



### **[China builds space alliances in Africa as Trump cuts foreign aid](#)**

On the outskirts of Cairo, a cutting-edge space lab was supposed to be the first in Africa to produce homegrown satellites. Step inside the plant, though, and the made-in-Africa image begins to fade. Satellite equipment and parts arrive in crates from Beijing. Chinese scientists scan space-tracking monitors and deliver instructions to Egyptian engineers. A Chinese flag hangs from one wall. The first satellite assembled at the factory, hailed as the first ever made by an African nation, was built mainly in China and launched from a spaceport there in December 2023. Reuters.

### **[Africa's nuclear ambitions: Will China's partnership with Nigeria leave France in the dark?](#)**

Nigeria has declared that it wants nuclear power by 2030 and has just signed an agreement with Beijing. Does that mean Paris has already lost the race? When China's foreign minister, Wang Yi, visited Nigeria on 9 January he was unstinting in his praise for what he called a "friendly and equal" partnership between Abuja and Beijing. As Africa's leading trade partner, China is keen to showcase its ties with Nigeria as a model of 'win-win' South-South cooperation. That goes beyond the usual arenas of infrastructure or trade — China is Nigeria's biggest supplier — and extends into nuclear energy. The Africa Report.

### **[Power vacuum in west Africa's Sahel: 3 ways China could fill the gap as west exits](#)**

With France fast losing its influence in west Africa's Sahel region and an unpredictable US president in power, will China fill the vacuum? The Sahel region covers 10 countries: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, The Gambia, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal. French troops have been expelled from three of these — Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger — after military coups. Chad, Senegal and Ivory Coast have also expelled French troops. The troops were there because of the security threat from extremist groups like Boko Haram and Islamic State West Africa Province. The Conversation.

### **[China, Africa join hands for bright future](#)**

As the sun dipped below the horizon and cast a fiery glow over Koniobla, a village southeast of Bamako, the capital of Mali, the darkness crept in swiftly, wrapping the village in silence. For years, nighttime meant the end of all activities in the village in the West African country, but things changed just one day after China's solar technology brought light, as well as vitality, to the community in 2023. "We no longer worry about access to water or electricity. Thank you, our Chinese friends, for helping us build power stations, install lights and dig water wells," said Jean Doumbia, the village chief. As one of the least-developed countries in the world, Mali faces a severe electricity shortage, with its rural electrification rate standing at below 20 percent, despite its abundance of photovoltaic resources. Ecns.cn.

### **[Trump's South Africa Bashing Plays Into China's Hands](#)**

It seems fair to say that South African President Cyril Ramaphosa was blindsided by his US counterpart's response to a land-expropriation law. Since Ramaphosa signed off on the legislation a little more than two weeks ago, President Donald Trump has canceled US aid to South Africa (with some belated exceptions)

and offered refugee status to the country's relatively privileged Afrikaans minority. The government has refuted Trump's accusation that land has been confiscated, saying the law is similar to legislation in other countries. Bloomberg.

### **[Open University of Kenya launches China-Africa digital learning hub](#)**

The Open University of Kenya (OUK) has launched two pioneering digital education centres in collaboration with the Open University of China and Donghua University. The Open Learning Center Future Academy Programme and the China-Africa Regional Cooperation Center for Digital Education are set to revolutionise access to quality digital learning across Africa. The initiative aims to facilitate the development of academic and non-academic programmes, support staff capacity building, and promote joint course offerings, reinforcing OUK's position as a leader in digital education. The Standard.

### **[EU seeks to protect its ties in Africa amid growing geopolitical rivalry with China and Russia](#)**

The European Union is confronting significant challenges in maintaining its long-standing ties with Africa, as it faces rising competition from China and Russia in the region, according to experts.

While the EU has been Africa's biggest export market for years, it has lost ground to these emerging powers, particularly in trade and security. In recent years, China and Russia have made inroads into Africa, offering economic and military support that the EU has struggled to match. "Europe is retreating from Africa in what seems likely to be the greatest shift of all in the 21st century's new era of tectonic geo-political change," says Giles Merritt, the founder of Friends of Europe. North Africa Post.

### **[Chinese peacekeeping force to South Sudan wins Green Camp title](#)**

On February 7, local time, the 15th Chinese peacekeeping force to the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) passed the camp assessment conducted by the UNMISS Environment Department and was awarded the Green Camp title. The Green Camp assessment is a comprehensive assessment conducted annually by the UNMISS Mission Support Division on the environmental conditions of the peacekeeping camps of different troop-contributing countries. The UN camps are categorized into three levels, i.e. green, yellow and red, in the environmental inspection. The peacekeeping troops' camps meeting the Green Camp criteria will be entitled to a one-year exemption from the inspection. China Military.