

How Washington's Doctrine of Preemptive Assassination Is Redrawing the World's Most Dangerous Lines - and Why the United Nations Is Watching Helplessly

Imperial Impunity

The targeted killing of foreign heads of state and senior government officials is not new in American foreign policy:



THE SOVEREIGN DISPENSABLE:

Targeted Killings, Imperial Impunity, and the Death of the Rules-Based Order

By: Silas Mwaudasheni Nande

How Washington's Doctrine of Preemptive Assassination Is Redrawing the World's Most Dangerous Lines - and Why the United Nations Is Watching Helplessly

"We are witnessing a grave threat to international peace and security. Military action carries the risk of igniting a chain of events that no one can control in the most volatile region of the world." - UN Secretary-General António Guterres, February 28, 2026



Ayatollah Ali Khamenei

reality. Joint American and Israeli airstrikes - code-named Operation Epic Fury by the United States Department of Defense and Operation Roaring Lion by Israel - tore through the Iranian capital Tehran with a ferocity that left the skyline choked in thick black smoke. By the time the dust began to settle, Iranian state media confirmed what the world had already suspected: Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran for thirty-five years, was dead - killed at his own residence, where he had reportedly been meeting with top aides when the bombs fell. His daughter,

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In Africa's Creative Economies, Women Are Claiming Ownership



EAC Leaders Approve Equity-Based Contribution Framework at Arusha Summit

The East African Community (EAC) has taken a decisive step toward fairness and sustainability by adopting an equity-based contribution framework at its 25th Ordinary Summit in Arusha, Tanzania. The new model, which ties financial contributions to the economic strength of each

member state, is expected to transform the bloc's institutional stability, deepen integration, and ensure that no country feels unfairly burdened. The summit, attended by Heads of State from across the region, marked a turning point in the EAC's evolution. President William Ruto, who

chaired the meeting before handing over leadership to Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni, hailed the decision as historic: "This resolution ensures that our shared institutions are supported in a balanced and sustainable way. Trade among Member States continues to grow steadily, ris-

ing from \$33 billion in 2024, when I assumed the chairmanship of the EAC, to \$40.3 billion in 2025. This framework will only strengthen that

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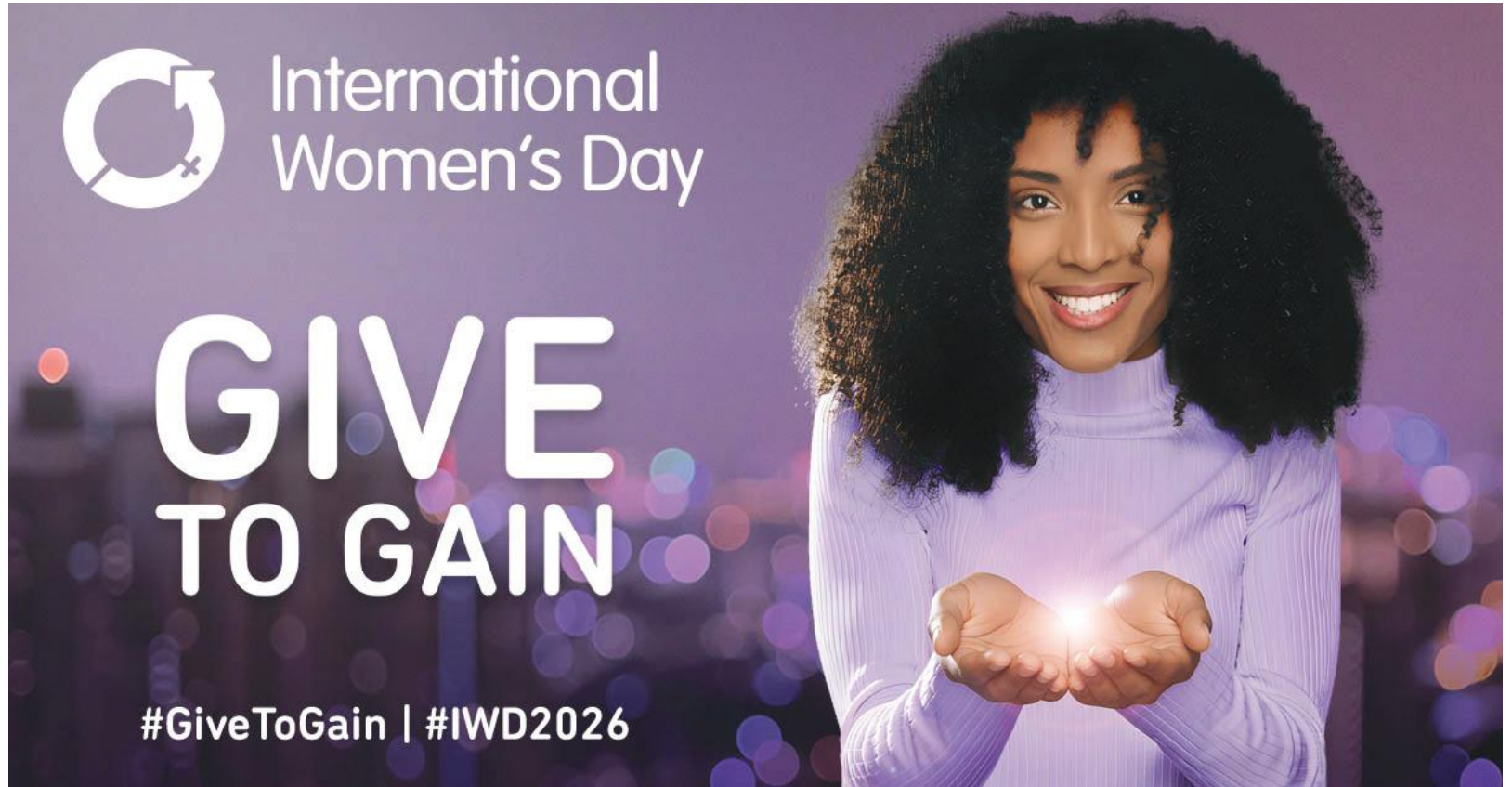
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When Women Rise, Society Thrives: Reflecting on International Women’s Day

By: Caren Litiema
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Worth Noting:

- Women remain at the heart of society, playing critical roles in families, communities, and national development. In many homes, women nurture and guide children, instilling important values and cultural identity. Their influence in shaping responsible citizens and stable families contributes greatly to the growth of strong and cohesive societies.
- Over the years, women have also been breaking barriers in education and professional fields that were once dominated by men. Today, women serve as doctors, engineers, journalists, entrepreneurs, and political leaders. Influential figures such as Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Africa’s first elected female president, and Kenya’s Nobel Peace Prize laureate Wangari Maathai demonstrate how women’s leadership can inspire change and development across the world.



Every year on International Women’s Day, celebrated on March 8, the world pauses to recognize the achievements, resilience, and contributions of women. It is a day that goes beyond celebration to reflect on the progress made toward gender equality and the work that still needs to be done. Indeed, empowered women build stronger nations, making the advancement of women a global priority. Women remain at the heart of society, playing critical roles in families, communities, and national development. In many homes, women nurture and guide children, instilling important values and cultural identity. Their influence in shaping responsible citizens and stable families contributes greatly to the growth of strong and cohesive societies.

Over the years, women have also been breaking barriers in education and professional fields that were once dominated by men. Today, women serve as doctors, engineers, journalists, entrepreneurs, and political

leaders. Influential figures such as Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Africa’s first elected female president, and Kenya’s Nobel Peace Prize laureate Wangari Maathai demonstrate how women’s leadership can inspire change and development across the world.

Women are also vital contributors to economic growth. In many developing countries, including Kenya, women are actively involved in agriculture, small businesses, and informal trade. Their participation helps sustain families, educate children, and strengthen local economies. When women are given opportunities to succeed, communities prosper and poverty levels decline.

However, despite these achievements, the journey toward gender equality is not yet complete. In Kenya, the Two-Thirds Gender Rule, which aims to ensure that no more than two-thirds of public positions are occupied by the same gender, has not yet been fully implemented. This has limited women’s representa-



tion in leadership and decision-making positions despite constitutional efforts to promote equality. Issues such as gender-based violence, unequal pay, and cultural barriers also continue to affect many women worldwide. Addressing these challenges requires collective efforts from governments, institutions, and communities to create in-

clusive environments where women can fully participate and lead. International Women’s Day therefore reminds us that when women rise, society thrives. As education activist Malala Yousafzai once said, “We cannot all succeed when half of us are held back.” Empowering women is not only a matter of justice but also a pathway

to sustainable development and global progress. As we mark this important day, we celebrate the courage, strength, and achievements of women across the world and encourage continued efforts toward equality and empowerment. Happy International Women’s Day to all women around the world.

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Friendship

Friendship Is The Most Valuable Asset In Life

By: Abdullayeva Elnura
xxxxxxxxxx

Worth Noting:

• Friendship can be imagined in different forms. The first type is close friendship, that is, people are physically and spiritually connected to each other. The second type is loyal friendship, which is a person who should be a constant in a person's life, with whom he has been in close contact for years.

• The third is social friendship, that is, relationships between people develop from the social perspective of friendship. In this type of friendship, personal interests, mutual relations in society are of particular importance. In addition, friendship is also considered the most basic form of social support.

Friendship is an important bond that satisfies a person's spiritual, emotional and social needs, helps him feel happy. This is not just a way to spend time, but also a connection that requires sincere understanding and support for each other. Friendship in life sometimes replaces family, protects a person from isolation and ensures his mental stability. If we talk about the importance of friendship, then it has its own place. First of all, friendship protects a person. For each of us in life there are difficulties: failures at work, problems in personal life, serious health concerns, and so on. In such situations, our true friends support us, help us change our minds and never let us be alone.

What types of friendship are there that we have never thought about?

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ined in different forms. The first type is close friendship, that is, people are physically and spiritually connected to each other. The second type is loyal friendship, which is a person who should be a constant in a person's life, with whom he has been in close contact for years.

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Friends help each other solve their problems, are ready to help each other in unexpected situations, and try to understand each other's feelings. These feelings help to understand each other, and in many cases, friends

have a huge positive impact on each other's lives. After all, our ancestors did not say for nothing: "A friend is tested in difficult times." Indeed, our friends are there for us, supporting us.

There are several basic principles of friendship, and they are as follows:

1. Trust and loyalty.

Trust is an important factor in building and maintaining friendship. Friends must trust each other, protect each other's secrets, and be loyal to each other in difficult times. To maintain this trust, open and sincere communication is necessary. Trusted friends help a person understand their true self.

2. Understanding and respect.

It is important to recognize that each person has a unique way of thinking. Understanding and respecting each other in friendship is

an effective way to resolve disagreements with others. Friends should respect each other's thoughts, feelings, and perspectives. Also, understanding the unique needs, emotional states, and feelings of each friend strengthens friendship.

3. Spending time together and supporting each other. Setting aside time is very important to strengthen friendship. Spending time together, helping each other, and sharing happy moments together strengthens friendship. At the same time, friends should evaluate each other's successes and failures in life together, and support each other. Helping each other is one of the greatest qualities of true friends. Friendship is the key to success in life. Because friendship plays a very important role in ensuring success in life. Studies show that good friends help improve a per-

son's physical and mental health. Also, friends continue to support each other in their decisions, which in turn motivates them to achieve success. Friendship does not only involve affection and love, but also mutual assistance, mutual respect, and goodwill. Everyone needs friends in their lives because they help us achieve true happiness.

In conclusion, it can be said that friendship not only improves our personal relationships, but also our quality of life. Through mutual trust, respect and support, we can create true friendship. Interacting with our friends not only brings us joy and happiness, but also makes our lives more meaningful. Therefore, valuing, developing and caring for friendship is one of the main keys to our success in society.

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Floods

Nairobi Floods: Leadership, Accountability, and the Urgent Call for Resilience

By: Diaspora Times Team
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Worth Noting:

• President William Ruto addressed the nation in sombre tones: “The ongoing flooding in Nairobi and other regions has caused immense suffering, including loss of lives, displacement of families, and destruction of property and livelihoods. I have directed the immediate deployment of the Kenya Defence Forces and a multiagency emergency response unit to accelerate rescue and relief operations.” His remarks underscored the gravity of the situation and the urgency of coordinated action.

• Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi echoed the President’s concerns, stressing accountability: “The floods are deeply concerning. We cannot continue to lose lives every rainy season. Urgent, decisive action is required to protect Kenyans and prevent future disasters. This is a governance issue as much as it is a climate issue.”



In March 2026, Nairobi was engulfed by torrential rains that claimed dozens of lives, displaced thousands, and paralysed the city’s infrastructure. The floods, which struck between March 6–7, exposed the fragility of Nairobi’s drainage systems and reignited debate about urban planning, governance, and climate resilience. This editorial provides a comprehensive analysis of the disaster, the responses from national and county leaders, the corporate sector, and the broader implications for Kenya’s capital city.

The floods were unprecedented in scale. According to the Ministry of Interior, at least 25 people lost their lives, with fatalities concentrated in Starehe, Kamukunji, Mukuru, Mathare, and Kibra. Rivers burst their banks, sweeping away homes and vehicles, while major roads including Uhuru Highway, Mombasa Road, Jogoo Road, and Lang’ata Road were submerged. Public transport collapsed, flights were disrupted at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, and businesses reported severe losses.

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Nairobi Governor Johnson Sakaja outlined county measures: “We have fully mobilised our Disaster Management and Risk Department, deployed rescue teams, cleared drainage, and set up evacuation centres. Residents must remain vigilant and prioritise safety as we continue to monitor the situation round the clock.” Sakaja acknowledged the public’s frustration with clogged drainage and unregulated construction, admitting that infrastructure has lagged behind Nairobi’s rapid urbanisation.

The National Police Service confirmed the scale of the tragedy. Spokesperson Muchiri Nyaga stated: “The torrential rains have led to significant flooding, unfortunately resulting in 23 fatalities so far, the destruction of property, road closures, and the displacement of residents. Response teams are actively responding to distress calls and continuing with search and rescue missions.”

Corporate leaders also weighed in. Flora Mutahi, Chairperson of the Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA), warned: “Floods disrupt supply chains, damage property, and stall productivity. Businesses need assurance that Nairobi can withstand climate shocks. We urge government and county authorities to prioritise resilient infrastructure.” Safaricom CEO Peter Ndegwa pledged technological support: “We are working with emergency responders to provide connectivity and mobile cash relief to affected families. Technology must be part of the solution. We are committed to leveraging innovation to support communities in times of crisis.” Experts from the National Water Harvesting and Storage Authority stressed that the floods exposed Nairobi’s weak drainage systems. CEO Julius Mugun noted: “Stormwater volumes are overwhelming ageing drainage systems. Nairobi must treat stormwater as

a resource, not a nuisance. Aggressive water harvesting and storage strategies are urgently needed.”

Residents described harrowing scenes: families stranded on rooftops, cars swept away, and children wading through waist-deep water to reach safety. Relief centres were established, but many complained of slow response and inadequate shelter. The human cost was not only measured in fatalities but also in the trauma and displacement of thousands of families.

The floods reignited debate about Nairobi’s urban planning. Rapid urbanisation, poor enforcement of zoning laws, and unchecked construction have left the city vulnerable. Informal settlements such as Mukuru and Mathare, built along riverbanks, were among the worst hit. Climate scientists warn that extreme weather events will intensify, making resilience investments urgent.

Beyond the immediate trag-

edy, the floods raise deeper questions about governance and accountability. Nairobi’s drainage systems have long been criticised as inadequate, yet successive administrations have failed to implement comprehensive reforms. The disaster is a stark reminder that climate resilience is not optional—it is a matter of survival.

The corporate sector’s involvement highlights the interconnectedness of governance and business. Floods disrupt supply chains, damage property, and stall productivity. Without resilient infrastructure, Nairobi risks losing its competitive edge as East Africa’s economic hub.

The editorial conclusion is clear: Nairobi’s floods are not just a seasonal inconvenience—they are a test of leadership, planning, and resilience. Unless bold action is taken, the city will continue to drown in its own neglect. The rains have spoken; now leaders must act.



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Motivation

Single Income Double Stress Double Income Less Stress



By: Manish Dudhagara
xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Worth Noting:

- Many Indian men yet think that women should not do any job or business and they should not contribute in family economically. An online survey has been done and according to it 43.4 Indian men still are against the women's income contribution in family.
- We Indians follow the western culture in wearing clothes in celebrating festivals, in taking food, in talking education in moving around etc. Though we don't follow the western culture in observing duties as citizens, in following strict laws and orders in getting double income in our families etc.
- It we think positively 39.3% men believe that their wives should get income and contribute in their families but it's not enough. Many men feel about hurting their ego if the women earn and contribute in the family. They also think traditionally and believe that our command will decrease if the women earn money with them.



India was a developing country. When it become independent and it is transforming from developing nation to developed nation after 75 years of independence.

Still our country India considered developing nation due to less GDP and per capita Income of our citizens for last 10 years Billionaires are increasing at super fast speed and poor people are becoming more and more poor. As usual only two classes are described in our country (1) Poor people (2) Rich people. The government always ignore middle class and nobody other talks about middle class too. There have been two types of middle class (i) lower middle class (ii) higher middle class. Middle classes are done always side-track but actually true struggles are thought against difficulties by then.

Well, it is natural that poor people's number have been increasing. So that no body has taken care to focus on middle class people. But have you ever thought why we can't become as developed nation still after 75 years of freedom? I think that India is full of traditional beliefs based on gender bias in the terms of in-

come. So we Indians have still traditional lifestyle in the 21st century era which is modern developed and science and technology based era. Our lifestyle must be developed without gender bias in the term of income.

Many Indian men yet think that women should not do any job or business and they should not contribute in family economically. An online survey has been done and according to it 43.4 Indian men still are against the women's income contribution in family. We Indians follow the western culture in wearing clothes in celebrating festivals, in taking food, in talking education in moving around etc. Though we don't follow the western culture in observing duties as citizens, in following strict laws and orders in getting double income in our families etc. It we think positively 39.3% men believe that their wives should get income and contribute in their families but it's not enough. Many men feel about hurting their ego if the women earn and contribute in the family. They also think traditionally and believe that our command will decrease if the women earn money with them.

In this age high price has

been increasing a lot a single man earns a lot but he can't complete properly basic necessities like food, clothing, residence, education of children, health of family members and security of single man works heard to earn money and he manages any how in the family. So he stays in the stress always. Those days are gone that if a man earns 10,000 to 15,000 monthly and he can manage well whole family with his income. Now a days single man has to earn minimum 25,000 to 35,000 to manage well his whole family. No doubt these type of men can live like kings in their families. When he comes to home he demands a complete plate of food and it must be hot. He doesn't help at all in household work and moreover he orders his wife and children to do those works. If they gave permission to buy things of their family members hobbies, family members will buy. This all about his power in home that everybody in my control but he knows in his mind that he takes a lot of stress to get this power and to live like a king. He thinks that what relatives will tell if he gives permissions to his wife to earn. For example some people think and

talk in relatives that he lives on his wife's income. While others think and talk that when a lady earns in house a man hasn't any power in home. Some people also talk like a 'joru ka gulam' if a man helps in household works to his wife because his wife also earns money by doing a government or private job or she manages a business at home.

So single income and double stress life goes on.

Now we think reverse from this a man doesn't care about his ego and he keeps it aside to see his family members happy. Then does he do any crime? What's wrong in this? When does of our Indian society change? It is the era of women empowerment and if a male gives permission to his wife to earn by giving controlled freedoms. Double income comes in the family a man's wife does government job as a primary teacher and he himself in different private school. So responsibility of earning money and managing all the necessities and accomplishing hobbies are divided. so they can manage well their family and remember they don't care what people talk about them so they are living happily.

Now, that person's wife tells

him to buy jewellery and other things of her hobbies, she is completely free and happy. So her husband is also happy.

I say, who has given rights to these people of doing comments which are negative? Moreover, a man respected his wife. So he helps her in shopping, vegetables, groceries, and other things from market because he thinks that his wife also helps him and his family by earning money with the jobs or business.

Have you ever observed that today's women don't like to live as housewives only? They do their jobs and business with their choices. They are fond of being working mothers or women so feel proud of being something extra ordinary from others. Besides in such a family children can get education in English medium or in private schools paying higher fees. Children's hobbies are accomplished due to double income.

So, double income, less stress and life rocks.

Therefore, conclusion is that modern life style of western culture is necessary according to time to live life..

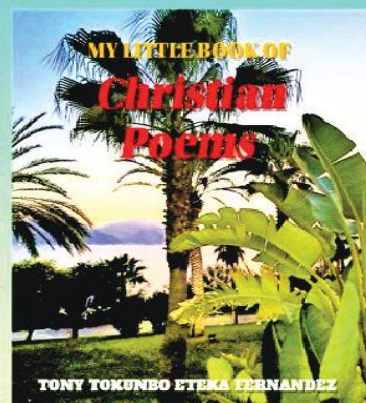
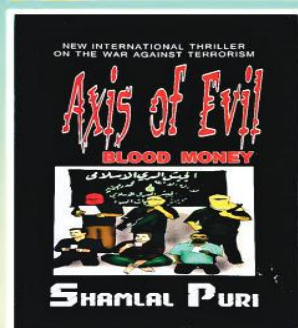
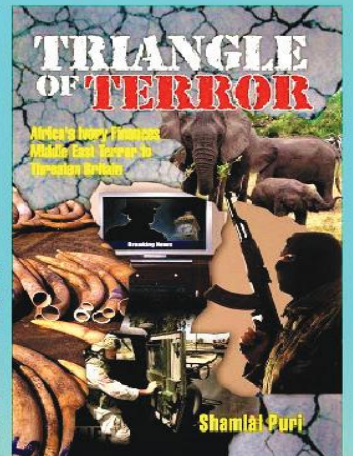
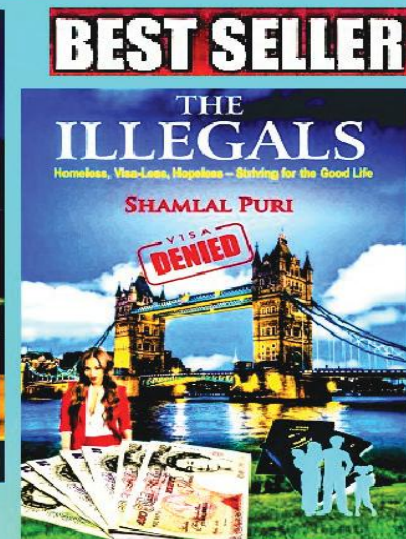
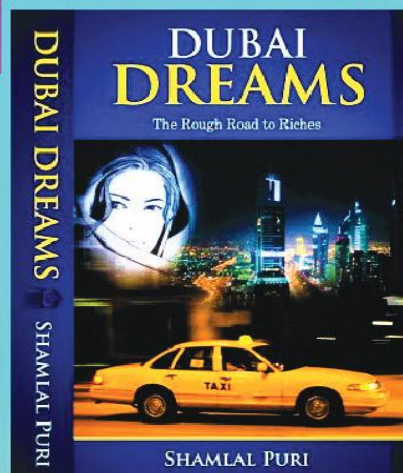
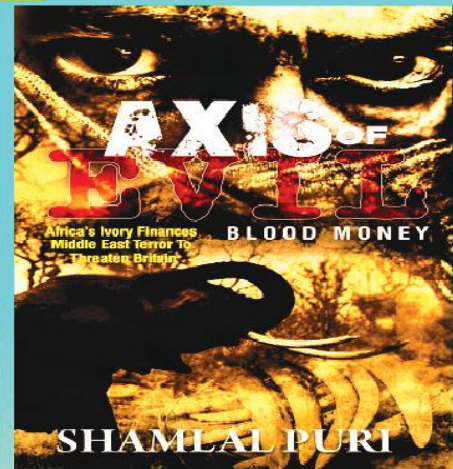
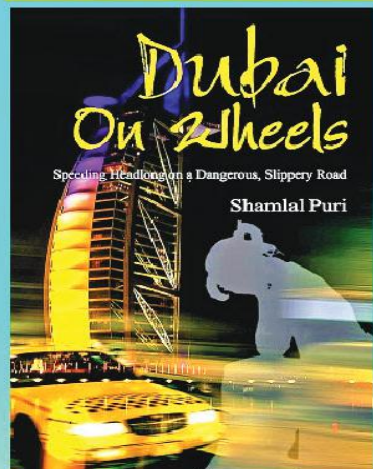
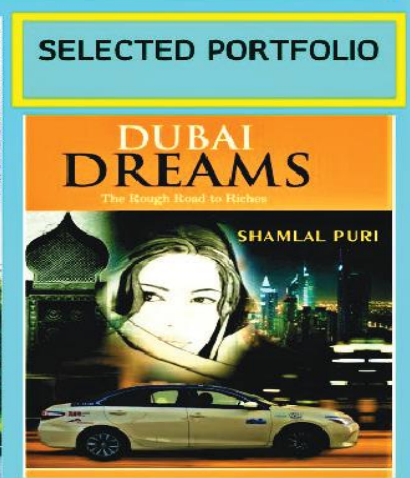
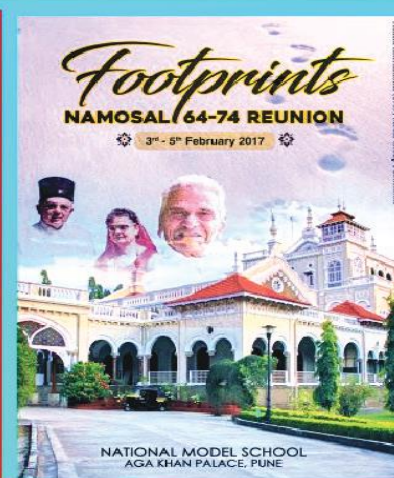
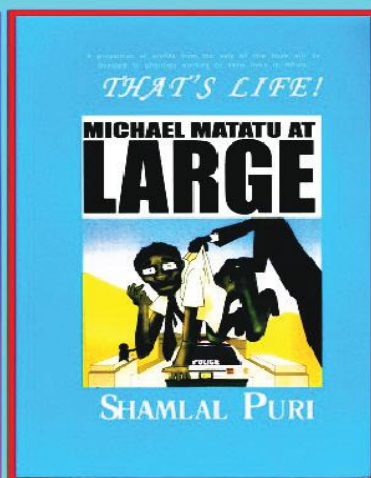
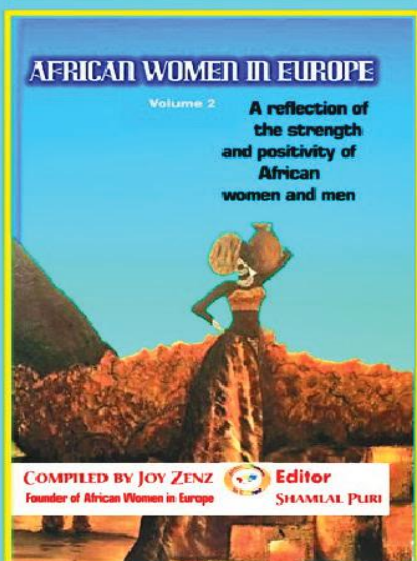
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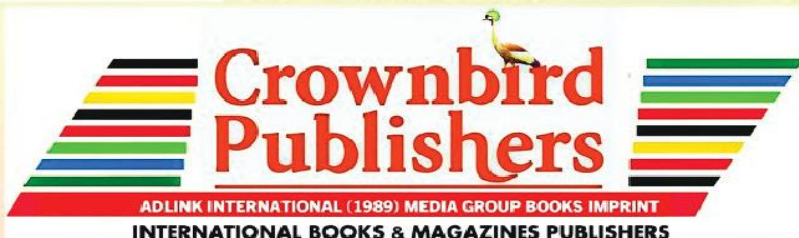
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Global News

THE SOVEREIGN DISPENSABLE: Targeted Killings, Imperial Impunity, and the Death of the Rules-Based Order

How Washington's Doctrine of Preemptive Assassination Is Redrawing the World's Most Dangerous Lines - and Why the United Nations Is Watching Helplessly



By: Silas Mwaudasheni Nande
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Worth Noting:

- To understand what happened in Tehran on February 28, 2026, one must understand the doctrine that made it possible - and the precedents that enabled it to be executed with apparent impunity.

- The targeted killing of foreign heads of state and senior government officials is not new in American foreign policy. But it has never been normalized so openly, so brazenly, or with such apparent disregard for the legal and geopolitical consequences until now.

- The assassination of Iranian General Qasem Soleimani in January 2020 - ordered by Trump during his first term - was condemned by legal scholars, international jurists, and even some American allies as a violation of international law. The UN Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial killings concluded at the time that the strike was unlawful. But Soleimani, though a powerful figure, was a military commander, not a head of state.

son-in-law, grandchild, and daughter-in-law were also reported among the dead. A girls' elementary school in Minab, southern Iran, was struck. The death toll among civilians climbed past two hundred within hours. More than eighty-five children were buried under rubble.

In Washington, President Donald Trump celebrated. He called it the "greatest chance" for the Iranian people to "take back" their country. He called Khamenei "evil." He said the strikes would continue "uninterrupted." He told Iranians, through a video posted to social media before the bombs had finished falling, that "bombs will be dropping everywhere" - an announcement made not to the United Nations Security Council, not to the United States Congress, but to Truth Social. Welcome to the new world order. Or rather, the new world disorder.

I. The Doctrine of the Disposable Sovereign

To understand what happened in Tehran on February 28, 2026, one must understand the doctrine that made it possible - and the precedents that enabled it to be executed with apparent impunity.

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The killing of Khamenei represents a categorically different and far more dangerous escalation: the direct, deliberate assassination of a



President Donald Trump

sovereign nation's supreme leader, in his own capital, while nuclear negotiations between that nation and the United States were actively ongoing.

The strikes, according to reporting, were timed to coincide with a meeting Khamenei was holding with top aides. United States intelligence services tracked his location. That intelligence was handed to the Israeli Defense Forces. The execution was, by all accounts, a premeditated act of political assassination dressed in the language of preemptive self-defense.

The justification offered by Washington and Tel Aviv was familiar in its contours: Iran's nuclear ambitions posed an existential threat. Iranian ballistic missiles posed what a senior US official described as "an intolerable risk." Israel's UN Ambassador Danny Danon told the Security Council that his country was "stopping extremism before it became unstoppable."

Trump himself framed it as a defensive measure to "eliminate imminent threats." These are the same arguments - repackaged, rebranded, redeployed - that were used to justify the 2003 invasion of Iraq, the destruction of Libya, and the

drone campaign that turned the skies of Afghanistan, Pakistan, Yemen, and Somalia into killing fields for two decades. Each time, the threat was declared imminent. Each time, the legal justification was stretched beyond recognition. Each time, the consequences for regional stability were catastrophic and long-lasting. Each time, accountability was nonexistent.

But this time, the target was a head of state of a nation of ninety million people. This time, the stated goal, in Trump's own words and Netanyahu's own declarations, was not merely to degrade military capacity but to achieve regime change - to topple the government of a sovereign UN member state through aerial bombardment.

This is not counterterrorism. This is not targeted military action. This is, by any reasonable reading of international law, an act of aggressive war.

II. The Geopolitical Earthquake: What Killing Khamenei Means for the World

The death of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei does not simply create a leadership vacuum in Iran, though the vacu-

um is real and dangerous enough. It creates a geopolitical earthquake whose tremors are already being felt across the globe, and whose full implications will take years - possibly decades - to fully comprehend.

Khamenei was not merely Iran's religious and political leader. He was the linchpin of a regional architecture that, whatever one thinks of its values and methods, provided a degree of structural predictability to Middle Eastern politics. Iran's network of allied militia groups - Hezbollah in Lebanon, Hamas in Gaza, the Houthis in Yemen, Shia militias across Iraq and Syria - operated within a command-and-control framework ultimately sanctioned, directed, and restrained by Tehran.

With that framework now in violent disarray, and with a temporary three-member leadership council scrambling to assert authority in the immediate aftermath of the strikes, the question of who controls those armed networks - and whether they can be controlled at all - becomes acutely dangerous.

Iran wasted no time in demonstrating the breadth of that danger. Within hours of the strikes, Tehran launched missile and drone

barrages not only at Israel but at Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and US military bases scattered across the region. Three American soldiers were killed. A woman was killed in Tel Aviv. Missiles struck Qatar's capital Doha, sending thick plumes of smoke over the city. Dubai's Port of Jebel Ali - one of the world's busiest shipping hubs - was hit. The UAE ordered all schools shut. Airlines cancelled more than 1,400 flights across the Middle East. The Strait of Hormuz, through which approximately twenty percent of the world's oil supply transits, trembled on the edge of a closure that would send global energy markets into a spiral the world economy is profoundly ill-equipped to absorb.

China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi called the attack "unacceptable," condemning what he described as the "blatant killing of a sovereign leader and the incitement of regime change." In a call with his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov, Wang expressed grave concern that "the situation in the

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How Washington's Doctrine of Preemptive Assassination Is Redrawing the World's Most Dangerous Lines - and Why the United Nations Is Watching Helplessly

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Worth Noting:

- The killing of Khamenei represents a categorically different and far more dangerous escalation: the direct, deliberate assassination of a sovereign nation's supreme leader, in his own capital, while nuclear negotiations between that nation and the United States were actively ongoing.
- The strikes, according to reporting, were timed to coincide with a meeting Khamenei was holding with top aides. United States intelligence services tracked his location. That intelligence was handed to the Israeli Defense Forces. The execution was, by all accounts, a premeditated act of political assassination dressed in the language of preemptive self-defense.
- The justification offered by Washington and Tel Aviv was familiar in its contours: Iran's nuclear ambitions posed an existential threat. Iranian ballistic missiles posed what a senior US official described as "an intolerable risk." Israel's UN Ambassador Danny Danon told the Security Council that his country was "stopping extremism before it became unstoppable."

Middle East may be pushed into a dangerous abyss." Russia, which has maintained close ties with Tehran, condemned the operation as "a deliberate, premeditated, and unprovoked act of armed aggression against a sovereign and independent UN member state." These are not the words of reflexive anti-Americanism. They are the words of two major powers watching the international order they have long sought to revise - or, in Russia's case, actively undermined - being torn apart not by their hands, but by Washington's.

The irony, and the danger, is profound. For years, American policymakers have warned about the threat that Russia and China pose to the rules-based international order. They have invoked the principle of national sovereignty to condemn Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the principle of territorial integrity to resist Chinese pressure on Taiwan, the principle of international law to advocate for a world governed by norms rather than by force. On February 28, 2026, the United States annihilated every one of those arguments in a single morning of airstrikes. It is extraordinarily difficult to invoke the sanctity of Ukrainian sovereignty while simultaneously bombing the capital of Iran to force regime change. It is impossible to credibly champion international law while assassinating a foreign head of state in his own residence without Security Council authorization, without a declaration of war, and without congressional approval. The precedent being set is not merely legal. It is civilizational. If the most powerful nation on Earth can unilaterally decide that a foreign leader poses an "intolerable risk" and order his assassination, then every nation on Earth must now calculate its own vulnerability through that same lens. What stops any sufficiently powerful state from applying the same logic to its neighbors? What deters a nuclear-armed Russia from targeting leaders in former Soviet states it deems threatening? What prevents China from reasoning that



Iranian General Qasem Soleimani

certain governments in its periphery represent intolerable risks to its security? The answer, in a world where American behavior establishes the norm, is: nothing. The rules that were broken in Tehran do not apply only to Iran. They apply to every-

III. The School That Was Bombed: Civilians, Accountability, and the Convenient Language of Precision

Before proceeding to the structural analysis of international governance failures, it is necessary to pause and name what is being systematically obscured in the clinical language of "preemptive strikes" and "high-value targets."

In Minab, a city in southern Iran, an Israeli airstrike hit a girls' elementary school. It was a Saturday morning, the first day of the Iranian school week. At least eighty-five children were killed in the initial reports. Later counts placed the death toll at 148 souls - children who had gone to school that morning with their bags and their ordinary lives, and who did not come home. The ruins of their school became a site of frantic digging, of parents clawing through rubble with their bare hands. The Iranian Red Crescent reported explosions near hospitals

in Tehran. The total civilian death toll exceeded two hundred within hours of the strikes beginning.

US Central Command spokesperson Captain Tim Hawkins told reporters that the United States was "aware of reports about civilians being harmed," that these reports were being taken "seriously," and that "the protection of civilians is of utmost importance." He added that "unlike Iran, we have never - and will never - target civilians."

One hundred and forty-eight dead children in Minab deserve more than a press statement. They deserve an honest confrontation with the fact that when bombs are dropped on densely populated urban areas - whatever the intended targets - civilians die. That this is predictable, that planners know this, and that operations proceed regardless, is not an accident of warfare. It is a choice. The language of precision strikes and surgical interventions has been the rhetorical armor of Western military campaigns for three decades, and it has consistently failed to obscure the reality: that in Iraq, in Libya, in Yemen, in Afghanistan, and now in Iran, the civilians who bear no responsibility for the policies of their governments pay the highest price.

The international laws of armed conflict - specifically

the principles of distinction, proportionality, and precaution enshrined in the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols - exist precisely to prevent this. They require that parties to a conflict distinguish between civilians and combatants, that attacks not cause civilian harm disproportionate to the anticipated military advantage, and that all feasible precautions be taken. A school full of children being struck on a Saturday morning raises grave questions about whether any of these principles were observed with the seriousness they demand. Those questions deserve answers in an international tribunal. They are unlikely to receive them.

IV. The UN Security Council: A Theatre of Impotence

On the afternoon of February 28, 2026, the United Nations Security Council convened in emergency session. France, China, Russia, Colombia, and Bahrain had each called for the meeting. Iran sent a letter invoking its right to self-defense under Article 51 of the UN Charter and demanding that the Council "take the necessary and immediate measures to halt this unlawful use of force and to ensure accountability."

The Secretary-General told the Council that the airstrikes violated interna-

tional law, including the UN Charter. He called for an immediate cessation of hostilities. He warned that the world was watching "a grave threat to international peace and security." France and Britain, along with Germany, issued a joint call for the resumption of negotiations. Russia condemned the strikes as a "gross violation" of sovereignty. China called them "unacceptable." The Arab League's permanent observer noted, pointedly, that Israel had justified its attack partly on Iran's nuclear program while itself refusing to subject its own nuclear facilities to international inspection.

And then - nothing. Nothing consequential. Nothing binding. Nothing that would stop a single bomb from falling on Tehran the following day, when Israel launched a fresh wave of strikes "in the heart of Tehran." Nothing that would protect a single civilian shelter, a single hospital, a single school.

This is the United Nations Security Council in 2026: the body charged by the UN Charter with "primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security," reduced to a debating chamber where eloquent speeches are delivered into a void. The world's

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Worth Noting:

• Trump himself framed it as a defensive measure to “eliminate imminent threats.” These are the same arguments - repackaged, rebranded, redeployed - that were used to justify the 2003 invasion of Iraq, the destruction of Libya, and the drone campaign that turned the skies of Afghanistan, Pakistan, Yemen, and Somalia into killing fields for two decades. Each time, the threat was declared imminent. Each time, the legal justification was stretched beyond recognition. Each time, the consequences for regional stability were catastrophic and long-lasting. Each time, accountability was nonexistent.

• But this time, the target was a head of state of a nation of ninety million people. This time, the stated goal, in Trump's own words and Netanyahu's own declarations, was not merely to degrade military capacity but to achieve regime change - to topple the government of a sovereign UN member state through aerial bombardment.

most important multilateral security institution met in emergency session as one of its five permanent members was actively participating in the assassination of a foreign head of state and the bombing of a sovereign capital - and it could do nothing. It could say nothing enforceable. It could pass nothing. Because the United States, as a permanent member, wields an absolute veto over any resolution that would hold it accountable.

This is not a new failure. It is the logical, inevitable, and entirely predictable consequence of a structural design flaw that has been apparent since 1945. The Security Council was constructed on the premise that the five permanent members - the victors of World War II - would be the guarantors of international order, not its greatest threats. That premise has not survived contact with reality. The same veto power that was designed to prevent the Council from being weaponized against the great powers has, in practice, ensured that the great powers can act with total impunity. The United States has used its veto to shield Israel from accountability for its actions in Gaza, Lebanon, and now Iran. Russia has used its veto to shield itself in Ukraine. China uses the threat of its veto to protect its interests in the South China Sea and Taiwan Strait. Each veto is a declaration that international law applies to everyone except the people who wrote it.

The emergency session on February 28 perfectly illustrated the theatre of it. The United States and Iranian ambassadors clashed in exchanges that were, at moments, almost openly contemptuous of the proceedings. US Ambassador Mike Waltz, responding to Iranian accusations of international law violations, dismissed the Iranian representative's claims by pointing to the Iranian regime's record of repression against its own people - a legitimate criticism that was nevertheless entirely irrelevant to the question of whether the United States had violated international law in launching an unprovoked attack



UN Secretary-General António Guterres

on a sovereign nation. Iran's ambassador, Amir Saeid Iravani, told Waltz to “be polite.” Waltz said he would not “dignify” the exchange with a further response. The Council adjourned. The bombs kept falling.

The Secretary-General's moral authority, however genuine and however clearly deployed, is not backed by enforcement power. Guterres can condemn. He can warn. He can describe with precision the catastrophic risks of escalation. He cannot compel. He cannot sanction. He cannot deploy troops. He cannot, in any meaningful sense, stop anything. The architecture of the United Nations makes him a witness to catastrophe, not a preventer of it.

This is a scandal of institutional design that the international community has tolerated for eighty years because reforming the Security Council - specifically, addressing the veto power of the P5 - is itself subject to veto. The trap is closed. The body is broken. And the world pays the price.

V. The Pattern: When the Powerful Decide Who Deserves to Live

The killing of Khamenei did not occur in isolation. It occurred within a pattern - a

documented, deliberate, and escalating pattern of the United States and its allies targeting the senior leadership of states they deem threatening, outside the frameworks of international law, often in the midst of diplomatic negotiations that render the timing doubly indefensible.

In January 2020, Qasem Soleimani was killed by a US drone strike at Baghdad International Airport. He was, at the time, traveling in an official capacity in a third country. Iraq - the sovereign state on whose territory the killing occurred - demanded that US forces leave. That demand was ignored. In July 2022, al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri was killed in a drone strike in Kabul, in a residential neighborhood, in a country the United States had formally withdrawn from. In 2024, multiple Israeli operations targeted senior Hamas and Hezbollah leadership, including Hezbollah's Hassan Nasrallah, in strikes that killed significant numbers of civilians in densely populated urban environments.

And now, in February 2026, a sitting Supreme Leader - the head of state of a nation of ninety million people, with whom the United States was actively engaged in nuclear negotiations facil-

itated by Oman - was assassinated in his own home.

The pattern reveals a doctrine: that the United States, and states acting with its sanction, reserves the right to determine which world leaders are threats to be eliminated, and to execute that determination through military force, without the authorization of international law, without the consent of the countries in which those operations occur, and without meaningful accountability before any judicial body. It is a doctrine of sovereign dispensability - the proposition that some leaders' lives are not protected by the norms that protect others, that sovereignty itself is a conditional privilege extended or withdrawn by Washington according to its own strategic calculus.

The most dangerous aspect of this doctrine is not its immediate application. It is the precedent it sets and the response it will inevitably provoke. Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian declared revenge Iran's “legitimate right and duty.” He described the killing as “a declaration of open war on Muslims, especially Shiites, in all corners of the world.” These are not empty words from a powerless actor. Iran has, for decades, demonstrated a patient and sophis-

ticated capacity for asymmetric retaliation - through proxy networks, through cyber operations, through the slow accumulation of strategic pressure. Whether that retaliation takes the form of missile strikes on American military bases, attacks on Gulf energy infrastructure, or actions yet unimagined, the consequences of February 28, 2026 will extend far beyond the immediate theater of conflict.

Meanwhile, the reporting that Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman made “multiple private phone calls” to Trump advocating for the US attack raises a separate and deeply troubling dimension of the geopolitical picture. It suggests that the decision to bomb Iran was not made purely on the basis of American strategic assessment, but was at least partly shaped by the lobbying of a regional rival with its own interests in Iranian destabilization. If accurate, it means that the most consequential military decision of the 21st century so far was influenced, at least in part, by a foreign autocrat making phone calls to a president staying at his private resort in Palm Beach. The implications for how American foreign policy is made - and who it truly serves - deserve

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far more scrutiny than they will likely receive.

VI. The World After Tehran: What Must Change

The killing of Khamenei and the strikes on Iran will, in all likelihood, be debated by international law scholars, historians, and strategic analysts for generations. But the urgency of the present demands more than a promise of future analysis. It demands a reckoning, however uncomfortable, with several fundamental truths about the current state of the international order.

The first truth is that the rules-based international order, as it currently exists, is not rules-based at all. It is a hierarchy-based order in which the most powerful actors operate above the rules while insisting that weaker actors abide by them. This is not a sustainable foundation for global security. A world in which only the powerful enjoy sovereignty is a world in which every nation below a certain threshold of military and economic strength must either acquire nuclear weapons for self-protection or accept perpetual vulnerability to the strategic preferences of stronger states. The lesson of Iraq - which abandoned its weapons of mass destruction programs and was subsequently invaded - and of Libya - which gave up its nuclear ambitions and was subsequently destroyed - is not lost on the leaders of states who feel threatened by Western power. The lesson of North Korea - which retained and expanded its nuclear arsenal and has not been invaded - speaks for itself.

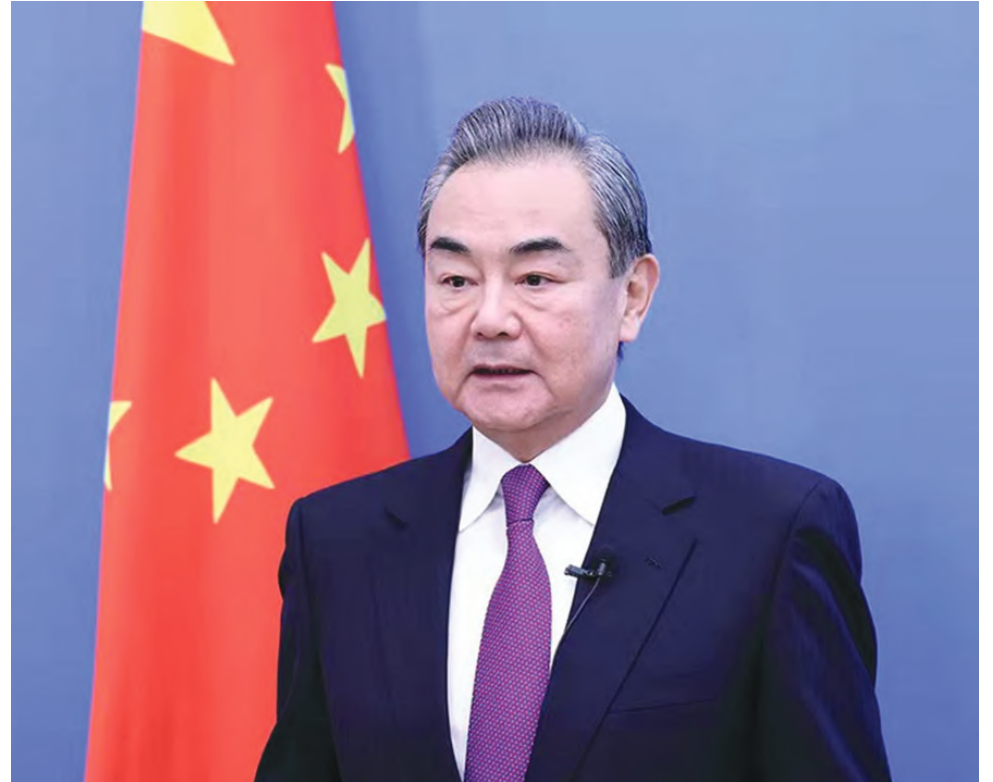
The second truth is that the United Nations Security Council, in its current configuration, cannot perform the function it was designed to perform. The veto power of the P5 is not a constitutional anomaly that can be quietly overlooked. It is the central operating mechanism of the Council, and it renders the Council structurally incapable of holding its own most powerful members accountable. Reform is extraordinarily difficult, but the absence of reform is not a neutral choice. Every year

that the veto structure is maintained without reform is another year in which the international community's most important security body is a stage set - convincing from a distance, hollow upon inspection.

The third truth is that the doctrine of preemptive assassination of foreign leaders, as currently being practiced by the United States and Israel, sets a precedent that will not remain the exclusive property of its originators. Other powerful states are watching. Other powerful states have their own lists of leaders they regard as intolerable risks. The norms that are broken in Tehran do not stay broken only for Tehran. They break everywhere, for everyone, in ways that cannot be predicted or controlled.

The fourth truth, perhaps the most important and the most consistently evaded, is that military force has a consistently poor record as a tool of political transformation. The stated goal of Operation Epic Fury, in Trump's own words and Netanyahu's own declarations, was regime change in Iran. History does not offer a single example of an externally imposed air campaign achieving that objective in a country of Iran's size, population, cultural coherence, and strategic depth. Iraq, Libya, Afghanistan, and Syria - each a theater of Western military intervention in the past quarter century - are not advertisements for the efficacy of bombing as a nation-builder. Iran, with a population four times the size of Iraq's, a sophisticated and experienced military establishment, and a deep reservoir of national pride that transcends political agreement with its government, will not be transformed by airstrikes, however devastating.

What the strikes will do - what they are already doing - is radicalize. They are radicalizing Iranian public opinion in ways that make a moderate successor government less likely, not more. They are radicalizing Shia communities across the Middle East. They are energizing the very extremist networks that Western



China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi

policy claims to want to diminish. And they are demonstrating to every government in the developing world that negotiation with the United States is not a path to security - it is a path to the situation Iran found itself in on February 28, 2026: negotiating a nuclear deal on Friday, burying its Supreme Leader on Sunday.

VII. A Reckoning Deferred Cannot Be Deferred Forever

It is worth returning, in conclusion, to the Security Council chamber on the afternoon of February 28, 2026 - to the speeches and the condemnations and the warnings and the urgent calls for restraint, and to the silence that followed them. The silence is not the silence of indifference. It is the silence of institutional impotence, and it is one of the most dangerous sounds in the world.

When the most powerful multilateral body tasked with maintaining international peace and security cannot stop a major power from bombing a foreign capital, assassinating a foreign head of state, and declaring its intention to continue bombing until that government falls - and when it cannot stop this because the attacking power sits at the table with an absolute veto - then the institution

has failed at its fundamental purpose. This is not a temporary malfunction. It is a structural crisis that has been building for decades and that the events of February 28, 2026 have rendered undeniable.

The international community faces a choice. It can continue to inhabit the fiction of a rules-based order that protects the powerful and leaves the vulnerable to the mercy of strategic convenience. Or it can begin the painful, politically fraught, enormously difficult work of building governance structures that are genuinely universal in their application - structures in which sovereignty is not a conditional privilege, in which the veto power of permanent Security Council members is reformed or abolished, in which targeted killings of foreign officials are subject to independent international judicial review, and in which the standard applied to the actions of major powers is the same standard applied to everyone else.

The children of Minab, buried under the rubble of their school on a Saturday morning, did not have opinions on Iran's nuclear program. They did not have views on the geopolitics of the Middle East. They had schoolbags and lessons and the ordinary small ambitions of childhood. They are dead because powerful men in

Washington and Tel Aviv decided that the military elimination of threats - real and perceived, specific and diffuse - was more strategically convenient than the continuation of diplomacy. The world must decide whether that is acceptable. Because if it is - if the killing of 148 children in a school is simply the acceptable collateral of strategic necessity - then the question of what the United Nations and the international legal order are actually for becomes very difficult to answer.

History will judge this moment. The question is whether the institutions that are supposed to prevent such moments will survive long enough to be judged alongside it.

This article was written on March 1, 2026, as the conflict between the United States, Israel, and Iran entered its third day. The situation remains fluid and rapidly evolving. All factual details are drawn from reporting by Al Jazeera, CNN, NPR, The Times of Israel, PBS NewsHour, the UN Security Council Report, and other major international news organizations as of the time of writing.

Worth Noting:

- The death of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei does not simply create a leadership vacuum in Iran, though the vacuum is real and dangerous enough. It creates a geopolitical earthquake whose tremors are already being felt across the globe, and whose full implications will take years - possibly decades - to fully comprehend.
- Khamenei was not merely Iran's religious and political leader. He was the linchpin of a regional architecture that, whatever one thinks of its values and methods, provided a degree of structural predictability to Middle Eastern politics. Iran's network of allied militia groups - Hezbollah in Lebanon, Hamas in Gaza, the Houthis in Yemen, Shia militias across Iraq and Syria - operated within a command-and-control framework ultimately sanctioned, directed, and restrained by Tehran.
- With that framework now in violent disarray, and with a temporary three-member leadership council scrambling to assert authority in the immediate aftermath of the strikes, the question of who controls those armed networks - and whether they can be controlled at all - becomes acutely dangerous.

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EAC

EAC Leaders Approve Equity-Based Contribution Framework at Arusha Summit



By: Silas Mwaudasheni Nande

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Worth Noting:

Quick Facts: The Arusha Summit

- Event: 25th Ordinary Summit of the East African Community (EAC)
- Location: Arusha, Tanzania
- Date: March 2026
- Key Resolution: Adoption of equity-based contribution framework
- New Chairperson: President Yoweri Museveni (Uganda)
- New Secretary-General: Stephen Patrick Mbundi (Tanzania)
- Judicial Appointments: Anne Amadi (Kenya), Abdullahi Warsamme (Somalia), Digo Stephen Abraham (South Sudan)

Quotes That Defined the Summit

- William Ruto (Kenya): "This resolution ensures that our shared institutions are supported in a balanced and sustainable way."
- Yoweri Museveni (Uganda): "This framework is about justice, and justice means that each country contributes according to its strength."
- Samia Suluhu Hassan (Tanzania): "Tanzania has always championed fairness in regional integration."
- Paul Kagame (Rwanda): "Equity is not about equal amounts; it is about fairness."
- Évariste Ndayishimiye (Burundi): "This framework recognises our reality."
- Salva Kiir (South Sudan): "Our inclusion in the judiciary of the Community is a sign of trust."
- Hassan Sheikh Mohamud (Somalia): "Somalia's entry into the EAC is about belonging."
- Félix Tshisekedi (DRC): "Peace in the DRC is peace for the region."



trajectory."

The adoption of the framework was accompanied by leadership changes. Museveni was appointed as the new EAC Chairperson, while Stephen Patrick Mbundi of Tanzania was named Secretary-General, succeeding Kenya's Veronica Nduva, who had steered the Secretariat since June 2024. The Summit also approved judicial appointments to the East African Court of Justice, including Kenya's Anne Amadi, Somalia's Abdullahi Warsamme, and South Sudan's Digo Stephen Abraham. Kenya stands to benefit significantly from the new framework. With its relatively strong economy, Kenya's contributions will reflect its capacity, but the country will also gain from reduced strain on smaller economies that previously struggled to meet obligations. This ensures smoother institutional operations and fewer budgetary crises. President Ruto emphasised Kenya's role in expanding intra-EAC trade: "Kenya's exports and imports within the bloc have grown steadily. Our manufacturing sector, financial

services, and technology industries are positioned to thrive under a fairer system that strengthens regional institutions." Kenya's appointment of Anne Amadi to the East African Court of Justice further consolidates its influence in shaping regional jurisprudence. Legal analysts argue that this will enhance Kenya's standing as a hub for rule-of-law reforms and judicial leadership. Uganda's President Museveni, now the EAC Chairperson, framed the equity-based model as a tool for agricultural transformation: "Uganda's farmers will benefit from stronger regional institutions that support fair trade. This framework is about justice, and justice means that each country contributes according to its strength." Uganda's agricultural exports, particularly maize, coffee, and dairy products, are expected to gain from a more stable EAC budget that supports trade facilitation. As chair, Museveni will also wield significant influence in steering integration projects, including infrastructure corridors linking Uganda to Kenya, Tanzania, and South Sudan.

Tanzania's appointment of Stephen Patrick Mbundi as Secretary-General places the country at the heart of EAC administration. President Samia Suluhu Hassan welcomed the decision: "Tanzania has always championed fairness in regional integration. This framework ensures that our institutions are funded sustainably, and our leadership at the Secretariat will guarantee accountability." Tanzania's economy, driven by mining, agriculture, and tourism, will benefit from predictable institutional financing. Analysts note that Tanzania's strategic location as a gateway to the Indian Ocean makes it a critical beneficiary of enhanced trade facilitation under the new model. Rwanda, with its smaller economy but strong governance record, will contribute proportionately less under the equity-based system. President Paul Kagame praised the decision: "Equity is not about equal amounts; it is about fairness. Rwanda will continue to invest in innovation and technology, and this framework allows us to do so without being overburdened." Rwanda's

tech sector, particularly fintech and digital services, is expected to thrive as regional institutions gain stability. The country's reputation as a reform-driven economy positions it to attract investment under a fairer financial arrangement. Burundi, one of the smallest economies in the bloc, has often struggled to meet its financial obligations. President Évariste Ndayishimiye expressed relief: "This framework recognises our reality. Burundi will now contribute according to our capacity, allowing us to focus on development priorities." Burundi stands to benefit from reduced financial strain, enabling it to channel resources into infrastructure, education, and healthcare. Analysts argue that this could stabilise Burundi's participation in the bloc and reduce the risk of arrears that have historically undermined EAC operations. South Sudan, still rebuilding after years of conflict, welcomed the appointment of Digo Stephen Abraham to the East African Court of Justice. President Salva Kiir stated: "South Sudan's inclusion in the judiciary

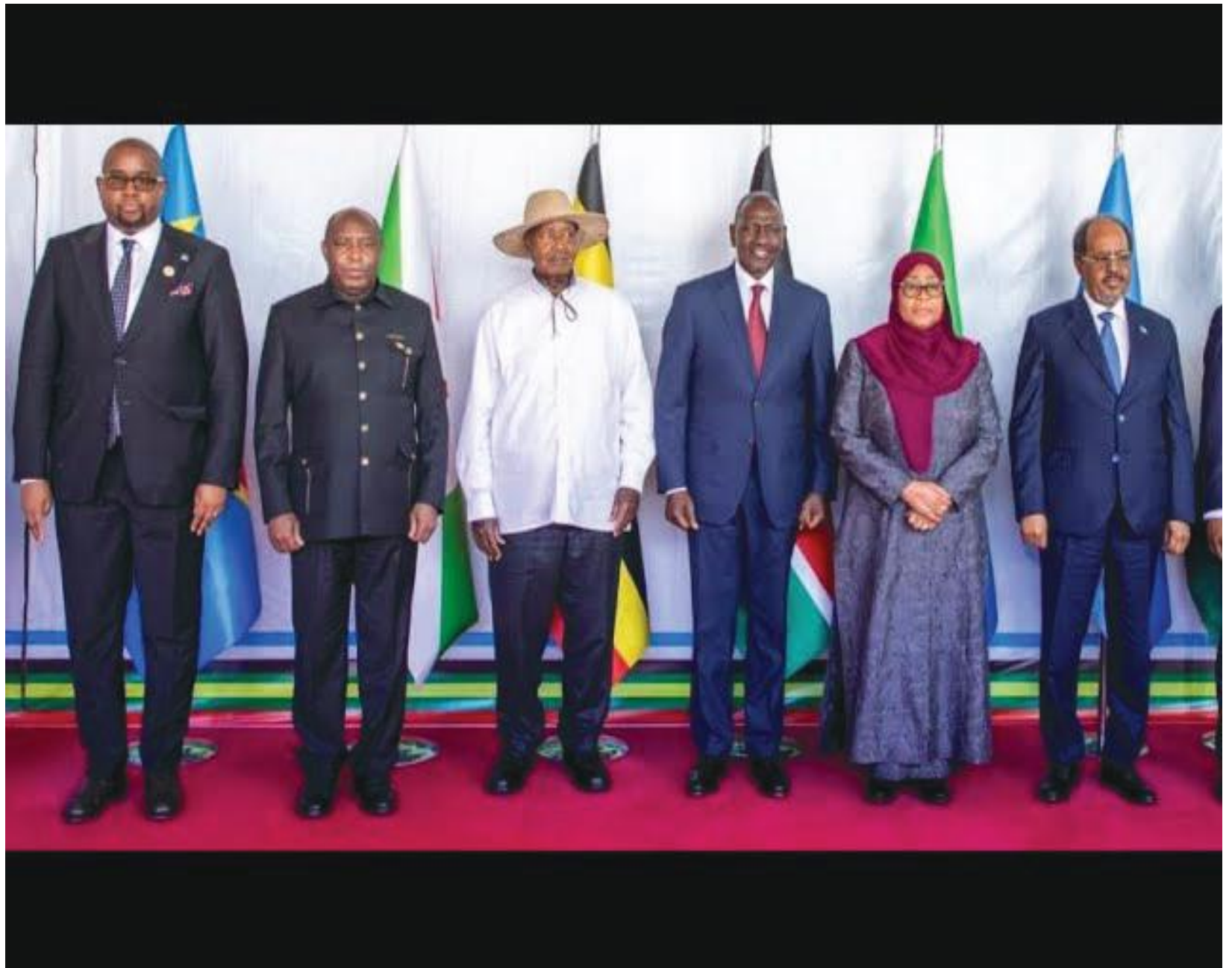
of the Community is a sign of trust. The equity-based framework ensures that our contributions are fair, and our voice is heard." South Sudan's oil-driven economy will benefit from predictable obligations, while its fragile institutions gain legitimacy through regional integration. The judicial appointment is seen as a milestone in embedding South Sudan within the EAC's legal and governance structures. Somalia, the newest member of the EAC, secured representation in the Court of Justice through Abdullahi Warsamme. President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud hailed the move: "Somalia's entry into the EAC is about belonging. This framework ensures that our contributions are fair, and our participation is meaningful." Somalia's economy, heavily reliant on livestock exports and remittances, will benefit from reduced financial obligations under the equity-based model. The judicial appointment signals Somalia's integration into

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EAC

EAC Leaders Approve Equity-Based Contribution Framework at Arusha Summit

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Worth Noting:

What Each Country Gains

- Kenya: Stronger trade flows, judicial influence, manufacturing boost.
- Uganda: Agricultural expansion, leadership of the bloc.
- Tanzania: Secretariat leadership, tourism and mining stability.
- Rwanda: Relief in contributions, tech sector growth.
- Burundi: Budgetary relief, focus on healthcare and education.
- South Sudan: Oil economy stability, judicial representation.
- Somalia: Fairer obligations, legitimacy as new entrant.
- DRC: Market access, peace dividends, mineral trade integration.

Trade Snapshot

- Intra-EAC Trade 2024: \$33 billion
- Intra-EAC Trade 2025: \$40.3 billion
- Projected Growth: Continued upward trajectory under equity-based framework

the bloc's governance structures, strengthening its legitimacy as a new member. The Summit also reviewed progress toward peace in the Great Lakes region, particularly in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). President Félix Tshisekedi emphasised the link between stability and economic growth: "Peace in the DRC is peace for the region. The equity-based framework ensures that our contributions are fair, while our vast market becomes accessible to all." The DRC's mineral wealth and large consumer base make it a critical player in the EAC. Analysts argue that stability in the DRC will unlock enormous trade opportunities, benefiting all member states under a fairer financial arrangement. The equity-based contribution framework is expected to strengthen the EAC's institutional capacity, reduce financial disputes, and enhance trust among member states. By aligning contributions with economic strength, the bloc ensures sustainability while promot-

ing solidarity. International observers see the move as a model for other regional organisations. Dr. Amina Hassan, a regional integration expert, noted: "The EAC has set a precedent. Equity-based contributions are not just fair—they are practical. This framework could inspire reforms in other blocs such as ECOWAS and SADC." To understand the full significance of this decision, it is important to place it in historical context. The EAC has long struggled with budgetary shortfalls caused by uneven contributions. Smaller economies such as Burundi and South Sudan often fell into arrears, while larger economies like Kenya and Tanzania shouldered disproportionate burdens. This created tension and undermined trust. The new framework directly addresses this imbalance by linking contributions to GDP and fiscal capacity, ensuring that no member state is overwhelmed. Comparisons with other regional blocs highlight the

innovation of the EAC's approach. The European Union, for example, has long used a system of proportional contributions based on economic size, which has allowed it to maintain robust institutions. ECOWAS and SADC, by contrast, have faced similar challenges to the EAC, with weaker economies struggling to meet obligations. Analysts suggest that the EAC's model could serve as a blueprint for reform across Africa. Economic projections under the new framework are promising. Kenya's manufacturing and financial sectors are expected to expand as regional institutions gain stability. Uganda's agricultural exports will benefit from improved trade facilitation. Tanzania's tourism and mining industries will thrive under predictable financing. Rwanda's tech sector will attract investment. Burundi will stabilise its budget. South Sudan will integrate more fully into regional governance. Somalia will gain legitimacy and support for its fragile economy.

The DRC will unlock vast trade opportunities. Experts also highlight the governance implications. By reducing financial disputes, the framework enhances trust among member states. This trust is essential for deeper integration, including the long-term goal of a political federation. The judicial appointments further strengthen governance by embedding diverse voices in the region's legal structures. Case studies illustrate the potential impact. In Kenya, predictable financing could support infrastructure projects such as the Lamu Port-South Sudan-Ethiopia Transport Corridor. In Uganda, farmers could benefit from regional subsidies and fairer trade policies. In Tanzania, tourism could flourish with better regional marketing. In Rwanda, fintech startups could expand across the bloc. In Burundi, healthcare and education could receive more funding. In South Sudan, oil revenues could be stabilised. In Somalia, livestock exports could grow. In the DRC,

mining could be better regulated and integrated into regional supply chains. The broader geopolitical implications are significant. By adopting a fairer framework, the EAC strengthens its credibility as a regional bloc. This credibility enhances its bargaining power in negotiations with external partners such as the European Union, China, and the United States. It also positions the EAC as a leader in African integration, potentially inspiring reforms across the continent. The Arusha Summit has redefined fairness in regional integration. By ensuring that each country contributes according to its strength, the EAC has laid the foundation for sustainable growth, deeper unity, and a future where no member state is left behind.

Venezuela

Venezuela's Deputy Minister Arturo Gil Visits Cape Town to Advance Energy Ties

The visit builds on an MoU signed between Venezuelan petroleum authorities and the African Energy Chamber in February 2026, representing the next step in this collaborative initiative

By: Diaspora Times Team
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Worth Noting:

A high-level meeting was held in Cape Town, featuring Deputy Minister Gil and Carlos Feo Acevedo, the Venezuelan Ambassador to South Africa, alongside an AEC team led by Executive Chairman NJ Ayuk and a team from Energy Capital & Power, led by CEO James Chester. Discussions centered on strengthening investment flows, leveraging Venezuela's expertise to support Africa's energy resilience and identifying avenues for collaboration across the energy value chain.

The meeting follows a high-level visit by the AEC to Caracas in late February, which included meetings with Delcy Rodríguez, Interim President of Venezuela as well as the state-owned oil corporation *Petróleos de Venezuela SA* and the ministries of Hydrocarbon Geopolitics and Gas. The outcome of these meetings was a signed MoU, aimed at strengthening investment and collaboration across the oil, gas and broader energy sectors. The Cape Town discussion represents the next step in this collaboration, underscoring Venezuela's commitment to establishing resilient ties with African nations.

CAPE TOWN, South Africa, Following the historic visit by the African Energy Chamber (AEC) to Venezuela in February 2026, Venezuela responded by sending its Deputy Minister of Artificial Intelligence and Productive Efficiency on Hydrocarbons Arturo Gil to South Africa to advance energy ties.

A high-level meeting was held in Cape Town, featuring Deputy Minister Gil and Carlos Feo Acevedo, the Venezuelan Ambassador to South Africa, alongside an AEC team led by Executive Chairman NJ Ayuk and a team from Energy Capital & Power, led by CEO James Chester. Discussions centered on strengthening investment flows, leveraging Venezuela's expertise to support Africa's energy resilience and identifying avenues for collaboration across the energy value chain.

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Workforce Development and Technical Cooperation

A key outcome of the meeting was a commitment to strengthening workforce development across Africa's energy sector. Under the initiative, the AEC will engage between 10 and 15 African stakeholders to participate in specialized technical training programs at Venezuela's University of Hydrocarbons, supporting skills development and knowledge transfer between the two regions.

The Venezuelan delegation emphasized the importance of building long-term tech-

nical partnerships, noting that structured training programs would allow African professionals to gain hands-on expertise while fostering deeper institutional cooperation between Africa and Venezuela.

"We believe it would be valuable to organize a working visit to South Africa and bring a Venezuelan delegation to explore cooperation and investment opportunities," stated Deputy Minister Gil.

Leveraging Venezuelan Oil and Gas Expertise

The meeting also examined how Africa can benefit from Venezuela's more than 100 years of oil and gas production experience. Ayuk highlighted geological similarities between Venezuela and key African producing countries such as Namibia and Angola, suggesting that knowledge exchange on basin geology and data interpretation could accelerate exploration and production across both regions.

"We need to strengthen collaboration between Africa and Venezuela. I hope to see more African stakeholders leveraging your cooperation, particularly in the area of data sharing and trade," stated Ayuk.

He also underscored Venezuela's unique role as a member of the African Petroleum Producers' Organization, emphasizing the importance of increased participation in continental initiatives such as the African Energy Bank to address both the continent and the south American nation's investment challenges.

Unlocking Investment and Market Opportunities

Investment opportunities within Venezuela's hydrocarbon sector was also a central focus of the meeting. The Venezuelan delegation highlighted the country's extensive geological database, built over more than a century of exploration and production activity, which provides investors with detailed insights into untapped resources and development opportunities.

With 1,000 wells planned for development and over



Venezuela's Deputy Minister Arturo

20,000 wells already drilled - including many yet to be optimized - the country presents substantial and highly lucrative investment opportunities across its upstream sector.

Gas Development and Energy Access

Venezuela's vast natural gas resources were also discussed as a potential solution to Africa's growing energy access challenges. With approximately 600 million people in Africa lacking access to electricity and nearly one billion living without access to clean cooking solutions, Ayuk highlighted the potential role of Venezuela's flared gas in strengthening the continent's energy supply while also supporting economic growth for the South American nation.

"Venezuela has significant onshore gas resources that

can be further developed, but unlocking this potential will require greater investment to support both national development and the needs of our people," stated Deputy Minister Gil. "LPG is not only an energy resource but also a social solution with strong economic and societal value. There is substantial potential for expansion in both our onshore and offshore gas sectors."

Role of African Independents in Upstream Expansion

During the meeting, the parties emphasized the growing influence of African independent oil companies, noting their success in expanding production across the continent after decades of experience working alongside international majors. Drawing parallels with markets such as Nigeria, he

suggested that independent operators could also play a role in supporting Venezuela's efforts to increase oil output through brownfield redevelopment and mature asset optimization.

"Outside the U.S., Africa - especially Nigeria - has one of the largest populations of independent oil producers, with many operators producing from as little as 1,000 barrels per day," stated Ayuk. As both regions seek to expand production and address energy access challenges, deeper collaboration between African and Venezuelan stakeholders could unlock new opportunities across the global energy landscape.



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Diaspora

Robot Wars in Ukraine: The Dawn of Autonomous Battlefield Machines

Armed robots have officially entered the battlefield in Ukraine, marking a dramatic escalation in the technological dimensions of modern warfare.

By: Diaspora Times Team
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Worth Noting:

- The deployment of uncrewed ground vehicles (UGVs) represents a watershed moment in military history. Ukrainian officials describe them as “ground robot systems,” capable of carrying machine guns, grenade launchers, and explosives. Unlike aerial drones that buzz overhead, these robots move silently across terrain, striking enemy positions without warning.

- Major Oleksandr Afanasiev, commander of the Ukrainian army’s K2 brigade, which he claims is the world’s first dedicated UGV battalion, declared: “Robot wars are already happening. They open fire on a battlefield where an infantryman would be afraid to turn up. But a UGV is happy to risk its existence.” His unit has mounted Kalashnikov machine guns on robots, sending them into firefights where human soldiers would face near-certain death.

- The machines are not limited to direct combat. Afanasiev confirmed that his battalion has deployed kamikaze robots—battery-powered vehicles laden with explosives—to destroy Russian bunkers and fortified positions. “Unlike aerial drones, they make no sound to warn the enemy of an impending strike,” he explained.

Armed robots have officially entered the battlefield in Ukraine, marking a dramatic escalation in the technological dimensions of modern warfare. Since Russia’s full-scale invasion began in 2022, the conflict has evolved into a high-tech struggle defined by drones, uncrewed naval vessels, and now, ground-based killer robots. Ukrainian commanders say these machines are already repelling Russian attacks, ambushing armoured vehicles, and even clashing with Russian robots without human soldiers present.

The deployment of uncrewed ground vehicles (UGVs) represents a watershed moment in military history. Ukrainian officials describe them as “ground robot systems,” capable of carrying machine guns, grenade launchers, and explosives. Unlike aerial drones that buzz overhead, these robots move silently across terrain, striking enemy positions without warning. Major Oleksandr Afanasiev, commander of the Ukrainian army’s K2 brigade, which he claims is the world’s first dedicated UGV battalion, declared: “Robot wars are already happening. They open fire on a battlefield where an infantryman would be afraid to turn up. But a UGV is happy to risk its existence.” His unit has mounted Kalashnikov machine guns on robots, sending them into firefights where human soldiers would face near-certain death. The machines are not limited

to direct combat. Afanasiev confirmed that his battalion has deployed kamikaze robots—battery-powered vehicles laden with explosives—to destroy Russian bunkers and fortified positions. “Unlike aerial drones, they make no sound to warn the enemy of an impending strike,” he explained.

The deputy commander of the 33rd Detached Mechanised Brigade’s tank battalion, known by the call-sign Afghan, recounted a striking incident: “One Ukrainian UGV armed with a machine gun ambushed a Russian personnel carrier, while another robot defended a Ukrainian position for weeks.” Afghan admitted that autonomy remains limited, stressing that ethical and legal considerations prevent robots from making lethal decisions independently. “Modern UGVs are part-autonomous. They can move on their own, they can observe and detect the enemy. But still, the decision to open fire is made by a human, their operator. Robots can misidentify the wrong person or attack a civilian. That’s why the final decision must be made by an operator.”

This means that most battlefield robots are remote-controlled over secure internet connections, operated from safe distances. Yet their growing sophistication is undeniable. Ukrainian forces have used robots to plant landmines, lay barbed wire, deliver supplies, and evacuate the wounded. Their

versatility makes them indispensable in a war where attrition and logistics are as decisive as firepower.

Former commander-in-chief and now ambassador to the UK, Valerii Zaluzhnyi, predicted exponential growth in the role of armed robots: “The role of UGVs will soon grow exponentially. They are not just tools of war—they are the future of warfare.” His words reflect Ukraine’s determination to stay ahead in a conflict where technological innovation has often tipped the balance.

The Russian military, too, has reportedly deployed robotic systems, leading to clashes between machines on the battlefield. Analysts describe these encounters as unprecedented: battles fought entirely by robots, with no human presence at the site. Military historian Serhii Horbenko observed: “This is the first time in history that autonomous machines have fought each other in organised combat. It is a turning point in the evolution of war.”

International observers are divided. Human rights organisations warn of the dangers of delegating lethal decisions to machines. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) reiterated its stance that autonomous weapons must remain under human control. “The risk of civilian casualties is too high if machines are allowed to decide when to kill,” an ICRC spokesperson said.

Yet military strategists argue that robots reduce human casualties and provide tactical advantages. Professor Michael Clarke, former director of the Royal United Services Institute in London, noted: “Robots can fight in environments too dangerous for humans. They can hold positions, deliver supplies, and even conduct ambushes. The ethical debate is real, but the military utility is undeniable.”

The economic dimension is equally significant. Ukraine’s defence industry has rapidly expanded its robotics programme, with private firms collaborating with the military to produce UGVs at scale. Defence analyst Kateryna Prymachenko explained: “Ukraine is building a war economy around robotics. This is not just about survival—it is about creating a technological edge that could define the future of global conflict.” For ordinary Ukrainians, the sight of robots on the battlefield is both surreal and reassuring. Soldiers describe them as “mechanical comrades” that take risks humans cannot. Civilians see them as symbols of resilience in a war that has demanded extraordinary sacrifice.

The broader geopolitical implications are profound. NATO allies are closely monitoring Ukraine’s robotics programme, with some military officials suggesting that lessons learned in Ukraine will shape Western defence strategies for de-

veloping. Russia, meanwhile, is believed to be accelerating its own robotics development, raising fears of an arms race in autonomous weaponry.

Critics caution that the proliferation of battlefield robots could destabilise global security. Dr. Elena Kovalenko, a security analyst in Kyiv, warned: “If robots become the norm in warfare, conflicts may escalate faster and become harder to control. The threshold for war could be lowered because machines, not humans, bear the brunt of combat.”

Despite these concerns, Ukraine shows no signs of slowing its robotics programme. The war has forced innovation at breakneck speed, and armed robots are now part of the country’s survival strategy. As Afanasiev bluntly put it: “We cannot afford to wait. Robots are saving lives today.”

The editorial conclusion is stark: the Ukraine war has entered a new phase where machines fight alongside—and sometimes against—each other. This is no longer science fiction. It is the reality of modern conflict. The world must grapple with the ethical, strategic, and humanitarian consequences of robot warfare.

The battlefield has changed forever—when robots rise, humanity must decide how far it is willing to let machines wage its wars.

YOUR OPINION IS INVALUABLE

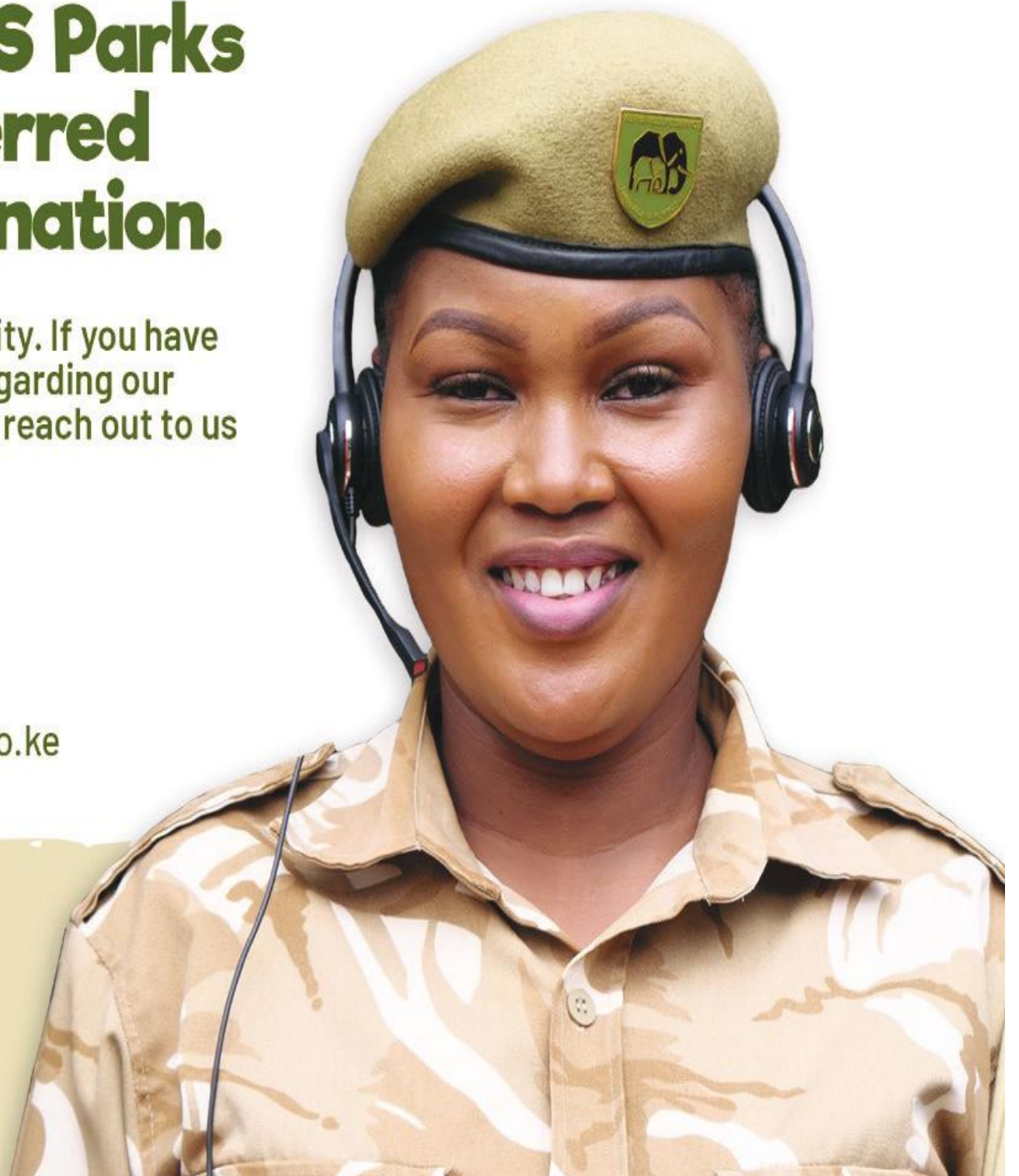
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Diaspora

Standard Bank Africa Trade Barometer Shows Improving Trade-Enabling Infrastructure and Stronger Business Confidence

By: Diaspora Times Team
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Worth Noting:

• First launched in 2022 and updated annually, the ATB reflects data collected across these 10 markets in 2025 through its combined quantitative indicators and firm level survey insights. It combines a Quantitative Trade Barometer based on three-year averaged macroeconomic indicators and a Survey Trade Barometer based on responses from 2,218 firms, approximately 71% of which are SMEs.

• Growth across ATB markets is trending towards 4.3% in 2026, supported by moderating inflation in seven of the 10 economies and improvements in external debt positions. The business confidence index rose to 65, with most firms expecting stronger turnover and more stable trading conditions. Commodity strength, particularly in gold, platinum and copper, has provided a further uplift for exporters and foreign exchange earners.

• Awareness of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) reached 50%, with firms citing easier movement of goods, wider market access and industrialisation benefits. Early AfCFTA enabled shipments demonstrate tangible operational progress.

Trade-enabling infrastructure across African markets is showing broad improvement, while business confidence and macroeconomic stability are strengthening across the continent.

This is according to Issue 5 of the Standard Bank Africa Trade Barometer (ATB), which covers: Angola, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.

“Across the 10 markets we surveyed, firms reported improvements across every major infrastructure category, including power, telecommunications, road, rail, ports and digital border systems. This marks the first time since the Standard Bank Africa Trade Barometer’s launch that all infrastructure indicators have improved simultaneously, reflecting growing investment in logistics capacity and digital trade facilitation across the continent”, says Philip Myburgh, Head of Trade for Business and Commercial Banking at Standard Bank Group.

“Together, these 10 markets account for 68% of Sub-Saharan Africa’s GDP, and the shifts highlighted in Issue 5 of ATB point to a more positive outlook for cross border commerce on the continent.”

First launched in 2022 and updated annually, the ATB reflects data collected across these 10 markets in 2025 through its combined quantitative indicators and firm level survey insights. It combines a Quantitative Trade Barometer based on three-year averaged macroeconomic indicators and a Survey Trade Barometer based on responses from 2,218 firms, approximately 71% of which are SMEs.

Growth and Confidence:

Growth across ATB markets is trending towards 4.3% in 2026, supported by moderating inflation in seven of the 10 economies and improvements in external debt positions. The business confidence index rose to 65, with most firms expecting stronger turnover and more stable trading conditions. Commodity strength, particularly in gold, platinum and copper, has provided a further uplift for exporters and foreign exchange earners.

Accelerating Integration

Awareness of the African

Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) reached 50%, with firms citing easier movement of goods, wider market access and industrialisation benefits. Early AfCFTA enabled shipments demonstrate tangible operational progress.

East Africa

East Africa emerges as the strongest-performing subregion in Issue 5 edition of the ATB, recording a 10-percentage-point increase in export activity. The ATB attributes this acceleration primarily to policy coordination and trade facilitation reforms across the region.

Kenya is playing a central role in this shift as a regional integration anchor. The recent Kenya-Uganda trade reclassification, which treats goods originating in Kenya as intra-regional transfers rather than imports, has reduced administrative friction within the East African Community. In parallel, Kenya and Tanzania’s renewed commitments to remove non-tariff barriers signal improving trade coordination that had previously constrained cross-border flows.

Combined with major corridor upgrades across the Northern and Central transport routes, these reforms are reducing border delays, improving logistics predictability and strengthening supply-chain reliability. For businesses operating in the region, this is translating into lower transaction costs and greater confidence in scaling cross-border operations.

Taken together, the ATB suggests East Africa’s export momentum reflects a shift from policy intent toward operational trade integration across the region.

US Tariffs, AGOA and China Zero-Tariffs:

Recent shifts in global trade policy, including tariff changes affecting access to the United States, are contributing to declining engagement with US trade partners among firms surveyed in the ATB. At the same time, businesses report increasing engagement with Asian markets, particularly China, citing competitive pricing, product variety, faster response times and supply-chain reliability as key drivers of sourcing decisions.



Digital Systems Expansion

Digital payments now facilitate 78% of cross border sales and 79% of purchases, driven by bank led rails, mobile money integration and the growing use of the Pan African Payment and Settlement System (PAPSS), which enables faster settlement in local currencies and reduces reliance on hard currency intermediaries.

Climate Concerns:

Climate related pressures remain a constraint, with 38% of firms reporting demand shifts due to climate impacts and 32% citing productivity losses, underscoring the need for resilient infrastructure and production systems.

ATB measures overall tradability using the following seven pillars:

1. Trade Openness

What it covers: the degree to which firms engage in cross border trade (participation, partners, volumes, outlook). Businesses deepened regional activity, with 59% of exporters selling into Africa; overall participation eased on currency and cost pressures, but most exporters expect volumes to rise. Asia remains the top input source; Middle East sourcing is rising off a low base.

2. Access to Finance

What it covers: availability and affordability of funding (credit, rates, supplier/customer credit, digital finance depth). Rate cut cycles in Kenya, Ghana and South Africa improved affordability; digital credit tools widened SME access. The credit access index rose from 43 to 49.

3. Macroeconomic Stability

What it covers: growth, inflation, FX dynamics, debt, commodity prices, business confidence. Disinflation, improved FX earnings and lower debt supported certainty for firms; however, 38% reported climate linked demand changes and 32% reported productivity losses.

4. Infrastructure

What it covers: power, roads, rail, ports, airports, telecoms, water systems and customs processes. Firms reported improvements across all infrastructure categories, including grid stabilising storage and transmission lines, expanded 4G/5G coverage, key highway upgrades and digitised border systems that cut clearance times and improve corridor predictability

5. Governance and Economy (Government Support)

What it covers: regulatory environment, customs digitisation, policy reforms affecting trade friction. Perceptions improved as governments expanded single window and border modernisation efforts. Across the 10 markets surveyed, seven recorded an increase in perceived government support for cross-border trade, reflecting policy reforms aimed at easing logistics processes, improving customs efficiency and supporting regional trade flows. Still, 79% of firms view tax relief as the most critical measure to support trade.

6. Foreign Trade Dynamics

What it covers: trade part-

ner preferences, barriers, and external shocks (US tariffs, AGOA, China’s zero tariff stance). Asia is now the most preferred region for many firms; Europe retains strength as an export destination; positive perceptions of trading with the rest of the world rose to 21%.

7. Trade Financial Behaviour

What it covers: how firms pay and get paid (EFTs, mobile money, international transfers, PAPSS adoption vs. cash reliance). The shift to digital is decisive: 78-79% of cross border transactions are now digital. Domestic cash reliance remains high overall but is declining in key markets as low cost acceptance tools scale.

Outlook

Africa’s trade outlook is being reshaped by integration, improved infrastructure, firmer macro fundamentals and rising business confidence. At the same time, geopolitical developments, including the ongoing conflict in the Middle East, introduce uncertainty around energy prices and supply-chains that could affect trade costs in the near-term.

“As AfCFTA implementation deepens, and as more countries harmonise customs, regulatory frameworks and logistics platforms, Africa’s ability to expand industrial capacity, scale regional value-chains and strengthen competitiveness is set to accelerate”, concludes Myburgh.

Diaspora

Safeguarding the Planet: Environmental Protection as a Normative Obligation of Global Society

In this study, I examine environmental protection as a normative moral obligation of global society within the context of accelerating ecological degradation.



By: Suyunova Fotima Oybekovna
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Worth Noting:

- In the contemporary era, I observe that environmental degradation has evolved into a multidimensional crisis affecting ecological systems, economic stability, and social cohesion. Climate change intensifies extreme weather events, biodiversity loss destabilizes ecosystems, and pollution undermines public health worldwide.
- While environmental protection is frequently framed as a matter of policy regulation or technological innovation, I contend that such perspectives underestimate its normative dimension. In my view, the Anthropocene — an epoch characterized by significant human impact on planetary systems — compels humanity to reassess its ethical responsibilities toward nature.
- The unprecedented scale of human-induced environmental transformation has altered the moral landscape of global society. Because our collective actions now shape atmospheric chemistry, ocean composition, and terrestrial ecosystems, I argue that environmental protection must be regarded as a binding moral duty rather than a discretionary political agenda.

In this study, I examine environmental protection as a normative moral obligation of global society within the context of accelerating ecological degradation. Moving beyond purely economic and regulatory interpretations, I argue that environmental preservation constitutes an ethical imperative grounded in justice, intergenerational equity, and human rights. Through qualitative normative analysis and interdisciplinary reflection on environmental ethics, sustainability theory, and global governance frameworks, I demonstrate that ecological collapse represents not merely a scientific crisis but a profound moral failure. My findings suggest that safeguarding the planet must be institutionalized as a universal ethical commitment embedded within political institutions, economic systems, and social values.

Keywords: environmental ethics, sustainability, global responsibility, moral obligation, intergenerational justice, ecological crisis

In the contemporary era, I observe that environmental degradation has evolved into a multidimensional crisis affecting ecological systems, economic stability, and social cohesion. Climate change intensifies extreme weather events, biodiversity loss destabilizes ecosystems, and pollution undermines public health worldwide. While environmental protection is frequently framed as a matter of policy regulation or technological innovation, I contend that such perspectives underestimate its normative dimension. In my view, the Anthropocene — an epoch characterized by significant human impact on planetary systems — compels humanity to reassess its ethical responsibilities toward nature. The unprecedented scale of human-induced environmental transformation has altered the moral landscape of global society. Because our collective actions now shape atmospheric chemistry, ocean composition, and terrestrial ecosystems, I argue that environmental protection must be regarded as a binding moral duty rather than a discretionary

political agenda. This research therefore seeks to answer the following question: Why should safeguarding the planet be conceptualized as a normative obligation of global society?

In reviewing existing scholarship, I find that environmental ethics provides the foundational framework for understanding moral responsibility toward nature. Scholars such as Aldo Leopold (1949) introduced the concept of the “land ethic,” arguing that humans are members rather than masters of the ecological community. This perspective redefined moral consideration to include ecosystems and non-human life. Contemporary philosophers such as Hans Jonas (1984) further developed the idea of responsibility in the technological age, asserting that humanity’s expanded power requires an expanded ethical framework. Jonas emphasized the “principle of responsibility,” according to which technological societies must act cautiously to preserve the conditions necessary for future life. Additionally, sustainability discourse, particularly as articulated in the Brundtland Report (1987), introduced the concept of intergenerational equity, defining sustainable development as meeting present needs without compromising future generations. This framework significantly strengthened the normative dimension of environmental policy. More recent studies in climate justice literature argue that environmental degradation disproportionately affects marginalized populations and developing nations. Scholars highlight the ethical necessity of distributive justice in climate mitigation and adaptation policies. Despite extensive research on environmental governance and sustainability, I observe that many policy-oriented approaches treat environmental protection as pragmatic necessity rather than explicit moral obligation. My study seeks to contribute to the literature by synthesizing environmental ethics and global governance discourse to demonstrate that environmental protection is normatively binding. In conducting this study, I adopted a qualitative nor-



mativity methodology rooted in conceptual analysis and interdisciplinary integration rather than empirical experimentation. I began by systematically clarifying key concepts, including “normative obligation,” which I define as a morally binding duty derived from universalizable ethical principles, and “environmental stewardship,” understood as responsible, precautionary, and sustainable interaction with ecological systems. I then applied foundational ethical principles—harm prevention, distributive justice, intergenerational equity, and human rights-based reasoning—to contemporary environmental phenomena such as climate change, biodiversity decline, and transboundary pollution. By examining whether environmental protection satisfies established criteria for moral obligation within philosophical discourse, I constructed a comprehensive ethical argument demonstrating that ecological preservation transcends voluntary activism and enters the domain of moral necessity. This approach allowed me to integrate philosophical reasoning with socio-political analysis, thereby producing a coherent normative framework that positions environmental protection as an ethical imperative for global society.

My analysis reveals that environmental protection fulfills multiple interrelated conditions required for classification as a normative obligation. First, the principle of harm prevention establishes a compelling moral mandate, as environmental degradation generates foreseeable and preventable suffering in the form of intensified natural disasters, displacement, food insecurity, water shortages, and

public health crises. Because such harms are largely anthropogenic, failing to mitigate them constitutes ethical negligence rather than unfortunate inevitability. Second, intergenerational justice introduces a temporal dimension of responsibility, compelling present societies to consider the rights and life prospects of future generations who lack representation in current political processes yet will bear the long-term consequences of ecological mismanagement. Third, environmental degradation undermines fundamental human rights, including the rights to life, health, security, and adequate living conditions, thereby transforming ecological preservation into a matter of safeguarding human dignity. Finally, the transboundary nature of environmental systems demonstrates that ecological harm is inherently global, necessitating collective accountability among nations, institutions, corporations, and individuals. Taken together, these findings substantiate the claim that safeguarding the planet is not discretionary but normatively binding within any coherent ethical framework. Reflecting upon these findings, I maintain that the ecological crisis exposes structural deficiencies within prevailing economic and political paradigms that prioritize short-term growth and profit maximization over long-term sustainability. The normalization of environmental externalities—whereby ecological costs are displaced onto vulnerable communities or future generations—reveals a profound moral imbalance embedded within global capitalism. I argue that technological innovation and regulatory reforms, while indispensable, remain

insufficient without a corresponding ethical transformation that redefines humanity’s relationship with nature. Educational systems must cultivate ecological literacy and moral awareness; international institutions must strengthen cooperative governance mechanisms; corporations must internalize environmental accountability within strategic decision-making; and individuals must adopt sustainable consumption patterns. In my view, redefining progress in terms of ecological resilience, social justice, and long-term sustainability rather than mere economic accumulation represents a necessary paradigm shift. Ultimately, environmental stewardship reflects civilizational maturity, as it demonstrates humanity’s capacity for foresight, solidarity, and ethical responsibility in the face of existential risk.

In conclusion, I assert that environmental protection constitutes a normative obligation of global society. The ecological crisis is fundamentally a moral challenge requiring ethical evolution alongside scientific and technological innovation. Through the principles of harm prevention, intergenerational justice, human rights protection, and global solidarity, I demonstrate that safeguarding the planet is an ethical necessity. The future of humanity depends not only on our technological capabilities but on our moral commitments. Recognizing environmental protection as a binding normative responsibility is essential for ensuring sustainable and equitable global survival.

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Independent Education in Developing the Professional Competence of Future Primary School Teachers

By: Kutliyeva Feruzaxon Yusupovna
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Abstract. The article examines the problem of forming the professional competence of future primary school teachers in the context of modernizing the general education system. The necessity of training a teacher capable of independently and creatively solving professional problems, constant professional growth, and effective interaction with participants in the educational process is substantiated. Special attention is paid to self-education as a key condition for the professional formation and personal development of a future teacher. Self-education is interpreted as a self-regulated cognitive activity aimed at developing professional competence and internal transformation of the individual. The approaches to understanding self-education in psychological and pedagogical literature are analyzed, its personality-oriented nature is revealed, and the role of volitional qualities and self-control in ensuring its effectiveness is emphasized.

Keywords: professional competence, future primary school teacher, self-education, personal development, self-development, personality-oriented approach, competency-based approach, professional training, independent educational activity.

At the present stage of the development of the general education system, one of the key tasks is the creation of a new model of mass primary school aimed at the personal development of students. These models involve the use of variable programs of didactic systems, in which the student occupies a central place. Emphasis is placed on revealing his subjectivity, critical thinking, meaningfulness, and other personal qualities considered as values in themselves. Despite the significant number of studies devoted to the formation of professional competence, the analysis of scientific works and practical experience shows that the problem of preparing future primary school teachers at the university remains insufficiently studied. In particular, key factors influencing the process of forming their professional competence have not been identified. There are also gaps in the development of indicators that reflect the specifics of the primary school teacher's professional activity.



tors that reflect the specifics of the primary school teacher's professional activity. In addition, the possibilities of a personality-oriented approach in the educational training of teachers have not been sufficiently studied and applied, and minimal attention is paid to the issues of students' self-education. A modern school, constantly adapting to the dynamic changes of society, needs a competent teacher capable of independently and creatively solving professional tasks. Such a specialist must be able to extract knowledge, integrate it with pedagogical skills in various situations, be ready for creativity and continuous professional development. For an elementary school teacher today, the ability to self-adjust and self-develop is becoming particularly important. He must be able to quickly reorient in the context of changes, show a creative approach to his activities, and effectively interact with various participants in the educational process, regardless of their socio-psychological status. In this regard, we consider the self-education of students as one of the key conditions for the formation of professional competence of future primary school teachers.

According to A. Ya. Ayzenberg, self-education represents a purposeful, free, and independent cognitive activity, which is managed by the individual. This activity is aimed at satisfying the aspirations, interests, and needs of a person in various

fields of knowledge, understanding the surrounding world, and searching for the meaning of life. Among the main characteristics of self-education, the author highlights: a wide range of issues being studied, independent work with information sources, a flexible volume of acquired knowledge, limited by the degree of saturation with interest in the chosen topic. The self-regulating nature of self-education is expressed in the fact that the management of this process is carried out by the individual. In this case, the subject acts simultaneously as the object of their management, organizing and analyzing their own actions. The process of self-education is directly related to the independence of the individual and their intellectual activity. Being the highest form of satisfying human needs and interests, self-education requires significant volitional effort, a high level of consciousness, and organization. Moreover, it is a creative process of personality development, which, according to A.M. Matyushkin, is the main goal of personality-oriented education. However, the role of will in the process of self-education remains insufficiently studied. Practical experience shows that the most frequent reason for refusing previously assumed obligations in the field of self-education is the lack of a strong will to implement the intended decisions and a lack of self-control. Analysis of psychological

and pedagogical literature indicates that the problems of self-education are mainly considered from two main perspectives. The first interprets self-education as a purposeful, organized, and independent work of a teacher aimed at improving their professional skills (in the works of V. A. Adolf, A. Ya. The second perspective considers self-education as an individual and personal process aimed at conscious and systematic improvement, development of oneself and one's professional activity (Yu. It should be noted that the second approach is broader, as it emphasizes the personal nature of the teacher's self-education, considering it primarily as a process of self-development. Within the framework of our research, we hold precisely this position. The theoretical analysis of this topic allowed us to define the self-education of a future primary school teacher as a self-regulated cognitive activity aimed at developing professional competence and personal growth. The concept of self-development of personality is understood as the process of internal transformation during which a person realizes and accepts the requirements of the environment, adapting them to their level of consciousness, the degree of development of abilities, and the formation of needs.

The basis of a person's practical readiness for self-education is the totality of cognitive, intellectual, and organizational skills, as well

as the ability to select, acquire, evaluate, and correctly apply information, which, in general, determines the overall readiness for independent learning. Within the framework of the conducted research, the following tasks were solved: identifying students' attitudes towards self-education and personal development, determining their level of mastery of self-education skills, assessing the degree of formation of skills in the field of independent educational activity, and proposing ways to stimulate self-education in future primary school teachers during their professional training.

The solution to the problem of forming the professional competence of future primary school teachers in higher educational institutions is related to the application of advanced achievements in pedagogical science. In this regard, systemic, personality-oriented, and competency-based approaches play an important role, as well as the creation of methodological conditions that contribute to the effective implementation of modern teaching methods in the educational practice of universities.

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Worth Noting:

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Uzbek Culture: A Timeless Heritage

The essence of Uzbek culture lies in its ability to balance tradition and modernity. While urbanization and globalization introduce new ideas, the core values—respect for family, hospitality, and communal solidarity—remain deeply ingrained in the society.



By: Dildora Khojyozova
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Worth Noting:

- Music and dance play a central role in Uzbek life, accompanying both celebrations and daily activities. Traditional instruments like the dutar, tanbur, and doira produce melodies that have been cherished for centuries. Folk dances, performed at weddings and festivals, celebrate life, nature, and social values, often telling stories of heroism, love, and community.
- Oral traditions, including proverbs, epics, and storytelling, are equally significant. They educate, entertain, and instill moral values. Through these forms, Uzbek culture preserves historical memory, reflects social norms, and inspires civic responsibility. Uzbekistan is home to many vibrant festivals, such as Navruz—the celebration of the spring equinox—and traditional wedding ceremonies.
- These events are not only joyful gatherings but also important cultural rituals that strengthen family and community ties. Food, clothing, and rituals are carefully prepared, reflecting regional identities and centuries-old customs.

Uzbekistan is a land rich in history, culture, and traditions that have been preserved over millennia. Its culture reflects the experiences of countless generations, blending influences from various civilizations while maintaining a unique national identity. From art and music to customs and festivals, Uzbek culture is a vibrant testament to human creativity, resilience, and social cohesion.

The essence of Uzbek culture lies in its ability to balance tradition and modernity. While urbanization and globalization introduce new ideas, the core values—respect for family, hospitality, and communal solidarity—remain deeply ingrained in the society. This dynamic ensures that Uzbek culture continues to thrive, inspire, and evolve. One of the most remarkable aspects of Uzbek culture is its traditional arts and crafts. Textile weaving, embroidery, carpet-making, and ceramics have been perfected over centuries. Each region of Uzbekistan has its distinct style, colors, and patterns, reflecting local history and identity. For example, Samarkand and Bukhara are famous for their intricate silk embroidery and silk carpets, symbols of artistry and elegance. Craftsman-

ship is not only a form of artistic expression but also a means of passing knowledge from one generation to another. Master artisans often train young apprentices, preserving techniques and cultural wisdom. This process strengthens intergenerational bonds and ensures that cultural heritage remains alive. Music, Dance, and Oral Traditions

Music and dance play a central role in Uzbek life, accompanying both celebrations and daily activities. Traditional instruments like the dutar, tanbur, and doira produce melodies that have been cherished for centuries. Folk dances, performed at weddings and festivals, celebrate life, nature, and social values, often telling stories of heroism, love, and community.

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joyful gatherings but also important cultural rituals that strengthen family and community ties. Food, clothing, and rituals are carefully prepared, reflecting regional identities and centuries-old customs. Hospitality is another hallmark of Uzbek culture. Guests are treated with respect and generosity, symbolizing moral and social values. Schools, universities, and cultural centers teach history, literature, arts, and traditional crafts. Showcase artifacts, ensuring that citizens and visitors understand and appreciate the nation's rich heritage. By educating young generations about

their culture, Uzbekistan strengthens national identity and pride. Cultural literacy empowers citizens to respect tradition while contributing to modernization, fostering a harmonious society where past and present coexist. Uzbek culture is a timeless heritage that combines history, artistry, social values, and human creativity. It continues to thrive despite global changes, offering lessons in resilience, unity, and pride. From traditional crafts to music, dance, and festivals, Uzbekistan's cultural legacy inspires both citizens and the world. Preserving and celebrating this heritage ensures that future generations

will continue to enjoy, learn from, and contribute to the richness of Uzbek culture.

Dildora Khojyozova is a dedicated Geography student from Uzbekistan with a strong interest in culture, environment, and social development. She is active in academic research and cultural projects, aiming to explore and promote her country's heritage. Passionate and curious, Dildora aspires to make a positive impact both locally and globally.



In Africa's Creative Economies, Women Are Claiming Ownership

On International Women's Day, the deeper question is authorship

By: Libby Allen
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Worth Noting:

• In Senegal, Diarra Bousso grew up in a home where art and style were a daily language. She went on to study mathematics, worked on Wall Street, and came back to Dakar with a model for a fashion and lifestyle brand: nothing gets made until someone has asked for it.

• DIARRABLU, the brand she built from her parents' rooftop, uses proprietary mathematical algorithms to generate designs, puts them to a community vote before a single garment is cut, and produces entirely on demand – achieving a 60% reduction in waste, and cutting excess stock. Her supply chain is almost entirely Senegalese artisans. The IP – the algorithms, the methodology, the design system – is entirely hers. The value is in Bousso's process, and the process is owned.



Each March, International Women's Day fills the calendar with campaigns, flowers, and carefully timed announcements. The day has real historical weight – born from early twentieth century demands for the right to work, vote, and organise. The question it rarely reaches is the one worth asking: not who is being celebrated, but who controls what they have built.

In African creative industries in 2026, that question has instructive answers. They're economic, not symbolic. And they're being written by women.

The ownership argument
In Senegal, Diarra Bousso grew up in a home where art and style were a daily language. She went on to study mathematics, worked on Wall Street, and came back to Dakar with a model for a fashion and lifestyle brand: nothing gets made until someone has asked for it. DIARRABLU, the brand she built from her parents' rooftop, uses proprietary

mathematical algorithms to generate designs, puts them to a community vote before a single garment is cut, and produces entirely on demand – achieving a 60% reduction in waste, and cutting excess stock. Her supply chain is almost entirely Senegalese artisans. The IP – the algorithms, the methodology, the design system – is entirely hers. The value is in Bousso's process, and the process is owned.

In South Africa, game studio Nyamakop spent years building something hard to copy. Relooted, released last month, is a heist adventure set in a futuristic Johannesburg in which the player recovers 70 real African artefacts from Western museums and private collections. The game was built by a team drawn from more than ten African countries. Mohale Mashigo – its narrative director, a novelist, and comic book writer who has also worked for Marvel and DC – is precise about ownership. Every artefact in the game maps to a real object with a documented history

belonging to a named people.

That specificity isn't just artistic rigour. The world of Relooted is built so it can't be detached from its own context and repurposed elsewhere. Culture travels differently when it's self-authored.

In Nigeria, Mo Abudu applies the same logic to distribution. EbonyLife Media – the production house and TV network she founded in 2012, whose films and series have drawn millions of viewing hours – launched EbonyLife ON Plus in November last year. It's a membership-based platform designed to keep the value of African storytelling on the continent. The platform is new; the strategy is not: own the infrastructure, or someone else sets the terms.

Three countries. Three creative sectors. Find the point in the chain where value is captured. Own it.

Owned but exposed
AI-generated content has intensified the pressure. GenAI models are trained, in

large part, on creative output they don't pay for – and whether that output counts as a compensable input is now being tested in courtrooms and policy chambers. In African creative economies, where the volume of visual, narrative, and cultural material is vast and formal IP infrastructure is uneven, exposure is significant. Women's creative output is feeding systems they don't own.

The AI question and the infrastructure question aren't separate. One is playing out in courtrooms. The other is playing out in markets.

Narrative control
Reaching the right markets requires a different kind of ownership. Africa isn't a single market. It is 54 distinct countries, each with its own media landscape, languages, cultures, and decision-makers. Many communications partners offer visibility but don't know the nuances of each market; they're not present on the ground – so they offer approximation, which costs while the narra-

tive is diluted. The same logic that drives Bousso to keep her algorithms proprietary, that drove Mashigo and Nyamakop to build a game precisely, that led Abudu to build her own platforms rather than license outward – it applies here too. Who tells the story, in which markets, in whose language, through which channels: this is where narrative control is either held or lost. For brands to reach across Africa, brand communications must be African.

What happens next?
International Women's Day will generate thousands of posts this March. It's worth watching what happens in the days after – whether the women building ownership across African creative industries control more of their work, their distribution, and their narrative than they did the year before. That is the only measure that matters.