

Wake Up Calls

President Obama has made two major speeches on African soil recently, one in Cairo, one in Accra.

Reactions to the latter have varied widely, from the ecstatic, particularly in Ghana itself, to the sceptical. Kenyans are of course piqued. Some on the continent even saw the choice of Ghana as based upon its recent oil discoveries, missing his intent.

His message in Accra was clear. African nations crippled by coups and chaos can reshape themselves into lawful democracies. Africa's destiny is in its own hands, and the 21st century will be in part shaped by what happens in Africa. Good governance is the cornerstone of progress, growth and poverty reduction. As he put it, "Africa doesn't need strong men. It needs strong institutions".

African civil society has welcomed the message, as have donors, as a 'wake up call' to Africa's leaders. Reactions from them were muted, many ironically being preoccupied by the decision not to cooperate with the International Criminal Court over the arrest of President al Bashir.

Both the Cairo and Accra speeches called for renewed respect, real partnerships and greater accountability. But the speech in Egypt had an urgency that was lacking in Ghana, and there was less emphasis on the role of 'strong men'. The Muslim world still has greater strategic importance, and is perceived as harbouring greater threats to US and western interests, than Africa.

This might be changing faster than Obama's speech would suggest. For some of her partners, Africa is already a higher priority as a source of energy and resources. These partners are noticeably less vocal on issues of governance.

Massively increased investment and resource extraction in Africa from by China and the global South should be a 'wake up call' for western countries. But the last thing Africans need is an unprincipled new scramble for resources.

The challenge now is whether and how African countries can combine massive increases in investment and resource exploitation with accountable government and equitable growth. Ghana could be the litmus test of what is possible.

News Overview

[The 2nd presidential election was held in the Republic of Congo](#) with opposition parties boycotting the election with contested low turnout. The incumbent, Mr. Denis Sassou-Nguesso was re-elected and this casted a doubt on the legitimacy and representativeness of Africa's most recent elections.

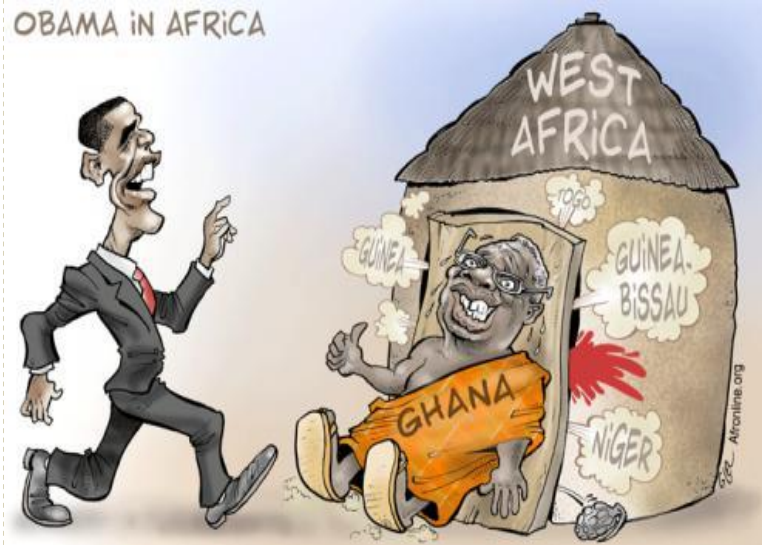
[The northern and eastern borders of the oil-rich Abyei region have been redefined](#) by the permanent court of Arbitration in the Hague without the ruling being clear as to whom the oil-rich land actually belongs to. In as much as both sides promised to accept the decision, they still accuse each other of sending troops to the region.

[The world leading industrialized nations meeting in Italy have brought about mixed feelings as to its outcome](#), some say little progress was made while others says, it concluded with meaningful gains for development. The G8 nations devoted about one-third of their declaration to African issues, agreeing on a stronger partnership on water and sanitation and promised to raise \$20 billion to promote sustainable agricultural development in developing countries

[The main rebel group in Nigeria's Niger Delta threatens to end the recently agreed 60 day ceasefire](#) in its attacks on the two shell oil pipelines if the government steps up its forces in the region.

[General Mohamed Ould Abdelaziz, the man who ousted Mauritania's first democratically elected leader in a coup has achieved a landslide win in the country's presidential election](#); amid opposition claims of fraud. The country's constitutional court has yet to validate the results on Monday.

OBAMA IN AFRICA



As featured in Jeune Afrique, July 2009

G20 Update

BRAZIL

[The Government of Brazil and Mozambique are seeking opportunities for investments and partnerships with each other](#)

CHINA

[China has signed an agreement to provide a \\$10 million grant to Liberia for the completion of projects agreed upon by the two governments](#)

EU

[The EIB will lend €120 million to the South African National Roads Agency Ltd \(Sanral\) for the upgrade and extension of two key toll roads in northern South Africa](#)

G8

[G8 Leaders Declaration](#)

GERMANY

[Germany is said to increase financial assistance to Kenya with a total value of about €45 million](#)

INDIA

[The Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh reiterates his country's commitment to develop a comprehensive partnership with Africa](#)

JAPAN

[The Government of Japan has decided to extend assistance of approximately ¥403.2 million through the UN Trust Fund for Human Security to a "Northern Uganda Early Recovery Project" in the Republic of Uganda](#)

TURKEY

[Turkey intends to open 14 new embassies in Africa in order to help boost its relations on the continent.](#)

UK

["Better Results for Poor People," DFID's Annual Report shows its achievements over the past year and sets out new challenges it will face in the coming years](#)

USA

[USAID has launched in Maputo, a new agro-business programme: "AgriFUTURO," which is intended to promote the competitiveness and prosperity of agri-business for Mozambique](#)

[The United States is engaging with partners to promote economic cooperation and trade in sub-Saharan Africa](#)

“ Make no mistake: history is on the side of these brave Africans, and not with those who use coups or change constitutions to stay in power. Africa doesn't need strongmen, it needs strong institutions ”

Barack Obama, President of the United States of America

Multilateral Organizations

AU

[The AU Chairman has called for a funding programme for Africa comparable to the US Marshall Plan for the rebuilding of Western Europe after World War II](#)

AfDB

[The AfDB approved \\$ 1.5 billion budget support for Botswana to help the country cope with the financial crisis](#)

[Pan-African conference of Ministers of Finance and of Education that took place in Tunis welcomed a proposal to introduce long-term financial instruments to finance education in Africa](#)

IMF

[The IMF plans to inject \\$250 billion into the global economy to bolster countries' reserves as part of measures to combat the world economic crisis](#)

[The IMF has approved a \\$602.6 million in support of the Ghanaian government's economic program to tackle macroeconomic instability](#)

UN

[The UN and the AU have launched a new tool, designed in partnership with Microsoft, to help boost business in Africa](#)

[IFAD has announced its intention to provide \\$17.92 million to the Republic of Benin for a project to support local initiatives aimed at improving rural people's incomes and living conditions](#)

[The UN Security Council Presidential Statement stresses the need for comprehensive strategy to take on emerging threats in West Africa](#)

[Junior 8 \(J8\) youth delegates presented a declaration to the G8 world leaders urging them to act on a set of recommendations on issues relating to child rights, climate change, poverty development in Africa and much more](#)

WB

[The World Bank predicts a decline in remittance flows to developing countries from an estimated \\$328 billion in 2008 to \\$304 billion in 2009](#)

[World Bank states progress on maternal health and family planning is insufficient have pledged to with its development partners to help countries strengthen their health systems, from rural clinics to major urban hospitals -- to achieve the MDGs target](#)

Opinions

[All Africa: Africa- Uphold Continent's Contribution to Human Rights, 21 July 2009](#)

In a guest column, Mohamed Sahnoun, former Algerian Ambassador to the United States, comments on the ongoing debate at the UN General Assembly Session on "responsibility to protect" people from crimes such as genocide. He states that even though this relatively new principle is in many ways an African contribution to Human rights and many African countries champion the responsibility to protect, it remains poorly understood in some parts of the continent; he further calls for Africans and the world to reaffirm existing commitments and dispel misconceptions about the principle.

[Pambazuka \(South Africa\): G8 and Africa- Some give, plenty of take, 16 July 2009](#)

A writer on development issues and chairman of Southern and Eastern African Trade Information and Negotiations Institute (SEATINI), Yash Tandon urges African leaders to take the promises of the G8 to increase aid with \$20 billion with a pinch of salt because apart from unfilled promises of the past and in the light of the economic crisis, this aid may not be forthcoming.

[IFAD Editorial: Presidents Corner- Daring to hope for Africa, 10 July 2009](#)

Kanayo Nwanze, President of IFAD offers reflections on US President Obama's visit to Ghana and hopes for a better future for millions of Africans. He stressed further that support from the international community is needed to turn around Africa's agricultural sectors and African countries, as well need to put their own political and economic houses in order.

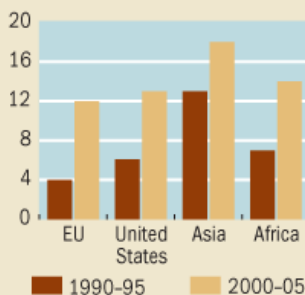
[The Guardian \(Nigeria\): Rebranding Africa, 22 July 2009](#)

Dr Usman, a former permanent secretary in the Nigerian public service calls on Nigerian leaders to cultivate the culture of good governance and reduce corruption to an acceptable level in order to resume her position as the giant of Africa, as well as to avoid the exclusion it faces from many African forums.

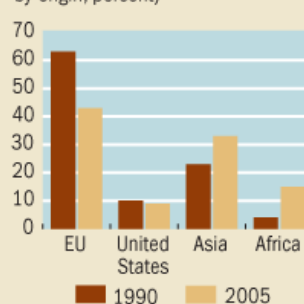
Rising share

In the past five years, Africa's imports from Asia have grown faster than from other regions.

(annual average growth rate of Africa's merchandise imports by origin, percent)



(share of Africa's imports by origin, percent)



Source: Broadman (2007).

APP Activities

The names of key suspects involved in violence after the 2007 Kenyan election was handed to the ICC in a sealed envelope by **Kofi Annan** ◇ **Bob Geldof** commented on the G8's Summit statement on Africa and at the same time commended Canada for meeting its commitments ◇ **Tony Blair** pledged his continued partnership with Rwanda while meeting with Paul Kagame in London on Thursday 9 July ◇ While delivering a speech honouring Former President, Nelson Mandela, **Muhammad Yunus** says the global economic crisis can be an opportunity for positive social change ◇ **Olusegun Obasanjo** chaired a fundraising event organized by the First Lady of Nigeria for an international cancer centre in Abuja ◇

Calendar

21-23 July	African Workshop on Strengthening Transparency and Reducing Corruption Risks in the Defense & Security Sector co-organized by Transparency International and the AfDB: Tunis, Tunisia
23-26 July	Conference on Managing Risk in Africa: "Responding to Political, Social and Economic Challenges:" Wilton Park, UK
27-29 July	International Seminar on Climate Change Education: Paris, France
28 July	Launch of the African Economic Outlook 2008/09: Kigali, Rwanda
28-29 July	WTO General Council: Geneva, Switzerland
4-6 August	8th U.S.-Sub-Saharan African Trade and Economic Cooperation Forum (popularly known as AGOA Forum): Nairobi, Kenya
5-7 August	Global Model UN Conference: "The Millennium Development Goals- Lifting the Bottom Billion Out of Poverty:" Geneva, Switzerland
12 August	International Youth Day
16-19 August	Global South Conference and Exhibition: "Meeting the Millennium Development Goals through Sustainable Development:" Stellenbosch, South Africa
23 August	International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition
31 Aug- 3 Sept	World Climate Conference 3: "Better Climate Information for a Better Future:" Geneva, Switzerland

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