.

Autre objectif de ce centre selon ROSATOM : l’analyse de la composition élémentaire du minerai, des minéraux et des échantillons environnementaux. La société russe sera aussi chargée de former du personnel local hautement qualifié pour l’industrie nucléaire et aidera à la recherche sur les technologies numériques.

Le CSTN devrait comprendre un réacteur polyvalent de recherche à eau pressurisée, d’une capacité pouvant atteindre 10 MW.

Nucléaire: Moscou offre sa technologie clé en main à l'Afrique

Mardi 29 Octobre 2019 / <http://www.adiac-congo.com/content/nucleaire-moscou-offre-sa-technologie-cle-en-main-lafrique-107806>

Pour le gouvernement russe, il s'agit de s'assurer des parts de marché dans la bataille commerciale engagée par les géants de l'énergie qui se bousculent pour éclairer le continent noir. Un marché juteux.

Au premier forum économique Russie-Afrique de Sotchi, le nucléaire russe a attisé la curiosité des délégations africaines. Et pour cause. En 2019, l'Afrique subsaharienne reste à la traîne dans l'accès à l'électricité. La technologie nucléaire russe, à des fins civiles, a retenu l'attention des pays africains.

Aussi, Moscou a mobilisé les experts de Rosatom, son agence nucléaire pour proposer aux Etats africains le choix de leur technologie à des fins civiles pour booster leur développement.

Le président Vladimir Poutine a assuré que les projets proposés se font sans la moindre ingérence politique. Le dernier accord portant sur le nucléaire remonte au 17 octobre courant.

Rosatom a signé un accord préliminaire de coopération pour construire un centre de recherche sur le nucléaire au Rwanda, ainsi qu'avec l'Ethiopie. "Nous sommes prêts à proposer à nos partenaires éthiopiens des solutions et nous les invitons à venir visiter les installations russes", a déclaré à la presse le patron de Rosatom, Alexei Likhatchev, qui dispose déjà de protocoles d'accord avec dix-huit pays africains, parmi lesquels, l'Egypte, le Nigeria, le Soudan, le Kenya, le Ghana, la Zambie et l'Ouganda.

On pense aussi que la coopération avec la Zambie et le Rwanda aboutira très vite. Dix Etats africains ont annoncé clairement leurs intentions de se doter de centrales nucléaires pour faire face au déficit criant en matière d'énergie. En plus de l'Afrique du Sud, qui est le seul pays du continent à disposer d'une centrale nucléaire, au moins cinq autres pays devraient en disposer à l'horizon 2025.

Aujourd'hui, plus de la moitié de la population africaine n'a pas accès à l'électricité sur un continent qui devrait compter deux milliards d'habitants en 2050. Eclairer l'Afrique représente donc un marché juteux qui aiguise l'appétit de l'industrie nucléaire russe. Moscou vante son savoir-faire dans ce domaine. Les centrales russes auraient l'avantage d'être moins chères que celles des concurrents occidentaux et souvent assorties de prêts avantageux octroyés par Rosatom.

Noël Ndong

Les 10 réalités à savoir sur le Rwanda pour ne plus se faire piéger par la communication du régime de Kagamé

La Rédaction 28 octobre 2019 [<https://www.connectionivoirienne.net/2019/10/28/les-10-realites-a-savoir-sur-le-rwanda-pour-ne-plus-se-faire-pieger-par-la-communication-du-regime-de-kagame/>]

Si tous les pays du monde, y compris les pays occidentaux, pratiquent la propagande d'une manière ou d'une autre, ce qui est différent dans le cas du Rwanda est que le régime à la tête de ce pays se livre à un usage excessif de cette arme de communication. Une méthode qui nous rappelle celle de certains pays communistes de l'époque de la guerre froide, et un niveau de propagande qui n'avait encore jamais été atteint par un autre pays africain.

Un an après la désignation de l'ancienne numéro deux du régime rwandais à la tête de l'Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF), lors du sommet d'Erevan des 11 et 12 octobre 2018, voici donc dix points à connaître sur le Rwanda afin de rétablir la vérité : cinq points d'ordre économique et social, et cinq autres d'ordre politique.

1. Le Rwanda est l'un des pays les plus pauvres du continent, avec un PIB par habitant de seulement 773 dollars début 2019, selon les données fournies par la Banque mondiale. Un niveau plus faible que celui de nombreux pays d'Afrique subsaharienne pauvres en richesses naturelles,

comme la Sénégal (1522 dollars, soit +97 %), le Mali (901 dollars, soit +17 %), le Bénin (902 dollars, soit +17%) ou encore la Côte d'Ivoire (1715 dollars, soit +122 %). Un écart très important avec ce dernier pays, mais qui n'a pourtant pas permis au Rwanda de réaliser une croissance économique supérieure ou égale sur les sept dernières années (période 2012- 2018).

2. De 2014 à 2018, des populations du sud et du nord-est du pays ont été frappées par une grave crise alimentaire, suite à une sécheresse ayant également touché d'autres pays d'Afrique de l'Est. Cependant, le gouvernement rwandais a été le dernier des gouvernements de la région à reconnaître cette situation dramatique et à demander, en catimini en 2016, l'appui du Programme alimentaire mondial (PAM, une des structures de l'ONU), préférant ainsi laisser se dégrader la santé d'une partie de la population plutôt que de faire connaître son échec à subvenir aux besoins les plus élémentaires des habitants du pays. Une attitude qui rappelle, justement, celle de pays totalitaires communistes de l'époque de la Guerre froide.

Le mot N'arama, qui signifie « que ta vie soit longue » en Kinyarwanda (première langue du pays), est d'ailleurs un des termes utilisés par les populations concernées pour désigner discrètement cette période de quasi-famine, afin de ne pas se faire arrêter par la police ou par l'armée.

Mais à cette crise alimentaire s'ajoute à un autre problème structurel et touchant, à divers degrés, toutes les régions rurales du pays : celui de la malnutrition chronique des enfants de moins de cinq ans. Selon les dernières données disponibles (officielles et reprises par l'ONU), 37 % des enfants rwandais de cette tranche d'âge étaient frappés par ce problème en 2017. À titre de comparaison, ce taux n'était pas bien plus important en RDC voisine (43%), qui connaît pourtant de graves difficultés.

3. Dans le « pays des mille collines », de nombreux chômeurs sont officiellement considérés comme des « agricultures », profession automatiquement inscrite sur leur carte d'identité. De même, de nombreuses personnes se livrant, hélas, à la prostitution, sont également « agricultrices ». Cette politique permet ainsi de présenter des statistiques officielles fort éloignées de la réalité, sur le niveau réel de pauvreté dans le pays.

À tel point que nombreux sont les experts, travaillant au sein d'institutions internationales ou pour des organismes de recherche privés, à ne plus accorder le moindre crédit aux chiffres officiels présentés par le régime. En se basant sur différentes données, un expert international belge était parvenu à la conclusion que la grande pauvreté aurait progressé de six points de pourcentage entre 2010 et 2014 (passant de 44,9 % à près de 51 %, avant la sécheresse), alors que les autorités annonçaient une baisse significative et du même ordre, à 39,1% ! Autre exemple, un ancien expert de la Banque mondiale, Bert Ingelaere, publiait en 2017 un article intitulé « Le président pour toujours du Rwanda », et dans lequel il disait que sa hiérarchie avait décidé de détruire toutes les informations récoltées sur place lors d'une vaste étude sur la pauvreté, menée par lui-même et par d'autres spécialistes de l'organisation, suite aux pressions exercées par le régime rwandais et avant que la moindre analyse des données ne soit effectuée. Par ailleurs, d'autres experts affirment également que le gouvernement rwandais a tendance à gonfler les taux de croissance réalisés par le pays, ou encore à réduire considérablement les taux réels d'inflation.

De fortes critiques qui, toutefois, ne se font pas entendre au plus haut niveau de ces institutions, le régime rwandais bénéficiant d'une protection totale et très active des États-Unis et du Royaume-Uni, qui avaient patiemment œuvré à installer Paul Kagame au pouvoir (en finançant et en armant le FPR – Front patriotique rwandais, qui, dirigé par Paul Kagame, avait multiplié les attaques meurtrières au Rwanda à partir de l'Ouganda au début des années 1990, sans ne jamais respecter le moindre accord de cessez-le-feu, et créant ainsi une climat de peur et de paranoïa ayant tristement conduit au génocide. Un drame dont le fait déclencheur fut l'assassinat simultané de deux

présidents, ceux du Rwanda et du Burundi, par le tir d'un missile ayant abattu l'avion qui les transportait. Un double assassinat unique dans l'histoire de l'humanité).

4. Depuis plus de 20 ans, le Rwanda est l'un des tous premiers pays bénéficiaires de l'aide publique au développement (APD) dans le monde. Sur la période de cinq années allant de 2013 à 2017, selon les dernières données de l'OCDE et proportionnellement à sa population, le Rwanda a été le troisième principal bénéficiaire d'aides étrangères sur l'ensemble du continent africain (hors pays en guerre, comme le Soudan du Sud, et hors très petits pays de moins d'un million d'habitants, essentiellement insulaires). Avec une enveloppe annuelle de 1,116 milliard de dollars en moyenne, il n'a été devancé, par habitant, que par le Liberia et la Sierra Leone (deux pays anglophones faisant partie des trois pays le plus pauvres d'Afrique de l'Ouest, avec le Niger).

À titre de comparaison, le Bénin et le Burundi (pays voisin du Rwanda, et un des quatre pays le plus pauvres du continent, avec le Malawi, le Soudan du Sud et la Somalie), comptent une population à peu égale à celle du Rwanda (10,6 et de 10,2 millions d'habitants en moyenne sur cette période, respectivement, contre 11,4 millions, selon l'ONU), mais n'ont reçu que 572 et 522 millions de dollars d'aide par année en moyenne, respectivement. En d'autres termes, le Rwanda a reçu 81 % et 91 % d'aides par habitant en plus que le Bénin et le Burundi, respectivement. Autre comparaison possible, l'Ouganda, autre pays voisin du Rwanda et huitième pays le plus pauvre du continent (avec un PIB de 643 dollars, début 2019), n'a bénéficié que de moitié plus d'aides sur la même période (1,745 Md de dollars par année en moyenne), alors que le pays est 3,4 fois plus peuplé. Ainsi, le Rwanda a proportionnellement reçu 116 % d'aides supplémentaires par habitant que son voisin du nord.

Ces financements massifs que reçoit le régime rwandais sont principalement versés par les États-Unis et le Royaume-Uni, ce qui démontre bien que la Rwanda est particulièrement « ciblé » par les aides américaines et britanniques. Compte tenu de la grande pauvreté qui frappe encore le pays (en dehors de sa capitale Kigali), de la très petite taille du territoire rwandais (12 fois plus petit que la Côte d'Ivoire, par exemple, ce qui rend facilement accessible l'intégralité du territoire, et bien plus facile la mise en œuvre d'une politique nationale de développement), et compte tenu des éléments se trouvant dans le point n°5 (ci-dessous), la question qu'il convient de se poser légitimement est donc la suivante : où va l'argent ?

5. Depuis 2013, le Rwanda est le premier producteur et exportateur mondial de tantale, un élément stratégique extrait à partir d'un minerai appelé coltan. Pourtant, le sous-sol rwandais est très pauvre en coltan, dont le Congo-Kinshasa (ou RDC) détient, à lui seul, plus de 60 % des réserves mondiales (pourtant dispersées sur plusieurs continents). Ce paradoxe s'explique, simplement et tristement, par le pillage massif et systématique des riches naturelles de l'est de la RDC voisine.

Un pillage de type « colonial » (et même plus grave encore, la RDC n'en retirant aucun bénéfice), qui n'existe plus ailleurs sur le continent, qui se fait au vu et au su de tous, et ce, sans la moindre sanction internationale. Il est d'ailleurs regrettable de constater une certaine indifférence des pays africains eux-mêmes, qui s'honoreraient à se montrer plus solidaires du peuple congolais frère, véritable victime du régime rwandais depuis de nombreuses années. Un régime dont le président est parfois surnommé le « Hitler africain » par les Congolais, étant responsable de la mort de millions de personnes dans l'est du pays, sur les 25 dernières années (la plus grande catastrophe humaine depuis la seconde guerre mondiale). Une responsabilité qui a encore été récemment rappelée par le très respectable et respecté M. Faustin Twagiramungu, homme de paix et de dialogue ayant perdu 36 membres de sa famille lors du génocide, et qui avait occupé la fonction de Premier ministre du Rwanda au lendemain de ce drame (et non avant, point important à souligner). Une personnalité aujourd'hui en exil, et en danger.

Ce génocide rwandais qui est « à 100 % de la responsabilité américaine... Il est de la responsabilité de l'Amérique, aidée par l'Angleterre, mais il y a aussi la passivité des autres États », selon les propres termes de l'ancien secrétaire général de l'ONU, M. Boutros-Ghali, en 1998, près de deux années après avoir quitté ses fonctions à la tête de l'organisation. Une affirmation bien sûr exagérée (ceux ayant commis les massacres étant les premiers responsables), mais fort révélatrice du niveau d'implication américaine dans ce terrible drame. Les États-Unis qui avaient longtemps interdit à l'ONU d'utiliser – et donc de reconnaître – le terme « génocide » afin d'empêcher toute intervention visant à arrêter les massacres, et ce, jusqu'au 08 juin 1994, soit 23 jours après la France (qui avait été la première grande puissance à parler ouvertement de génocide, dès le 16 mai 1994) et des centaines de milliers de morts plus tard.

Un blocage volontaire des États-Unis, pour qui il fallait absolument que le FPR du Paul Kagame prenne d'abord le contrôle de la majeure partie du pays, avant de reconnaître le génocide et de permettre ainsi à l'ONU de demander une intervention militaire humanitaire. Quitte à laisser se faire massacrer presque tous les Tutsis du pays et les Hutus qui leur étaient proches (et auxquelles s'ajoutent les dizaines de milliers de civils hutus massacrés par les forces du FPR). Et une fois le feu vert de l'ONU obtenu, et même si elle aurait pu faire davantage, la France fut tout de même la seule puissance à accepter d'intervenir, sauvant ainsi la grande majorité des survivants tutsis du sud-ouest du pays. Dans un monde « juste et parfait », Bill Clinton comparait devant un tribunal pénal international, de préférence situé en Afrique, afin d'être jugé pour complicité de génocide.

6. Le Rwanda est l'un des quatre régimes les plus totalitaires du continent africain, qui sont au « degré zéro » de liberté d'expression (avec l'Égypte, l'Érythrée et le Eswatini, anciennement Swaziland et dernière monarchie absolue du continent). Tous les opposants politiques qui ne quittent pas le pays sont soit exécutés, d'une manière ou d'une autre, soit jetés en prison.

7. Le régime rwandais est celui ayant commis le plus grand nombre d'assassinats d'opposants politiques en dehors de ses propres frontières (au Kenya, en Afrique du Sud, en Ouganda, en RDC, et auxquels s'ajoutent des tentatives d'assassinat en Belgique et au Royaume-Uni, empêchés in extremis par les autorités locales, qui se refusent toutefois et étrangement de protester). Chose qui est pourtant extrêmement rare dans le monde, mais qui est habituelle pour ce régime.

8. Paul Kagame, officiellement au pouvoir depuis l'an 2000 (mais de facto depuis 1994), a modifié la constitution de son pays en 2015 afin d'être en mesure de se maintenir au pouvoir jusqu'en 2034, soit 40 années de règne. Kagame est d'ailleurs le seul dictateur africain à oser encore « se faire élire » avec des taux de 99 % (98,6 % lors de la dernière élection présidentielle de 2017).

9. Le régime totalitaire du Rwanda, et l'impunité la plus totale dont il jouit, est hélas en train d'inspirer d'autres pouvoirs africains qui s'appuient sur cet exemple afin d'interrompre un processus de démocratisation en cours. Et notamment dans la région de Grands lacs, et en particulier en Ouganda et au Burundi (dont le président a récemment procédé à un véritable « copier-coller » de la nouvelle constitution rwandaise).

Plus loin sur le continent, il est également regrettable d'observer la dérive autoritaire que connaît aujourd'hui le Bénin, qui fut pourtant le deuxième pays d'Afrique continentale à devenir une démocratie, après le Botswana et dès 1990 (au Sénégal, Léopold Sédar Senghor avait été le premier président, hors Afrique du Sud – non encore véritablement démocratique pour cause d'apartheid, à quitter le pouvoir de lui-même, fin 1980. Mais la démocratie ne fut instaurée que bien plus tard). Le Bénin, un pays dont le président est bien connu pour être un ami proche de Kagame...

10. Louise Mushikiwabo, ancienne numéro deux de régime rwandais, avait invité en 2017 le directeur général d'Human rights watch, une importante ONG internationale de défense des droits

de l'homme, à se faire soigner dans un hôpital psychiatrique, après que celui-ci ait courageusement qualifié le pouvoir en place de « dictature meurtrière ».

Cet ancien haut dignitaire du régime rwandais, totalitaire et de surcroît totalement anglophone (comme l'atteste le fait qu'aucun des nombreux sites internet gouvernementaux ne dispose de la moindre version, ni du moindre paragraphe, en langue française – même si certaines indications trompeuses font parfois croire le contraire, ou encore l'absence totale d'une version en français sur le site internet du tour cycliste du Rwanda, une compétition à laquelle participent, en plus, de nombreux francophones), est aujourd'hui à la tête de l'Organisation internationale de la francophonie... Une organisation qui affiche une totale indifférence à l'aspect totalitaire et anti-francophone du régime, et qui perd donc presque toute crédibilité et légitimité.

À propos du CERMF

Le Centre d'étude et de réflexion sur le monde francophone (CERMF) est un cercle de réflexion indépendant ayant le statut juridique d'association régie par la loi du 01 juillet 1901, et par son décret d'application du 16 août 1901.

Partant du principe que le monde francophone est un espace stratégique pour chacun de ses pays membres, et du constat que celui-ci demeure pourtant largement méconnu des sociétés francophones du Nord, le CERMF a pour but de produire des analyses objectives et indépendantes sur le monde francophone et son évolution, et de proposer des idées de nature à renforcer les liens de toutes sortes entre les pays et peuples francophones, dans l'intérêt commun de chacune des parties. Et ce, en se basant sur des données fiables et à jour, pouvant parfois contredire un certain nombre d'idées reçues, si nombreuses au sujet de l'espace francophone.

Les analyses et réflexions du CERMF s'adressent aux acteurs et décideurs politiques et économiques, mais également à l'ensemble de la société civile dont le rôle et l'apport sont souvent sous-estimés. Les travaux du CERMF sont éloignés de toute influence extérieure pouvant affecter leur objectivité. La particularité du CERMF réside donc dans la crédibilité des informations qu'il fournit sur le monde francophone.

RDC CONGO:

RDC : le caucus des députés du Nord-Kivu s'oppose à la venue de troupes étrangères pour traquer les groupes armés

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<https://www.radiookapi.net/2019/10/29/actualite/securite/rdc-le-caucus-des-deputes-du-nord-kivu-soppose-la-venue-de-troupes>

Le caucus des députés du Nord-Kivu s'oppose aux opérations conjointes des armées congolaise, rwandaise, ougandaise, burundaise et tanzanienne sur le sol congolais, pour traquer les groupes armés. Dans une déclaration à la presse lundi 28 octobre à Kinshasa, ces élus exigent une évaluation d'anciennes opérations conjointes qui, selon eux, n'avaient donné aucun résultat, avant d'envisager d'autres opérations.

Pour eux, ces opérations, qui donneraient l'opportunité aux armées étrangères à entrer en RDC, ne rassurent en rien la fin des hostilités dans l'Est du pays.

Le samedi 26 octobre, le porte-parole des FARDC, le général Léon Kasonga avait affirmé qu'aucune armée étrangère n'entrerait sur le sol congolais dans le cadre de la force intégrée.

Selon lui, la mutualisation des ressources c'est le partage des renseignements, d'informations, c'est la décision d'agir simultanément, chaque armée sur son territoire, en train d'éradiquer, mener des opérations pour combattre les groupes armés étrangers qui écument la partie Est de la RDC.

Intervention conjointe en RDC: une question orale avec débat contre le ministre de la défense en gestation

29.10.2019, [https://www.mediacongo.net/article-actualite-](https://www.mediacongo.net/article-actualite-58665_intervention_conjointe_en_rdc_une_question_orale_avec_debat_contre_le_ministre_de_la_defense_en_gestation.html)

[58665_intervention_conjointe_en_rdc_une_question_orale_avec_debat_contre_le_ministre_de_la_defense_en_gestation.html](https://www.mediacongo.net/article-actualite-58665_intervention_conjointe_en_rdc_une_question_orale_avec_debat_contre_le_ministre_de_la_defense_en_gestation.html)

La controverse autour de l'intervention conjointe interarmées RDC-Rwanda-Ouganda-Burundi contre les groupes armés qui sévissent dans l'Est de la RDC, préoccupe, au plus haut niveau, la Chambre haute du Parlement. A cet effet, une question orale avec débat dont, la proposition a été approuvée par le bureau du Sénat, est en gestation contre ministre de la Défense. A l'issue de la procédure, ce dernier sera invité à éclairer les élus des élus sur cette question.

La motion soulevée par le sénateur Jean-Philibert Mabaya autour de l'éventuelle intervention des armées étrangères qui se déploieraient avec les FARDC pour la traque des forces négatives qui opèrent sur le sol congolais, a retenu l'attention du bureau du Sénat.

A cet effet, le président de la Chambre haute du Parlement, Alexis Thambwe Mwamba, a fait savoir à M. Mabaya Gizi que le bureau a décidé que « ... Vous pouvez adresser une question orale avec débat pour que le ministre de la Défense vienne s'expliquer auprès des élus des élus sur cette question. Dès que vous serez prêts, le bureau du Sénat va saisir le Premier ministre pour qu'aboutisse la procédure », a-t-il déclaré en substance.

C'était au cours de la plénière organisée, hier lundi 28 octobre en la salle des conférences internationales du Palais du peuple. Il sied de noter que le feu vert du président du Sénat à Mabaya

Gizi, est intervenu après consultation avec son bureau. Cette motion a été soulevée à la fin de la séance plénière précédente.

Composition des commissions permanentes

Par ailleurs, il a, également, été question pour le bureau du Sénat, au cours de la séance plénière d'hier, de prendre acte de la composition définitive des huit (8) Commissions permanentes. Dans ce chapitre, a fait savoir Alexis Thambwe Mwamba, les dates des dépôts des candidatures et de l'élection des bureaux des Commissions seront communiquées ultérieurement.

« Bien avant le dépôt des candidatures, le bureau négociera l'attribution des commissions devant revenir à chacune des forces politiques présentes au Sénat. Pour ce faire, le bureau souhaiterait que le choix des membres des bureaux des commissions respecte l'équilibre géopolitique.

A titre d'exemple, les huit présidents Sénat : une question orale avec débat contre le ministre de la Défense en gestation des Commissions pourraient provenir de huit provinces différentes dans la configuration de l'époque des onze provinces. Il en sera ainsi pour les autres postes des bureaux de Commissions de manière à ce que toutes les vingt-six provinces du pays soient représentées dans les bureaux des Commissions », a précisé le speaker du Sénat.

Il convient de noter que parmi les sénateurs qui composent, entre autres, la Commission Politique, administrative, juridique et droits humains qui a quatorze (14) membres, figurent le G7 Kamitatu Marie-Josée Sona ; l'UDPS Mwamba Tshishimbi François et le PPRD Kambayi Cimbumbu Denis.

Dans la Commission Relations avec les institutions provinciales et les entités décentralisées composée de treize (13) membres, on retrouve la MLC Bemba Ndokwa Françoise ; l'UDPS Ilunga Civiila Auguy ; l'AAB Lola Kisanga Jean-Pierre ou encore, Célestin Kabuya Lumuna Sando. Ce, tandis que dans les Commissions Economiques, financière et de la bonne gouvernance ; Relations extérieures ; Socio-culturelle, genre, famille et enfant ; Défense, sécurité et frontières ; Environnement, développement durable, ressources naturelle et tourisme ; Infrastructures et aménagement du territoire, respectivement composée de 18, 13, 14, 11, 14 12 membres chacune.

Suivi et évaluation de l'exécution des lois

Conformément au Règlement intérieur du Sénat, tout sénateur s'inscrit dans une commission permanente de son choix après avis de son groupe politique et de son groupe provincial. Cela implique donc, que le choix du sénateur pour la Commission permanente est soumis à l'avis de son groupe politique et provincial.

Joyce Kalala

Le Potentiel / MCP, via mediacongo.net

Congo: une offensive conjointe pour chasser les rebelles

Mis en ligne le 25/10/2019 à 19:51 Par Colette Braeckman

[<https://plus.lesoir.be/256375/article/2019-10-25/congo-une-offensive-conjointe-pour-chasser-les-rebelles>]

Une opération militaire commune au Congo, au Burundi, au Rwanda et à l'Ouganda contre les groupes armés sévissant à l'est suscite la méfiance de la population.

Vive émotion à l'est du Congo : selon des documents provenant de l'état-major congolais, les chefs d'état-major des pays de la région (RDC, Burundi, Rwanda et Ouganda) devraient, fin octobre, mettre au point une offensive commune contre les groupes armés étrangers qui dévastent le Nord et le Sud-Kivu. Un état-major intégré serait mis sur pied et il travaillerait en coordination avec la Monusco et la force africaine Africom.

UGANDA:

Uganda arrests 16 LGBT activists on suspicion of gay sex

[<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/oct/24/sixteen-lgbt-activists-arrested-in-uganda-as-hate-crimes-soar>]

Men could face life in jail as campaigners warn of escalating attacks on sexual minorities

Uganda has said it has arrested 16 LGBT activists on suspicion of gay sex, which is punishable with life imprisonment, in what fellow activists called an escalating campaign against sexual minorities.

The 16 men, believed to be aged between 22 and 35, were taken into custody late on Monday at the office of a sexual health charity where they all worked and lived, fellow activists said.

It was not clear if the men had been formally charged nor when they might appear in court.

A police spokesman said on Thursday officers had found lubricants, condoms and antiretroviral drugs at the charity, and had conducted medical examinations on all 16.

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“Based on the medical examination report, it was established that the suspects were involved in sexual acts punishable under the penal code,” said a police spokesman, Patrick Onyango.

Fred Enanga, Uganda’s national police spokesman, said the state attorney was considering the case before any court appearance.

Gay sex carries a possible life sentence in Uganda, where there have been increasingly violent confrontations over sexual freedom.

Members of the LGBT community say they risk physical attacks in their daily life and routinely encounter harassment, as well as facing prejudice over work, housing and healthcare.

Campaigners have reported a spate of attacks this year – including four murders – with the latest on 4 October, when a LGBT rights activist was bludgeoned to death. Police have said they were unaware of any such attacks.

Earlier this month, a minister proposed the introduction of the death penalty for gay sex, a threat retracted by the government after international donors condemned the move.

Activists said the raid was a step up by the police. “Normally we will hear of maybe one arrest of someone from the community under these anti-gay laws in one month, but it is really unusual to see 16 people charged like this,” said Frank Mugisha, the executive director of Sexual Minorities Uganda.

“The 16 activists have been held by police for over 48 hours, forced to undergo anal examinations. We are expecting them to be produced before court today.”

The men all worked for the charity Let's Walk Uganda. They were initially taken into "protective custody" after a crowd yelling homophobic slurs surrounded their office, rights groups said. Police said the group was detained after they were alerted to "illegal activities" by the community.

Under the Ugandan penal code, any person who has "carnal knowledge against the order of nature" or anyone who accedes to anal sex is liable to life imprisonment.

SOUTH AFRICA:

South Africa's worst drought in years affects farmers

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/10/south-africas-worst-drought-years-affects-farmers-191029043210778.html>

Government imposes water cuts and gives aid to farmers as part of emergency measures to fight severe drought.

by Fahmida Miller

South Africa is experiencing what many farmers say is the driest season they can remember. They are having to sell their livestock, and this is having a knock-on effect on the economy.

In response to the lack of water, the government has imposed emergency measures to restrict water use and improve supply infrastructure.

Al Jazeera's Fahmida Miller reports from the Northern Cape.

TANZANIA :

Tanzania looks to Hollywood to help achieve 2 million tourists by 2020

<https://www.iol.co.za/news/africa/tanzania-looks-to-hollywood-to-help-achieve-2-million-tourists-by-2020-36203410>

Africa / 29 October 2019, 10:19am / Travel Writer

Tanzania has set a target to receive 2 million tourists by 2020; and a number of initiatives have been put in place to guarantee that it happens. And for the country's tourists' board, this target, although ambitious, is very much achievable and can even be surpassed.

The East African country received about 1.49 million tourists in 2018.

In an exclusive interview with VoyagesAfric at the just ended Swahili International Tourism Expo (SITE), Managing Director of the Tanzania Tourist Board (TTB), Devota Mdachi said there were number of initiatives that the board is working on to grow the tourism numbers to the country.

She mentioned the board had been engaged in a lot of road shows in Israel, India and in China and is currently looking to do more road shows in the year 2020 in South Korea because of the huge potential of the tourism market there.

"We are also investing a lot in the traditional market, the USA, the UK, Germany, Italy, France, Australia and Spain because we still see a number of tourists coming from those markets and there's great interest in what Tanzania has to offer."

Speaking on the board's plan for the coming year, she said the promotion of other new tourist products was ongoing with the recent launch of a campaign that seeks to promote filming in Tanzania.

"We have beautiful filming hotspots and we've already set a meeting for people from Hollywood to come and see the highlights for themselves, and we believe that in good time Tanzania can be the new Hollywood in Africa," Mdachi stated.

She said tourists from East and Southern Africa were gradually on the rise and that the Board will in the coming days set sight on attracting people from West Africa.

"We have been investing a lot and at the moment we are looking at promoting Tanzania to the West African tourist market." She hinted.

On SITE, she explained that the event began in 2014 to serve as a platform for Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (SMEs) in Tanzania who do not have the capital nor the ability to travel abroad to sell their products and services to have a show where "we invite to Tanzania hosted buyers from various countries in the world by inviting them to Tanzania so they can meet with these SME's and do business with them,"

"This year 2019 is the 5th show of the expo and it's been quite a success, we were able to invite more than 333 buyers all over the world and have more than a 170 exhibitors from within and outside Tanzania.

During the 3 days, hosted buyers were able to have B2B meetings with exhibitors from Tanzania and also hold speed networking sessions with their counterparts from Tanzania.

The hosted buyers were invited to go visit some of the unique tourist attractions, we have organized 6 routes.

Other wholesale buyers also went the southern part of Tanzania and visited some of the national parks there which have very unique attractions. Other wholesale buyers also visited West Kilimanjaro and experienced the luxury of Maasai Boma.

“So all of these were specially made safaris for hosted buyers so they can see and experience why Tanzania is indeed unforgettable,” the TTB CEO said.

Tanzania president Magufuli condemned for authoritarian regime

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2019/oct/29/tanzania-president-magufuli-condemned-for-authoritarian-stance>

Amnesty and Human Rights Watch raise concerns over rising levels of abuses against activists, opponents and the press – including arrest of journalist Erick Kabendera

Tanzania’s president John Magufuli is presiding over an escalating campaign of repression that has targeted journalists, human rights defenders and political opponents ahead of his plans to run for re-election next year, two reports claim.

Magufuli – nicknamed “the Bulldozer” – is accused in two independent reports, by the human rights organisations Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, of presiding over rising levels of abuses against activists and opponents since his election in 2015.

The two reports paint a chilling picture of Tanzanian rights under assault, beginning with Magufuli’s announcement in July 2016 of a blanket ban on political activities until 2020, which critics say has been used to target opposition parties and justify politically motivated trials.

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Amnesty cites amendments made to the country’s Political Parties Act at the beginning of this year that introduced wide-ranging restrictions on the rights to freedom of association and peaceful assembly.

These moves have been accompanied by violence. In 2017, unidentified assailants shot an opposition member of parliament, Tundu Lissu, and in 2018, unidentified assailants killed two officials, Daniel John and Godfrey Luena, of the main opposition party, Chadema. Although police said they are investigating these killings, no arrests have yet been made.

In tandem with moves restricting political activity, Tanzania’s media has seen increasing censorship and scrutiny under a new Media Services Act with at least six media outlets suspended for publishing stories about corruption and human rights violations.

Beyond suspension and threats, journalists in Tanzania have also faced arbitrary arrests and prosecutions. In one extreme case, journalist Azory Gwanda disappeared under mysterious circumstances in November 2017.

In one of the most high-profile cases earlier this year, police arrested investigative reporter Erick Kabendera. Public statements suggested he had been questioned about the validity of his Tanzanian

nationality and later interrogated for alleged sedition and publication of false information in an Economist article he wrote.

“As President Magufuli marks four years in office next month, he must carefully reflect on his government’s record of ruthlessly disemboweling the country’s human rights framework,” said Roland Ebole, Amnesty International’s Tanzania researcher. “His government must repeal all oppressive laws being used to clamp down on dissent, and urgently end human rights violations and abuses.”

Oryem Nyeko, Africa researcher at Human Rights Watch, added: “Tanzania should show true commitment to protecting and fulfilling the rights to freedom of expression and association. The authorities need to put a stop to harassment, intimidation and arbitrary arrests of activists, journalists and opposition members.”

Both Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch found that Tanzanian authorities had undermined the rights to freedom of expression and media freedom by enforcing repressive new and existing laws and regulations governing the media, NGOs and political parties. The reports were researched and documented separately, but their findings were similar.

Just days after taking office in late 2015, Magufuli cancelled the symbolic independence day fete and used funds for the event to widen a part of a highway notorious for gridlocks in Dar es Salaam. He also fired a number of senior government figures in an anti-corruption crusade. The moves were initially well received.

Fast forward to 2019 and opinion about him and his regime is more divided.

Magufuli, who is leader of the ruling Party of the Revolution (Chama Cha Mapinduzi, or CCM) earned his nickname while public works minister, when he removed thousands of ghost workers from the payroll and purged incompetent civil servants.

Since becoming president he has acquired a reputation for authoritarian and peremptory announcements which have caused friction with international organisations. This includes the World Health Organization, which was refused data over a suspected case of the deadly ebola virus earlier this year.

Earlier this month he publicly backed an official who sparked outrage and violated the country’s rules by beating more than a dozen students with a stick. Magufuli urged parents and school teachers to do the same in order to build a disciplined nation.

KENYA:

A Kenyan agritech startup is going pan-African with a \$30 million round led by Goldman Sachs
Yomi Kazeem

<https://qz.com/africa/1736577/kenyas-twiga-raises-30m-with-goldman-sachs-for-west-africa-push/>

By Yomi Kazeem October 28, 2019

The high rate of waste and the lack of effective distribution are two major problems plaguing the agribusiness value chain across African countries. A startup tackling both issues has just bagged major funding.

Twiga Foods, the Kenya-based food logistics startup, has raised \$23.7 million in a Series B round led by US investment bank Goldman Sachs. The round also saw participation from existing investors TLcom Capital, International Finance Corporation and Credev. The company also raised an additional \$6 million in debt. The latest funding follows a \$10 million round last November.

Twiga operates a two-fold business-to-business model which sees it connect demand to supply—by allowing retailers order fresh produce from local farmers through its mobile-based marketplace—and then manage supply through its logistics arm, thus reducing waste and improving efficiency. The company currently distributes food to over 8,000 retailers across Kenya.

After five years of operations in Kenya, Peter Njonjo, Twiga CEO, says the latest funding will allow it start “building a foundation” for an international expansion planned to begin next year, starting first with Francophone West Africa in countries where food prices remain a major share of the average family’s spending.

The big-picture goal for Twiga though, Njonjo says, is to expand into Nigeria, Africa’s most populous country and largest economy, where inefficient farming practices remain a problem. Twiga’s launch in Nigeria will see it join local agribusiness startups offering tech-based solutions by providing farmers increased technical support and capital.

“Essentially the problem we’re trying to solve is reducing how much it costs for the average African to spend on food,” Njonjo says. “Soon, food security will not be about availability of food but will be about the cost of food in our cities.”

There is one stumbling block in Twiga’s path: its business is dependent on sourcing orders from informal retailers who often lack cash-flow to replenish their stock and also struggle to secure loans given the lack of a credit history. To solve this, Njonjo says Twiga will now leverage the data it has collected on retailers to curate their creditworthiness and provide them with working capital loans.

It’s not the first time the company has attempted to facilitate micro-lending however: last year, it partnered with IBM on a blockchain-based eight-week pilot scheme to help administer loans to retailers in Kenya.

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ANGOLA:

Angola expects return to growth in 2020 due to ‘non-oil sector’

<https://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/world/africa/2019-10-15-angola-expects-return-to-growth-in-2020-due-to-non-oil-sector/>

Angola’s GDP has contracted for the past three years and is expected to shrink again in 2019

15 October 2019 - 19:01 Henrique Almeida and Candido Mendes

Luanda — Angolan President João Lourenço expects Africa’s second-biggest oil producer to return to growth in 2020 as the government accelerates efforts to diversify an economy battered by a decline in crude prices and output.

“Angola’s economic crisis started in 2014 and got worse, not just because of lower oil prices but because the country is indebted and is honouring its commitments,” Lourenço said in a state of the nation address in parliament on Tuesday. “In 2020, we expect the economy to return to growth due to rising output from the non-oil sector.”

Angola’s GDP has contracted for the past three years and is expected to shrink 0.2% in 2019, according to the latest Bloomberg survey. Angola’s crude exports in November may fall to the lowest level in at least 11 years, according to the country’s loading programme. The drop has put a strain on a country that depends on oil for more than 90% of its exports.

Diversifying the economy and battling graft has been a cornerstone of what Lourenço has called a “new Angola” since taking power in the 27-million strong nation in 2017 from José Eduardo dos Santos, who ruled for 38 years.

Transparency International ranks Angola one of the world’s most corrupt nations.

Lourenço, a former army general, said there are 45 cases in court to recover more than \$4.1bn allegedly stolen from the state. Authorities have also seized other sums of cash, cars and more than 70 properties, he said. Last year, Angolan law makers approved a law to allow for assets that were illegally acquired by public officials to be confiscated.

Angola is seeking to improve its finances after signing a three-year, \$3.7bn loan agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Lourenço said. Some of the measures include the privatisation of dozens of state-owned entities or asset; the phasing out of subsidies on several products, such as refined fuel; and measures to ensure the sustainability of Angola’s debt, according to the IMF.

The plan, he said, is for public debt to decline to less than 60% of GDP in 2022 from about 90%.

Bloomberg

AU/AFRICA :

African Union has deployed an Election Observation Mission for the 15 October 2019 General Elections in Mozambique

Published on 08 Oct 2019 — <https://reliefweb.int/report/mozambique/african-union-has-deployed-election-observation-mission-15-october-2019-general>

Addis Ababa, 8 October 2019: Ahead of the presidential, parliamentary and provincial elections scheduled to be held on 15 October 2019 in the Republic of Mozambique, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC), H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat, has approved the deployment of forty (40) short-term observers and 4 electoral experts from 9 October 2019 until the conclusion of the election process, following an invitation from the Government of Mozambique.

The short-term observation (STO) Mission will be led by His Excellency Goodluck Ebele Azikiwe Jonathan, former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The 44-member delegation includes ambassadors from the Permanent Representatives' Committee (PRC) of the AU, parliamentarians from the Pan-African Parliament (PAP), election administrators, civil society, media and electoral experts.

The AU Election Observation Mission (AUEOM) is in line with the African Union (AU)'s mandate of promoting democracy and democratic elections in Africa. To that effect, the deployment of an AUEOM to Mozambique demonstrates the AU's commitment to supporting credible, transparent, inclusive and peaceful electoral processes in its Member States by providing an objective assessment of the process and the political environment surrounding it. This is in line with Aspirations No.3 of Agenda 2063, which aims to ensure good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law on the continent. The conduct of free, fair and credible elections is widely recognized as being critical to achieving Agenda 2063 and the AU's vision of an integrated, peaceful and prosperous African continent.

Relevant AU instruments such as the 2007 African Union Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, the 2002 OAU/AU Declaration on Principles Governing Democratic Elections in Africa and the 2002 African Union Guidelines for Election Observation and Monitoring Missions, as well as Mozambique's legal framework and international commitment for democratic elections will guide the Mission's activities.

At the close of the voting and vote counting processes, the AU Observation Mission will issue a preliminary statement of its key findings and observations.

For more information on the Mission's activities, please contact: Mr. Idrissa Kamara – Political/Electoral Officer, Mission Coordinator Department of Political Affairs, African Union Commission. Email: kamarai@africa-union.org; Mob. +251912628629. Media Contact: Esther Azaa Tankou, Head of Information, Directorate of Information and Communication, African Union Commission, Email: yamboue@africa-union.org ; Mob. +251911361185

UN/AFRICA:

Somalia advancing towards 'inclusive and peaceful future' for women, deputy UN chief
23 October 2019 / Peace and Security <https://news.un.org/en/story/2019/10/1049851>

Ms. Mohammed's one-day visit was part of a joint UN-African Union trip to the Horn of Africa region, focusing on women, peace and security. In Somalia they emphasized the international commitment to the pursuit of peace, stability and credible elections in the country.

She was joined by AU Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security, Bineta Diop, and the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for the Horn of Africa, Parfait Onanga-Anyanga.

The importance of women's meaningful participation in elections, efforts to counter extremism, and the economic development of Somalia, were underscored by the delegation, who met with Prime Minister Hassan Ali Khayre and cabinet ministers from the Federal Government of Somalia to hear about government policy in this area, as well as with female civil society leaders.

"The opportunity to hear from a diverse range of voices about the role of Somali women in different spheres of life drove home just how vibrant and engaged they are, and also how committed they are to ensuring that the role of women and gender equality is factored into all facets of life here", said the Deputy Secretary-General. "This means challenging some outdated traditional views on the role of women and creating a space for them to be able to fulfil their potential."

However, the deputy UN chief noted that further progress is needed, when it comes to gender equality; the role of women in politics, peacebuilding and security; and women's full participation in the "one person, one vote" federal elections, due around late 2020 and early 2021.

Ms. Mohammed praised the engagement of Somali women in a range of spheres, and their commitment to ensuring that the role of women and gender equality is factored into all facets of life. "This means challenging some outdated traditional views on the role of women and creating a space for them to be able to fulfil their potential."

The delegation also met with senior officials from the UN Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM), UN Support Office in Somalia (UNSOS) and UN agencies, funds and programmes.

Following the joint mission, Ms. Mohammed is due to travel to Sudan with senior UN officials. She will visit Khartoum and Darfur, including the UN Mission UNAMID, in El Fasher.

While there she is due to meet the President, Prime Minister, and other senior politicians, as well as civil society and women leaders.

Discussions will focus on the UN's collaboration with Sudan, during the new phase of civilian-led government following months of political turmoil, in particular on economic development, and will also highlight the importance of women's leadership.

US/AFRICA:

African languages are the fastest growing in the United States

Chidinma Irene Nwoye By Chidinma Irene Nwoye October 7, 2019

<https://qz.com/africa/1723269/african-languages-are-fastest-growing-in-the-united-states/>

Newly released data from the U.S. Census Bureau spotlights African languages among the top ten fastest growing languages spoken at home in the U.S. The list featured three groups of African languages: Swahili and other Central/Eastern/Southern African languages; Yoruba, Twi, Igbo, and other Western African languages; and Amharic/Somali.

Analysts credit the development to recent immigration trends. Although African immigrants make up a small share of the nation's immigrant population, their overall numbers have doubled every decade since 1970, according to the Pew Research Center. Africans now make up 39% of the total foreign-born black population, up from 24% in 2000.

The immigration population growth in the U.S. has slowed down in recent months. But president Donald Trump's infamous "shithole" comment about African countries and the recent rise in the removal of Africans from the U.S. has not deterred African migrants from seeking refuge in the U.S. In June 2019, U.S. Customs and Border Patrol officials recorded an unprecedented rise in African migrants at the U.S.-Mexico border, arriving at a rate of 30 to 40 people a day. Majority of these asylum seekers are from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Angola.

This is not a trend that is expected to change drastically anytime soon. The number of Latino migrants living in the U.S. surpass sub-Saharan African immigrants and, consequently, Spanish is still the fastest-growing non-English language in terms of the population of speakers. The share of people who speak English at home fell from 78.4% in 2016 to 78.1% in 2018, according to recently released data from the US Census.

African languages, however, are among the fastest-growing languages with regards to the speed of growth, and the continued flow of Africans Westwards remains significant to the trend. The continent's mushrooming under-30 population, particularly those between the ages of 18 and 25 have considered emigrating, and North America is a top destination for the 22 percent who want to leave. This desire to migrate is highest in West and Central Africa.

Nigeria, Ghana, South Africa, Tanzania, Senegal and Kenya are among the principal countries of origin for sub-Saharan African migrants to Europe and the United States, which explains why Swahili, Yoruba and Igbo are leading the African cohort on the Census Bureau's list of fastest-growing languages.

This trend is already having an impact on the U.S. In the upcoming 2020 census, the country will, for the first time, have printed guides in three additional African languages—Igbo, Yoruba, and Twi. The previous census in 2010 had guides printed in five African languages all of which were from East and South Africa.

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Africa, QuartzThings, US census, African languages, US migration

7.2 Million Malaria Cases Confirmed in the Republic of Burundi

Burundi medical services in 2019 fall well below U.S. standards

Article by Dani Reiter Updated October 29th, 2019

<https://www.vaxbeforetravel.com/burundi-medical-services-2019-fall-well-below-us-standards>

October 28th, 2019 – The outbreak of malaria in the Republic of Burundi is ongoing, with a persistent high-incidence of cases, reported by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Since the WHO's last report on August 11, 2019 (bulletin #32), more than 1,500,856 new malaria cases, and 836 related fatalities have been reported in Burundi.

In total, from January to October 20, 2019, the WHO has confirmed 7,233,138 malaria cases with 2,691 fatalities across Burundi.

To alert international travelers, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a Level 1 Travel Alert for the Republic of Burundi on August 22, 2019. The CDC says medical services in Burundi fall well below U.S. standards, and there are no adequate trauma services in the country.

Burundi is a landlocked country with about 12 million residents, located in the African Great Lakes region, where East and Central Africa converge.

The CDC says travelers to Burundi should also take steps to prevent mosquito bites by using insect repellent and wearing protective clothing when outdoors.

Furthermore, if malaria prevention medicines are needed the Malaria Information by Country Table lists the CDC-recommended options. For many destinations, there are multiple options available.

And, travelers who develop a fever while in Burundi or after traveling to Burundi should seek medical care immediately. Without prompt diagnosis and treatment, malaria can rapidly progress to severe illness and death.

Most years, about 1,700 cases of malaria are diagnosed in the USA, mostly in returned travelers.

Malaria is a disease caused by a parasite that spreads to humans through the bite of an infected mosquito. Early symptoms of malaria resemble those of the flu, including fever, chills, sweats, headache, vomiting, and body aches.

Furthermore, the CDC says the drugs used to prevent malaria are not 100 percent effective. The resistance to chloroquine is high in Burundi, so travelers should use daily atovaquone-proguanil, daily doxycycline, or weekly mefloquine to prevent malaria.

Regarding additional health risks to Burundi visitors, the CDC suggested on July 8, 2019, that visitors are current with certain vaccines, such as Routine Vaccines and the measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine.

And, the yellow fever virus is a risk in certain parts of Burundi, therefore, the CDC recommends a yellow fever vaccine, such as Stamaril, for travelers 9 months of age or older to these areas.

From a security perspective, on June 12, 2019, the US Department of State issued a Level 3 Travel Advisory for Burundi. This Advisory said ‘There are ongoing political tensions in Burundi, causing sporadic violence throughout the country. Police and military checkpoints are common and can restrict freedom of movement.’

And, the U.S. government has limited ability to provide emergency services to U.S. citizens in Burundi, since U.S. embassy personnel are subject to restrictions when traveling in certain areas of Burundi and may be subject to other constraints as security conditions warrant.

The U.S. Embassy in Burundi is located in Bujumbura, at Avenue Des Etats-Unis. The email is bujumburac@state.gov

Additionally, both the Canadian and United Kingdom governments have issued similar ‘do not travel’ advisories for Burundi.

The UK’s Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) advise against all travel to:

For anyone departing from the USA, pre-departure vaccination services, related travel medications, and counseling appointments can be scheduled with a local pharmacy by visiting [Vax-Before-Travel](https://www.vax-before-travel.com).

Travel vaccine news is published by [Vax-Before-Travel](https://www.vax-before-travel.com).

CANADA/AFRICA:

Canada and China in Africa: who does it best?

By Joseph Ingram. Published on Oct 28, 2019 11:09am <https://ipolitics.ca/2019/10/28/canada-and-china-in-africa-who-does-it-best/>

"The Trudeau government's limited presence, concentrated as it is in a few mineral rich countries, suggests that Canadian aid and trade with Africa may be driven more by a narrow set of Canada's resource extraction corporate interests than by any real desire to alleviate poverty through a broad-based development strategy of aid, investment and trade packaged in Canadian values."

Earlier this month I had the privilege of being invited to speak at the Canadian studies program housed at the world's oldest university in Bologna, Italy. I was asked to compare Canada's presence in Africa with China's.

One might ask, why Canada and China, and why in Africa? The answer to the second question is more obvious. Africa's proximity to Europe, and especially to Italy, which until recently has taken the bulk of Europe's increased immigration, makes it imperative that the factors pushing young Africans to leave for Europe (and North America) be addressed if migration is to be managed in a way that benefits both the host country — in this case Italy- and the source countries in Africa.

Make no mistake, Italy needs young migrants if it is to develop a dynamic economy and broaden its narrowing tax base. Its fertility rate is below the replacement level and its population is aging rapidly while many of its young are leaving. But the flows must be managed in an orderly manner and the push factors in Africa minimized. African governments need to adopt economic and social policies based on best-practices globally.

And therein lies the answer to why compare Canada's presence with China's. They represent a stark contrast in political and economic models — China is the epitome of a totalitarian, one-party state, while Canada is seen widely in the world (whether Trudeau's detractors like it or not) as a leading advocate of liberal democracy, human rights, and the fight against global warming. It is useful, therefore, to analyze which model or which policy elements within each model, work best in helping African governments respond to their economic and social needs.

READ MORE: The political right and its insatiable appetite for liars

Contrary to what the Communist Party of China would have us believe, there is no binary choice between the two models. Aspects of both are effective in helping Africa's development, notwithstanding the overwhelming size and breadth of China's presence. Moreover, both China and Canada are trading nations with growing needs for foreign investment opportunities — China to meet the insatiable demands of its growing middle class, which in 2012 was estimated at 420 million people, 31 per cent of its population, and in 2025 at 750 million. To satisfy the rising expectations and job needs of the young entering its labour force it must generate economic growth of at least 8 per cent annually. Hence its concern at this year's rate of only 6.1 per cent.

Canada's need for more exports is dictated by its excessive reliance on trade with the US market (plus 70 per cent) and the fact that between 2000-2015 it was amongst the G20 countries that lost export market share (minus 38 per cent) — behind only the UK.

For comparison's sake, Australia gained some 50 per cent in market share during the same period. The concern today is that with U.S. growth stagnating, manufacturing declining, protectionism growing, and its debt ballooning, Canada must quickly diversify and establish new export markets

and investment opportunities, including in Africa where its investment presence to date has been largely limited to mining and resource extraction, not an activity that contributes much to African job creation, local value-added or more equitable growth — all elements that determine who will stay or emigrate.

So how is Africa doing and what sort of prospects does it present for foreign investors, including Canadians? In fact, it is today the region with some of the world's fastest growing economies — the Ivory Coast highest globally at over 9 per cent GDP growth in 2018, and a continental average of over 4 per cent projected for 2020. And why? Almost two dozen democracies, sensible economic reforms supported by the international community, debt reduction programs, an IT revolution and a new generation of highly educated political and business leaders.

And yet because of its very high population growth and the often obscene inequality, Africa remains the world's poorest region with 21 of the poorest 25 countries on the planet and over 400 million living in extreme poverty. By 2030, its working age population will be about 1 billion (the world's largest) meaning that GDP growth will need to average at least 7 per cent per year and be concentrated in activities that generate good jobs, with more local value-added and better infrastructure and public services. In other words, foreign investment, trade and foreign aid need to focus as much on improving the quality of Africa's growth as on rates of growth.

China has made no secret of its need for Africa's resources and since the creation of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) in 2000, the value of Chinese trade with the continent rose from \$2 billion to \$170 billion in 2017, making China Africa's largest trading partner. In addition, Chinese investment in Africa during the same period, both public and private, increased by 46 per cent per year on average and is present in 45 of the continent's 54 countries.

With an interest in gaining access long term to what will soon be amongst the world's largest markets, China has also diversified its investment portfolio by entering into joint ventures with local African investors in agriculture, agribusiness, textiles and light manufacturing thereby helping build local capacity, boosting technology transfers and raising African export levels. With a three year commitment (2019-2021) by FOCAC of \$60 billion in financing for Africa, of which \$15 billion in foreign aid, China has become Africa's largest donor. In addition, through President Xi's signature Belt and Road Initiative, nine African countries considered vitally important for China's trade and geostrategic ambitions will receive funding for major infrastructure investments.

Combining this comprehensive economic and aid presence with China's support for an enhanced African role in the UN and multilateral organizations, it should come as no surprise that in a recent global poll, China's economic model — human rights warts, debt traps and all — is preferred to that of the United States and other western democracies (though not so much in Hong Kong).

READ MORE: Trump and Putin: a honeymoon from heaven?

Canada, both through the Commonwealth and the Francophonie, had strong ties to Africa and was much admired for its role in helping dismantle apartheid and in continental peacekeeping. Under Stephen Harper, however, Canada became much less consequential, both as an economic and as a political presence in Africa.

Since Harper's decision to reduce the number of embassies and trade missions in Africa (to 14 covering 54 countries) and to limit to a handful the number of African countries receiving Canadian aid, the continent has been pretty much absent from the government's formal strategic priorities. The virtual absence of African support for Canada's 2010 bid for a temporary seat in the UN

Security Council suggests that African governments had taken Canada's reduced presence as a message.

Notwithstanding the Trudeau government's recent pledge that by 2021-22, it will provide 50 per cent of its total aid budget to Africa, unless its presence in terms of aid, investment and trade is substantially increased and sectorally diversified, the benefits to Canadian trade and foreign policy will remain negligible.

Indeed, today Canadian investment in Africa is only about 0.65 per cent of total foreign investment on the continent — unchanged since 2000 — while Africa's share of overall Canadian trade is less than 2 per cent with most of it in the form of energy imports to Canada coming from just four African countries and resulting in a trade deficit for Canada with the continent. When one adds to this a level of foreign aid that is a paltry 0.26 per cent of Canada's gross national income — amongst the least generous of the 24 OECD donor countries — and the fact that the quality of Canadian aid is poorly ranked because much of it goes to "less poor and worse governed recipients," Canada's development model is understandably inconsequential for most African governments.

While not so self defeating as Andrew Scheer's thoughtless proposal to cut foreign aid by 25 per cent, the Trudeau government's feminist foreign policy, though in itself a desirable objective, is not a substitute for a more robust economic presence that produces decent jobs, increases incomes, and addresses the principal factors that push desperate young people to Europe and North America. Indeed, the Trudeau government's limited presence, concentrated as it is in a few mineral rich countries, suggests that Canadian aid and trade with Africa may be driven more by a narrow set of Canada's resource extraction corporate interests than by any real desire to alleviate poverty through a broad-based development strategy of aid, investment and trade packaged in Canadian values.

Compared with China's presence, this is not a great basis for diversifying and increasing Canadian trade and investment nor for moderating the burgeoning flow of migrants looking for a better life.

AUSTRALIA/AFRICA :

A homecoming story for all humanity: Australian scientists claim to have found birthplace of modern humans

By Liam Mannix October 29, 2019 — 3.00am <https://www.smh.com.au/national/a-homecoming-story-for-all-humanity-australian-scientists-claim-to-have-found-birthplace-of-modern-humans-20191028-p53515.html>

The major features of the Kalahari Desert in southern Africa are shimmering salt pans and endless sand.

Yet this barren region, which covers parts of Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe, is where a group of Australian scientists now believe we come from.

They claim to have discovered the birthplace of modern humans at a former lake – Lake Makgadikgadi.

Rewind 200,000 years and the Kalahari Desert was covered by a vast system of lakes and wetlands. It would have supported birds and other animals and, somewhere along its shores, a small band of humans.

These humans were the ancestors of people today, the scientists claim in a study published on Tuesday in the journal Nature.

The remarkable potential discovery of the ancestral homeland of modern humans is being hailed as a new chapter in the story of us.

“We have rewritten our human history,” says Professor Vanessa Hayes, the Sydney-based academic who led the study.

The bottom of the tree

Scientists have known for a long time that the DNA of all races around the world can be traced to Africa.

Professor Hayes was part of the first team to sequence the full DNA, known as the genome, of five indigenous Africans.

“Europeans and Asians today are so related to each other,” she says. “We went through such a major genetic bottleneck when we left Africa. All we have been doing is studying a very tiny branch of a very big genetic tree.”

After that work was published, Professor Hayes continued sequencing DNA from indigenous groups in Africa, splitting her time between the Kalahari and her bases at Australia's Garvan Institute and the University of Sydney.

She followed the trail of mitochondrial DNA, which is passed on unchanged from a mother to her child, with the hope of tracing the thread back to our earliest female ancestors.

That led her first to the Kalahari Desert, and then to the Khoesan (pronounced koh sahn) people, a group identified through their use of a clicking language.

“They represent a lineage that never left the homeland,” Professor Hayes says.

Where modern humans are believed to have originated

By the shores of the lake

Today the Kalahari is dry.

But hundreds of thousands of years ago, according to climate modelling, the region was lush, humid, and dominated by Lake Makgadikgadi, a giant lake twice the size of Africa's Lake Victoria. As modern humans started to emerge, Makgadikgadi was breaking up into a series of smaller wetlands which would have teemed with life; “a perfect oasis for modern humans to live”, says Professor Hayes.

Around the wetland, Africa was dry. But 130,000 years ago changes in the Earth's climate would have brought warmth and rain to a corridor that ran from the wetland north-east towards the coast. That would have provided food and water for some members of the group to migrate.

These were the people who would learn to traverse water and later sail to conquer the rest of the world.

It is a neat and comprehensive origin story.

But Professor David Lambert, a leading human evolution and indigenous DNA researcher at the Australian Research Centre for Human Evolution, fears the evidence is not strong enough to back up the claims.

“The authors themselves are slightly cautious about it. Nature is very good at selling what they have got,” he says.

In a press release put out with the study, Nature claims the research pinpoints the ancestral homeland of all humans.

But the last paragraph of the paper notes the evidence cannot rule out the possibility modern humans evolved at similar times in different spots across Africa before interbreeding.

That would mean the Kalahari is only one of several homelands.

“That is a very debatable issue, and that one worries me a bit,” says Professor Lambert. “I really dislike this paper. I just find it very, very difficult.”

Liam Mannix

Liam is The Age and Sydney Morning Herald's science reporter

Australia denies Cameroonian journalist visa for press freedom conference

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/oct/24/australia-denies-cameroonian-journalist-visa-for-press-freedom-conference>

Authorities believed Mimi Mefo, an award-winning journalist who works for Deutsche Welle in Berlin, might try to stay

A Berlin-based journalist who was due to speak at a press freedom conference in Brisbane has said she was denied a visa by the Australian government because they believed she might try to stay.

Mimi Mefo, an award-winning Cameroonian journalist who currently works for Deutsche Welle, was scheduled to deliver a keynote address at the Integrity 20 conference on Friday.

However, last week her visa was refused because immigration authorities “were not satisfied that the applicant’s employment and financial situation provide an incentive to return”, Integrity 20 said.

Mefo, who won the 2019 Index on Censorship freedom of expression award for journalism, was due to travel on from Australia to South Africa to deliver a lecture at the African investigative journalism conference.

Cybersecurity speakers cancelled for 'idea' of panel with Edward Snowden

Read more

She said her flights were already paid to connect her from Brisbane to Johannesburg.

“For some insane reason, [Australian ambassador to Germany, Lynette Wood’s] team think that Australia is heaven where I will abandon my job in Germany, disappoint everyone at the #AIJC in South Africa, just to remain there illegally,” Mefo said on Twitter.

“I guess there are many ways to attempt silencing journalists.”

Australia’s Department of Home Affairs said it did not comment on individual cases.

A spokesman said visa decisions were made “only after full and careful consideration of the information provided by the applicant and any other relevant information held by the department, and in accordance with Australia’s migration legislation”.

“The decision-maker must be satisfied that health, character, security and genuine temporary entry and stay requirements are met in order to grant a visa.”

Jodie Ginsberg, the chief executive of Index of Censorship, said the idea that Mefo would jeopardise a two-year contract with Deutsche Welle to seek asylum was “obviously nonsense”.

“Is it conspiracy or cock-up? I suspect they didn’t perhaps take into account all the documentation which demonstrates her achievements and the fact she was going straight on to her talk in South Africa,” Ginsberg said.

“If that’s the case it means many journalists or dissidents will find they aren’t able to enter Australia.”

Australian journalist and chair of the Walkley Foundation, Kerry O’Brien, who will also speak at Integrity 20, said Mefo was a highly respected journalist who had been jailed for truthful reporting in Cameroon and awarded for her journalism.

In 2018 Mefo spent four days in jail for reporting allegations of military involvement in the death of a US missionary. She was released after international pressure.

O’Brien told Guardian Australia he didn’t understand why the government would think she represented a risk of overstaying her visa.

“I think it is a very sad irony that the government would decide to stop Mimi from coming into Australia to participate in a serious forum in a discussion on the importance of a free press and freedom from censorship,” O’Brien said.

“Given the ongoing debate and concern in this country about police raids on journalists and journalism organisations, I would think the government would want to demonstrate that when it says it supports a free press that it actually does, because this incident says otherwise.”

The Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance (MEAA), which represents journalists, said it had written to the immigration minister, David Coleman, urging him to intervene, and endorsed a statement from Index on Censorship: “Australia prides itself on its democratic values, including freedom of expression. This means it needs to support and champion those being denied the right to speak in their own countries. Denying visas to journalists who have faced oppression and censorship in their own countries simply emboldens the oppressor.”

Integrity 20 said it was “deeply disappointed” by the visa refusal, which “denied the opportunity for Australians to hear from this significant international voice.

While there was now no chance of Mefo getting to the conference even if her visa was granted, Ginsberg said the refusal “cannot be allowed to become a pattern”.

“It’s absolutely essential, even in the age of the internet, that individuals are allowed to travel and people have the opportunity to hear from them in person. That’s a fundamentally different experience which has the potential to change people’s viewpoint.

“Preventing Mimi from travelling helps to strengthen oppressive regimes around the world; it’s another way to silence [journalists and dissidents].”

The refusal of Mefo’s entry comes amid a nationwide press freedom campaign by Australian media outlets addressing increasing government encroachment on journalists. It has largely focused on federal police raids on the homes and offices of journalists from News Corp and the ABC.

Ginsberg said the irony was that the conference’s panel on press freedom, which she will still appear on without Mefo, would now focus more on the Australian government’s poor track record than the global problem.

EU/AFRICA :

Europe is deepening efforts to attract African talent

Johanna Hellwig 26 October 2019

<https://www.universityworldnews.com/post.php?story=20191021095107777>

It is no secret that Africa – especially Sub-Saharan Africa – will have the strongest demographic growth in the upcoming decade. Numerous studies also predict a growth in academic mobility from Africa in the coming years, if not decades.

According to Campus France's publication *La mobilité internationale des étudiants africains* (International mobility of African students), 432,589 African students studied abroad in 2015, according to UNESCO figures. This represents an increase of 16% since 2013.

The top five countries of origin are Nigeria, Morocco, Cameroon, Algeria and Tunisia. In total, about 21% of students came from Maghreb countries. The top five host countries are France, the United States, South Africa, the United Kingdom and Ghana.

The member states of the European Union host 43.1% of African students, and among the top 25 host countries are France, the UK, Germany, Italy, Portugal and Belgium.

However, new destinations are arising, among them Saudi Arabia, Ukraine, India and the United Arab Emirates, which are competing with the traditional host countries. In 2016, the number of international mobile students from Sub-Saharan Africa reached 372,000, according to UNESCO statistics.

Campus France's annual publication on key figures for student mobility (*Chiffres clés 2019*) observed that 8.3 million people were enrolled in higher education in Sub-Saharan Africa in 2016. This number is expected to double by 2030. The number of young people (18 to 23 years) is expected to increase from 120 million in 2016 to 173 million in 2030.

The study *International Student Mobility to 2027: Local investment, global outcomes*, published by the British Council in January 2018, reported that 26 African countries are expected to double their population by 2050. It is expected that by 2027, among the 10 fastest growing 18- to 22-year-old populations will be from five African countries (Nigeria, Ethiopia, Kenya, Angola and Egypt).

Many African countries will also expect a growth in tertiary enrolments. Ethiopia, Angola, Ghana, Kenya and Nigeria are among those with the highest average annual growth. Moreover, Nigeria and Kenya are among the top 10 growth markets for outgoing mobility.

European programmes

The European Commission has reinforced its initiatives towards a deepened cooperation with the African continent in the field of higher education. Thanks to EU-funded programmes such as Erasmus Mundus and Erasmus+, African universities and African students have benefited from EU funding and cooperated with European universities or studied in the EU.

By September 2018, the EU had already supported 16,000 beneficiaries of these programmes, according to the report *Strengthening the EU's Partnership with Africa*.

By 2020 this number is expected to reach 35,000, and 105,000 by 2027, as European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker said in his State of the Union address in 2018. The Erasmus+ calls for proposals in 2019 and 2020 foresee an additional €40 million (US\$44.7 million) for cooperation with African countries.

Within this context, this autumn several European events will have a focus on the African continent and on enhancing student mobility and cooperation between the two continents.

The Study in Europe project, a three-year project funded by the European Commission, aims to enhance the attractiveness of European higher education in the world.

The project started in late 2017 and is conducted by a group of European organisations led by Campus France – the French agency for the promotion of higher education, international student services and international mobility – and includes the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Nuffic from the Netherlands, the British Council, Archimedes Foundation from Estonia and the Academic Cooperation Association (ACA), Brussels.

The project involves different promotion activities that are open to higher education institutions and national promotion agencies from the Erasmus+ programme countries.

The organisation of study fairs worldwide which inform international students, their parents and advisers about opportunities in Europe is part of the project. Study in Europe fairs will be organised in Ethiopia in November 2019 and in Nigeria in March 2020, allowing interested students to learn more about different European countries and their higher education institutions.

Through presenting a larger range of European countries, the fairs will give interested visitors the opportunity to learn more about the different European countries, including smaller and less-known countries, to talk to university representatives or embassy staff, to listen to country presentations and receive information about scholarship opportunities, especially opportunities within the scope of the Erasmus+ programme.

Alumni of Erasmus+ are involved and give useful tips to future international students. The events also include networking opportunities for African and European higher education institutions in order to enhance cooperation and exchange between institutions.

In late November, the Study in Europe webinar series ‘Africa’ will inform African students about European higher education systems. During short presentations, representatives of European organisations in charge of promoting their higher education system will present study and funding opportunities to a wider African public.

The objective is to enhance the visibility of European countries and encourage students to look further into the different European higher education systems.

The main constant source of information on these study opportunities and options remains the Study in Europe portal site, whose content is kept up to date and fresh through cooperation with all the countries featured.

Campus France, DAAD, Nuffic and the British Council are also joining forces, together with the African Union and the European Commission, to organise a high-level Africa-Europe conference on higher education collaboration in Brussels on 25 October 2019 entitled “Investing in people by investing in higher education and skills in Africa”. This conference will tackle topics such as employment, support for refugees, capacity building and quality assurance.

Johanna Hellwig is project manager, European Projects Unit, Department of External and Institutional Relations, Campus France. For more information on the Study in Europe project and the upcoming events, please visit the Study in Europe fair website or the Study in Europe portal. Information on the Africa-Europe conference in Brussels is available here.

EU/Africa: Relations in a funk over China, trade and post-Cotonou

<https://www.theafricareport.com/18176/eu-africa-relations-in-a-funk-over-china-trade-and-post-cotonou/>

By Ben Fox Posted on Monday, 7 October 2019 08:31, updated on Tuesday, 22 October 2019 14:16

A new team is taking over at the European Commission. But there are few signs it will lead to a major shift in how Brussels works with Africa.

[This is the first in our 5-part series on Europe/Africa relations, with stories to come on the United Kingdom, France, Germany and Spain]

After plenty of speculation that Ursula von der Leyen's new European Commission would include a commissioner specifically for Africa, the final list of designated portfolios was something of a let down for development observers and Africanists in Brussels.

All Commission nominees go through a parliamentary hearing, and Urpilainen, Finland's former finance minister and parliamentary envoy to Ethiopia, offered a commitment to the jargon-heavy United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and to the EU's recent policy of increasing private sector investment in Africa.

"The future of Africa is the future of Europe. There are 1.2 billion [people] living in Africa and more than half of them are under 25 – it's a continent of opportunity," she told MEPs.

In China's shadow

Outgoing president Jean-Claude Juncker's European Commission took four years to show interest in Africa. In his final 'State of the Union' speech in September 2018, Juncker surprised many with the offer of a 'partnership of equals', based around a continent-to-continent trade deal.

The EU executive has rapidly become concerned that China has usurped its position as Africa's main partner when it comes to trade, investment and politics.

The paragraphs on EU-Africa relations had been hurriedly drafted within a few days of China's President Xi Jinping offer of \$60bn in additional aid, loans and investment at the Forum on China-Africa Co-operation just weeks before.

Commentators put the emphasis on 'long-term' nature of the commitment, however, and the agenda has barely advanced beyond the EU executive providing €50m (to fund technical support for the African Union's team tasked with drawing up regulatory standards for the African Continent Free Trade Agreement.

In the meantime, the Commission is preoccupied with finalising the successor to the Cotonou Agreement with the African, Caribbean and Pacific community (ACP) which includes 51 of the 54 African states.

The Cotonou Agreement expires in 2020, and a June deadline for agreeing a new accord was missed. Talks moved slowly in the first six months of 2019 and will not begin in earnest until the new European Commission takes office in November.

The delay is, in part, because of disagreement among both EU member states and African countries, over whether to keep the ACP format or push for a continent-to-continent arrangement with the African Union.

“There is no choice to be made,” insists Koen Doens, Deputy Director-General of the Commission’s Directorate-General on Development Co-operation. “It is possible to construct EU-Africa relations within the ACP framework.”

But many observers question the value of retaining the ACP – which the UK and Germany are keen to scrap. The salaries of the ACP’s secretariat are paid by the EU. The EU-ACP is a “post-colonial configuration”, says Geert Laporte, deputy director of the European Centre for Development Policy Management.

Eventually, negotiators agreed to keep the ACP format with separate ‘regional pillars’, but little progress has been made. There is still confusion on whether there will be separate ‘Africa specific’ protocols.

“The Europeans will have to decide for themselves on how they want to engage,” Carlos Lopes, the African Union Commission’s high representative on Cotonou, told media.

The rhetoric is fine said Lopes, “but these promises are not grounded in a continent-continent instrument.”

Observers to the talks say that Cotonou will now require an extension of at least one year.

“The longer it goes on the more likely it (post-Cotonou) is to get totally torn up,” says Laporte.

Institutional battles

The EU is mired in its own internal institution battles on the future direction of EU-Africa policy.

The European External Action Service (EEAS), the EU’s diplomatic service, is anxious to establish a more strategic relationship between the EU and the African continent, and is embroiled in its own power struggle with the Commission’s Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO), which has tended to take a more traditional donor/recipient approach, for control over EU-Africa policy.

DEVCO is leading on the post-Cotonou talks, a source of frustration to EEAS officials who complain that Cotonou is primarily focused on aid and perpetuates a donor/recipient relationship between the EU and Africa.

Yet the Commission is unlikely to abandon the ‘conditionality’ to its funding and investment instruments that frustrates African leaders. “We have specific values in our treaties that we cannot just deny. The two things go together. You don’t sacrifice values for economics,” says Domenico Rosa, the EU executive’s head of unit on EU-ACP relations.

CHINA/AFRICA :

South Africa gets behind China's defence of multilateral trade

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3033704/south-africa-gets-behind-chinas-defence-multilateral-trade>

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi says the two countries should work together to oppose protectionism

Jevans Nyabiage Published: 10:00pm, 19 Oct, 2019

South Africa has added its weight to China's support for the multilateral trade system, as the commodities-reliant economy is buffeted by the tariff war between Beijing and Washington.

In the coastal city of Durban on Friday, Naledi Pandor, South Africa's minister of international relations and cooperation, told Chinese State Councillor Wang Yi that South Africa would defend multilateral trade rules centred on the World Trade Organisation.

"South Africa is willing to strengthen communication and coordination with China in multilateral affairs," she told Wang, who is also China's foreign minister.

Wang echoed the sentiment, saying China and South Africa should work together to "safeguard multilateralism ... oppose unilateralism and protectionism".

The two countries should "jointly safeguard the common interests of developing countries and strengthen strategic communication and cooperation in international and regional affairs", he said.

Wang's trip is part of a broader diplomatic offensive that last month saw a visit to Kenya, Nigeria and Sierra Leone by Yang Jiechi, Chinese President Xi Jinping's special representative.

The trips come as China is embroiled in a bruising trade war with the United States that has seen both sides levy tariffs on billions of dollars worth of one another's goods.

While South Africa is the continent's second-biggest economy, its reliance on commodities has made it vulnerable to fluctuations in global prices induced by the trade conflict, and its currency, the rand, is vulnerable to swings in international markets. In the past few days, the rand has benefited as Washington and Beijing resumed talks and tensions eased.

But the China-US trade conflict has also rippled out into other areas, including 5G technology.

In July, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa voiced his support for Chinese telecoms giant Huawei after the United States added the technology firm to its "entity list", which requires American companies to get approval from the US government before buying equipment from or selling components to the Chinese firm.

Meeting Ramaphosa on Friday, Wang said China and South Africa were key emerging markets, and the two nations should improve mutual trust. China would encourage its companies to invest in the nation, he said.

As part of his trip, Wang promised that China would continue to fund projects under the Belt and Road Initiative, Beijing's multibillion-dollar infrastructure development plan to link economies into a China-centred trading network.

Scholarship offers driving China's soft-power play in Africa

He also reaffirmed China's commitment to helping South Africa to implement a series of initiatives – from promoting industry to green development – agreed to at the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation in Beijing last year.

China has been South Africa's biggest trading partner since 2009, with two-way trade increasing to US\$40.6 billion last year, up from US\$9.4 billion in 2009, according to South Africa's Ministry of Trade and Industry.

South Africa exports mainly minerals and metals, including iron ore and aluminium, to China, while South Africa imports products such as textiles and light electronics from China.

During his visit to South Africa last year, Xi pledged US\$14.7 billion of investments in the country.

But South Africa's value for China goes beyond its economy. Pretoria wields considerable power in the Southern African Development Community, a grouping of 16 states from Lesotho to Tanzania.

South Africa's support on global issues can influence the position of other countries in the bloc.

Apart from trade issues, Beijing is seeking support from African economies to condemn the ongoing protests in Hong Kong and backing for its activities in the autonomous region of Xinjiang.

Although South Africa was not one of them, 15 African countries expressed support earlier this year for "anti-extremist" policies in Xinjiang after some 20 democratic governments expressed their concern about the mass detention of Uygur and other Muslims in the region.

INDIA/AFRICA:

Bengaluru gets 1st direct flight to Africa ..

[http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/71800426.cms?
utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/71800426.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst)

BRAZIL/AFRICA:

View: 'BRICS' is about geopolitics, not economics

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[utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst](http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/articleshow/71800810.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst)

Bloomberg| Updated: Oct 29, 2019, 01.40 PM IST

India and China have consistently exceeded the rating firm's growth predictions since the turn of the century. Russia and South Africa have failed to meet them since about 2005, Brazil since 2010

By Leonid Bershidsky

BRICS, one of the most powerful concepts to emerge in political economy this century, makes little sense today, S&P Global Ratings said in an emailed note last week. But even if that's true for economic analysis, the acronym coined by Goldman Sachs analyst Jim O'Neill has predicted the current geopolitical reality, which isn't served well by 20th century institutions.

The acronym stands for Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, the latter a late addition that wasn't in O'Neill's original 2001 paper or its 2003 sequel (which used "BRICs," as a plural). Both reports predicted that the first four of the non-Western economies eventually would account for a much bigger share of global economic output, overtaking large European economies, and told investors they'd be wrong to miss the opportunity to get involved in this global shift

The idea often has been dismissed as a marketing tool, a way to put a flashy label on something no one could have missed, namely the growth of the big emerging economies. Those who see it that way could feel vindicated by the S&P note's suggestion that "the diverging long-term economic trajectory of the five countries weakens the analytical value of viewing the BRICS as a coherent economic grouping."

But, like many other serendipitous ideas, O'Neill's has been transformed by the way the world has changed since the early 2000s. It doesn't really matter that the BRICS aren't growing at the same pace. They're still all playing major roles in reshaping the world.

As the S&P note correctly points out, putting the five countries in the same basket economically is increasingly questionable. India and China have consistently exceeded the rating firm's growth predictions since the turn of the century. Russia and South Africa have failed to meet them since about 2005, Brazil since 2010. Of course, the five nations have greatly increased their combined economic heft since the turn of the century — but only thanks to China and India. Brazil, Russia and South ...

RUSSIE / AFRICA :

Nucléaire: Moscou offre sa technologie clé en main à l'Afrique

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Pour le gouvernement russe, il s'agit de s'assurer des parts de marché dans la bataille commerciale engagée par les géants de l'énergie qui se bousculent pour éclairer le continent noir. Un marché juteux.

Au premier forum économique Russie-Afrique de Sotchi, le nucléaire russe a attisé la curiosité des délégations africaines. Et pour cause. En 2019, l'Afrique subsaharienne reste à la traîne dans l'accès à l'électricité. La technologie nucléaire russe, à des fins civiles, a retenu l'attention des pays africains.

Aussi, Moscou a mobilisé les experts de Rosatom, son agence nucléaire pour proposer aux Etats africains le choix de leur technologie à des fins civiles pour booster leur développement.

Le président Vladimir Poutine a assuré que les projets proposés se font sans la moindre ingérence politique. Le dernier accord portant sur le nucléaire remonte au 17 octobre courant.

Rosatom a signé un accord préliminaire de coopération pour construire un centre de recherche sur le nucléaire au Rwanda, ainsi qu'avec l'Ethiopie. "Nous sommes prêts à proposer à nos partenaires éthiopiens des solutions et nous les invitons à venir visiter les installations russes", a déclaré à la presse le patron de Rosatom, Alexei Likhatchev, qui dispose déjà de protocoles d'accord avec dix-huit pays africains, parmi lesquels, l'Egypte, le Nigeria, le Soudan, le Kenya, le Ghana, la Zambie et l'Ouganda.

On pense aussi que la coopération avec la Zambie et le Rwanda aboutira très vite. Dix Etats africains ont annoncé clairement leurs intentions de se doter de centrales nucléaires pour faire face au déficit criant en matière d'énergie. En plus de l'Afrique du Sud, qui est le seul pays du continent à disposer d'une centrale nucléaire, au moins cinq autres pays devraient en disposer à l'horizon 2025.

Aujourd'hui, plus de la moitié de la population africaine n'a pas accès à l'électricité sur un continent qui devrait compter deux milliards d'habitants en 2050. Eclairer l'Afrique représente donc un marché juteux qui aiguise l'appétit de l'industrie nucléaire russe. Moscou vante son savoir-faire dans ce domaine. Les centrales russes auraient l'avantage d'être moins chères que celles des concurrents occidentaux et souvent assorties de prêts avantageux octroyés par Rosatom.

Noël Ndong

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