

## Djibuti: "Africa discovers space"

With Chinese help, the first space station on the African continent is soon to be built in Djibouti. It is supposed to stand on 10 km<sup>2</sup> strategically ideal land, have 7 launch pads and cost a billion dollars. It is the most ambitious project on the continent to date. African countries are hoping for better data on climate change and early warning of droughts and are happy to be able to launch their satellites from their own continent into space. Until now, they have relied on the US, EU or Russia to launch satellites. China has already financed government buildings, a hospital and a stadium in Djibouti. With the space base also comes an expressway, a port, and power lines. The first launch pad is scheduled to be in place in 2024, and the entire base by 2028. Then there should be a joint Chinese-Djiboutian leadership of the rank and file for 30 years.

22.06.2023

## Morocco: Going to Africa by train?

Morocco and Spain have concretized plans for a train connection between their countries and can count on EU support. Plans for a rail tunnel between Europe and the African continent have existed since the 1970s. Now the important strategic project is to be pushed ahead. The model for the "Gibraltar Tunnel" is the Eurotunnel between France and Great Britain, which was completed in 1994. While the latter runs 37 km under the English Channel, the Strait of Gibraltar is only 14 km between the two countries. Earlier estimated costs were around 5 billion euros with a construction period of 15 years. Travel time from Spain to Morocco.

22.06.2023

## Marine conservation: a treaty of importance

After nearly two decades of tough negotiations, the 193 member states of the United Nations have adopted a groundbreaking legally binding treaty on marine biodiversity that covers two-thirds of the world's oceans. The 5 most important points are: *Protection across borders - Cleaner oceans - Sustainable management of fish stocks - Lowering temperatures - Decision to implement the 2030 Agenda.*

20.06-2023

## Mozambique: RENAMO now Party

The international community has welcomed the end of the process of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of RENAMO (Resistencia Nacional Mocambicana). Renamo leader Ossufo Momade marked the occasion by handing over an AK47 rifle to Mozambican President Filipe Nyusi at the last closed Renamo base. The Renamo is now officially recognized as a political party in Mozambique. The UK, USA, Canada, Germany, Finland, Sweden, Ireland, Italy and Switzerland contributed to the Basket Fund, which was established to provide financial support for the decentralization and demobilization, disarmament and reintegration of Renamo soldiers into the national security forces.

20.06-2023

## 20 June World Refugee Day

It is the day that reminds us that millions of people are forced to leave their homes. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees publishes the annual report "Global Trends", which summarizes the dramatic situation worldwide in sober figures. Currently, around 110 million people are on the run - this is the largest

number of displaced persons ever registered. See: <https://www.unhcr.org/global-trends> 20.06.2023

## Kenya: Trade agreement with the EU

Kenya and the European Union signed a trade agreement in Nairobi. It is the first major agreement since 2016 with an African country. Once the agreement is ratified and enters into force, Kenya will gain duty-free and quota-free access to the EU, its largest market, where it brings around 1/5 of its total exports. Kenya's main exports to the EU are agricultural products, including vegetables, fruit and the country's famous tea and coffee. More than 70% of Kenya's cut flowers are destined for Europe. For imports from the EU into Kenya, such as chemicals and machinery, tariffs will be progressively reduced over a period of 25 years; however, some products are excluded. The EU has taken steps to counter China's "Belt and Road" program, announcing that it will increase investment in Kenya by hundreds of millions of dollars through its own Global Gateway initiative.

19.06.2023

## Angola: Establishment of a cybersecurity academy

At the 3rd edition of ANGOTIC 2023 (an international forum for information and communication technologies in Angola), head of state João Lourenço announced plans to establish a cybersecurity academy in the country. He also spoke about the creation of a regulatory framework for the use of telecommunications networks and that measures had been taken to promote free, secure and efficient use of cyberspace by public and private entities.

## Indigenous peoples versus climate protection programs?

Survival International, an international non-governmental organisation advocating for the rights of tribal peoples, is questioning the way in which a project to combat climate change is being implemented in large parts of northern Kenya. The Northern Rangelands Trust project aims to change the grazing methods used by ranchers to reduce carbon emissions. The resulting "savings" of carbon are then sold by the Trust as "carbon credits" in a "carbon offset" system. The American technology company Meta (formerly Facebook) and the film streaming service Netflix are said to be among the buyers of credits from the project. Survival International, published a critical report entitled "[Blood Carbon: how a carbon offset scheme makes millions from indigenous land in Northern Kenya](#)".

More info: <https://netzwerkafrika.de/>

## Mali: Immediate end to UN peacekeeping mission

Mali's foreign minister has called on the United Nations to withdraw its peacekeepers from his country "without delay." Abdoulaye Diop accused Minusma of having "become part of the problem by fueling tensions between communities." Minusma has more than 13,000 troops. Its decades-long mission has failed to stop the spread of jihadist violence. Russian Wagner mercenaries now support Mali's military ruler.

## Eswatini: a new Eco-green City planned with the support of the African Development Bank's UMDF

<https://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/press-releases/eswatini-new-eco-green-city-planned-support-african-development-banks-umdf-62242>