

## Guinea fowl

The recent coup in Guinea is highlighting multiple dilemmas regarding Africa's ability to manage its own affairs, and the approach of the international community when rich resource pickings are at stake.

The massacre of opposition protesters has provoked outrage, and the widely circulated pictures of gun toting soldiers in sunglasses, and of corpses, the wounded and raped women, are truly shocking. They reinforce prejudices about Africa and damage the continent's image. The coup is provoking speculation that the prevalence of conflicts and instability may be increasing (see chart).

Condemnation has been loud. Guinea faces sanctions from the EU. US Secretary of State Clinton called for the military regime to step down. French Foreign Minister Kouchner has called for international intervention.

The AU set a deadline, now passed, for the coup leader, Camara, to pledge in writing that he will not stand for elections, or face sanctions. It is supporting offers of mediation by Blaise Campaore.

This week, the UN Secretary General sent an envoy, Haile Menkerios, to report on the situation. But the official Libyan news agency quoted an AU Presidency spokesperson as saying that "the African Union strongly rejects this intervention (by the UN) which it considers as interference in the internal affairs of an independent country."

In the meantime, the Guinean Government is claiming that negotiations on investment continue, and that a huge deal with Chinese investors is close. Rumours abound that a large down payment has been made to the cash strapped regime. In April this year, a Chinese company cancelled negotiations on iron ore, reportedly responding to concerns about unlawful behavior by the government.

Guinea is resource rich – with gold, diamonds, uranium, bauxite and oil. But its people are poor. It ranked 170<sup>th</sup> out of 182 countries in the most recent UN Human Development Index, with life expectancy and literacy rates among the lowest in the world.

How the international community now work together – or not – to adopt a common position on Guinea will be very telling.

Will the AU position be coherent? Can the UN forge a concerted approach? Will Guinea's fledgling EITI committee be able to influence corporate behaviour?

As the [Forum on China – Africa Cooperation](#) looms, this could be an opportunity for China to underscore that its commitment to Africa is rooted in international norms, market rules and the long term wellbeing of her people.

## News Overview

Kofi Annan, Chair of the Mo Ibrahim Prize Committee, after an in-depth review announced that the [Prize Committee could not select a winner](#).

[President Barack Obama unveiled a new strategy toward Sudan](#) focusing on building pressure to end human rights abuses in the Darfur region. The new plan places a greater emphasis on incentives than the Bush administration policy, yet also contains additional penalties should no improvements be made. President Obama also released a "Declaration of National Emergency" in the country, allowing his administration to maintain existing sanctions.

[Morgan Tsvangirai of Zimbabwe is to meet with leaders from the Southern African Development Community \(SADC\)](#) to discuss the political crisis that led to the [recent suspension of official dealings](#) between Tsvangirai's MDC and Mugabe's ZANU-PF party. Meanwhile, [foreign investors have begun to hold back investment](#) in the wake of the crisis.

The [Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation announced that \\$120 million in grants would be earmarked for nine agricultural projects](#) to promote dynamic, sustainable agriculture- African initiatives being the major beneficiaries.

Disaster risk reduction experts met in Nairobi to discuss mitigation efforts for [reducing the negative impacts of El Niño in East Africa](#), as the region is especially prone to extreme climate events which often result in disruptions to socio-economic stability.

[A burgeoning humanitarian crisis is emerging](#) in the border region between Angola and the DRC, with over 30,000 people stranded in transit camps. This follows a series of reciprocal expulsions between the two countries. Though both countries have agreed to halt deportations, a lack of provisions coincides with the onset of the rainy season, thus prompting fears of a cholera outbreak.

[The Nigerian Federal Government announced plans to divert 10% of oil revenues from the Niger Delta back into the region](#) by transferring a 10% stake in all joint venture businesses to Delta communities. Should the initiative be approved by the National Assembly, it would signal a new direction in the countries efforts to secure peace in the region.

[South Africa has signed a land lease agreement with the Democratic Republic of Congo](#), giving South African farmers access to up to 10m hectares of land on a 30-year renewable lease. This deal is widely considered to be the largest land agreements in Africa.



As featured in Daily Nation, October 2009

## Election Watch

A lesson for other countries- smooth and calm elections were held in **Botswana** on Oct. 16. [Botswana's Democratic Party won](#) giving President Ian Khama (whose party has been in power since independence in 1966) another 5 yrs in power.

The polls in **Tunisia** will open on Oct. 24 for presidential and parliamentary elections, with the [majority of the population indifferent to the polls](#) - Tunisian President Zein Al-Abidine Bin Ali is expected to be awarded a 4<sup>th</sup> term since the 2002 referendum on amending the constitution.

[Forthcoming elections in the Republic of Mozambique](#) on Oct. 28 could prove damaging to the main opposition party, as its longtime leader Afonso Dhlakama has failed to oust the ruling Frelimo party and failed to win in three presidential elections since the end of civil war in 1992.

## G20 Update

### CANADA

[A \\$62m fund between CIDA and the IDRC was announced to support research partnerships between Canadian and developing-country organizations](#)

### CHINA

[China and Kenya are holding infrastructure talks over development of a multi-billion dollar port and transport corridor that could provide a new export route for Chinese oil in southern Sudan](#)

[Chinese and African women pledge cooperation to address challenges of economic crisis and gender equality in political life](#)

### EU

[A Special Euro barometer on "Development Aid in time of economic turmoil" shows that nine out of ten Europeans still strongly support development aid despite the downturn](#)

### GERMANY

[Germany has pledged its continued support to Burundi for its stabilization and reconstruction efforts and doubled its funding](#)

### JAPAN

[Japan to extend emergency grant aid of approximately \\$10m to support the electoral process in Sudan](#)

### UK

[UK leads fight against malaria in Southern Sudan](#)

[UK reaffirmed its support for efforts towards peace, stability and poverty reduction in Sudan](#)

[UK has pledged £100m to a global fund to tackle poverty and deforestation](#)

### US

[US backs Guinea arms embargo](#)

[The US is boosting military assistance to Mali to help the country fight armed militants including al Qaeda which are active in its northern desert](#)

## Quote

“Twenty years of almost 3% annual population growth has outpaced economic gains, leaving Africans, on average, 22% poorer than they were in the mid-1970s.”

UNFPA spokesperson commenting on Africa's population reaching 1 billion

## Multilateral Organizations

### AfDB

[The AfDB approves a loan of approximately \\$85m to finance a road and community development project in Ghana](#)

[The AfDB grants Tunisia €47m to upgrade the country's power distribution network](#)

### AU

[Communiqué of the 13<sup>th</sup> Africa-EU Ministerial Troika Meeting of 14 October 2009](#)

[The Executive Council of the AU puts pressure on African leaders to ratify the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance as an instrument of improving governance on the continent](#)

### ECOWAS

[ECOWAS has suspended Niger's membership following President Tandja's refusal to suspend parliamentary elections](#)

[ECOWAS has imposed sanctions against the government of Guinea over killings](#)

### SADC

[SADC is calling for transparency in Mozambique's forthcoming elections](#)

### UN

[UN calls for action and investment to eradicate global poverty](#)

[According to an FAO discussion paper, investment in agriculture needs to increase by some 50% if there is to be enough food to feed 9.1 billion people in 2050](#)

[UN Secretary-General pledges to keep world focused on meeting the MDGs by 2015](#)

[UNDP launches a "Water Governance Programme" that aims to support regional efforts to improve use and management of scarce water resources in the Arab States.](#)

### WB

[IFC Agribusiness Investments hit record \\$2 billion amid Financial and Food Crises](#)

[IFC has invested \\$100m in Nigeria's Helios Tower to boost telecoms infrastructure](#)

### WTO/ILO

[ILO, WTO launch joint study that focuses on the relationship between trade and the growth of the informal economy in developing countries](#)

## Countdown to Copenhagen – 45 Days

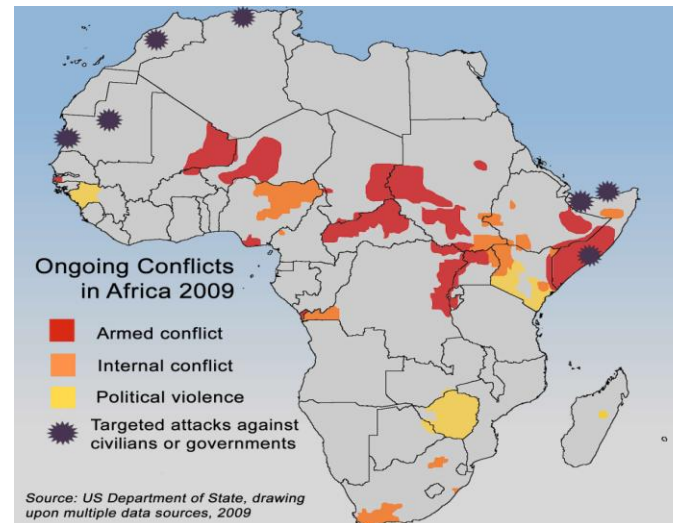
'Climate Change: One Africa, One Voice, One Position,'- African Parliamentarians meet to discuss climate change to consolidate efforts in the lead-up to the special session of the AU-AMCEN meeting. Preliminary media report shows that the [African team is pessimistic](#) over climate talks.

In the framework of the Africa-EU dialogue, African and EU leaders addressed the "climate change agenda" during the 13th Ministerial Meeting of African and EU Troikas- [Meeting Communiqué](#).

While addressing the Major Economies Forum in London, [Gordon Brown urges the world's biggest economies to agree on a new global pact](#) to tackle climate change and for leaders to attend the COP15 in Copenhagen.

[Developed and Developing Countries join forces to fight Climate Change](#) with \$350 Million in New Forest Financing.

[African leaders have drawn up a \\$65 billion budget](#) to deal with the effects of environment change.



## Opinions

[The New Times \(Rwanda\): East-West Rumbings – What about Country's Burden of Choice, 20 Oct. 2009](#)

Louise Mushikiwabo, Spokesperson for the Government of Rwanda, comments upon recent calls for President Kagame to side with the West against China, as it pertains to trade. She states, however, that all trade relationships between Africa and China should remain between the two parties.

[The Independent \(UK\): The Flight of Finance from Africa, 12 Oct. 2009](#)

While reflecting on his trip to the IMF/WB meetings in Istanbul, Paul Collier discusses international investment and the fact that one of the consequences of the financial crisis has been the flight of investors from Africa.

[The New York Times \(US\): Rebranding America, 18 Oct. 2009](#)

Bono, lead singer of the band U2 and co-founder of the advocacy group ONE, commented on President Obama's efforts to restructure America's image abroad, particularly by adopting new approaches to global challenges. He defended global optimism as it pertains to Obama, while noting that the Nobel Prize was essentially a mandate to pursue multilateralism, as well as a call to action.

## APP Activities

While visiting Liberia last week, **Peter Eigen** announced that [Liberia has secured the title of Africa's first Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative \(EITI\) Compliant Country](#) for including the forestry sector in its exclusive and comprehensive report on development initiatives. ♦ **Graca Machel** will attend the [AU Special Summit on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Peoples](#) in Kampala this week ♦ On 13<sup>th</sup> October, **Bob Geldof** attended the [Forum 2000 Conference](#) (where distinguished guests address a diverse international community on topics ranging from religious dialogue to human rights and national security) on "[Democracy and freedom in a multipolar world](#)" ♦ While delivering the opening address at the Global Editors Forum: "From Kyoto to Copenhagen," **Kofi Annan warns: "there is no excuse for inaction"** at the forthcoming UN Climate Change Conference in December.

## Calendar

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|-----------|---|
| 22 Oct    | 7th information Seminar on Parliaments and the CEDAW (Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women): Geneva, Switzerland            |
| 19-23 Oct | Technical Session of AMCEN Pre-COP 15: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  |
| 22-23 Oct | Global Forum on Remittances 2009: Tunis   |
| 22-23 Oct | AU special Summit on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Africa: Kampala, Uganda   |
| 22-23 Oct | China- Africa Business Summit 2009: Cape Town, South Africa   |
| 22-24 Oct | European Development Days: Stockholm, Sweden  |
| 24 Oct    | United Nations Day  |
| 26 Oct    | Conference on Women's Entrepreneurship Development- in Response to the Financial Crisis, Yaoundé, Cameroon  |
| 26 Oct    | High Level Meeting on Maternal Health (UNFPA, Netherlands): Addis Ababa, Ethiopia   |
| 27-28 Oct | 4th International Parliamentarians' Conference on the Implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia                         |
| 28-30 Oct | Young Commonwealth Climate Change Summit London, England  |
| 2-3 Nov   | Regional Roundtable on "The Political Dimension of the World Economic Crisis: an African Perspective" organized by the Club of Madrid: Accra, Ghana |
| 3-4 Nov   | <a href="#">Regional Parliamentary Seminar on Climate Change Mitigation</a> : Mbabane, Swaziland  |
| 2-6 Nov   | <a href="#">Barcelona Climate Change Talks 2009</a> : last preparatory sessions before COP15: Barcelona, Spain                                      |

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