

Africa - UN - Security Council

For thirty years, the African continent has been calling for a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council. The Vatican is also calling for a reform of the UN. The USA is now in favour of an African seat but does not want to grant it a veto right. To date, five countries have a permanent seat on the Security Council with veto rights: China, Russia, France, the UK and the USA. The Council also has ten other non-permanent members, each of whom is elected by the General Assembly for a two-year term of office. To date, only three African countries have ever had a non-permanent seat on the Security Council: Sierra Leone, Algeria and Mozambique. 12.12.2024

Namibia: 'Red Line' relic or important?

Namibia's newly elected president is setting the agenda for her upcoming term and one of the priorities could be the removal of the red line, a colonial-era remnant that divides the country and restricts trade in agricultural produce, especially beef, between the north and south. The outbreak of the cattle disease in the 1890s prompted the German colonial rulers to prevent the free movement of cattle between northern and southern Namibia. This practice continued into the period of South African rule. In the 1960s, the authorities erected a fence around 1,000 kilometres long across the country. People can cross the fence unhindered but are not allowed to transport agricultural produce such as beef, fruit and vegetables. The AR movement, which came third in the last elections, is suing the state in the hope of forcing the removal of the fence, which is commonly referred to as the red line. Former Prime Minister Nahas Angula, who is also a commercial farmer in southern Namibia, said the removal of the red line is made more difficult by the fact that farmers in northern Namibia sometimes graze their cattle in Angola. The 'red line' also still plays a role in assuring the European market that beef from Namibia is free from foot-and-mouth disease, which regularly breaks out in parts of northern Namibia. 12.12.2024

Fighting between Jubbaland and the central government

Fighting broke out on Wednesday between the semi-autonomous Somali region of Jubbaland and government forces after Jubbaland held an election against the advice of authorities in Mogadishu. The clashes raise concerns that internal rivalries are diverting attention from the fight against the al-Qaeda-linked al-Shabaab group as the mandate of an African Union peacekeeping force expires. At the end of November, regional president Ahmed Mohamed Islam Madobe was re-elected for a third term in Jubbaland, one of Somalia's five semi-autonomous states. Jubbaland is considered the breadbasket of Somalia, and Kismayu is an important harbour. Its coastline borders a disputed maritime zone with potential oil and gas deposits. 12.12.2024

Kenya: Kenia: Timbuktoo GreenTech Hub Africa Centre

The UN, Microsoft and the Kenyan Ministry of Information launched a centre (*Timbuktoo GreenTech Hub and Africa Centre for Competence for AI and Digital Skilling for Digital and Artificial Intelligence*) in Nairobi last week to train African civil servants and accelerate the development and use of online services. The programme aims to improve the skills of 100,000 government

employees. President William Ruto said that more than 20,000 government services are accessible online and that digital transformation has made the government's work easier. Digital online services have increased citizens' trust in public services and made the work of government employees faster, more accurate and more transparent. However, frequent power and internet outages sometimes force government employees to fall back on traditional paper and file systems. 11.12.2024

Chad: Call for equal representation

Women are underrepresented in the parliamentary, municipal and district elections in Chad on 29 December. The parliamentary elections in Chad mark the end of the transition from military to civilian rule, which began when General Mahamat Idriss Deby took power after the death of his father, long-time President Idriss Deby Itno, in 2021. The National Election Authority acknowledged that few women run for elected office. Women make up less than 35% of the nomination lists of political parties, including DEBY's Patriotic Salvation Movement (MPS). Activists say that many political parties are still reluctant to nominate women because they are 'not educated enough' to run for public office. 10.12.2024

Ailing health system - no medication

Zimbabwe's sick are turning to herbalists because of the dilapidated healthcare system. Hospitals lack medicines, equipment and even staff as doctors and nurses migrate for better salaries and conditions abroad. The country's largest public hospital, Parirenyatwa, has not had a functioning mammography machine for 15 years. Some hospitals are asking for donations of medicines and essential items such as gloves and syringes. Herbalists are increasingly in demand among Zimbabweans who feel abandoned by a broken public health system. 10.12.24

Mozambique: Protests escalate

South Africa has suspended operations at its main border crossing 'Lebombo' with Mozambique, an important hub for coal and chrome exports. The closure represents an escalation of the blockades at the border crossing, as lorries were previously able to enter Mozambique after the protests ended at around 16:00. Demonstrators on the Mozambican side, angered by the results of the 9 October elections, blocked the route, which is often used by more than 1,000 trucks a day to reach the port of Maputo. At the weekend, they also forced the authorities to shut down two power stations and attacked other important infrastructure. 10.12.2024

Burkina Faso: New Prime Minister

The military government of Burkina Faso has appointed Rimtalba Jean Emmanuel Ouedraogo as Prime Minister of the transitional government after dismissing Apollinaire Joachim Kyelem de Tambela and dissolving the government on Friday. Ouedraogo was the communications minister and press spokesman of the previous government. No reason was given for the dismissal of Tambela, who had been appointed interim prime minister shortly after junta leader Ibrahim Traore took power in September 2022. 09.12.2024

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