

## Support for the One China policy

South Africa, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Mali and numerous other African countries have reaffirmed their support for China's claim to Taiwan in the run-up to the start of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC). Under the one-China policy, China regards Taiwan as an inalienable part of the Republic of China. While Taiwan continues to defend its independence, it is now only formally recognized on the continent by Eswatini, having previously maintained 30 embassies across Africa. Other countries continue to maintain economic relations. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, about 72% of operating copper and cobalt mines are Chinese-owned, including the second largest cobalt mine and the fifth largest copper mine in the world, the Tenke Fungurume Mine. 05.09.2024

## Botswana: Parliamentary elections on 30 October 2024

President Mokgweetsi Masisi, who is running for a second five-year term, announced in a televised address that October 30 and 31 will be public holidays so that people can vote "in large numbers"; he also said that parliament will be dissolved on September 5. Botswana is a multi-party democracy where general elections are held every five years. The ruling Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) has been in power since independence from Britain in 1966. The party received just over 52% of the vote in the 2019 elections, ahead of the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) party, which received almost 36% of the vote. Masisi (BDP) will run against Duma Boko, 54, of the UDC and Dumelang Saleshando, 52, of the smaller Botswana Congress Party. 05.09.2024

## Japan strengthens cooperation

Japan will have a full embassy and a permanent ambassador in Victoria as part of the Japanese government's commitment to strengthen cooperation with Seychelles by upgrading its embassy in the island nation. Japan supported the island nation in the fight against drugs and crime (UNODC) and the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) promoted maritime law enforcement. Common interests include maritime security, blue economy (marine economy), fisheries and connectivity; (= digital networks, from mobile and fixed structures to the internet, including cables and satellites). 04.09.2024

## Sierra Leone: Daily meals for primary school children

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) welcomes the Government of Japan's contribution of approximately USD 1.36 million to support 28,800 primary school children in Pujehun District in the 2024-2025 school year. With this contribution, WFP will provide daily hot and nutritious meals made from Japanese rice along with fresh vegetables sourced from local smallholder farmers. The aid will benefit 137 government and government-supported elementary school in six chiefdoms in Sierra Leone, which are affected by acute food insecurity and vulnerable to climate change. Japan has been the WFP's second largest donor over the past five years, providing almost US\$15 million worth of food aid through the WFP on an ongoing basis. 04.09.2024

## Tanzania: Trade relations with Brazil

Bilateral trade between Tanzania and Brazil has reached a volume of 74.8 million US dollars (203.2 billion euros) in ten years, reflecting steady growth in economic

relations between the two countries. The increased trade volume corresponds to an increase of 13% in 12 years. Brazil's main exports to Tanzania are poultry meat, heavy construction vehicles and raw sugar, while Tanzania exports vinyl polymers and also raw tobacco. 04.09.2024

## Winning hearts with satellite TV

As African heads of state and government gather in Beijing this week for the triennial China-Africa Summit, Chinese President Xi Jinping can do big with one thing - satellite television. Almost nine years ago, President Xi promised heads of state attending the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) in Johannesburg that China would provide digital television to over 10,000 remote villages in 23 African countries. With over 9,600 villages having received satellite infrastructure, the project is now nearing completion. An obvious gesture of goodwill and an opportunity for China to demonstrate its soft power in a strategically important region. 03.09.2024

## Russian fighters needed in Europe

Russia is withdrawing 100 of its paramilitary officers from Burkina Faso to help in the war in Ukraine. They are among around 300 soldiers from the *Bear Brigade* - a private Russian military company - who arrived in the West African country in May to support the military junta there. 03.09.2024

## Namibia: combating water shortages

Due to an unprecedented drought in southern Africa, the Namibian government has decided to release over 700 wild animals - elephants, antelopes, buffalo, zebras and wildebeests - for shooting and distribute the meat to the starving population. This would save the animals from dying of thirst and reduce the conflict between humans and animals over water and food. Over 150 animals are said to have already been shot and their meat distributed. Animal rights activists are outraged. The government should look for alternative solutions. It has not examined the extent of the impact on the economy and tourism in Namibia. 02.09.2024

## Uganda: The waste avalanche of Kampala

A huge pile of garbage on the outskirts of Uganda's capital has slid down and buried houses, people and animals. 14 people were able to save themselves. Using shovel excavators - with an unbearable stench and the nuisance of flies - 34 bodies were recovered. After a week, there were still people missing. People have to be resettled because of the new danger of landslides in the coming rainy season. Uganda does not yet have a waste separation system and the waste disposal plan announced in 2022 is slow to be implemented. 02.09.2024

## Burkina Faso: Nationalization of two gold mines

Until Tuesday, August 27, 2024, the Boungou and Wahgnion gold mines in Burkina Faso were owned by an African mining company. However, Ouagadougou has reached an agreement to nationalize the mines for around USD 80 million. The nationalization follows a growing pattern of African governments, particularly those under military juntas, seeking to exert greater control over their natural resources. 31.08.2024

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

South Africa: China deepens economic ties