AFRICA iN FACT

INSIGHTS

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[INSIGHT] **The economic and geopolitical impact of Russia's invasion of Ukraine on African countries includes reduced GDP growth, food security concerns, and the potential for Cold War rivalries to manifest, as well as the need to invest in weaponry to repel continued Russian assaults.**

A year on, why are some African countries still not condemning Russia?

Photo: Aris Messinis / AFP

By Dr Ross Harvey

A year ago, Good Governance Africa warned that Russian President Vladimir Putin's "brinkmanship" would lead to another world war if not skilfully contained. While there is no world war yet, the impact of Russia's invasion of Ukraine has severely affected African countries. The gains made against poverty have been decimated, food security concerns have increased, and inflation is eating up any real wage gains made prior to 2020. The pandemic recovery was already a challenge, but the war's supply chain and global energy disruptions have made it worse.

The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) forecasts a slowdown in global GDP growth in 2023, including full-year recessions in Germany, France, Italy, the Netherlands, and the UK. This will mean less demand for African products in key European and US markets. The EIU predicts sub-Saharan Africa's GDP growth to be 2.9% in 2023, and South Africa's growth forecast is at 1.3%. Additionally, oil prices will remain high, and grains and fertilisers will be difficult to access.

These are crucial inputs for domestic food security, and African countries suffer from high input costs and the impacts of climate change on food production. It is unclear whether Russia will continue implementing the grains deal that allows for the safe passage of food supplies out of Ukraine to global markets, given increasing sanctions pressure.

Good Governance Africa warned that Putin's aggression would undermine the post-Cold War order and threaten the geopolitical fabric. Old Cold War rivalries have returned, and African countries have become ripe for these rivalries to manifest again. There is a difficulty

in rationalising South Africa's position in foreign policy analysis terms. Namibian Prime Minister Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhile said at a global security meeting in Munich that Namibia was focused on "resolving the problem, not on shifting blame... the bottom line is that money used to buy weapons would be better used to promote development in Ukraine, in Africa, in Asia, in the EU itself where many people are facing hardships."

However, this creates a false dichotomy between "money for guns" and "money for development," as Ukraine needs to defend itself against continued Russian assaults before any real development can take place. ■

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Party coalitions in South Africa: Can they play nice?

The political landscape in South Africa is in turmoil as coalition politics continues to cause chaos in municipalities across the country. At present, alliances are formed out of necessity, rather than a sincere commitment to collaborate. And as politicians prioritise their party's short-term interests, citizens are left to bear the brunt of sub-standard or non-existent service delivery. What can be done to ensure that the disorder, instability, ambiguous accountability, and lack of transparency that has accompanied coalitions to date, is curtailed and managed?

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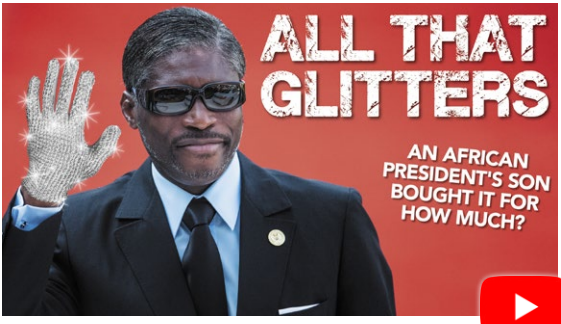

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Is there any point in the African Union?

Dr Craig Moffat at Good Governance Africa sheds light on the current state of democracy in Africa, highlighting the challenges and efforts to uphold democratic values.

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Good Governance Africa is a registered non-profit organisation with offices in Johannesburg (South Africa), Lagos (Nigeria), Accra (Ghana) and Addis Ababa (Ethiopia). We aim to improve governance performance across the continent; to inform and persuade the policy community that transparency and accountability are the basic building blocks of successful development; to strengthen the rule of law; and to build an active citizenry that institutionalises constraints on executive power. Our publications serve to further these goals. Opinions expressed are those of the individual authors and not necessarily of Good Governance Africa.

[INSIGHT] **Amidst disunity and instability in several local councils, and given the inevitability of coalitions at all levels of government in South Africa, GGA urges an independent panel be set up to assess the limitations of coalitions in South Africa and suggest remedies to enhance their effectiveness.**

GGA urges independent panel on coalition politics crisis

By Pranish Desai and Helen Acton

The issue of coalition politics has gained attention in South Africa due to disunity and breakdown in several local councils, including the high-profile metros of Johannesburg and Tshwane. This instability negatively affects governance, slows decision-making, and leads to uncertainty among municipal officials, causing accountability to blur and basic service delivery to suffer. Therefore, Good Governance Africa has urged President Ramaphosa and his cabinet to establish an independent panel to assess the current limitations of coalitions in South Africa and suggest a combination of remedies to enhance coalition effectiveness. The panel's mandate and composition must be rational, considering the possibility of coalitions at all levels of government, a complex and controversial issue that requires an analysis of regulatory frameworks applicable to coalition oversight and accountability mechanisms. The absence of conducive political culture emphasizing interparty cooperation and institutional framework that augments stability and transparency at the local level leaves coalition politics at the mercy of the short-term interests of parties.

Before the 2021 local elections, several organisations, including the South African Local Government Association and the Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection, proposed key recommendations to resolve this quandary, including increasing the timeframe within which leadership councils are obliged to form, publishing coalition agreements, setting up dispute resolution mechanisms, and protecting basic administration from political bartering. However, political parties have

Photo: flickr.com/governmentza

shown little desire to establish these norms, prompting external prompting in the form of an independent panel on coalitions.

The panel's appointment will grant legitimacy to South Africa's shifting political landscape and help identify how the country's existing democratic institutions can adapt. The panel's mandate and composition must be rational, considering the possibility of coalitions at all levels of government, a complex and controversial issue that requires an analysis of regulatory frameworks applicable to coalition oversight and accountability mechanisms. The decision to establish the panel, as well as the mandate and composition of the panel, must be rational. The panel can help ensure that national coalition governments operate effectively, promoting South Africa's founding constitutional values of accountability, responsiveness, and openness.

Coalitions are inevitable at the national, provincial, and local levels in South Africa. In 2016, there were 27 hung local councils. Currently, there are more than 80. Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) – which together comprise 45.6% of South Africa's population – will likely have multiparty governments from 2024. However, party dissonance in South Africa's current political climate is inflammatory, and national and provincial coalitions post-2024 would be alliances of conflicting ideologies formed out of necessity rather than a genuine desire to work together.

Germany's political culture is underscored by a greater willingness by parties to act in a cooperative way. The wealth of research produced here and abroad on this topic has not gained enough traction among parties, despite South Africa entering an era defined by coalition politics. Therefore, an independent panel should be established to examine the issue and provide recommendations. There is precedent in South Africa for independent panels considering matters relevant to political issues, especially on electoral reform. The Van Zyl Slabbert report generated significant discussion on the issue of electoral reform, particularly over the recent electoral amendment bill. However, the recommendations of the Independent Panel Assessments of Parliament, published in 2006 and 2017, were never implemented.

Therefore, an independent panel on coalitions can facilitate the process of establishing norms for effective coalition governance, encouraging interparty cooperation, and creating an institutional framework that promotes stability and transparency. The panel's appointment will grant legitimacy to South Africa's shifting political landscape and help identify how the country's existing democratic institutions can adapt. The panel must be rationally mandated and composed, considering the possibility of coalitions at all levels of government, a complex and controversial issue that requires an analysis of regulatory frameworks applicable to coalition oversight and accountability. ■

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AFRICA WRAP

Broadcast journalist and host of The Africa Report on South Africa's talk radio station 702, **Crystal Orderson** shares her wealth of knowledge of the African continent.

Photo: Pius Utomi Ekpei / AFP

Nigeria election

Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation, has a new President following a highly contested election in February. The president-elect, Bola Tinuba – also known as the 'godfather' of Lagos – is the former Lagos governor and major power broker in the country.

The election was, as usual, an ambitious task. More than 93,4 million voters registered but did not heed the call to come and vote, so only 25,2 million voters (27%) actually voted. The reality is what happens in Nigeria matters to not only Nigerians but also to the rest of Africa in terms of voter apathy, organising and logistics around an election.

The result is being challenged by the main opposition parties, and I am not surprised by that, but if the past is anything to go by it will not change the result per se. But perhaps this time it may be different. And the reason for this? Well, the introduction of the electronic voting system means the opposing parties and perhaps the courts would want to access it in order to assess whether any rigging had in fact taken place.

However, if we look at Kenya's elections in 2017 and 2022, processing an election dispute through the courts is not easy, and it is a tedious exercise. In 2017, Kenya's Supreme Court found several irregularities and annulled the election, ordering a re-run. It was a game-changer for Kenya's democracy, but also an expensive exercise. And in August 2022, Raila Odinga challenged the election results which saw William Ruto win, and in September the Supreme Court dismissed Odinga's petition. The judges were scathing and all eight petitions challenging the election were thrown out. What this shows that going to court is not as easy and that there has to be evidence to prove an election was indeed "stolen".

Insights as an election observer

In 2019, I was part of an international election observer team in Nigeria. Prior to this, I also covered an election as a reporter for the South African Broadcasting Corporation, SABC. I just remember the chaos, confusion, intimidation and unhappiness of voters at the time. The late and former President Umaru Yar'Adua won that contested election.

At the time, I was based in Abuja and

the Niger Delta. Due to the insecurity in the oil-rich Delta region, which is also known for its kidnappings, I had several armed gaurds who accompanied me as I crisscrossed the Delta visiting the electoral commission offices, speaking to several electoral officials, politicians across the party spectrum and the police at several police barracks. The engagement with people was one of hope of building a democratic society, and there was a genuine passion and commitment to have a functioning country. However, they were also very critical and pointed out that often their elected officials have other ideas and corruption always features.

A few hours before the election in 2019, it was postponed. It took place a week later and it had its challenges but Muhammadu Buhari won, the election result was disputed, several court challenges followed, and eventually nothing came of it.

Democracy in action...

So in the run-up to the 2023 election, I had my reservations about whether the election would take place, especially after the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) introduced new technology for voter verification and the electronic transmission of results. The electronic voting system, known as the bimodal voter accreditation system, and the introduction of the IReV information platform, were both viewed as enhancing the transparency of the results. This was of course concerning when at the best of times, Nigerians complain that accessing the internet or calling someone can be difficult due to network problems. Despite the naysayers, I was willing to give INEC the benefit of the doubt as the introduction of the electronic system would in some ways ensure the election process was more transparent.

This was the country's seventh election since democracy returned to the West African nation in 1999. The election, as an EU observer group puts it, was "marked by intra-party conflicts and a complex security situation, with insurgencies in the North East, banditry and terrorism. The economic situation, including a shortage of new naira (currency) and also fuel scarcity, didn't help either.

Photo: Kola Sulaimon / AFP

Who is the 'godfather of lagos'?

When speaking to my Nigerian friends and colleagues they refer to the incoming President, Bola Tinubu, as the 'godfather of Lagos' and the mastermind behind Muhammadu Buhari's re-election campaign five years ago. The 70-year-old is an influential politician in the ruling All Progressive Party and will now be the country's fifth President. There are concerns that his health may be an issue, and past allegations of corruption won't go away. How he will deal with the country's myriad economic and security issues is something to watch out for.

According to INEC, Tinubu received 8,8 million votes (36%) to defeat former Vice President and the People's Democratic Party's millionaire businessman, Atiku Abubakar, who received 6,9 million votes (29%), and newcomer and the Labour Party's Peter Obi garnering 6,1 million voters.

Confusion and chaos

As I was watching the election and the confusion and chaos, I was again so disappointed. How can a country blessed with such abundant resources and hard-working people just mess up an election like this? There were several technical hitches and the lack of power didn't help. Voting had to be extended due to the late opening of polling stations and many of them were ill-

equipped to be able to count in the dark.

The election was peaceful, as it usually is, but the logistical problems and the conduct of the election body leave one wondering why it couldn't have been better managed, and again raises the question of the credibility of the election results.

The African Union, led by former Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta, noted that despite the economic challenges and volatile security, the mission observed a "low turnout in some areas it visited. The AU wants the INEC to review logistics operations and ensure the timely deployment of materials citizens faced. Former South African president Thabo Mbeki led the Commonwealth Observer group and said "the election was largely peaceful despite administrative and logistical hurdles".

Court challenges and observation notes

Although the PDP and Labour Party have indicated they will challenge the presidential outcome, it will be of little use. The legal battle is likely to be a repeat of what happened in the 2022 Kenya election, where the parties have to prove widespread irregularities due to the new electronic system and everything, including the data, will come under the microscope. This will most probably also be the last time that Abubakar enters a presidential campaign. Peter Obi still has a few years to go, and can most probably try again.

The International Republic Institute and National Democratic Institute joint observation mission said the 2023 election "fell short of the citizens' expectations". Nonetheless, Tinubu is likely to be inaugurated in May. And as the Vanguard News reported in late February, Tinubu said that he welcomed the support of the international community and that it was a reminder of the "important role Nigeria has in the world".

"To those who have extended the arm of friendship, I offer mine in return. This is a good time to believe in the Nigerian dream; a good time to believe in our renewed hope. The Nigerian eagle shall fly high," the president-elect said. We hope that Tinubu will live up to this promise.

Photo: Guillem Sartorio / AFP

Uganda: Power broker

In Uganda, one has to realise two things - the love of meat and the respect for bulls. Their shisanayma places (local bar cafes), where you get great braaied meat with onions and tomatoes with a cold local beer, are a favourite for anyone visiting the country, especially the capital Kampala. It is at these spots one can have the best conversations.

I was thinking of this during the recent state visit of Uganda president Yoweri Museveni to South Africa, and hoping we might get more trade between the two countries.

The elderly statesman has been in power since 1986 and won his sixth term in 2021. The country is South Africa's 15th largest trading partner on the Continent and the second-largest in East Africa. Both countries want more trade and several trade pacts were signed, while a business forum will push for more trade.

The ongoing conflict in the Eastern DRC was also discussed. Museveni is a major power broker in the region and Ugandan troops form part of a peacekeeping mission, Operation Shujaa, the peace and stability mission.

The conflict in the East has the potential to drag the entire region into a prolonged war. The current conflict has been ongoing since 2021, intensifying when the March 23 Movement

(M23) attacked Congolese government troops in North Kivu province.

The area borders Uganda and Rwanda, and attacks have since increased with a dire humanitarian fallout. DRC President Felix Tshisekedi accuses Rwanda's Paul Kagame of supporting the M23 rebels. Rwanda has denied this.

Museveni is a key figure involved in the mediation efforts, and as an elder statesman will be able to engage with Rwanda and DRC. South Africa will also need to sharpen its diplomatic efforts and ensure a peaceful resolution, and having Museveni as a close ally can help navigate this.

Who has the best jollof rice?

And finally, who makes the best jollof rice? The local delicacy is a must-have if you visit West Africa, especially Ghana, Nigeria and Senegal. The popular spicy rice is made with onions, tomato, some vegetables and various types of protein. The delicacy can be found at local cafes and top-end restaurants, and there is this competition between the countries as to who actually has the best. Now in a twist, the UN has intervened and this has left some countries unhappy.

The UN steps in...

The United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) got involved – it listed the dish in its representative list of intangible cultural heritage of humanity and gave the top prize to Senegal, which calls its Jollof rice ceebu jen. Having lived in the country for a few years, the dish is a must and I easily ended up having it at least 2-3 times a week.

Of course, Nigerians and Ghanaians are not particularly happy with this. In its submission, Senegal said that the name Ghana and Nigeria use for the dish, jollof rice, is in fact the historical name for Senegal itself - the 'country of the Wolofs' (wolves).

UNESCO said: "The ceebu jen dish and associated practices are viewed as an affirmation of Senegalese identity." For now, Senegal has bragging rights but Nigerians and Ghanaians won't necessarily agree with this and I think despite UNESCO's announcement, it's unlikely to be accepted, and the so-called 'beef' as to who makes the tastiest joloff is likely to continue... ■

Photo: By Noahalonwu – commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=76842925

30 DAYS IN AFRICA

Photo: Tara Mette / AFP

NAMIBIA

US First Lady Jill Biden on her departure to Kenya from Windhoek on February 24, 2023. During her five day visit split between Namibia and Kenya, Biden focused on empowering women and young people, and highlighted food insecurity in the Horn of Africa caused by a devastating drought and Russia's war in Ukraine.

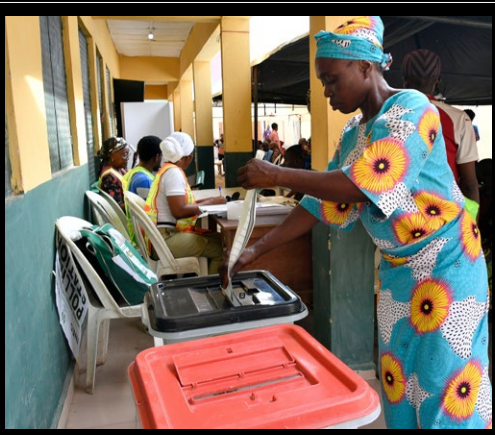

Photo: Pius Utomi Ekpei / AFP

NIGERIA

A voter casts her ballot at a polling station for House of Assembly candidates during local elections in Lagos on March 18, 2023. Nigeria went to the polls again after the February 25th, 2023 Presidential and National Assembly elections, won by the ruling All Progressives Congress, led by Bola Tinubu, and currently being heavily disputed. Nigerians returned to the polls to elect Governors and members of state legislatures, as well as representatives in state assemblies in the 36 states of the federation.

Photo: Ludovic Marin / AFP

GABON

(From L to R) Central African Republic President Faustin-Archange Touadera, Republic of Congo's President Denis Sassou Nguesso, Equatorial Guinea President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, French President Emmanuel Macron and Gabon's President Ali Bongo attend the One Forest Summit at the Presidential Palace in Libreville on March 2, 2023. Several countries on the African continent must reconcile economic development and forest preservation. This is particularly the case in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), which has just auctioned off several oil and gas blocks.

Photo: Khaled Desouki / AFP

EGYPT

Policemen watch from atop a bridge as a crane is deployed to lift a derailed train at the scene of a railroad accident in the city of Qalyub in Qalyub province, in Egypt's Nile delta region north of the capital on March 7, 2023.

30 DAYS IN AFRICA

Photo: Yasuyoshi Chiba / AFP

KENYA

A protester gestures towards police officers in Kibera, Nairobi, during a mass rally called by Kenyan opposition leader Raila Odinga, who claims the last presidential election was stolen from him. Odinga called on his supporters to participate in countrywide protests on March 20, 2023 to demand that President William Ruto lowers the cost of living.

Photo: Emmanuel Croset / AFP

SOUTH AFRICA

Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) supporters sing and dance as they march in Pretoria on March 20, 2023 during a "national shut-down" called by their party. EFF leader Julius Malema hailed the day a success, although the state spent R166 million to deploy over 3,000 defence force members to ensure that the nationwide shutdown remained within the confines of the law.

Photo: Stuart Tibaweswa / AFP

UGANDA

A Ugandan transgender woman who was recently attacked and currently being sheltered watches a TV screen showing the live broadcast of the session from the Parliament for the anti-gay bill, at a local charity supporting the LGBTQ Community near Kampala on March 21, 2023. People who identify as gay in Uganda risk life in prison after parliament passed a new bill to crack down on homosexual activities. It also includes the death penalty in certain cases.

Photo: Amos Gumulira / AFP

MALAWI

Malawi Defence Force, (MDF) soldiers and civilians work to recover body of a victim of a mudslide which resulted due to heavy rains resulting from cyclone Freddy at Manje informal settlement up the slopes of Soche Hill in Blantyre, southern Malawi, on March 17, 2023. The death toll in Malawi, Mozambique and Madagascar from Cyclone Freddy has past 500 victims since February.

[INSIGHT] **The digital gender gap limits opportunities for women in STEM fields and exposes them to online violence. Overcoming the gap requires education, eradicating biases, and promoting gender equality.**

Urgent policies needed to bridge the digital gender divide

Photo: Issouf Sanogo/ AFP

By Christine Dube

International Women's Day is celebrated on March 8 every year, with the goal of highlighting women's achievements, recognising the challenges they face, and promoting gender equality. The theme for this year's International Women's Day is DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality. However, despite important initiatives and policies aimed at empowering women and promoting gender equality, a significant digital gender gap remains. Women account for over half of the world's population, yet 259 million fewer women than men have access to the internet.

This lack of access to the internet limits women's opportunities to pursue careers in STEM-related fields, as 75% of jobs will be related to STEM areas by 2050, yet at present only 22% of employment opportunities in STEM fields are held by women. Additionally, the education sector's digital skills gap can lead to gender biases in technology, which reinforces masculine stereotypes within STEM fields.

Women are also at risk of experiencing gender-based violence online, as shown in the Gender Snapshot 2022 Report, which found that 38% of women in 51 countries had experienced online violence. This violence and the widening digital gender divide are due to a lack of education, inherent biases, and socio-cultural norms located within existing masculine power structures that limit women's and girls' ability to benefit from the digital revolution.

While some women have benefited from

cellphone technologies in increasing their access to information and facilitating collective action, others face hurdles such as a lack of support, discouragement, or even prohibition from using the internet.

Various initiatives and projects aimed at advancing women's digital empowerment have been implemented, including Agenda 2063's Aspiration 6, which calls for an Africa that relies on the potential of its women and youth to drive its development. The African Girls Can Code Initiative (AGCCI), implemented by the UN Women in partnership with the African Union Commission and the International Telecommunication Unit, aims to train at least 2,000 girls aged 17-25 in critical coding and tech skills, setting them up for future careers in STEM fields.

Overall, while the digital revolution has the potential to improve social and economic outcomes for women, it is essential to overcome the digital gender gap and ensure women have equal access to digital technologies. This can be achieved by providing women with access to quality education and control over productive resources, eradicating gender biases in technology, and promoting gender equality. ■

READ THE FULL ARTICLE HERE:
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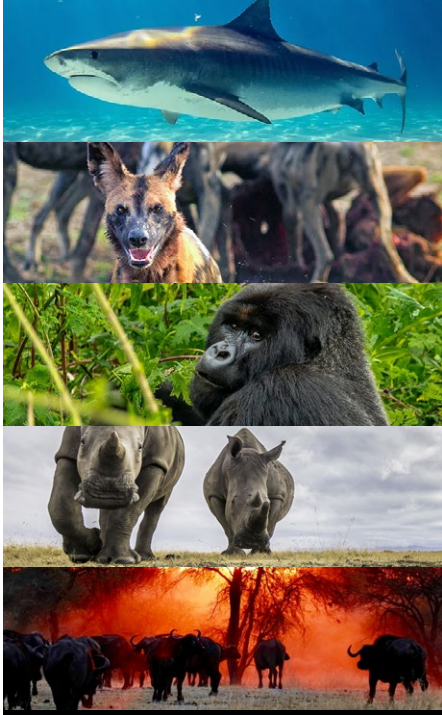

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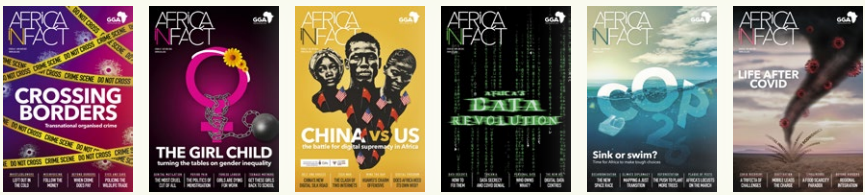

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FROM THE ARCHIVE

ISSUE 62
JULY–SEPTEMBER 2022

The digital battle for hearts and minds

The US and China are competing for influence in Africa through digital diplomacy. The US uses social media while China invests in digital development initiatives like the Digital Silk Road project.

By Dr Bob Wekesa

The US and China have been competing in Africa for geopolitical power since the turn of the millennium. This competition has become more sophisticated as the two powers deploy digital technologies for political and economic purposes. This phenomenon is known as techno-politics and geotechnology. Thanks to advancements in science and technology, the US and China are leaders in blending politics and technologies to achieve their global ambitions. China is the world's leading manufacturer and exporter of mobile phones, while the US is a trailblazer in ICT innovations. These technological advancements have translated into geopolitical power, including in Africa.

Digital diplomacy is a relatively new terminology that refers to the use of digital technologies to promote the interests of one country in another country or region. The US and China's use of digital assets and capabilities can be comprehended as digital public diplomacy, cyber diplomacy, or diplomacy in the digital age. The US and China's digital diplomacy strategies in Africa are different, with the US being more successful on social media platforms popular in Africa such as Facebook and Twitter.

China, however, has a policy framework-based digital diplomacy strategy that focuses on developing tangible digital initiatives. Through its Forum on Africa China Cooperation (FOCAC), China has elaborated and implemented many digital development initiatives. China's diplomatic approach towards Africa is wrapped around the Digital Silk Road, which is part of Beijing's ambitious geopolitical strategy, the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The US government also has several ICT development programs, but they are not nearly as well-resourced as the Chinese. ■

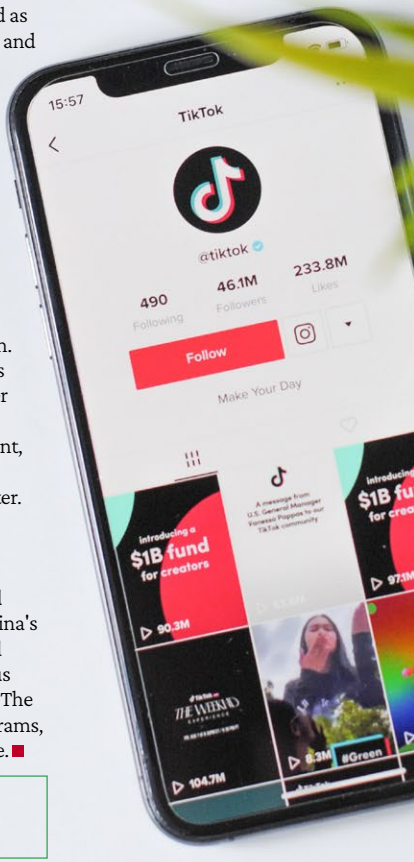

Photo: unsplash.com

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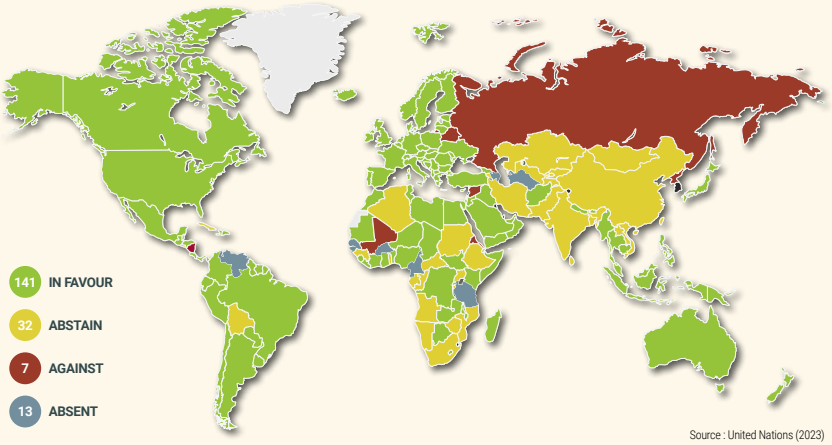
INFOGRAPHICS

By Mischka Moosa

Russia and Ukraine's ties to Africa

On 23rd Feburary 2022 the world voted on UN General Assembly Resolution ES-11/6 condemning Russia's invasion of Ukraine

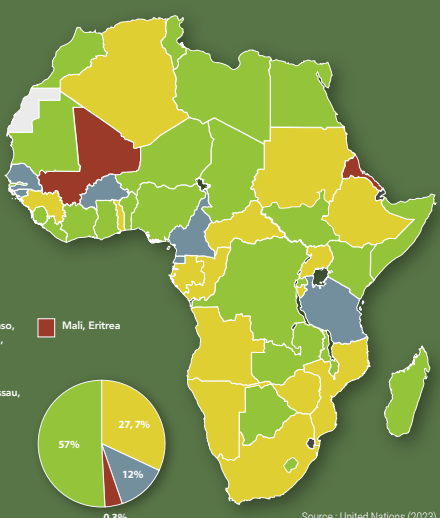
HOW DID THE WORLD VOTE AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY?



Source : United Nations (2023)

HOW DID AFRICA VOTE?

African votes in the United Nations (UN) on the conflict between Ukraine and Russia have revealed distinct divisions between countries on the continent. Several African countries endorsed the UN resolution for Russia to end its offensive, including Nigeria, Ghana, Egypt and Morocco, which represent Russia's biggest African export markets. Meanwhile, the high number of abstentions by countries like Algeria, Tanzania and South Africa has been interpreted as a sign of Russian influence or evidence of the growing anti-Westernism of African governments and citizens.



Source : United Nations (2023)

INFOGRAPHICS

HOW MUCH DO AFRICAN COUNTRIES DEPEND ON IMPORTS FROM RUSSIA OR UKRAINE?

African countries are heavily reliant on food and fuel imports from both Russia and Ukraine. Since the start of the conflict in 2022, the continent has already experienced price shocks and disruptions in the supply chain of these commodities.

Source: Statista, Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, 2022
*2016 - 2020 average

Overall, agricultural imports that orginate from Russia or Ukraine constitute roughly 8% of total agricultural imports to the continent.

In 2020 alone, African states imported $4 billion of agricultural products from Russia and $2.9 billion from Ukraine.

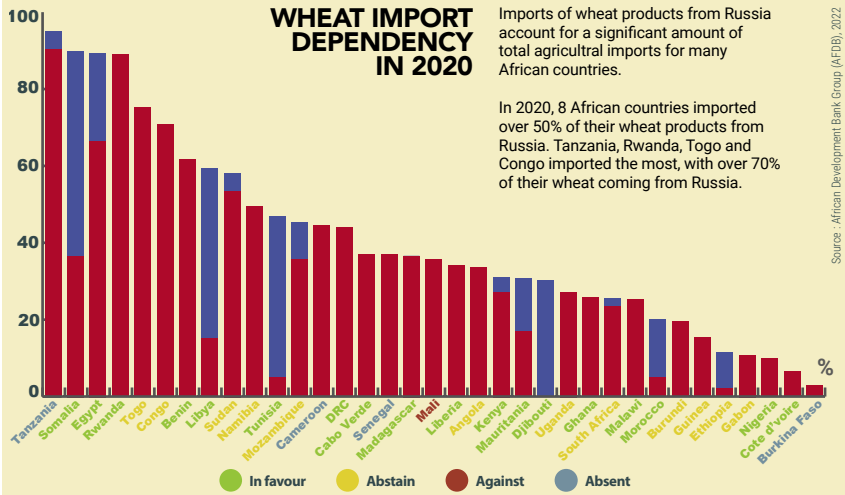
Russia and Ukraine share of total African agricultural imports (%)

Source : Development Reimagined, 2022

WHEAT IMPORT DEPENDENCY IN 2020

Imports of wheat products from Russia account for a significant amount of total agricultral imports for many African countries.

In 2020, 8 African countries imported over 50% of their wheat products from Russia. Tanzania, Rwanda, Togo and Congo imported the most, with over 70% of their wheat coming from Russia.



Source : African Development Bank Group (AFDB), 2022

INFOGRAPHICS

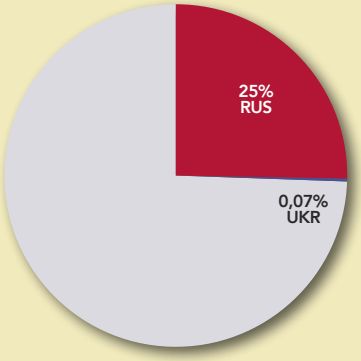
HOW DOES THE INSTABILITY IN EUROPE AFFECT TRADE AND SUPPLY IN AFRICA?

Russia is the world's third-largest oil producer behind the United States and Saudi Arabia.

Russia is the 10th highest importer of fuel to African countries. In 2020, sub-Saharan African imported roughly $985 million in fuel products from Russia.

The disruption of oil prices on the world market is expected to lead to an increase in fuel prices and higher costs of food production.

RUSSIA AND UKRAINE SHARE OF TOTAL AFRICAN FUEL IMPORTS (%)



Source : World Intergrated Trade Solution (WITS), 2020

AFRICAN COUNTRIES MOST AFFECTED BY THE RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR

The following countries are among the top importers of Russian goods in Africa and have significant trade relations with Russia

WHICH AFRICAN COUNTRIES ARE IMPORTING RUSSIAN GOODS?

While the impact of the Russia-Ukraine war on Africa is expected to have a lesser and more indirect effect on African countries when compared to their other regions, changes in global commodity markets and geopolitical dynamics, continue to disrupt global supply chains and effect prices of food and fuel on the continent.

The impact varies depending on the specific country or region, and any disruptions to global commodity markets could heavily affect countries that rely on grain or fuel imports.

Source : The Observatory of Economic Complexity (OEC), 2020
*in USD

Do you have an African-based approach to research that covers governance-related issues?

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EXPLORE: ANGOLA

Angola is the seventh-largest country in Africa, bordered by Namibia to the south, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to the north, and Zambia to the east. It covers an area of 1,247 million km². Angola is the largest of the Portuguese-speaking African states, and Portuguese influences have been felt for more than 500 years; Portuguese was used by indigenous Angolan groups as far back as 1491. An anti-colonial struggle that began in 1961 finally led to independence in 1975. The official currency in Angola is the kwanza. Apart from isolated bands of Khoisan such as the !Kung (a San group) in the remote south-east, all Angolans speak Bantu languages of the Niger-Congo language family. Angola's population is overwhelmingly Christian. The enclave of Cabinda, which is separated from the rest of Angola by the DRC, is oil-rich but is plagued by poverty and conflicts with rebel separatist groups.

HEAD OF STATE

João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço

FLAG

COAT OF ARMS

DATE OF INDEPENDENCE

NOVEMBER

11

SINCE 1975

CAPITAL CITY

Luanda

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX (HDI) RANKING*

148

*HDR data courtesy of the United Nations Development Programme: hdr.undp.org

NUMBER OF LANGUAGES SPOKEN

47

MAIN LANGUAGES

Portuguese is the main official lamguage, but there are also 46 mostly Bantu languages

UPCOMING ELECTION DATES

SYSTEM OF GOVERNANCE

Unitary Democratic Republic with a presidential-parliamentary system

RULING POLITICAL PARTY

People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA)

MAIN OPPOSITION PARTY

National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA)

André Persiia on Flickr.com

Luanda has been ranked as one of the world's most expensive cities for expatriate employees to live in.

David Stanley on Flickr.com

During the 17th and 18th centuries, Angola was a significant Portuguese slave-trading base. Between 1580 and 1680 more than a million slaves were transported to Brazil.

Thomas Quine on Flickr.com

The giant sable antelope, endemic to Angola, was thought to be extinct since 1982. However, the antelope was 'rediscovered' in 2006 but remains endangered.

Good Governance Africa strives to improve citizens' lives by strengthening governance performance across the continent.

We believe transparency, accountability, social responsibility, and environmental sustainability are the basic building blocks of successful development; to strengthen the rule of law; and instill an active citizenry that institutionalises constraints on executive power.

We conduct sound demand-driven, evidence-based, **research consultancy services** geared toward building efficient, productive and practicable policies to solve Africa's challenges in environmental degradation, climate change, under-development, and mass youth unemployment, which combined, threaten to undermine Africa's human security and ecological integrity.

Why do we do it? Because improved governance results in better economic, social, and environmental performance, and a greater wellbeing for all citizens.

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