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Newsletter 31 | May 2025



Running Like a Cheetah



Over the past month, I engaged in three high-level governmental interactions. In **Djibouti**, I participated in the national Forum and contributed an interpretation of the country's unique positioning, reflecting arguments I first outlined in African Business ("Djibouti is a country that defies categorisation," [read here](#)). In **Togo**, I joined the launch panel of the new **OECD-led assessment** of the country's transformation path. In **Ghana**, I was the special **guest at the Cabinet's retreat**, where I presented my analysis of Ghana's structural transformation needs. In each of the three countries, I had the opportunity to meet with the Presidents for frank discussions about the current geopolitical moment.



This month, I reflected on the shifting dynamics of global governance, particularly how the erosion of consensus-based decision-making will profoundly impact future multilateral negotiations. This piece is part of a broader series assessing the prospects of the G20, now under South Africa's Presidency – a critical moment for Africa's role in global economic governance. My analysis was first published by **Daily Maverick** under the title "[Erosion of consensus-based governance will have profound impact on multilateral negotiations](#)". I am also pleased to have joined the newly established [G20 Africa Expert Panel](#) to contribute directly to this evolving agenda.

My latest contributions



Le Monde/ Al Jazeera
I have been analyzing the implications of rising U.S. protectionism, particularly its effects on Africa's trade reorientation. In an article for **Le Monde**, "[L'offensive protectionniste américaine risque d'accélérer la réorientation des pays d'Afrique vers d'autres puissances commerciales](#)", I argued that America's renewed trade barriers could accelerate Africa's shift toward new commercial alliances. I also contributed to a broader discussion on **Al Jazeera** on "[How much will Trump's new tariffs hurt other countries and US consumers?](#)", highlighting the global consequences of this protectionist turn.



The Africa Report
This month, I gave an interview to **The Africa Report**, "[Africa turns to Gulf states to fill gaps left by China and the West](#)," where I discussed how Africa is increasingly looking to Gulf states to fill the gaps left by China and Western partners. The perspectives shared in the interview generated strong interest, leading to its republication across four different platforms – a sign of the growing relevance of Africa's shifting global alliances.



China Daily/ Xinhua
This month, two major Chinese media outlets – **Xinhua**, the country's main news agency, and **China Daily**, its leading foreign-language newspaper – published interviews with me on the impact of U.S. trade policy on Africa. In Xinhua ("U.S. tariffs inflict disproportionate harm on African economies," [read here](#)) and in China Daily Asia ("US tariff tsunami seen to wreck disproportionate havoc on African economies," [read here](#)), I discussed how the latest wave of U.S. tariffs could have devastating effects on African economies, exacerbating existing vulnerabilities.



Le Monde
As part of my ongoing analysis of shifting global dynamics, I was featured in **Le Monde** ("Africa struggles to defend its interests against Donald Trump," [read here](#) in English and [here in French](#)), discussing how Africa is navigating the renewed challenges posed by U.S. protectionism. The piece highlights the difficulties African countries face in asserting their interests amid rising geopolitical pressures.

My Videos and Podcasts



Mozambique Peace Deal, TRT Africa, 1 April

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La Bataille de la BAD, RFI, 29 April

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