

“ You can't shave somebody's head in his absence ... In an almost 30-page communiqué, Africa is not even mentioned ”

Odour Ong'wen, Kenyan economist, on the G20 Summit Communiqué

Multilateral Organizations

AfDB

[The African Development Bank presented its initiative on trade finance in Tunis on Tuesday, 14 April.](#)

[The AfDB and the Collaborative Africa Budget Reform Initiative launched a landmark report on budget practices on 7 April.](#)

AU

[The African Union held a Validation Workshop for the 2009 Report on assessing progress on towards attaining the Millennium Development Goals in Addis Ababa from 8-9 April.](#)

ECOWAS

[West African Ministers of Labour and Employment have adopted a Labour Policy Plan of Action to harmonize labour initiatives across the ECOWAS member states.](#)

IPU

[The 120th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union meeting in Addis Ababa adopted a resolution on the financial crisis.](#)

SADC/EAC

[The East African Community and the Southern African Development Community created a common fund to pool investment resources for developing the energy and transport sectors and other infrastructure on Tuesday, 14 April.](#)

UN

[The 2 ad-hoc working groups of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change ended their first round of negotiations ahead of the Copenhagen Summit in Bonn on 8 April.](#)

[The UN's World Food Programme warned that "Somali pirates are in danger of again threatening food supplies for the war-ravaged East African country".](#)

[The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs \(OCHA\) reports that more than 54,000 people have been uprooted by floods in Namibia.](#)

[Four UN agencies, WHO, UNFPA, UNICEF and the World Bank, have announced their cooperation in support of maternal and newborn health globally](#)

World Bank

[The World Bank has approved a \\$25 million loan to be disbursed over five years to help Mozambique boost sectors including tourism and agriculture](#)

Opinions

[Washington Post \(US\): Keeping Africa's Turnaround on Track, 9 April 2009](#)

In an op-ed, Liberian President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf states that "for more than a decade, much of Africa has been moving forward. Economic growth is rising, poverty is falling and democratic governance is spreading. But the global financial crisis threatens to undo this progress by reducing investment, exports and aid just as they should be expanding to build on these successes".

[South Centre \(Switzerland\): Director's Article on the Outcome of the G20 Meeting in London, 5 April 2009](#)

Martin Khor criticizes the outcome of the G20 Summit held in London on 2 April 2009. He argues that besides numerical inflation, repeat announcements and double-counting, the summit also failed to proceed with institutional reform or encourage the IMF to change its harmful lending practices.

[Guardian \(UK\): Bouteflika, again and again, 12 April 2009](#)

In this opinion piece, researcher Ahmed Aghrout argues that Algeria's presidential election had been decided in November 2008 when parliament allowed the serving president to run for a third term. He contends that what matters more than the election outcome, something that any Algerian knew in advance, are the social and political dynamics engendered by this election which, in due course, will represent a challenge to the current regime.

[Daily News \(Tanzania\): Soyinka: Africa needs good leaders, 14 April 2009](#)

Speaking at the University of Dar es Salaam, during the Mwalimu Nyerere Intellectual Festival, Nobel laureate Wole Soyinka stressed the need for African leaders to provide good leadership to promote people's welfare and warned his audience from continuing to accept Africa's remaining dictatorships.

[Afral News \(Lesotho\): Africa to pay for Europe's "green policies", 14 April 2009](#)

Rainer Henning argues that in an effort to curb CO2 emissions by promoting "buy locally" and "travel locally" campaigns, European countries are hurting Africa's few economic success stories.

[The Africa Report \(France\): South Africa – The turning point, 12 April 2009](#)

South African Journalist William Gumede introduces the parties and their presidential candidates, agendas and priorities and argues that while April's elections will confirm the ANC in power, they will also raise big questions about its future.

[Pambazuka News \(South Africa\): EU-AU Relations: What Role for Civil Society? 9 April 2009](#)

With African and European ministers set to meet in Brussels on 28 April to assess the progress of the Joint Africa EU Strategy adopted in Lisbon in December 2007, Carmen Silvestre emphasizes the importance of the meeting for both African and European civil society. Silvestre argues that the meeting represents a key opportunity for groups from both continents to discover areas of common ground and find ways of influencing official strategies and policy.

[African Times \(Germany\): The Pope in Africa: Infallible and Incurable, April 2009](#)

In his cover piece, German journalist Bartholomäus Grill criticizes the pope's recent visit to Cameroon and Angola and his policy towards the use of condoms as antiquated and counter-productive in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

[Council on Foreign Relations \(US\): Africa needs Governance and Globalization, 1 April 2009](#)

In an interview with the Council on Foreign Relations, Sudanese business man, Mo Ibrahim notes the crucial importance of good governance and stresses the need for regional integration. He also discusses the effects of the global recession on Africa and the way in which partners could help improve the business climate in Africa.

[This Day \(Nigeria\): Growing Africa's Entrepreneurs: How Africa can become the next India, 13 April 2009](#)

Victor Mroccka calls for Africa to foster its entrepreneurs in a way similar to US President Roosevelt's "New Deal" and Obama's "New Foundation". Without such a coordinated approach, Mroccka argues, Africa will remain dependent on international goodwill and unable to realize its true potential.

G20 Update

[UK – DFID pledges £100 million for a comprehensive transport and cross-border trade reform programme at the North-South Corridor Conference in Lusaka, Zambia](#)

[US – Export-Import Bank grants Angola \\$120 million credit facility](#)

[US – New study on President's Emergency AIDS Plan shows that initiative has saved up to 1.2 million people in 12 hard-hit African countries between 2004 and 2007](#)

[Germany – The German Ministry for Education and Research in cooperation with UNESCO organized the World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development](#)

[France – France in cooperation with the African Development Bank and AGRA launched an investment fund for African agriculture](#)

[Saudi-Arabia – A Saudi firm announced a \\$400 million plan for investing in African agriculture](#)

Calendar

15-16 April	12 th Extraordinary Meeting of AU Executive Council in Sirte, Libya
15-17 April	High-Level Malaria Conference at Wilton Park, UK
19-20 April	G8 Ministers of Agriculture Meeting, Rome, Italy
20 April	Meeting of Economic Social Council with the Bretton Woods Institutions, WTO, and UNCTAD in New York
20-24 April	UN Durban Review Conference on Racism in Geneva, Switzerland
22 April	Global Philanthropy Forum, Washington, DC
22 April	The Commonwealth Ministerial Debt Sustainability Forum, Washington, DC
22 April	National and Provincial Elections in South Africa
22-24 April	G8 Environment Ministers, Sicily, Italy
22-24 April	AU Ministers of Agriculture Meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
25 April	World Malaria Day
26 April	Spring Meetings of IMF and World Bank Group in Washington, DC
28 April	EU-AU Troika Meeting, Luxembourg

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