

No Own Goal in 2010

The New Year has been dominated by security issues. Most high profile have been the failed plot on Christmas Day by a Nigerian student- the so-called 'underpants bomber'- to blow up a plane over Detroit, and the attack last week on the Togolese football squad in Cabinda.

The decade opens with many countries highly vulnerable to violence, including the DRC, Guinea, Kenya, Madagascar, Nigeria, Zimbabwe and in the Horn. The clock is ticking in Sudan, where the referendum on the status of the south is now less than a year away. Many fear that increased levels of violence could contribute to a resumption of full scale war.

Transnational crime, including illicit trafficking in people, drugs, precious minerals and goods, is growing. Humanitarian crisis is worsening in Central Africa and the Horn. And the underpants bomber incident has deepened concerns that Islamic extremism is spreading, whether in Somalia, the Maghreb, West Africa and elsewhere.

The African Cup of Nations and, later this year, the World Cup, will result in Africa receiving more international media coverage than ever before. This is a great opportunity to communicate the diversity and wealth of African life, the many challenges the continent faces, and the contribution it can make to resolving global problems, like climate change.

The last thing Africa needs is intensified global media focus on violence and extremism and further negative stereotyping.

The challenge for Africa's champions is to ensure that the coverage increases understanding and practical support for Africa's economic and social development and her ability to prevent and manage conflict. In addition to an African team winning, this would be the best legacy of the World Cup.

“ The good news for 2010 is that signs of recovery in GDP are already appearing...Throughout the region, exports have been rising strongly since the second quarter of 2009, reversing much of the hemorrhaging that began in the third quarter of 2008.

Jon Shields, IMF African Department commenting on "Africa in 2010"

News Overview

[Despite recent calls to abdicate](#) his post, [President Yar'Adua of Nigeria has stated that he will resume his duties](#), though he has not specified a timeline. He has been in Saudi Arabia for treatment since 23 November. A judge ruled that [Vice-President Goodluck Jonathan has the right to perform all presidential duties in his absence](#) without a formal transfer of power.

[President Kabila of the Democratic Republic of Congo has sacked 3,000 civil servants](#) in an effort to combat corruption.

The African Cup of Nations opened on January 10th, with [Egypt and Malawi defeating World Cup qualifiers Nigeria and Algeria](#) respectively. [An attack on Togo's national team](#) by Angolan separatist rebels, leaving one dead and nine injured, led to Togo withdrawing from the tournament.

An agreement was signed between an Egyptian and a Sudanese company [to build a key segment of a highway between Cairo and Cape Town](#). This is the final section between Cairo and Khartoum, but major gaps in the highway remain in East Africa.

The [World Food Programme has suspended operations in southern Somalia](#) after receiving threats from members of the Al-Shabaab insurgents. Up to one million people have been dependent on food assistance in the region.

According to the Quality Life Index, published by International Living, [South Africa is the best place to live in Africa](#), followed by Mauritius and Namibia. Somalia was ranked as the worst place to live- both in Africa and in the world- followed by Sudan.

[Three prominent American evangelicals have been linked to the Ugandan anti-homosexuality bill](#) that would lead to capital punishment for gay Ugandans. This confirms the strong relationship between African anti-homosexual movements and American evangelicals.

A new report confirms that former [President of Rwanda, Juvenal Habyarimana, was indeed assassinated by his own forces](#), the Rwandan Patriotic Front.

The [President of Côte d'Ivoire has requested additional UN peacekeepers](#) to reinforce security ahead of the national elections expected to take place in March.

Presidential Elections Calendar 2010

Guinea	31 January -1 st round 14 February-2 nd round
Somaliland (autonomous region)	January
Togo	28 February
Côte d'Ivoire	February / March
Central African Republic	March/April
Sudan	11-19 April- 1 st round
Guinea- Bissau	28 June
Burundi	July
Rwanda	9 August
Burkina Faso	November
Equatorial Guinea	December

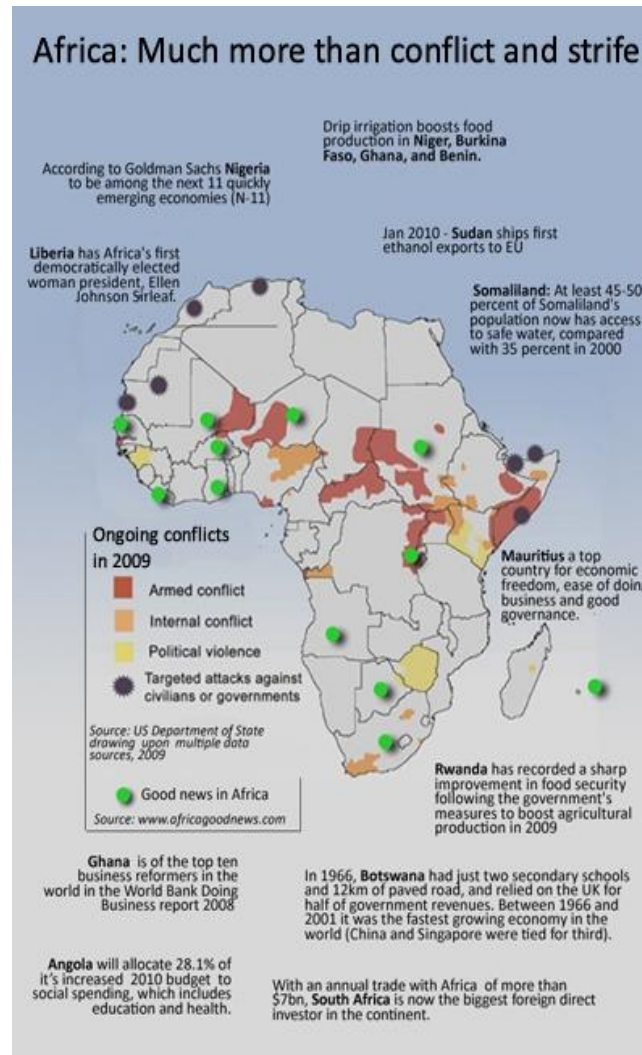
Source: [EISA](#) (a Non-profit organization that seeks to promote credible elections & democratic governance in Africa)

In the blogs...

[World Bank Shanta Devarajan's Blog: Three Challenges and Opportunities for the Decade Ahead, 6 Jan 2010](#)

According to this blog, the three most important challenges and opportunities for the decade are:

1. Jobs: Productive-employment-intensive growth remains a challenge.
2. Fragile States: The probability that a fragile state in 2000 was still fragile in 2008 is 96%.
3. Politics and Pro-Poor Reforms: The lack of populist policies, coupled with stronger domestic civil society and democratic reforms is paving way for pro-poor reforms in Africa with policymakers becoming more likely to take decisions that benefit the poor.



Multilateral Organizations

AfDB

[An article published by the AfDB: "Africa's Counter-Cyclical Policy Responses to the Crisis" analyses Africa's response to the global economic crisis](#)

AU

[The AU Commission and the People's Republic of China sign a grant agreement for the implementation of the project for an AU conference center to be constructed in Addis Ababa](#)

EAC

[East African Community member states plan to deepen defense ties by creating a joint regional defense force](#)

ECOWAS

[ECOWAS launches "Poverty Reduction Plan" to help better tackle poverty and boost development in the sub-region](#)

[ECOWAS is negotiating with Guinea's military junta to establish a transitional government](#)

IOM

[IOM provides support to improve food security and nutritional standards to vulnerable returnee communities in Angola](#)

THE GLOBAL FUND

[The Global Fund will provide 43.3m\\$ grant to support HIV prevention, treatment and support services in Mali over the next two years](#)

UN

[The 2010 Education for All - Global Monitoring Report warns that the aftershock of the global financial crisis threatens to set back education in the world's poorest countries](#)

WHO

[A new report by WHO "Protecting Health from Climate Change: Connecting Science, Policy and People" provides an update of the scientific evidence on health risks caused by climate change](#)

Calendar

11-29 Jan	53 rd Session of OHCHR Committee on the Rights of a Child: Geneva, Switzerland
17-23 Jan	Cultural Diplomacy in Africa: A Forum for Young Leaders: Berlin, Germany
18-21 Jan	128 th session of the committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians: Geneva, Switzerland
21-23 Jan	The Rise of Africa: An International Conference on New Strategies & Approaches to Governance and Sustainable Development in Africa : Berlin, Germany
24 Jan	BASIC Group meets on Climate Change: New Delhi, India
25 Jan	13 th Africa Partnership Forum: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
25 Jan- 2 Feb	14 th African Union Summit: "ICT in Africa: Challenges and Prospects for Development:" Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
27-31 Jan	World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2010: Davos, Switzerland

Opinions

[Pambazuka News: the South Africa-Congo Concession: Exploitation or Salvation? 7 Jan. 2010](#)

The author discusses the ramifications of the land-lease deal between the DRC and South African farmers involving 200,000 hectares. Though the effects on local populations remain unclear, the author highlights the potential for technology transfer and skill development in the fertile region.

[The Guardian \(Nigeria\): The Mutallab Incident: Memo to President Obama, 6 Jan. 2010](#)

In response to the attempt by Nigerian-born Umar Farouk Mutallab to trigger an explosion on a flight between Amsterdam and Detroit, the author emphasizes that Mutallab's actions should not qualify all Nigerians as terrorists.

[The Independent \(Uganda\): Donors Blackmail on Gays Bad, 6 Jan. 2010](#)

In response to threats by international donors to revoke or reduce funding if a bill is passed that could result in capital punishment for homosexuality, the author argues that cultural attitudes cannot change through force, but rather dialogue.

[Business Day \(South Africa\): Democracy is Our Security, 11 Jan. 2010](#)

Though acknowledging that South Africa has its problems, namely crime and corruption, this editorial denies that events similar to the attack on the Togo national team in Angola could occur in South Africa during the World Cup.

[Le Monde \(France\): L'aide publique au développement est-elle efficace ? \(article in French\), 5 Jan. 2010](#)

Dr. Chérif Salif Sy, Secretary General of the Senegalese Association of Economists, doubts the efficacy of aid, both in terms of its effectiveness and neutrality. He advocates for African countries to adopt policies that support further industrialization and increased export of manufactured goods, while also encouraging consumption.

[The New Times \(Rwanda\): The Road to Copenhagen did not pass through Africa, 13 Jan. 2010](#)

Though recognizing that the formation of a common African position at the Copenhagen summit was a positive development, the author emphasizes the marginalization of Africa within the context of the meetings and the overall accord.

[The World Today \(UK\): Somalia: Bad Situation, Getting Worse, Jan 2010](#)

In a piece for Chatham house, Sally Healy analyses the deterioration of the situation in Somalia and calls for an entirely new approach.



Artist: John Trever

G20 Update

CHINA

[China will offer Kenya a grant of 551m Kenyan Shillings \(approx. 7.3m\\$\) to help finance government projects and also pledges to assist the nation to develop a second port.](#)

EU

[The EU reaffirms its strong engagement with the UN, especially in Africa, to enhance regional cooperation.](#)

[The candidate for EU Development Commissioner promises to shame any country that fails to meet aid commitments. He also calls for developing countries to take a long-term approach to their natural resources.](#)

FRANCE

[The French Government has pledged to help Rwanda and the DRC fight the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda \(FRLR\) operating in eastern DRC.](#)

GERMANY

[The German Foreign Office will provide 500,000€ to fund emergency aid for Congolese refugees.](#)

[The German government has granted 14m€ to fight the spread of the influenza H1N1, also known as "Swine Flu" in Sub Saharan Africa.](#)

INDIA

[India and Zambia have agreed to strengthen bilateral relations especially in the fields of trade and investment.](#)

ITALY

[The Italian Foreign Minister, Franco Frattini says Italy is paying closer attention to Africa because she is a vital partner in addressing global challenges.](#)

JAPAN

[The Japanese government pledges a grant of 1.3m\\$ to help fight infant mortality in Sierra Leone.](#)

[The Japanese government has decided to extend its emergency grant aid of 1.7m\\$ \(approx. 175m¥\) to support the forthcoming elections in the Republic of Burundi .](#)

UK

[UK allocates an additional £54m for humanitarian assistance and for elections in Sudan.](#)

USA

[USAID has awarded 14m\\$ in grants to seven non-governmental organizations to help support agribusiness in rural Zimbabwe.](#)

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