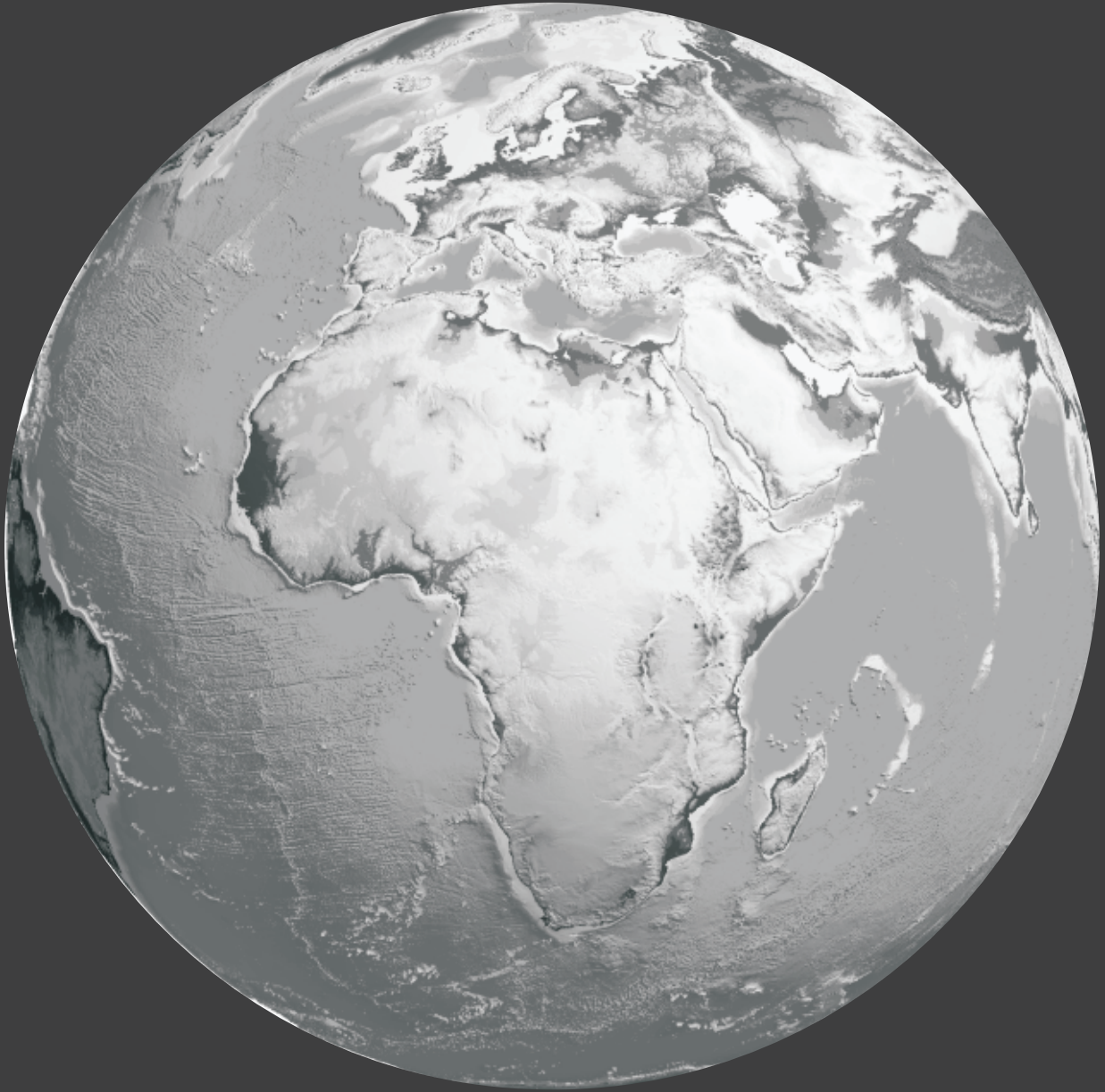


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Editor's Note

We are pleased to present the second issue of Africa Trends for 2014 to you. We have added a couple of new features to this issue. First, we have made an attempt to reach out to those in the larger academic community in New Delhi who study Africa to contribute to our newsletter. This has been done with a view to involving the academic community with the policy-related work of the Institute and also with the hope that the policy community will benefit from academic perspectives outside the Institute. Second, we have included the report of a Roundtable discussion on the subject of peace and security in Africa that was held at the Institute. Here the purpose is to share the knowledge and understanding gained from hosting eminent scholars, officials and diplomats from India and Africa.

This issue carries a cover story, a commentary, a viewpoint, a book review and an event report. In the cover story, Rajneesh Gupta profiles the Indian Diaspora in Africa that has a presence in 46 countries. He provides an insight into their numbers, economic pursuits and social and political integration in various countries. The commentary by Nachiket Khadkiwala weighs on the *pros* and *cons* of the French intervention in Mali and raises concerns regarding its unintended consequence of dispersing terrorist groups outside Mali into the Sahel region. In the viewpoint, Ruchita Beri discusses the implications of re-inclusion of Egypt in the African Union (AU), gives a touch of realism to the goals proclaimed at the Malabo Summit of the African Union regarding agriculture and food security and countering terrorism, and notes the continuing impasse on the issue of UNSC reform within the AU. Smriti Rajan's review of Ian Taylor's book detailing ten years of the working of the Forum for China Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) provides an insight into China's forays in Africa. The event report of the Roundtable by Smriti Rajan brings together several important suggestions for strengthening the peace and security architecture in Africa and the role India could play in it.

In all regions of Africa today, security and development related measures are receiving simultaneous attention. In Northern Africa, Egypt is getting back into the groove of addressing its own developmental and security concerns as well as engaging in multilateral cooperation on piracy, terrorism in Libya and environment related issues. In Eastern Africa, human security concerns related to detentions in Eritrea and the plight of women and children in South Sudan received attention of NGOs. Tanzania did its good deed by giving citizenship to some Burundian refugees and Ethiopia by accepting to lead the UN forces in South Sudan. The fight against the Al-Shabaab continued, while the US set up a military base in Djibouti to support this effort. Western Africa battled the Ebola virus; as Mali and Nigeria continued to battle separatists and terrorists respectively. In Central Africa, UK strengthened its ties with Angola while the UN remained seized of the plight of women in the Central African Republic. In Southern Africa, as the South African tourism industry looked up, Lesotho received funds from the World Bank to augur its water supply services and Swaziland's women received financial support from the UNDP for engaging in business.

India's SVP group is contributing by setting up a cotton mill in Ethiopia, the largest on the continent. As a symbol of friendship and cooperation, India also presented two defence-related vehicles to Seychelles' defence forces. Cipla Medpro, the subsidiary of Cipla, has secured a large contract to supply respiratory drugs to the South African government. China has taken up a large initiative of developing four Special Economic Zones in Ethiopia.

We hope you will find this issue an interesting read.

Cover Story

INDIAN DIASPORA IN AFRICA: A PROFILE

Indian communities in Africa constitute 12.37 per cent of the total strength of India Diaspora and they reside in 46 countries of Africa inhabiting all linguistic, cultural or geographical regions of the continent.

RAJNEESH KUMAR GUPTA*

A fundamental characteristic of people is their movement from one place to another place; anthropology has recorded nomadism as a stage preceding human settlement in communities. Even after their evolution as communities, throughout the civilization human beings have been experiencing temporary, seasonal or permanent migration from their original habitat either voluntarily or forced. Migration is closely related to a variety of socio-economic, demographic and political factors. People who migrate also carry their socio-cultural heritage with them and protect their distinct identities. There is an increasing trend among scholars to study migrant communities, having a sense of their motherland and a differentiated identity, under the rubric of 'Study of Diaspora' or 'Diasporic Study'. Originally associated with Jewish migration, the term Diaspora has received acceptance as a reference to migrant communities from any political space. This paper attempts to present a profile of Indian Diaspora in Africa.

India has more than a three thousand year history of cultural and commercial relations with Africa. Commercial relations have a longer history than cultural contacts. Indian sources indicate that there were contacts and trade relations between Dravidians and Babylonians as early as the seventh century B.C. On their way to Mesopotamia, Indian merchants and sailors would have certainly visited Southern Arabia, which is situated on the maritime route and the Eastern part of Horn of Africa- the Somali peninsula. Freya Stark writes that a flourishing maritime trade existed between India and Southern Arabia before the fourteenth century B.C. (Richard: 1954, 28-30). Indian contacts in ancient period were more visible in Eastern and Southern coast of Africa and ancient Indian epics like 'Vedas' and 'Shrimad Bhagwat Geeta', provide valuable information regarding contacts between the two regions. Daniel D.C. Don Nanjira rightly says "If we consider all early invaders of East Africa to have been foreign visitors or traders, then Indians (Hindus) were definitely among the invaders whose connections with the East African coast go back many centuries before Christ" (1976, 3). These ancient linkages flourished in medieval period through commodity trade which was utilized by European powers while discovering a new route to India in later parts of fifteenth century.

India has more than a three thousand year history of cultural and commercial relations with Africa.

However, in modern history major gesticulates of migration are closely related to colonialism. In the days of the *Raj*, Indians were taken as indentured labourers to far-flung parts of the Empire in the nineteenth and early twentieth century. In this period Indians went abroad in three different capacities- (i) as indentured workers in the sugar colonies of Caribbean, Oceania and Africa, (ii)

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under *Kangani / maistry* system to Malaysia and Ceylon, and (iii) as free or passenger Indians primarily in East Africa (Dubey: 2010, 1-2). It has been estimated that during 1829-1924 about 769,437 Indians migrated to Mauritius, South Africa, Reunion Island, Seychelles and East African region (Kadekar: 2005, 36). Later periods of the colonial era also witnessed increased frequency of free emigration as traders, skilled artisans, bankers, petty contractors, clerks, professionals and entrepreneurs.

In the post independent period, Middle East, Northern America and Western Europe emerged as favorite destinations for the highly skilled Indian immigrants. However, prevailing opportunities in Africa still attract significant number of Indian migrants. Majority of the new immigrants go there on temporary work permit and do not seek permanent citizenship. After working there for some time, they explore opportunity in Western countries, and as soon as they get a chance they emigrate from these countries. In late 1990s, this trend increased many fold and illegal migrants also took advantage of this. Thus we see a huge number of people reaching the continent without having legal documents. It is noteworthy to mention a report published in '*The Analyst*', a Kenyan magazine, 'While official figures show that only 1918 work permits were issued over a three year period - 1995 (731), 1996 (703) and 1997 (484) - unconfirmed reports state that between 30,000 and 40,000 immigrant workers from the Asian sub-continent have entered Kenya in the last four years' (1999, 9). While the term Asian refers here to Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi and Sri Lankan immigrants, but a majority among them are Indian. A survey conducted by the author in Kenya during June-July 2007 with a sample size of 100 participants also indicates that Indian immigration to Africa is still ongoing.

Similarly, official records of the Government of India also note increasing presence of Indian communities in the African continent. The Report of the High Level Committee on Indian Diaspora

Indian Diaspora in Africa constitutes 12.37 per cent of the total Diaspora of India. It would be interesting to note that among Indian Diaspora in Africa more than 93.58 per cent are PIO's and they constitute 21.37 per cent of the global strength of PIO's.

released in the 2001 estimated total number of Indian Diaspora in Africa 2,063,178 which includes 1,969,708 People of Indian Origins (PIO's), 89,405 Non Resident Indians (NRI's) and 3,500 stateless people. They were spread in 34 countries located in various regions of the continent (2001, xlvii). Latest available estimates on overseas Indians indicate that current strength of Indian Diaspora in the continent is 2,710,645 out of those 2,536,593 are PIOs and rest 174,052 are NRIs. Currently, Indian Diaspora resides in 46 countries of Africa covering all linguistic, cultural or geographical regions of Africa (Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, 2012). Indian Diaspora in Africa constitutes 12.37 per cent of the total Diaspora of India. It would be interesting to note that among Indian Diaspora in Africa more than 93.58 per cent are PIO's and they constitute 21.37 per cent of the global strength of PIO's. Thus majority of the

Indian communities in Africa possess citizenship of their country of adoption and many among them have attained important positions. They could be crucial in strengthening India-Africa relations.

With regard to population of Indian Diaspora in individual countries of Africa, we see substantial variation. Whereas in Mauritius Indian Diaspora constitutes 70 per cent of the total population, in Republic of Sao Tome and Principe this proportion is merely 4 per cent. Broadly speaking, we can classify the Indian Diaspora in Africa according to the size of its presence in four categories- (1) dominant strength (2) substantial strength (3) marginal strength and (4) minimal strength (Gupta R.K.: 2013, 136-146).

Dominant strength- In this category we can include countries where Indian communities make a majority in terms of total population of the country. Mauritius is the only country not only in Africa but in entire globe which could be included in this category. The High Level Committee on Indian Diaspora regarded Indian Diaspora in Mauritius as unique and distinctive as here Indian Diaspora constitutes an overwhelming majority- nearly 70 per cent of the total population and they were among first permanent settlers in the island (2001, 49). They play a vital role in the political process of the country and hold important elected posts. In the current parliament of Mauritius there are 36 members of Indian origin; although, unlike other parts of the world they are not an economically affluent community. Indians in Mauritius are not a monolithic or homogenous community. There is diversity on the basis of religion, caste, place of origin, language etc. Each of them has beautifully preserved their cultural identity. They have associations and organizations associated to their culture/language. Every township of Mauritius is graced with temples, gurdwaras, mosques and various community halls. The famous '*Ganga Talab*' is said to be purified by the water of the holy river *Ganga* and is regarded as a place of pilgrimage for Hindus in Mauritius. Owing to this cultural resemblance Mauritius is often regarded as a little India away from the territory of India.

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Substantial strength- This category consists of countries in which Indian communities have a population of more than 1,000,000. South Africa and Reunion Island can be included in this category. In South Africa, the total strength of Indian Diaspora is 1,218,000 and they constitute nearly 3 per cent of the total population of South Africa. They are concentrated in the major industrial centres of South Africa and around 75 per cent of the Indian community lives in Kwazulu Natal. Durban, the capital of this province accounts for a considerable part of the largely urbanized Indian population of this country (Report of High Level Committee on Indian Diaspora: 2001, 84). This concentration makes them politically influential in this area which is incidentally among highly industrialized and prosperous regions of South Africa. Similarly, in Reunion Island, the total strength of Indian Diaspora is 275,200 and they constitute almost 30 per cent of the total population.

Marginal strength- In this category, countries which have a population of Indian Diaspora between 100,000 to 10,000 could be included. By this criteria Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Nigeria, Madagascar, Mozambique, Zambia, Botswana and Zimbabwe would fall in this category. In these countries, strength of Indian Diaspora in terms of total population of host country is very small and is scattered in various regions. Therefore, they do not make for an influential political constituency and there is very little chance of them obtaining political offices on the basis of ethnic identity. However, the Indian Diaspora in these countries are economically well off and culturally keen to retain identity. Some of the leading journalists, prominent academicians and lawyers, who shape public opinion in these countries, are from the Indian communities.

Minimal strength- Fourth category includes countries where the strength of Indian community is less than 10000 people. There are some 32 African countries which fall under this category- Algeria, Angola, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cape Verde Islands, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Republic of Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Ivory Coast, Kingdom of Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Namibia, Niger, Rwanda, Republic of Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Swaziland

and Togo. Indian communities in these countries are spread over a wide area and do not make up one constituency. Moreover, in several cases they are temporary residents working in projects and still hold an Indian Passport. Therefore, in political terms their presence is insignificant and in most of the cases they are not able to obtain political offices in their host-land. Malawi is the only exception, where the Indian community has been actively engaged in politics. There has been representation of Indian communities in parliament and government. Currently, Mr. Mohammed Sidik Mia is serving as a Deputy Minister for Irrigation and Water Development. The Institute for Policy Interaction, the most influential NGO of Malawi working on issues of governance, is headed by a PIO. But this kind of success is not seen in any other country of Africa with such a small number of Indian communities.

Conclusion

Indians have been visiting the African continent since ages. Despite age-old linkages, modern settlement of Indians in Africa is certainly linked with the colonial exploration of the continent. In the colonial period migration occurred in two ways- by force as well as by choice. Further, large scale migration occurred in the post independence period. Today, Indian communities in Africa constitute 12.37 per cent of the total strength of India Diaspora and they reside in 46 countries of Africa inhabiting all linguistic, cultural or geographical regions of the continent. These people went with limited resources and to places where the physical and climatic conditions of the region were usually very difficult. However, all the hardship was overcome with courage, hard work and dedication. The influence of Indian communities in their country of adoption varies from one country to another which is largely dependent on their size of population. In case of Mauritius, they have been able to dominate in the political and socio-cultural domain. They have also been an important pillar in the political space of South Africa as well as the socio-cultural life of Reunion Island. On the other hand, Indians have made significant contributions in other countries of Africa although their numerical strength is marginal or minimal.

Table-1

Indian Diaspora in Africa: County-wise Strength

S. No.	Country	Indian Diaspora	NRI	PIO
1	Algeria	450	447	3
2	Angola	6000	6000	0
3	Botswana	11000	9000	2000
4	Burkina Faso	100	100	0
5	Burundi	250	200	50
6	Cape Verde Islands	12	12	0
7	Comoros	300	50	250
8	Congo (Dem. Rep. of)	4000	3600	400
9	Djibouti	350	350	0
10	Egypt	3600	3450	150
11	Equatorial Guinea	100	100	0
12	Eritrea	500	0	500
13	Ethiopia	994	992	2
14	Gambia	333	329	4
15	Ghana	10000	10000	0

16	Guinea (Republic of)	550	550	0
17	Guinea Bissau	31	31	0
18	Ivory Coast	500	500	0
19	Kenya	75000	37500	37500
20	Lesotho (Kingdom of)	1200	800	400
21	Liberia	1501	1500	1
22	Libya	15000	14995	5
23	Madagascar	23000	3000	20000
24	Malawi	7000	1500	5500
25	Mali	201	200	1
26	Mauritania	30	30	0
27	Mauritius	882220	15000	867220
28	Morocco	300	300	0
29	Mozambique	21500	1500	20000
30	Namibia	160	140	20
31	Niger	60	60	0
32	Nigeria	30000	0	30000
33	Reunion Island (France)	275200	200	275000
34	Rwanda	1040	1000	40
35	Sao Tome and Principe (Republic of)	4	4	0
36	Senegal	440	412	28
37	Seychelles	8500	4000	4500
38	Sierra Leone	710	700	10
39	South Africa	1218000	18000	1200000
40	Sudan	3599	3500	99
41	Swaziland	700	200	500
42	Tanzania	54700	5300	49400
43	Togo	510	500	10
44	Uganda	20000	15000	5000
45	Zambia	20500	12500	8000
46	Zimbabwe	10500	500	10000
	Total	2710645	174052	2536593

Source: Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, Government of India (2012)

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Viewpoint

AFRICAN UNION MALABO SUMMIT: KEY TAKEAWAYS

At the Malabo summit, the member states of the African Union seem to have set forth ambitious goals for pushing development, security and the integration agenda in the continent. Translation of these goals into reality will require coordination and cooperation by the African leaders and other stakeholders at a continental level.

RUCHITA BERI*

The 23rd African Union (AU) Summit took place on 26-27 June at Malabo, the capital of Equatorial Guinea. Although the theme of the summit was “2014 Year of Agriculture and Food Security”, a number of important issues were discussed.

First, the AU summit marked the resumption of Egypt’s participation in the AU. Egypt was suspended from the African Union after its elected government was overthrown by the military in 2013. After almost a year of suspension, Egypt was reinstated in African Union in early June. This reinstatement comes after the successful culmination of democratic elections in Egypt that has brought General Abel Fattah El Sisi to power. However there remain fears that Egypt’s reinstatement has set a bad precedent. These fears are driven by the fact that Sisi, the elected President of Egypt was the army chief and country’s defence minister when the unconstitutional change of the government took place. Under the provisions of an African Union rule adopted during the 14th summit in 2010, perpetrators of unconstitutional change of government are barred from participating in subsequent elections.¹ It is feared that this disregard of the AU norm may undermine the application of this rule in future. It poses a risk of others in Africa following the example of Egypt to legitimise unconstitutional seizure of power by conducting elections.

Second, during the summit the African heads of State set forth concrete goals to be reached by 2025 on the crucial issue of agriculture and food security.² In her address the AU chairperson Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma called agriculture and food security a critical priority for Africa and also an important part of the AU long term vision Agenda 2063. The summit also reiterated the commitments made under the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) launched in 2003. They also committed to ending hunger and halving poverty by 2025 through inclusive agricultural growth. They recommended measures that included maintaining an annual agricultural growth rate of 6 per cent; continued allocation of 10 percent of the

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government budget to agriculture; adoption of climate resilient farming techniques; enhancing public- private partnership with strong linkage to small holders and to create employment for 30 percent of the youth in the agricultural value chains.³ However it is to be noted that in the last ten years, while the agricultural production has increased, it still remains below the 6 percent annual growth target. Moreover most of the AU governments have not been able to achieve the target of allocating 10 percent of their spending towards agriculture so far. Also the African leaders have yet not been able to set common standards for measuring this 10 percent limit. At present, due to lack of common definition of agriculture expenditure and diverse sources of data used, the results vary. The decision to create a more enabling environment for private sector investment in agriculture and agribusiness sector is a welcome move. Similarly the call for supporting small scale farmers is also laudable.

The decision to create a more enabling environment for private sector investment in agriculture and agribusiness sector is a welcome move.

Third, in the wake of devastating terror strikes in Kenya and Nigeria, peace and security issues, particularly the threat of cross-border terrorism, dominated the discussions during the summit. From Sahel, Horn of Africa and Central Africa extremist groups such as Boko Haram, Al Qaeda in Maghreb (AQIM), Ansar Dine, Al Shabaab and the Lord Resistance Army (LRA) have been sowing terror on the continent. In Nigeria, the Boko Haram (which implies Western Education is Sin), has been terrorising the country for the last five years. Over 2000 persons have been killed in the country this year in these terror attacks. The heads of states gathered at Malabo condemned the recent kidnapping of over 2000 young girls in Northern Nigeria by Boko Haram. In the light of these developments the leaders called for urgency in effective implementation of existing AU counter terror framework that includes the signing and ratification of the 1999 Algiers Convention on Prevention and Combating of Terrorism and its 2004 protocol that entered into force earlier this year.⁴ The African heads of states also expressed grave concern over continuing insecurity in South Sudan, Darfur, Libya and Central African Republic and stressed on the urgent need to disarm the militia in these countries. The AU summit called upon the member states to renew the efforts towards achieving the goal of "Conflict free Africa" or "Silencing Guns by 2020", set forth during the 50th anniversary celebrations of the regional body in May 2013. While this is a laudable aspiration, achieving the target will be extremely challenging. Recent statistics from the Heidelberg Conflict Barometer suggest that there has been no clear overall decline in intrastate violence in Africa. Lack of funding and political will of member states to make bold decisions to prevent insecurity, minimise conflict escalation and to launch an effective response are some of the challenges that need to be addressed.

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Finally, the African Heads of state also discussed the crucial issue of UN Security Council reform. The Malabo summit was preceded by a meeting of AU Committee of Ten (C10) at Oyo, Republic of Congo in mid- May that concluded with a restatement of the common position that is known as the Ezulwini consensus. The Ezulwini consensus advocates for two permanent members with the right to veto and five non permanent members from Africa. Despite several rounds of meetings, the AU has so far not agreed upon the African permanent members nor has it shown any flexibility about the extension of veto rights. Africa's 54 member states are critical for any solution to the current dead lock in the UNSC reform process. Efforts are on to achieve a concrete outcome on this crucial issue by 2015, the 70th anniversary of the UN. However the steps taken by some of the

African member states to moderate the African common position seem to have failed yet again. The summit concluded by reconfirming the known position and a call to member states to prioritise UNSC reform issue in their engagement with external powers.

At the Malabo summit, the member states of the African Union seem to have set forth ambitious goals for pushing development, security and the integration agenda in the continent. Translation of these goals into reality will require coordination and cooperation by the African leaders and other stakeholders at a continental level.

Commentary

THE LIMITS OF FRENCH MILITARY INTERVENTION IN MALI

Containment of the terror threat in Sahel secures Europe, particularly its Southern parts; hence France has an interest in securing the region. However, France will not try to address the deep rooted political and socio-economic factors that are at the core of the Malian conflict as well as conflicts in other parts of Sahel.

NACHIKET KHADKIWALA*

Objective of French military intervention in Mali

France began its military operation in Mali on January 11, 2013. The imminent threat of terrorists belonging to Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) and Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa (MUJAO) taking over Bamako forced the interim President of Mali to ask the French to intervene. Under the UN Security Council Resolution 2071 passed on October 12, 2012, an ECOWAS led force was to be formed with the help of Western partners notably United States, France and European Union. Later, UN Resolution 2085 created the African-led International Support Mission in Mali (AFISMA) to help fight the terrorist threat in the north of Mali.¹ However, the setting up of such a force was taking time and the terrorists were quickly gaining ground. Once the terrorists had captured Konna (700 kilometre from Bamako), it was evident that they would quickly move towards the capital. This made the French act with speed and initiate *Operation Serval* as it was called from January 12, 2013.

The objectives of the intervention were manifold. Firstly, the initial aim of French military operation was to protect Bamako from falling to the terrorists forces and halting the terrorist offensive.² Secondly, the operation aimed at targeting rear bases of terrorists deep in the north of Mali in order to push them out of Mali and destroy their capacity to launch an offensive. Thirdly, the operations aimed at retaking towns occupied by terrorists subsequently to be secured by ECOWAS forces.³ Fourthly, the French military mission was aimed at maintaining the territorial integrity of Mali.⁴ And lastly, it had a much broader aim of fighting terrorism in Sahel region.⁵ So how did the French fair in their mission?

The French were more or less successful in achieving the first three objectives quite effectively. It is beyond doubt that without French intervention Bamako would have succumbed to jihadist forces. The alacrity with which the French responded in Mali had a severe impact on the conflict. The terrorists were not prepared for a swift French response and superior French forces were able to push terrorists back to northern Mali. As the terrorist offensive halted and Bamako was secured,

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ECOWAS forces joined the operations. The French forces, together with a 6000-strong Chadian force, were able to wrest the important cities of Timbuktu, Kidal and Gao from terrorists hands, with ECOWAS forces left to secure these towns. However, the latter two French military objectives of securing territorial integrity of Mali and fighting regional terrorism have only been partially fulfilled.

Malian territorial integrity not a French priority

The French military aim was to protect the territorial integrity of Malian state that was threatened by terrorists belonging to AQIM and MUJAO. The other group that threatens Mali's territorial integrity is the Tuareg separatist group Tuareg Azawad National Liberation Movement (MNLA). The French have no wish to get involved in protracted conflict by getting involved with an issue that is internal to Malian polity. Although France has supported talks between Malian government and MNLA, its military never aimed to mediate conflict between Malian government and Tuareg separatists by protecting the former against the latter. In fact, the MNLA had supported French military operations to drive out AQIM and MUJAO fighters from northern Mali. There is a growing feeling in Mali that the French will use the Tuareg separatists to fight the Islamists if the need arises.⁶ Therefore, the French are not trusted mediators in the conflict between the Malian state and the MNLA. France wanted to conduct swift and effective operations and quickly hand over the peacekeeping activities to the United Nations (UN) and the European Union (EU). The swiftness with which the United Nation's Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) took over operations in Mali was due to French eagerness to hand over the peacekeeping operations to the UN and get out the theatre of action once the terrorists had been contained.⁷

The MINUSMA with its 8,321 military personnel has primary responsibility of protecting northern Mali and extending State authority.⁸ Yet, there seems to be limited success as Tuareg rebels are still able to challenge the weak state authority and the weak Malian military is not able to control Tuareg strongholds in the north. In May 2014, the Tuaregs launched a major offensive as it retook the town of Kidal from Malian military and later extended control over the towns of Anefis, Aguelhok, Tessalit, Menaka, Ansongo, Anderamboukane and Lere.⁹ Hence it seems that MINUSMA is not present in northern Mali and is largely focussed on maintaining security in southern Mali. Many countries participating in MINUSMA are not willing to post their troops in the north due to the fear that they may be targeted by terrorists of the AQIM and affiliated groups.¹⁰ This underscores the point that only a strong and professional Malian military can protect Malian territorial integrity. The training of Malian military is being conducted by European Union Training Mission (EUTM) in Mali. EUTM began in February 2014 and is going to last till May 2016. With such a long time period, there is a possibility that the EUTM would be able to deliver a very effective training program.

The Tuareg question needs to be settled by Malians themselves in order to preserve their territorial integrity. The Tuareg represent only one tenth of the 16 million population of Mali and hence do not possess numerical strength to pose an existential threat to the Malian state.¹¹ Moreover, MNLA which drove the 2012 rebellion calling for separate state of Azawad does not represent the mainstream Tuareg perspective.¹² Tuareg groups are themselves divided into three categories; those who support secular MNLA and the cause of Azawad state, those that are close to Islamist

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The French have no wish to get involved in protracted conflict by getting involved with an issue that is internal to Malian polity.

The Tuareg question needs to be settled by Malians themselves in order to preserve their territorial integrity.

Ansar Dine and have pan-regional agenda and those that support the status quo.¹³ Groups like the Arab Movement of Azawad do not support armed rebellion against government and want to work closely with Malian the state for betterment of north. In any case, many in northern Mali favour closer integration with the south as the north lacks resources for development.¹⁴

Apart from Mali, Tuaregs are also present in neighbouring countries of Niger, Libya and Algeria, although they do not form a majority in any of these countries.¹⁵ These countries have a stake in ensuring that Tuaregs and the Malian state make peace. Although currently the state of Azawad only encompasses northern Mali, a maximalist interpretation of Azawad would mean some parts of Niger, Algeria and Libya.¹⁶ Hence Tuareg separatism might spill over across the borders. In the past, neighbours like Libya under Qaddafi, had mediated Tuareg conflicts by investing in the north, giving incentives to Tuaregs to join the Islamic Legion and arbitrating conflicts between Tuaregs and Malian state.¹⁷ Qaddafi's fall ruptured the economic and political fabric in the region that kept Tuaregs in check. Algeria which has also in past mediated conflicts between the Tuaregs and the Malian state, is now stepping up its efforts to bring both conflicting parties to the negotiating table. It hosted a peace conference with the Malian government and the Tuareg rebels on July 16, 2014 at Algiers.¹⁸

The Tuareg problem is nothing but a problem of nomadic and pastoralist communities of northern Mali not being able to integrate in the modern economy. Before its decline in the 17th century due to the advent of sea trade, northern Mali was an important trading hub in trans-Saharan trade. Currently, it faces huge economic problems compared to southern Mali which thrives on agriculture and mining. While Mali is very poor country, Tuareg dominated areas of Timbuktu, Gao and Kidal have poverty rates of 77 per cent, 78.7 per cent and 92 per cent respectively.¹⁹ This explains why Tuaregs have rebelled four times since independence against the Malian state.²⁰ The regional partners, neighbouring countries, international donors and Malian government need to work towards long-term settlement of Tuareg separatism by socio-economic integration of Tuaregs within the Malian society.

Fighting regional terrorism: from Mali to the Sahel

Let us assess the objective of fighting terrorism. Within Mali, the simultaneous French air attacks on the terrorist rear bases deep in northern Mali severely impeded terrorist capacity to launch attacks in Mali.²¹ In broader terms, the French were able to seriously destroy the capacity of AQIM and MUJAO to launch an offensive in Mali. These groups continue to launch terrorist attacks within Mali but do not have the wherewithal to launch a military offensive for territorial gains in Mali.²² There are around 1000 French troops still stationed in Mali for counter insurgency operations. However, the French were only able to scatter terrorists away from Mali, dispersing them into the Sahel region.²³ The French offensive has driven terrorists into southern Libya and northern Niger, much closer to the Mediterranean and this poses greater threat to European energy infrastructure in Algeria, Niger and Libya.²⁴ For instance France has significant economic interest in the Sahel, especially Niger. French mine third of the uranium from the uranium mines located in Niger.²⁵ Around 80 per cent of French electricity is generated from nuclear energy.²⁶ Hence supplies of uranium from Niger are very essential for French power sector. So the French attention has now shifted from Mali to

The French offensive has driven terrorists into southern Libya and northern Niger, much closer to the Mediterranean and this poses greater threat to European energy infrastructure in Algeria, Niger and Libya.

wider Sahel region in order to fight terrorism. After ending *Operation Serval*, France has launched a counter terrorism operation encompassing the Sahel region. *Operation Barkhan*, as it has been named, will be headquartered in the Chadian capital of N'Djamena.²⁷ Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger and Chad will be joining the French in this operation.²⁸ An additional 2000 French troops will be joining this operation along with 1000 already present in Mali.

The French are not the only ones involved in securing Sahel region. The United States has been assisting and backing French military operations in Sahel. The United States had assisted the French in the Mali operations by providing air refuelling facility.²⁹ The United States has established small bases in Central African Republic, South Sudan and Democratic Republic of Congo in order to assist Ugandan forces pursuing Lords' Resistance Army. The United States and French forces share facilities at Djibouti, Niger, Burkina Faso and Mauritania.³⁰ The French Combined Air Operations in Chad has a small United States liaison detachment.³¹ During the visit to Washington, D.C. in January 2014, French Defence Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian had termed US military's partnership with France in Africa as "indispensable".³² France perceives the security of the Sahel region as containment of risk emanating from chaos in Libya.³³ United States also seems to support this view having seen its embassy attacked in Benghazi. Therefore, it seems that both France and United States have common interest in securing Sahel against terrorist threat.

Containment of the terror threat in Sahel secures Europe, particularly its Southern parts; hence France has an interest in securing the region. However, France will not try to address the deep rooted political and socio-economic factors that are at the core of the Malian conflict as well as conflicts in other parts of Sahel. Here local, national and regional organisations would have to take a lead and not look towards north of Mediterranean for assistance.

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- ¹² Richard Reeve, "Security in the Sahel: Part I – Stabilising Mali in 2013-14", *Global Security Briefing*, Oxford Research Group, January 29, 2014, at <http://www.oxfordresearchgroup.org.uk/sites/default/files/Security%20in%20the%20Sahel%20Part%201%20Januray%202014.pdf>
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- ¹⁴ Ibid.
- ¹⁵ Simone Hayson (2014), "From rebellion to foreign intervention: intersecting humanitarian and security dimensions", *Security and Humanitarian Crises in Mali: The role of the regional organisations*, HPG Working Paper, pp.4-5.
- ¹⁶ Ibid.
- ¹⁷ Islamic Legion was a Libyan-sponsored pan-Arab paramilitary force created by Colonel Qaddafi. It was part of his dream to create a pan-Islamic state of Sahel. The legion consisted mostly of immigrants from poor countries of Sahel region.
- ¹⁸ "Algiers to host new Mali peace talks", *Star Africa*, July 10, 2014, at <http://en.starafica.com/news/algiers-to-host-new-mali-peace-talks.html>.
- ¹⁹ Hussein Solomon (2013), "Mali: West Africa's Afghanistan", *The RUSI Journal*, 158 (1), p.13.
- ²⁰ Ibid.
- ²¹ Ibid., pp.11-12.
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- ²⁴ Richard Reeve, "Security in the Sahel: Part II- Militarisation of the Sahel", *Global Security Briefing*, Oxford Research Group, February 5, 2014, at http://www.oxfordresearchgroup.org.uk/sites/default/files/Security%20in%20the%20Sahel%20Part%202%20February%202014_0.pdf
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Book Review

Ian Taylor, *The Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC)*

Routledge, 2011, ISBN13: 978-0-415-54860-1

SMRITI RAJAN*

Ian Taylor's book *The Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC)* is the forty-sixth addition to the series on "global institutions" released by Routledge. The FOCAC was established in 2000 and has been a vital platform for exchange and cooperation between China and African countries, housing various aspects of the bilateral relationship between China and Africa, with emphasis on economic, political and cultural dynamics. The book aims to deliver extensive knowledge to the readers regarding the institutionalisation of Sino-African cooperation. The book lays out the structures, processes, mechanisms, outcomes and significance of the cooperative body since its formation, highlighting the dynamic relationship between China and Africa. The book is structured in a neat manner and is divided into three sections wherein the author has given a brief introduction of the formation of FOCAC in the context of contemporary Sino-African relations and talked about the Four Summits of FOCAC followed by the way forward for the Sino-African partnership.

After a brief introduction to Sino-African relations since early 1940s, the book focuses mainly on economic trends pertaining to the investment sector; growing cultural exchanges; financial aid; knowledge and resource sharing, while also looking at bilateral political relations nurtured over the period. Further, the author has assessed the success and failure of the FOCAC Summits, analysing what the cooperative body can offer in terms of opportunities and commitments in the coming years. Following this background of Sino-African relations leading to the formation of FOCAC as a milestone in the partnership between China and Africa, the author lays out broad thematic sections that are bolstered by the plurality of viewpoints, including African and Chinese responses, with an intention to deepen bilateral relations and provide solutions to the existing challenges.

The author begins with an overview of the Sino-African relationship and how it has progressed in terms of economic and trade processes, with China being a major investor and promoter of development across the African continent. Egypt was the first African country to establish official relations with China in the year 1956. Furthermore, Tanzania became the closest ally of China with the successful establishment of Sino-Tanzanian shipping company in 1966 and Chinese aid was observed to be greater than Britain or the Soviet Union to Tanzania. In the post-cultural revolution years, China made more aid commitments to Africa than the Soviet Union between 1970 and 1976. During this period, Africa played a crucial role in supporting the final acceptance of China into the United Nations. In the post-Tiananmen Square era, China pledged itself to aiding African development and encourage commercial linkages with the African continent by hosting

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China-Africa seminar on “economic reform and adjustment” in 1989 and supporting the African Development Bank.

There have been five FOCAC Ministerial conferences till date, the fifth one held in July 2012 in Beijing. The author has given an overview of the objectives, activities and outcomes of four Summits held by FOCAC, examining its development and tracking the progress of Sino-African cooperation over the last decade. The First Summit of FOCAC held in Beijing in October 2000 was attended by 44 African countries. FOCAC I was an initial effort to solidify and formalise the Sino-African relationship. With focus on setting up of the China-Africa joint business council and China-Africa products exhibition center, the FOCAC provided a new platform for collective consultation and was seen as an effective mechanism to promote cooperation. The Second Summit of FOCAC was held in Addis Ababa in December 2003, including participation from 70 Chinese ministers and 44 ministers from Africa. The theme of FOCAC II was “Consolidate and develop China-Africa friendship and deepen and expand mutual cooperation”. The Third Summit of FOCAC, held in December 2006 in Beijing marked the highest level of gathering of Chinese and African leaders. The outcome of the discussion was the “Declaration of Beijing” as read out by the Former Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, pushing for China and Africa to build up a new strategic partnership and to feature political equality, mutual trust, economic cooperation and cultural exchanges. The Fourth Summit conducted in Egypt in October 2009, witnessed less participation. The highlight of the Summit was cooperation in international relations, which, taking a cue from G20 as a vehicle to stabilize and manage the global political economy moved higher up in the priority list replacing economic cooperation.

The layout of the book gives academics, researchers, students and readers in general, an extensive discourse on the bilateral relations between China and Africa, and the institutionalization of Sino-African cooperation in the form of the establishment of FOCAC. Providing an in-depth analysis of the FOCAC Summits, the author highlights the features of Chinese engagement with Africa and provides an insight into the areas of cooperation, namely, bi-lateral trade; education; culture; health; infrastructure; environment; knowledge and resource sharing; and increasing participation of youth. He argues that the diverse nature of FOCAC and its greater involvement in a wide range of areas of cooperation have been influencing and impacting the international community as a whole.

The author concludes by stating that FOCAC has been instrumental in enhancing cooperation between China and Africa and ensuring mutual support between them in the global arena. It is a positive symbol of the Sino-African relationship, the future of which depends upon China’s stronghold in Africa. For this to happen, China will need to deepen its engagement with Africa. There is considerable scope for exploring a greater role for FOCAC in a manner that it brings greater benefits to both the partners. This is not impossible since as the author argues, Sino-African relations highlight processes not of “colonisation”, but of “globalisation” and “reintegration” of China into the global economy. However, the real stumbling block is that the African continent lacks a consistent and collective policy in dealing with external actors in general, and China in particular. To address this major lacuna, the author suggests an integrated model for Africa, encompassing all major African institutions, political leaders, specialists and diplomats in formulating common developmental goals and economic policies.

While Ian Taylor’s book is a good beginning to understand the broad narrative of the FOCAC, and a holistic view of the Sino-African collaboration and its implications, it needs to be complemented by subsequent writings on the subject which focus on the politics and nuances of

the relationship. One such work is an edited volume titled “Forum on China-Africa Cooperation: The Politics of Human Resource Development” by Li Anshan and Funeka Yazini April (2013) which focuses on the human resource development aspect and FOCAC as an instrument of Chinese soft power.¹ China’s rise and its expanding spheres of influence the world over must be followed in all seriousness.

¹ Li Anshan and Funeka Yazini April (eds), *Forum on China-Africa Cooperation: The Politics of Human Resource Development*, Africa Institute of South Africa, Pretoria, 2013.

Event Report

Roundtable on "Peace and Security in Africa", June 12, 2014

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SMRITI RAJAN*

The Africa, Latin America & UN Centre at the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses held a Round Table on the theme "*Peace and Security in Africa*" on June 12, 2014 at the IDSA campus. The discussion was headed by **Dr. Arvind Gupta**, Director General, IDSA. The panel was chaired by **Amb. Rajiv K. Bhatia**, Director General, ICWA and included diplomats and high-level dignitaries from the Embassies and High Commissions of Algeria, Benin, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, Rwanda, Uganda, Senegal, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa and South Sudan. Members, scholars and diplomats from within and outside IDSA were also present in the proceedings. The main speakers at the Round Table were **H.E. Ms. Genet Zewdie** (Ambassador of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia), **H.E. Mr. Jonathan Wutawunashe** (Ambassador of the Republic of Zimbabwe), **Amb. H.H.S Viswanathan** (Distinguished Fellow, ORF), **Amb. Deepak Vohra** (Special Advisor- Trade and Investment, PMO, Kingdom of Lesotho & Special Advisor- Minister to PM, Republic of Guinea-Bissau) and **Ms. Ruchita Beri** (Senior Research Associate & Coordinator- Africa, LAC & UN, IDSA).

Setting the tone for the discussion, Dr Arvind Gupta, DG, IDSA said that the African continent has come a long way in terms of economic growth and stability, along with the establishment of several institutions across Africa and setting up of the peace and security architecture. However, growing challenges in the "conflict hotspots" such as Mali, South Sudan and Central Africa, required effective governance mechanisms and state-building in the African continent. During the last decade, the threat of fundamentalism had deepened and the strengthening of existing armed groups and emergence of new groups following extremist ideologies like the Al-Shabaab were threatening regional and global security environment. He opined that going beyond the common past of struggle against colonialism, and dealing with issues of poverty, illiteracy and diseases, there is scope for security cooperation between India and Africa.

Complimenting the IDSA for hosting a discussion which is of utmost importance for both Africa and India, Amb Rajiv Bhatia said that the purpose of the interaction was to analyse the recent trends of peace and security in Africa as they were crucial to the overall development of the continent. The response of the African institutions, particularly the African Union and its leaders to the conflicts was of great importance. The effectiveness of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union and other institutions is being tested in the current circumstances. For instance in dealing with the Boko Haram, while the Nigerian Army has displayed institutional weakness in not being able to prevent it from causing harm, the political system has displayed a lack of will to deal with the crisis. Against this backdrop, the Chairperson urged the diplomats and scholars to

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analyse and suggest the ways and means of by which India can be more cooperative and helpful, in addition to being part of the peacekeeping missions in Africa.

In the presentations and discussions that followed, the main issue discussed was the causes of conflict in contemporary Africa and composition and relevance of the peace and security architecture to deal with the crises.

Threats to Peace and Security in Africa

It was suggested that there are three drivers of conflict or threats to peace and security Africa. First, there are **pre-existing conditions** like ethnic and communal divide, historic animosities and extreme inequalities. Second, there are **catalysts** such as the formation of active groups based on ideologies, politicisation of controversial issues and deterioration of the economy. Third, there are **triggers** which are in form of military coups, inter-state conflicts and militancy due to socio-economic reasons. In addition to these, there is prevalence of war-like situation between two parties/leaders; organized crimes like piracy, armed robbery, kidnapping, arms trade, drug trafficking and human trafficking. Most crucial of all is the threat from Islamic fundamentalist terrorism spread across the African continent, which is a matter of global concern. It was argued that since the pre-existing conditions and the triggers are not in the hands of the government, the buildup of catalysts can be prevented by means of “preventive diplomacy”.

African Peace and Security Architecture

It was argued that in order to cope with the devastating consequences of the trends of violence in the form genocide, conflicts and collapse of several African Republics, the African Union had adopted the principle of “non-indifference” and made efforts to resolve conflicts. In accordance with Article 2 of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) stands on five pillars, namely, the Peace and Security Council, a Panel of the Wise, the Continental Early Warning System, an African Standby Force, a and Peace Fund. Highlighting the achievements of AU in terms of deploying large number of peace support operations, conducting joint UN-AU led peacekeeping missions and post-conflict reconstruction, the APSA has made a huge difference in the maintenance of peace and security and promotion of socio-economic development in parts of Africa. As per reports, the number of wars has gone down due to the efforts made by AU, even though localized crises have increased in number. Africa has been a major focus of the UN Security Council in the last 50 years. Therefore, the AU architecture is highly relevant to enhance continental peace and security.

Among the measures suggested for improving the peace and security architecture, it was argued that there was need to go beyond military means and addressing issues of poverty and unequal distribution of wealth. There was also need for greater coordination between AU and the UN. Formalising institutional arrangements at the national, regional and continental levels to deal with conflicts and building democracies to address internal discrepancies rather than blaming external actors for the ills of Africa were highlighted as the other essentials for peacebuilding in Africa.

Scope for Indian Engagement in Africa

India has been a major participant in the UN peacekeeping missions, 75 per cent of which have been based in Africa. The unique feature of India’s engagement with Africa is that India’s approach is consultative in nature. Human security is a very important aspect of security, in the context of

which India has formulated certain plans and course of action for supporting the African countries. For instance, India has pledged that it would set up about 120 institutions in Africa which would help in human resource development. Citing President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe who felt that Africa should bow to the East (Asia), rather than the West, it was argued that the Indian government, civil society, think tanks and the concerned academicians should come together in formulating a charter and develop a framework for development cooperation.

Individual countries in Africa have their specific security issues. Together these present India with an opportunity to engage with and enhance peace and security on the continent. For instance, while Egypt is a homogenous society and is free of ethnic clashes, it presently faces from a number of challenges such as cross-border terrorism, extremism, drug and human trafficking and also political and economic compulsions from both within and outside, the country. On the other hand, Seychelles has developed in terms of having life expectancy of 79, literacy rate which is above 90 per cent, infant mortality rate of 1 in 1000 and women ownership of more than 70 per cent of businesses. Seychelles is one of the safest countries and is seen as an example of African success in terms of security, stability and human development, as opined by many people. However the main challenge that Seychelles faces is the threat of ecology and piracy. The youth becomes very important in dealing with the existing issues and standing up for their rights.

More generally it was hoped that India could offer help in the context of the Peace and Security Council, in terms of funding. Furthermore, India can invest in the employment sector by creating job opportunities in Africa. Also importantly, women's empowerment in Africa needs attention and large numbers of women have to come in leadership positions and participate in decision-making processes. It was also argued that since security goes beyond the cooperation between defence forces, the law and enforcement agencies of India have an important role to play in dealing with the existing issues faced by the entire African continent. It is also important to exchange information for the effective implementation of law and enforcement. In terms of defence institutions, capacity-building of human resources is essential. Strengthening of local institutions with some local effort and making them self-sufficient is also important. Lastly, the littoral states and island states could gain from active Indian involvement in resource sharing, knowledge sharing, training, etc.

The problems of peace and security are inter-linked, created by a mix of internal and external factors, which have to be seen in a wider context of globalization. In most areas, India has had a great deal of experience and expertise which will be of help in providing solutions in the near future. Africa looks at India as a benign partner, which can help Africa in providing necessary assistance. Africa seeks not just financial help, but also moral support; exchange of ideas and information; and political and diplomatic support that are of great importance.

Conclusion

The Roundtable concluded with several participants pointing out that African heads of state and government institutions have committed to work on the lines of democracy, good governance, economic development, for silencing the violence in African countries and creating a conflict-free, peaceful and prosperous continent by 2020. Given this vision, coupled with growing cohesion and effectiveness within the AU, the benefits deriving from a young, enthused and talented Africa, and support from countries like Europe, Brazil, India and China, Africa seems to be moving steadily along the path to prosperity.

News Track

Northern Africa

Egypt

Boost in the economy of Egypt with the restart of \$10 billion gas project

The \$10 billion gas project of BP that took a backseat for three years has been resumed, as stated by Egypt's Oil Minister Sherif Ismail. The production at BP's North Alexandria concession would begin in 2017, with the initial extraction of 450 million cubic feet per day rising to 800 million cubic feet in 2018. Referring to overall imports, Ismail said that gas imports for a period of 4-5 years are planned for achieving self-sufficiency in the energy sector. After the removal of Hosni Mubarak due to political commotion and instability, the economy suffered as the government struggled to invest in foreign companies for gas and there came a halt in the ongoing projects. In this regard, a fresh start of the BP project is seen as a sign of improvement in the investment sector, with Ismail also stating that \$1.5 billion would be repaid to foreign energy companies by the end of 2014.¹

Shipment of Five LNG cargoes from Algeria to Egypt

Algeria has offered to deliver five Liquefied Natural Gas cargoes of 145,000 cubic metres to Egypt, by the end of this year. Talks of supply of natural gas to power stations in Egypt were conducted wherein the deal was made between both the Northern African countries. However, there has been no updated information on the negotiations and estimated pricing. The accord between Algeria and Egypt has come as a relief for Egypt which relies predominantly on gas for supply of power to households and firms.²

Egypt to host the African Environment Ministerial Meet

Dr. Khaled Fahmy, the Minister of Environment announced that Egypt will host the meeting of African environment ministers in September, while Egypt is continuing to play a leading role in the environmental sector. In his statement at the first-ever meeting of the UN Environmental Assembly in Kenya, Fahmy also said that the establishment of a council for the African environment ministers was proposed by Egypt 20 years ago.³

¹ "Egypt boost as \$10bn BP gas project restarts", *Gulf Daily News*, June 27, 2014, at <http://www.gulf-daily-news.com/NewsDetails.aspx?storyid=379901>

² "Algeria, Egypt's Sisi talk security, gas shipments", *Reuters*, June 25, 2014, at <http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/06/25/uk-algeria-egypt-gas-idUKKBN0F02K520140625>

³ "Egypt to Host Meeting of African Environment Ministers", June 28, 2014, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201406302108.html>

Participation of Egypt in joint-naval training programme

The joint maritime training exercise captioned as the “Exercise Eagle Salute” was conducted with participation from Egyptian, US and UAE naval forces. The joint naval activity included practice of surveillance methods to avoid piracy; shooting techniques to destroy ground and aerial targets in securing offshore units; military drills to detect hostile submarines by the use of well-equipped helicopters; and exercise of tactical naval and air maneuvers involving the use of fighter jets, aircraft and destroyers. The purpose of joint-naval training exercises was to enhance leadership skills, readiness, combat efficiency and facilitate exchange of experience, combat methods and new weapons. Rear Adm. Ismail el-Badawi of Egypt expressed Egyptian armed forces’ wish to strengthen military ties and mutual cooperation with US and UAE. Prior to this multilateral naval training programme, the Pentagon issued a statement in April which read that US would deliver ten Apache helicopters to Egypt, for helping the Egyptian government in countering extremists who threaten the security system of US, Egypt and Israel.⁴

Algeria

Arms deal between Germany and Algeria

A record contract of 2.7 billion Euros was signed by Germany which would sell arms to Algeria. The leading German weapons manufacturing companies including Düsseldorf Rheinmetall, Daimler AG and ThyssenKrupp, affirmed this. The companies will deliver 980 Fuchs armoured 2 models, SUVs and trucks and for this a manufacturing plant will be set up for local production at Ain Samara in Algeria. According to a report issued by the German government, Algeria was Germany’s largest market for arms sales in 2013.⁵

Need for security cooperation in Northern Africa

On his visit to Algeria, the President of Egypt, Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi discussed security issues in the region, primarily Libya. He emphasized the need for cooperative efforts in tackling with the challenges posed by terrorism, particularly dealing with the ongoing internal turmoil in Libya. Since the demise of the Libyan dictator Muammar Gaddafi, the country has become a major source of smuggling weapons and jihadi elements to its neighbouring countries, which has disturbed the security situation in the entire region. In order to tackle security challenges and maintain stability in the region, the President of Egypt said that Egypt must take action in tightening security along its Western borders.⁶

⁴ “Egypt participates in multinational naval joint-training exercise”, *The Cairo Post*, June 22, 2014, at <http://thecairopost.com/news/115912/news/egypt-uae-u-s-armed-forces-finished-joint-training-exercises>

⁵ “Germany signs a record contract to sell weapons to Algeria”, *The Moroccan Times*, June 18, 2014, at <http://moroccantimes.com/2014/06/germany-signs-record-contract-sell-weapons-algeria>

⁶ “Egypt’s President in Algeria to discuss security cooperation in region”, *Fox News*, June 25, 2014, at <http://www.foxnews.com/world/2014/06/25/egypt-president-in-algeria-to-discuss-security-cooperation-in-region/>

Eastern Africa

Burundi

Burundi-Tanzania open One-Stop Border Post; 162,156 Burundian refugees receive citizenship in Tanzania

Following a bilateral agreement between Burundi and Tanzania in 2011, the construction of a One-Stop Border Post (OSBP) at Kabanga and Kobero is being completed. The construction of the post is intended to ease the movement of goods and people across the common border. With the support of Trade Mark East Africa (TMEA), temporary structures and ICT systems have been installed that link the two border towns now. The OSBP operations will bring a great relief by reducing the cost and time for immigration and customs formalities to be completed by the people moving across the border as they will have to make only one stop for it. More automated operations will also improve the clearance. People entering Burundi will stop only at Kobero in Burundi, whereas people going to Tanzania will stop only at Kabanga. Officials of both the countries will be working together at these one-stops.⁷

Of the 172,405 requests made for getting citizenship in 2010, Tanzania's Ministry of Home Affairs has granted citizenship to 162,156 Burundian refugees so far. The ministry informed that 10,349 requests were also rejected. This is a result of a tripartite agreement between UNHCR, Tanzania and Burundi that gave the refugees the option to decide on their status. They had to choose if they wanted to return back home or seek Tanzanian citizenship. It is important to note that the Katumba and Mishamo camps in Tanzania accommodated 227,500 refugees from Burundi, out of whom 50,000 decided to repatriate. The new citizens were still at Katumba and Mishamo camps in Katavi region and Ulyankulu in Tabora region. The decision to settle them in new and different parts of the country now awaits cabinet approval. They will, however, receive support and services from the UNHCR and its other partners till their resettlement.⁸

Comoros

Knight of the Order of the Green Crescent medal for the Chinese Ambassador in Comoros

Mr Wang Leyou, the Chinese Ambassador to Moroni, the capital of Comoros, has been awarded the Knight of the Order of the Green Crescent of Comoros. This is one of the highest honours given to anyone by the Comorian State. During the award ceremony, the President of Comoros Mr Ikililou praised the sincerity of friendship and cooperation between the People's Republic of

⁷ "Single Tanzania-Burundi border post opens doors", *East African Business Week*, May 25, 2014, at <http://www.busiweek.com/index1.php?Ctp=2&pI=1207&pLv=3&srI=%2067&spI=&cI=15>

⁸ "More than 162,000 Burundian refugees granted Tanzanian citizenship", *Daily News Online*, May 31, 2014, at <http://www.dailynews.co.tz/index.php/local-news/32028-more-than-162-000-burundian-refugees-granted-tanzanian-citizenship>

China and the Union of Comoros. He praised the Chinese ambassador for his efforts in improving China-Comoros relations.⁹

Djibouti

Long-term lease given to the US military base in Djibouti; Djibouti restaurant blasts were conducted by Al-Shabaab

Taking a critical step in fighting terrorism, the United States and Djibouti have signed a new 10-year lease for a US military base. The deal was announced after a meeting between the US and Djiboutian presidents at the White House. The base is considered extremely important for the US operations in the Horn of Africa. It is the only permanent US military base in Africa for which Washington pays an annual rent of US\$38 million. About 4,000 US troops are housed in Djibouti. Djiboutian soldiers are also part of the international force fighting against Al-Shabaab in Somalia. This base is a major platform for attacks against terrorists, including drone attacks, in Yemen and Somalia. Both the presidents expressed their commitment to work together for economic development and peace in the Horn of Africa.¹⁰

The responsibility the bomb attack in a restaurant in Djibouti was claimed by the Somali rebel group Al-Shabaab. The attack left at least three people dead, including two security officers, and 11 others wounded. The explosion targeted Western tourists and security officers in the popular restaurant. The Al-Shabaab claimed that the attack was against the French crusaders who are complicit in the massacres of Muslims in the Central African Republic and are training and equipping the Djiboutian troops in Somalia.¹¹

Eritrea

Eritrea urged by the UN to end arbitrary detentions; President of Eritrea promises a new constitution

An independent expert appointed by the UN Human Rights Council, Ms Sheila B Keetharuth, said that the Eritrean Government needs to bring to an end its practices of arbitrary arrest, ill-treatment and persecution. She urged the Eritrean authorities to release or bring all detainees to a court of law. The detainees include some journalists arrested in 2001 as well as those arrested for their opinions or religious beliefs. She also welcomed the reported unacknowledged release of eight detainees in April 2014. This, according to her, is positive development that raises hope for more systematic releases. She expected Eritrea to abide by its obligations under international human rights law more consistently. Most of the released men had been arrested in Keren, in the

⁹ "Chinese Ambassador to Comoros elevated to Knight of Order Green Crescent", *Global Post*, May 22, 2014, at <http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/xinhua-news-agency/140522/chinese-ambassador-comoros-elevated-knight-order-green-cresc>

¹⁰ "US signs long-term lease for military base in Djibouti", *Voice of America*, May 5, 2014, at <http://www.voanews.com/content/us-expands-presence-in-strategically-located-djibouti/1907900.html>

¹¹ "Al-Shabaab claims deadly Djibouti blasts", *Al Jazeera*, May 27, 2014, at <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2014/05/al-shabaab-claims-deadly-djibouti-blasts-2014527154632977410.html>

north-west of Asmara, the capital during 2005-2006. No charges or cases were made against them and no proper reasons were given for their detention.¹²

An intention of the drafting of a new constitution for Eritrea was announced by Mr Isaias Afewerki, the President of the nation. The declaration was made by Mr Afewerki on the occasion of the celebrations of the 23rd Independence Day. Eritrea, a former province of Ethiopia, since its emergence in 1991, has seen no general elections. Although the country ratified a constitution in 1997, it was never implemented by the Government of Eritrea which has resulted in a state with a single party system under President Afewerki. However, Eritrean opposition is skeptical about the sincerity of the government. Currently, Eritrea is the last remaining single party state in Africa with one of the most repressive regimes in the world.¹³

Ethiopia

India's SVP Group constructing Africa's largest cotton mill in Ethiopia; China will construct SEZs in Ethiopia; Waves of South Sudanese refugees entering into Ethiopia; Ethiopia to lead UN Peacekeeping in South Sudan

A cotton mill with an investment of US\$550 million is being made by India's Mumbai-based Shri Vallabh Pittie (SVP) group in Ethiopia. The cotton produced in the mill will be entirely for export. The official operations and construction has already started. This cotton spinning plant will be the largest in Ethiopia as well as the African continent. The Development Bank of Ethiopia (DBE) is providing a 52 per cent term loan of the total investment required while the remaining 48 per cent will be funded by equity financing. The SVP group's registered company in Ethiopia, SVP Textiles Private Limited Company, hopes to produce about 280 tonnes of yarn and spin in this plant per day.¹⁴

China's Prime Minister Li Keqiang, during his Africa tour, visited Ethiopia on May 5, 2014. It was Mr Li's first visit to Africa after he took office in March 2013. Both the countries signed several cooperation documents aimed at boosting bilateral ties. The documents covered areas like economic technology, infrastructure and finance. Mr Li told reporters that his country is willing to see Ethiopia move quickly and steadily on the track of development and make greater achievements in poverty reduction. He described the ties between the two countries as "strategic" in nature.¹⁵ On May 6, 2014, the two countries signed a memorandum of understanding to develop Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in Kombolcha, Hawassa, Dire Dawa and Addis Ababa in Ethiopia. The industries and businesses within these zones will get special treatment by the government.

¹² "UN rights expert urges Eritrean Government to end 'widespread' arbitrary arrest", *UN News Centre*, May 6, 2014, at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=47736>

¹³ "Eritrean leader pledges to draft new constitution", *Sudan Tribune*, May 24, 2014, at <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article51115>

¹⁴ "Indian firm to plant Africa's largest cotton mill here", *The Reporter*, May 3, 2014, at <http://www.thereporterethiopia.com/index.php/news-headlines/item/1959-indian-firm-to-plant-africas-largest-cotton-mill-here>

¹⁵ "China, Ethiopia ink agreements on economic, infrastructure cooperation", *All Africa*, May 5, 2014, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201405090845.html>

According to Mr Seleshi Zegeye, Deputy Director of Public Relations at the Ministry of Industry (MoI), Ethiopia, a feasibility study underway at the proposed sites and the contract for construction with the Chinese will be signed soon after.¹⁶

The UN refugee agency (UNHCR) confirmed that waves of South Sudanese women and children are fleeing across the Ethiopian border and flooding the country. The UN and its humanitarian partners are rushing food and medical supplies to the refugee sites. The rapid influx of people was followed by Sudanese Government's capture of the rebel stronghold of Nasir across the Raro River that marks the border between the two countries. According to UNHCR figures, since fighting for political power broke out in South Sudan in December 2013, Ethiopia has received more than 110,000 refugees from there. Some 205,000 people fled to Uganda, Sudan and Kenya, with some 923,000 people having been displaced inside South Sudan.¹⁷

The UN Security Council has resolved to deploy three battalions of the East African peacekeeping forces lead by the Ethiopian troops in South Sudan. These forces are expected to try to prevent further fighting between South Sudan government forces and the rebel forces loyal to the former Vice President Riek Machar. Both the sides are striving for the control of the country's oil-rich east. The soldiers will protect the teams of monitors from the region who are on a verification mission of reports of violations of a temporary cease-fire in the country. Ethiopia currently ranks 10th in terms of military and police contributions to UN peacekeeping operations around the world by deploying over 10,000 soldiers in various countries that include 4,200 troops to the Abiye region of Sudan and thousands with the UNAMID peacekeeping mission in Darfur.¹⁸

Kenya

Two Kenyans on 'Time' most influential list; Kenyan President approves bill legalising polygamy

The *Times 100 most influential people in the world* list includes two Kenyans, Binyavanga Wainaina and Ory Okolloh. Binyavanga was dubbed by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, a reputed Nigerian author, as 'The Memoirist with a Mission'. Chimamanda acknowledged Binyavanga's courage to speak out as a gay man in Africa despite the demonisation of gays in most of the countries in the continent. Ory Okolloh is a Director of Investments at Omidyar Network. She also co-founded Mzalendo and Ushahidi, the parliamentary watchdog site. Okolloh had a humble financial background and was thrown out of school several times due to the failure of her parents to pay the fee. However, finally, she got a Harvard Law degree and a job offer from a DC law firm.¹⁹

¹⁶ "China agrees to construct flagship special economic zones", *Addis Fortune*, May 11, 2014, at <http://addisfortune.net/articles/china-agrees-to-construct-flagship-special-economic-zones/>

¹⁷ "South Sudanese refugees flooding into Ethiopia, UN agency reports", *UN News Centre*, May 6, 2014, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201405071408.html>

¹⁸ "Ethiopia to lead UN peacekeeping in South Sudan", *The Reporter*, May 31, 2014, at <http://www.thereporterethiopia.com/index.php/news-headlines/item/2072-ethiopia-to-lead-un-peacekeeping-in-south-sudan>

¹⁹ "Two Kenyans on 'Time' most influential list", *Standard Digital*, April 27, 2014, at http://www.standardmedia.co.ke/?articleID=2000110253&story_title=two-kenyans-on-time-most-influential-list/

Kenyan men can now marry as many women as they want as the Kenyan President has signed bill that legalises polygamy. Although the bill was strongly opposed by female parliamentarians, it was passed and enacted. The law provides no such provision for women, who can customarily marry only one man. During the discussions on the bill, the male parliamentarians had argued that polygamy is a traditional male right in Africa that is also approved by the bible. Women lawmakers, who were critical and outraged, protested by staging a walk-out from the parliament. They argued that the law will weaken families and women. Kenya's Federation of Women Lawyers plans to legally challenge the law.²⁰

Madagascar

Roger Kolo appointed as the Prime Minister of Madagascar; Clashes on cattle in Madagascar leave 22 dead and 3,000 displaced

In a step towards normalisation of Madagascar, the president of the country Hery Rajaonarimampianina named Roger Kolo as the prime minister. Mr Roger Kolo is a physician who had filed his nomination as a presidential candidate in 2013 but was found ineligible for election. The move is expected to put Madagascar on a normal political track and bring back international support to the country. Donor aid, excluding humanitarian assistance, to Madagascar was halted after Andry Rajoelina seized power in coup in 2009. The democratic election of the new president in December 2013 is gradually bringing back support to the island nation. The new president launched a charm offensive to regain the support and assistance of the international financial aid-givers for his impoverished country. African Union has revoked the suspension of the country from its membership. Other international organisations and powers are reviewing their decisions in the light of the new developments and the formation of an elected government in Madagascar.²¹ All remaining sanctions on direct assistance to Madagascar from the United States have been lifted. As a result of the coup the country had lost about 30,000 jobs and the trade privileges that helped it export its products to the US.²²

In the violence sparked by cattle rustling in Madagascar, twenty-two people were killed and hundreds of houses destroyed. The National Bureau of Risk and Disaster Management, Madagascar, informed that about 275 homes were destroyed and 3,000 people were forced to move from their place during a week of unrest in the southern part of the country. The violent clashes among the gangs of "dahalos" (cattle thieves), villagers and the army began due to a widespread theft of prized humped cattle zebu. Zebu, at the heart of the culture in southern Madagascar, is a symbol of wealth and is eaten only at weddings or special celebrations. They are also sacrificed for ancestor worship or during funeral rituals. Such clashes and fatalities are common in Madagascar's 'zebu wars'.²³

²⁰ "Polygamy legalized in Kenya for men", *DW*, April 29, 2014, at <http://www.dw.de/polygamy-legalized-in-kenya-for-men/a-17601791>

²¹ "Madagascar president appoints Roger Kolo as Prime Minister", *Bloomberg Business Week*, April 11, 2014, at <http://www.businessweek.com/news/2014-04-11/madagascar-president-appoints-roger-kolo-as-prime-minister>

²² "US lifts restrictions on assistance to Madagascar", *NDTV*, May 28, 2014, at <http://www.ndtv.com/article/world/us-lifts-restrictions-on-assistance-to-madagascar-531801>

²³ "22 dead, 3,000 displaced in Madagascar cattle wars", *Business Standard*, May 14, 2014, at http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/22-dead-3-000-displaced-in-madagascar-cattle-wars-114051401564_1.html

Mauritius

First Seychelles-Mauritius Business Forum organised

During the first Seychelles-Mauritius Business Forum on April 24 and 25, 2014, four memoranda of understanding (MoUs) to promote trade and investment were signed. The business forum was organised alongside a trade fair. Over 50 Seychellois companies attended the events to discuss business possibilities with their Mauritian counterparts that were more than 100 in number. The events were collaboratively organised by the Seychelles Investment Board (SIB) and the Board of Investment of Mauritius. The Seychelles government is taking steps to attract business and to encourage foreign direct investment in the country. Business representatives of both the countries can use the forum for further economic cooperation. The governments of both the countries expect the platform to elevate their economic and commercial relationship to new heights. Trade between Mauritius and Seychelles stands at only US \$49.6 million annually, but that figure is expected to improve.²⁴

Mozambique

Economists express concern at Mozambique's increasing debt; Mozambique Government rejects Renamo's demand for senior position in army and police

In a conference on "Mega-projects: Policies and Governance" held in Maputo, it was contended that the natural resources revenue might be enough to cover Mozambique's foreign debt. Experts claimed that Mozambique is borrowing too much in the hope that its natural resources will bring great wealth in future. Joao Mosca, a prominent economist, suggested that while drawing long-term plans, provisions must be made for the eventuality of risks as it is complicated to rely on resources that will enter the economy in future. Situations of instability and the decisions of companies to invest in some other country might jeopardise the normal plan and add up to Mozambique's debt. However, the government remains optimistic and argues that Mozambique's current levels of indebtedness are sustainable. Finance Minister Manuel Chang said that the current level of foreign public debt is sustainable, falling well within the tolerable limits for all debt sustainability ratios.²⁵

After the end of the 53rd round of dialogue with the government, the head of the Renamo delegation, Saimone Macuiana, announced that his organisation would lay down its arms and hand over its men only if the government accepted its demand of giving them senior posts in the armed forces and the police. Renamo demanded that if the commander is from Renamo, then the deputy should be from the Forces for the Liberation of Mozambique (FPLM) or vice versa. The division of positions in the other departments, according to Renamo, may be 50 per cent to each side. However, the Government of Mozambique has rejected this demand as "an aberration". Under the 1992 peace agreement between the government and Renamo, Armed Forces for the Defence of Mozambique (FADM) were to be formed by dismantling and unifying the FPLM and the Renamo

²⁴ "Seychelles, Mauritius enhance cooperation", *Tax-News*, April 28, 2014, at http://www.tax-news.com/news/Seychelles_Mauritius_Enhance_Cooperation___64509.html

²⁵ "Mozambique: Economists concerned at increased levels of debt", *All Africa*, April 3, 2014, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201404040433.html>

forces. The agreement envisaged a 30,000 strong FADM with a 50 per cent share of personnel from both sides. The agreement also stated that the recruits must all be volunteers, of which there were not many on either side, after a 16 year war. Men on both sides wanted to receive their demobilisation pay and return home. Hence, the UN-chaired Supervisory and Control Commission recruited as many volunteers as possible keeping the question of parity between the two sides aside. Renamo is again trying to politicise the FADM and the police by demanding parity with the government.²⁶

Seychelles

Foreign Minister of Seychelles signs more fund for the integration of Comesa; Seychelles' free healthcare may be a model for Africa; India provides military vehicles to the Seychelles Peoples' Defence Forces; Seychelles takes part in USALAMA Operation against transnational crime; Seychelles to protect more marine areas as reserves

To the regional integration implementation programme, Seychelles' Minister for Foreign Affairs Jean-Paul Adam has signed an addendum providing for more funding to the grant agreement for the same between Seychelles and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (Comesa). The programme falls under the Comesa Adjustment Facility (CAF) that is supported by the Regional Integration Support Mechanism (RISM) dated May 30, 2013. Under the addendum, the Comesa, among other things, will give Euro 871,904 for trade promotion, food security initiatives, implementing science and technology programmes and mainstreaming gender and other social affairs to enhance regional integration agendas.²⁷

Owing to the substantial investment by government, the free healthcare system of Seychelles is ranked as one of the best in Africa. A World Health Organisation (WHO) study of Seychelles' health system found that the system could serve as a model for the African continent. Most communicable and infectious diseases have been eradicated in Seychelles with the help of governmental investment. The full coverage of health care costs by the government is the answer for income inequalities which would result in health inequalities. The report titled "Social Determinants of Non-Communicable Diseases and Other Public Health Issues in the Seychelles: Evidence and Implications" suggests that the country is on the way to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Seychelles has successfully addressed some social determinants of health.²⁸

India donated two military vehicles to the Seychelles Peoples' Defence Forces (SPDF). Leopold Payet, the Chief of Seychelles' Defence Forces, received two Land Rover type four-wheel Tata drives in a short ceremony at the SPDF headquarters. The gesture by the Indian Government has been described as a token of friendship and cooperation between the two countries. India has been cooperating with Seychelles in the matters of defence and security ever since the country

²⁶ "Renamo demands senior positions in armed forces and police", *Africa Press*, April 15, 2014, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201404160042.html>

²⁷ "Seychelles and Comesa agree on more funding for regional integration", *Seychelles Nation*, April 3, 2014, at <http://www.nation.sc/article.html?id=241229>

²⁸ "Seychelles' free healthcare one of the best in Africa", *Seychelles Nation*, May 8, 2014, at <http://www.nation.sc/article.html?id=241604>

became independent in 1976. This cooperation, among other things, is expected to grow in future. Land Rover, after jeep, is the second oldest four-wheel-drive car brand in the world which currently sells about 30,000 units annually.²⁹

The Seychelles Police and other local partners in law enforcement took part in Operation USALAMA 1 (2014) in the international effort to assist the region in combating transnational crimes. Seychelles had also taken part in the successful USALAMA Operation conducted in 2013. The Operation, among other things, targeted offences such as human trafficking, drug trafficking, trafficking of stolen motor vehicles, wild life related crimes, smuggling minerals, illegal small arms and light weapons. The operation, organised and carried out simultaneously across the Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation Organisation (EAPCCO) and Southern Africa Region Police Chiefs Cooperation Organisation (SARPCCO) member states, is supported by the Interpol.³⁰

Seychelles is taking steps by drawing up a Marine Spatial Plan (MSP) under its Ministry of Environment and Energy to protect more marine areas. The plan will clearly demarcate zones for fishing, recreation, oil exploration and tapping as well as harnessing of renewable energy sources. Seychelles has an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of 1.3 million square km that is slightly larger than South Africa and approximately six times the size of the United Kingdom. The upcoming plan will take about two years to materialise. It is supposed to be an equivalent to the Land Use Plan in Seychelles. He added that there is an urgent need for better control of foreign-owned purse seiners, which are bringing in high percentages of by-catch, such as turtles, dolphins and other protected species. While the onland protected area in Seychelles is above 50 per cent, marine parks reserves constitute merely 1 per cent of Seychelles' 1.3 million square kilometres of EEZ, way below the parameter set by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The upcoming MSP will provide for a more rational use of Seychelles' vast EEZ and increase its marine protection area.³¹

Somalia

Resignation of the AU representative to Somalia; AMISOM claims killing 80 Al-Shabaab militants in Jubba air strikes

Mahamat Saleh Annadif, Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for Somalia, announced his resignation from the post on June 18, 2014. He was in this position since November 2012. He praised the Somali leaders and thanked the troop contributing countries in the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) for their role in sustaining the longest period of relative peace and security since 1991. He also thanked the international partners for their financial and other kinds of support. Ms Lydia Wanyoto Mutende, Mr Annadif's deputy will assume his position till the AU appoints a replacement.³²

²⁹ "SPDF gets military vehicles from India", *Seychelles Nation*, June 4, 2014, at <http://www.nation.sc/article.html?id=241902>

³⁰ "Seychelles contributes towards USALAMA Operation", *Seychelles Nation*, June 7, 2014, at <http://www.nation.sc/article.html?id=241927>

³¹ "Seychelles takes steps to protect more marine areas", *Seychelles Nation*, June 12, 2014, at <http://www.nation.sc/article.html?id=241984>

³² "African Union representative to Somalia announces resignation", *Sabahi*, June 19, 2014, at http://sabahionline.com/en_GB/articles/hoa/articles/newsbriefs/2014/06/19/newsbrief-02

Lower Jubba, in Somalia's southern region, was bombed by Kenyan fighter jets targeting Al-Shabaab bases. The African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) announced that scores of Al-Shabaab fighters were killed in the bombings. AMISOM reported that the strikes in Anole left more than 30 terrorists dead, three technical vehicles and one Land Cruiser loaded with ammunition destroyed. Airstrikes in Kuday killed more than 50 extremist insurgent fighters. However, the Al-Shabaab dismissed the announcement as a lie and propaganda. The strikes, according to the terrorists, took place in empty forest areas.³³

Tanzania

Bali Agreement puts challenges before Tanzania; Africa's "Most Impactful Leader of the Year 2013 Award" for Tanzania's President

The Bali Ministerial Meeting of WTO (2013) pushes for a trade facilitation agreement which aims to simplify and make effective existing customs procedures. While the trade facilitation agreement was hailed by the US as money saving, trade boosting and income-raising worldwide, the Agreement has raised some challenges for Tanzania. Tanzania is assessing its needs and trying to find ways that will help it implement and gain the most from the agreement. Since Tanzania imports more than it exports, the ratification of the trade facilitation agreement implies that Tanzania will be compelled to import even more goods from developing countries. This will threaten already ailing industries rendering more people unemployed. Tanzania recorded a trade deficit of US\$450 million in January 2014 which is expected to increase, once the agreement is implemented. The country is also working towards trade facilitation awareness creation at ministry and stakeholder levels.³⁴

The President of Tanzania Jakaya Kikwete received "Africa's Most Impactful Leader of the Year" award. The African Leadership Magazine gives the award annually to African leaders on the basis of certain standards that include adherence to good governance, human rights and democracy. President Kikwete merited on the standard of good governance for ordinary citizens. Tanzania's international image and performance under the leadership of Mr Kikwete was also responsible for getting him the award. Liberia's Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and Ghana's John Kuffor are among the African presidents who have received the award in the past.³⁵

Zimbabwe

Remark by President Mugabe leaves Kenyan and Nigerians agitated

President Robert Mugabe, while addressing his military chiefs on his 90th birthday, referred to Kenya and Nigeria as symbols of corruption. He meant that Zimbabwe shouldn't be like Kenya or Nigeria who are known for corruption. He asked his officers, "Are we now like Nigeria and

³³ "AMISOM air strikes kill 80 al-Shabaab militants in Lower Jubba region", *Sabahi*, June 23, 2014, at http://sabahionline.com/en_GB/articles/hoa/articles/newsbriefs/2014/06/23/newsbrief-01

³⁴ "Tanzania grapples with Bali Agreement trade challenges", *Daily News Online*, April 6, 2014, at <http://dailynews.co.tz/index.php/features/30054-tanzania-grapples-with-bali-agreement-trade-challenges>

³⁵ "Kikwete receives Most Impactful Leader of Year Award", *Daily News Online*, April 9, 2014, at <http://www.dailynews.co.tz/index.php/local-news/30150-kikwete-receives-most-impactful-leader-of-year-award>

Kenya where you have to reach into your pocket to get anything done?" The comment, when leaked in social media, caused a storm. The Zimbabwean President was condemned for being "unbrotherly" towards the two African countries. President Mugabe's remark left many Nigerians resentful and disappointed; and their government summoned Zimbabwe's ambassador to Nigeria to explain his President's comments. Nairobi displayed political expediency and chose to downplay the incident.³⁶

Western Africa

Spread of 'Ebola' in West African countries

The World Health Organisation cautioned the West African countries Mali, Ivory Coast, Senegal and Guinea Bissau of the spread of the deadly virus "Ebola" and asked them to prepare to combat it well. The outbreak of the virus in Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia is reportedly the worst, and has the potential to spread to travellers moving across the region. Preventive steps are required as the wide spread of Ebola is raising the number of deaths. In order to tackle the growing crisis, the WHO called for a meeting of health ministers from 11 countries in Ghana.³⁷

Mali

Mali insists on deployment of more UN peacekeeping troops

The UN mission in Mali (MINUSMA) has deployed 8,000 troops so far with less than half of the promised logistical resources. Mali has urged the UN to speed up the process of deploying the remaining troops and station more troops in the Northern part of West Africa. The Secretary General of UN, Ban Ki-Moon, also called for the expansion of the presence of UN troops in the north. The mission's new mandate, as discussed in the Security Council and affirmed by Foreign Minister Abdoulaye Diop, would allow for a greater role for the UN mission in negotiating with northern separatist rebels. He also called for contribution in terms of funding and troops in order to provide the UN mission with resources for strengthening its processes.³⁸

Nigeria

Search for Nigerian schoolgirls continues; Ongoing deadly attacks and killings

Boko Haram grabbed world headlines with the dreadful act of the abduction of over 300 schoolgirls in Nigeria. The group has a past record of violent attacks and kidnapping, killing thousands of people and destroying several buildings in the country. In a video release by the Boko Haram in May, the group's leader Abubakar Shekau said that the girls will be returned if Nigeria releases

³⁶ "Robert Mugabe's remark on Kenya, Nigeria causes stir", *Standard Digital*, April 20, 2014, at http://www.standardmedia.co.ke/?articleID=2000109812&story_title=robert-mugabe-s-remark-on-kenya-nigeria-causes-stir

³⁷ "Ebola threatens more West African nations", *Aljazeera*, June 28, 2014, at <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2014/06/who-says-west-africa-should-prepare-ebola-2014627101735681311.html>

³⁸ "Mali urges aggressive overhaul of U.N. peacekeeping mission", *Yahoo News*, June 25, 2014, at <http://news.yahoo.com/mali-urges-aggressive-overhaul-u-n-peacekeeping-mission-123815171.html>

all the Boko Haram prisoners from its custody. For tracking the activities of the terrorist group and to search and rescue hundreds of missing schoolgirls, the US has been flying “manned” missions with ISR (intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance) assets over Nigeria. A team from US including five State Department officials, two strategic communication experts, a civil security expert and a regional medical support officer arrived in Nigeria to assist the Nigerian government in conducting search and rescue operations. The First Lady Michelle Obama expressed concern over the sad plight of Nigerian schoolgirls, stating that this was an attempt by Boko Haram members to take away aspirations of these young girls depriving them of education. A top US defence department official has said Nigeria has been too slow to respond to the threat of Boko Haram but Washington is committed to helping fight the group and rescue the girls.³⁹ US officials have also said the effort to save the girls has become a top priority but had been complicated by Nigeria’s initial reluctance to accept assistance.⁴⁰

Another disaster in the form of twin car bombings in Nigeria was reported, the second blast killing some of the rescue workers who were present at the scene. The blasts killed around 118 people, at a crowded bus terminal and market in Nigeria’s central city Jos. According to the officials, the bombs were hidden in a truck and a minibus. Following the wave of violence in the form of abduction of schoolgirls, this incident will put more pressure on the presidency to address the security concerns of the people.⁴¹ Following these massive attacks, nearly 30 people have been killed in Nigeria during the series of attacks on churches in two villages near Chibokan.⁴² Alongside, an explosion in a brothel in the northeastern Nigerian city of Bauchi killing 11 people and injuring 28 others was reported.⁴³ Condemning the blasts, Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan said that the government is committed to win the war against terror and the administration will not be intimidated by the these horrific acts of the enemies. Britain, United States and France have also pledged to help the Nigerian government in handling the never-ending crisis.

Central Africa

Angola

U.K’s increasing economic interest in Angola

Marking rapid growth in the export sector, U.K-based companies may sign new agreements with Angola in mining, energy and construction sectors. Some other British companies are signing

³⁹ “US in aerial search for Nigeria schoolgirls”, *Al Jazeera*, May 13, 2014, at <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2014/05/us-aerial-search-nigeria-schoolgirls-2014512225424742281.html>

⁴⁰ “US says Nigeria ‘too slow’ in kidnap response”, *Al Jazeera*, May 16, 2014, at <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2014/05/us-says-nigeria-too-slow-kidnap-response-2014515184723104189.html>

⁴¹ “More than 100 killed in Nigeria twin blasts”, *Al Jazeera*, May 21, 2014, at <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2014/05/more-than-100-killed-nigeria-twin-blasts-201452021371317392.html>

⁴² “Deadly attacks on Nigeria churches”, *Al Jazeera*, June 29, 2014, at <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2014/06/deadly-attacks-nigeria-churches-2014629134243447377.html>

⁴³ “Several killed in Nigeria brothel blast”, *Al Jazeera*, June 29, 2014, at <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2014/06/several-killed-nigeria-brothel-blast-2014628234553925242.html>

agreements in the defence, agriculture and higher education sectors. As stated by Britain's minister for Africa, Mark Simmonds, exports to Angola rose to 65 percent in the first quarter of this year. This has strengthened the relationship between U.K and Angola. Simmonds said that Angola has become Scotland's second largest export market for oil and gas. Oil accounts for 96 per cent of Angola's exports, making the country Africa's second biggest crude producer after Nigeria. Angola is expected to increase its non-oil revenue by 6.4 percent this year from 5.8 percent in 2013, as reported by the International Monetary Fund. U.K. is also looking to establish U.K.-Angola chamber of commerce to address to the growing business needs.⁴⁴

Central African Republic

U.N official calls for strong action to safeguard women in CAR

During the recent mission to CAR, Executive Director of UN Women Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka along with Ms. Bineta Diop, Special Envoy of the African Union on Women, Peace and Security to CAR, has aimed to understand the condition of women and girls while ensuring that gender concerns are looked after to promote women's participation and leadership in local reconciliation, transitional justice, and upcoming elections. The terrifying sight of displacement camps, reports of rape, sexual slavery and other forms of violence became major concerns of the UN officials, for which the Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka has urged the UN Security Council to take strong action in protecting the women and restoring the rule of law in (CAR). As regards the UN integrated mission in CAR, known as MINUSCA, she opined that priority should be given to special temporary measures and quotas for representation and increasing participation of women.⁴⁵

Southern Africa

South Africa

Visa rules updated for security, efficiency in South Africa

The new immigration rules in South Africa will now be more efficient in terms of issuing visas and sourcing of critical skills from overseas. The rules, which came into effect in May, include the requirements that visa applications need to be filed by applicants in person. This would help in the reliable collection of biometric data for fingerprints and photographs. Also, minors can travel with their own passports as well as with unabridged birth certificates. According to the Home Affairs Minister Malusi Gigaba, the new immigration regulations make a provision for foreign nationals' critical skills visa without having a job, allowing them to enter the country and seek work for up to 12 months.⁴⁶

⁴⁴ "U.K. Companies Eye Angolan Deals as Trade Soars, Simmonds Says", *Bloomberg*, June 30, 2014, at <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-06-30/u-k-companies-eye-angolan-deals-as-trade-soars-simmonds-says.html>

⁴⁵ "Central African Republic: UN official urges strong action to protect women, girls", *UN News Centre*, June 24, 2014, at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=48125#.U9IcsECZ0nI>

⁴⁶ "South Africa's visa rules 'updated for security, efficiency'", *SouthAfrica.info*, 15 July 2014, at <http://www.southafrica.info/travel/visas-150714.htm#.U8zVPOOSyzG>

South Africa's hospitality sector is on rise

The hospitality sector in South Africa is poised for growth as per Pricewaterhouse Coopers (PwC) report, "South African Hospitality Outlook: 2014-2018". As per the report, the overall occupancy rate across all sectors in South Africa will rise to an estimated 58.4% by 2018, with total room revenue expected to reach R28.7-billion, a 10.7% compound annual increase over 2013. The occupancy rates for South Africa's hotels are predicted to increase from 58.9% in 2013 to 71.1% in 2018, overtaking guest houses, bush lodges and guest farms to become the leading category once more. Despite the recent economic uncertainty, the total number of foreign overnight visitors to South Africa rose by 3.9% in 2013, down from the 10.2% increase in 2012, yet reflecting the continued growth in foreign travel to South Africa.⁴⁷

Indian pharmaceutical company gets Rs 195 crore contract in South Africa

Cipla Medpro, the South African subsidiary of the Indian firm, has been awarded an Rs 195 crore (350 million rand) contract of the South African government's national respiratory tender. Under the contract, from July 2014 upto April 2017, the company will supply drugs including Beclate 100, Beclate 200 and Asthavent 200. Cipla Medpro, founded in 1993, is the third-largest South African pharmaceutical company.⁴⁸

Lesotho

Lesotho gets \$15.5 million water financing from World Bank

Finances worth \$15.5 million for the second phase of Lesotho's Water Sector Improvement Project were approved by the World Bank. This is to support the Metolong Dam and Water Supply Program, the preparation of the hydro-electric power component of phase II of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project and expand water services in the lowlands of the country to cater to about 30,000 people. More than 40 per cent of Lesotho's population, especially the poorer households do not have adequate access to water and sanitation services.⁴⁹

Lesotho's initiative on nutrition lauded by SADR in Africa

The 23rd Ordinary Session of the Summit of the African Union (AU) comprising Heads of State and Government was held from 26 - 27 June 2014 in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea. On the sidelines of the summit, President of the Republic, Secretary General of the Polisario Front, Mohamed Abdelaziz praised Lesotho's initiative on nutrition. He described it as a step in improving the agricultural sector and food security in the African continent.⁵⁰ The focus on agriculture also coincided with the commemoration of 10 years since the African-owned Comprehensive Africa

⁴⁷ "South Africa's hospitality sector 'poised for growth'", SouthAfrica.info, 23 June 2014, at <http://www.southafrica.info/business/investing/opportunities/hospitality-230614.htm#.U8zeweOSyzG>

⁴⁸ "Cipla Unit Gets Rs. 195 Contract From South Africa", Press Trust of India, June 27, 2014, at <http://profit.ndtv.com/news/corporates/article-cipla-unit-gets-rs-195-contract-from-south-africa-574092>

⁴⁹ Mathabiso Ralengau, "World Bank Approves \$15.5 Million Water Financing for Lesotho", Jun 25, 2014, at <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-06-25/world-bank-approves-15-5-million-water-financing-for-lesotho.html>

⁵⁰ "Africa: SADR Supports Lesotho Initiative On Nutrition in Africa", allAfrica.com, 26 June, 2014, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201406270869.html>

Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) was endorsed by the AU (African Union) Assembly.⁵¹

IDB approves \$447 million for Muslim communities

The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) approved \$447.6 million for financing new development projects in its member countries. It has also approved three grants under its Waqf fund to support educational projects for Muslim communities in Kenya, Lesotho, and Trinidad and Tobago. Under the same fund, a \$450,000 technical assistance grant was provided for capacity development of laboratory technicians (microbiology) in the West African countries of Burkina Faso, Benin, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo. This is expected to help fight TB, AIDS and Malaria among other diseases. These educational and vocational programs will help in tackling poverty and unemployment.⁵²

Swaziland

Swaziland Loses U.S. Trade Benefits under AGOA

For not making continual progress in enacting civil, political and workers' rights, Swaziland lost its preferential trading status with the United States. US President Barack Obama stated that the kingdom would lose its benefits under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), a US preferential trade programme that provides duty-free access to the \$3 trillion US market for thousands of products from eligible sub-Saharan African countries. The withdrawal of Swaziland's AGOA eligibility comes after years of lack of implementation of the AGOA eligibility criteria related to worker rights. The Swaziland media has predicted that as many as 20,000 jobs in the kingdom's textile industry could be lost as a result of the withdrawal of AGOA benefits that comes into force on 1 January 2015.⁵³

No final decision on Swaziland at ILO - Global Union

Despite being saved from a possible number of labour-related sanctions, IndustriALL, a global union represented at the International Labour Conference (ILC) held in May in Geneva took no firm stand on Swaziland. The organisation stated that the three countries, Algeria, Cambodia and Swaziland were on the list of Committee for the Application of Standards (CAS) for discussion on C87 (ILO Convention 87). However, the Committee could not come to a conclusion on 19 cases, including these three, because the employers' group refused to agree that the right to strike forms a part of Convention 87. IndustriALL also specified that the Swazi government did not give much importance to the ILC Committee hearing in spite of clear cases of repression in Swaziland and blatant violations of trade union and human rights.⁵⁴

⁵¹ "Nutrition at the 23rd African Union Summit in Equatorial Guinea", Scaling Up Nutrition, at <http://scalingupnutrition.org/news/nutrition-at-the-23rd-african-union-summit-in-equatorial-guinea#.U8zqFOOSyZE>

⁵² "Islamic bank okays \$447m to finance new projects", Times News Service, June 24, 2014, at [http://www.timesofoman.com/news/35732/Article-Islamic-bank-okays-\\$447m-to-finance-new-projects](http://www.timesofoman.com/news/35732/Article-Islamic-bank-okays-$447m-to-finance-new-projects)

⁵³ "Swaziland Loses U.S. Trade Benefits", allAfrica.com, 30 June, 2014, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201406302045.html>

⁵⁴ Ackel Zwane, "No firm stand taken on SD at ILO - Global union", Swazi Observer, 28 June, 2014, at <http://www.observer.org.sz/news/63381-no-firm-stand-taken-on-sd-at-ilo-global-union.html>

Swazi business women's forum gets \$13 million from UNDP

In a bid to implement empowerment projects, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) provided about \$13.6 million to the Business Women's Forum of Swaziland (BWFS). According to UNDP, part of the funding has already made the 'Big Bend' project successful, helping more than 40 families in Gumula region to come up with vegetable gardens. The employment opportunities in the area are minimal. Gumula also lacks food security and is one of the most poor area in Swaziland.⁵⁵

Botswana

Ugandan refugees sue Botswana government for illegal detention

Three Ugandan refugees who were detained early this year for staging a protest outside the Gaborone offices of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) are suing the Botswana government for illegal detention. Martin Dingake, lawyer of the refugees, explained that his clients have given the Attorney General the statutory 30-day notice of intention to sue the government over their detention "without basis" at the Centre for Illegal Immigrants in Francistown. The refugees were arrested after they staged a three-day protest at the UNHCR office against poor living conditions at Dukwi Refugee Camp.⁵⁶

Namibia

Glencore appeals new ruling over Namibian Zinc with Vedanta

Glencore Plc (GLEN) filed a petition after an arbitrator gave 51 percent of a zinc sulfide deposit that adjoins their two mines in southern Namibia to Vedanta Resources Plc (VED). Glencore, which owns 80 percent of the Rosh Pinah zinc and lead mine, had also been awarded the remaining undeveloped Gergarub deposit earlier this year, while entitling it to 49 percent of future earnings. The deposit, about 800 kilometers (497 miles) south of Namibia's capital Windhoek, was discovered after Vedanta's Skorpion zinc mine and refinery, then owned by Anglo American Plc (AAL), entered into a joint-exploration agreement in 2004 with Rosh Pinah, then controlled by South Africa's Exxaro Resources Ltd. (EXX). Differing interpretations of the agreement prompted London-based Vedanta and Baar and Switzerland-based Glencore to seek arbitration.⁵⁷

⁵⁵ "UNDP pumps \$13 into Swazi business women's forum", StarAfrica, June 27, 2014, at <http://en.starafrica.com/news/undp-pumps-13-into-swazi-business-womens-forum.html>

⁵⁶ "Ugandan refugees sue Botswana over detention", StarAfrica, July 9, 2014, at <http://en.starafrica.com/news/ugandan-refugees-sue-botswana-over-detention.html>

⁵⁷ Felix Njini, "Glencore Said to Seek New Ruling Over Namibian Zinc With Vedanta", June 27, 2014, at <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-06-27/glencore-said-to-seek-new-ruling-over-namibian-zinc-with-vedanta.html>

Call for Contributions

IDSa invites articles, commentaries and book reviews for publication in *Africa Trends*, a quarterly newsletter on Africa. Submissions can focus on security, political and economic issues relating to African countries. Articles may focus on analysing bilateral, regional and multilateral developments of strategic significance to India's engagement with African countries.

Articles could be of approximately 2000 words. Commentaries can range between 1,000-1,500 words (excluding footnotes) and book reviews between 600-1,000 words. Guidelines for contributors may be found at: <http://www.idsa.in/africatrends>. Submissions may be emailed to the Editor at idsa.africatrends@gmail.com.

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In addition, the Centre carries out research on the broader theme of India and the United Nations. It deals with important topics that come up in the Security Council and those that hold relevance and significance to India's foreign policy.

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