

- Africa Partnership:

uneven progress, I remain deeply optimistic about Africa's future.

This optimism is grounded in expanding democracy, improved security, rapid economic growth, and greater opportunities for Africa's

and we were unsure of his ability to combat terrorist groups like al Shabaab or lead Somalia's democratic transition.

After meeting with President Sharif, Secretary Clinton told me two things: "Don't let the TFG fall," and "Don't let al Shabaab win." Well, as you all can probably imagine, I did not sleep much the night

South Sudan, the African Union, and many others to

should stay in its barracks. I personally travelled to Nigeria to encourage all of Nigeria's senior leaders of the past ten years to follow the constitution, and to urge that no one attempt to hijack the political process. After a momentary false start, Nigeria's elections went smoothly. And during the first round of the 2011 elections, I remember observing dedicated Nigerian poll workers count presidential ballots using only light from their cell phones. The commitment of Nigeria's young poll workers, the hundreds of thousands of Nigerians who waited in lines for hours to vote, and all those in Nigeria who worked to keep Nigeria's political process on track ensured the success of the 2011 elections and encapsulated Africa's newfound opportunity and optimism.

I witnessed the same commitment to democracy in Kenya in 2010. The United States worked hand-in-hand with Kenyans across the country to ensure a peaceful constitutional referendum designed to reduce the drivers of political conflict that killed so many Kenyans following the disputed election of 2007.

Our message to those across Africa who have attempted to derail the democratic process has been clear: the United States will not stand on the sidelines when legitimately elected governments are threatened or democratic processes are manipulated. When Senegal's democratic

tradition was threatened, I urged President Abdoulaye Wade to live up to his democratic principles and to defend the Senegalese constitution. When he chose to put his own interests above those of his people, we sided with the Senegalese people. Senegal subsequently held another peaceful, democratic election and transfer of power. When a military junta in Guinea-Conakry committed massive human rights abuses, we acted. Working with the governments of Morocco, Burkina Faso, and France, the United States confronted the junta leaders, and I personally met with General Konate in Rabat. Our diplomacy paved the way for Guinea's first free, fair, and peaceful election since achieving independence in 1958. When military coups struck in Niger and Mauritania, we worked with local leaders, regional partners, and the international community to restore democracy to both countries as quickly as possible.

means independent courts, legislatures, and electoral commissions. It means a free press, rule of law, and local civil society organizations with the room to operate and speak freely without intimidation from government authorities. And it means respecting opposition parties' ability to hold peaceful public protests and openly criticize those in power.

Across Africa, President Obama, Secretary Clinton, and I have worked to strengthen the capacity of legislatures to play more effective oversight roles. We have partnered with the African Union, the African Union, and the African Union, an organization that has been instrumental in promoting democratic governance across the continent. We have also worked with the African Union, the African Union, and the African Union, an organization that has been instrumental in promoting democratic governance across the continent.

the Secretary's Human Rights Defender Award for 2011, which is the State Department's most prestigious international human rights award, to a coalition of Ugandan LGBT NGOs.

Our partnership with Africa on democracy, governance, and human rights is vitally important, but it is just one area of our partnership. President Obama, Secretary Clinton, and I also have focused on promoting Africa's economic expansion.

African economies are among the fastest growing on the planet, and are increasingly attracting foreign trade and investment. And technological change is sweeping across Africa. Today, women in rural markets in Nigeria are using cell phones to move money and check prices in markets several villages away. Bankers in Dakar are trading with brokers in New York. These are exciting, revolutionary changes. According to *The Economist* magazine, seven of the ten fastest growing economies in the world are in Africa. One thing this statistic means is that Africa is beginning to catch up with the world economy. If you look at the list of seven countries, several of them, such as Zambia, Ghana, and Ethiopia, are increasingly complex economies where inclusive growth and middle classes are taking hold. Non-oil related growth has averaged over five percent in Africa over the past five years,

and over the next five years Africa's average growth rate is likely to surpass that of Asia.

These trends are permanently changing Africa's economic and political systems by opening them

Republic of Congo, or DRC; the Central African Republic; South Sudan; and the African Union, the United States also is supporting regional efforts to eliminate the threat posed by the brutal Lord's Resistance Army. In Mali, the United States supports French military action, an accelerated ECOWAS deployment and the provision of assistance to that African-led mission, the need for a roadmap to restore democratic governance, and urgent assistance to address humanitarian needs.

In the eastern DRC, where more than five million people have been killed during 15 years of violence, the United States is working with UN, European, and regional partners to identify immediate and long-term solutions to end the eastern Congo's cycle of instability. In November 2012, when the M23 rebel group took control of the city of Goma, I travelled to Kampala, Kigali, and Kinshasa with my British and French counterparts to deliver a common message to Uganda, Rwanda, and the DRC. After that mission, the M23 withdrew, and Presidents Kagame, Kabila, and Museveni initiated talks.

The fourth pillar of this Administration's engagement with Africa – alongside democracy, security, and economic growth – is promoting opportunity and development, with a particular focus on women and youth. Women comprise half of Africa's population, but often are excluded from Africa's formal economy. To address this imbalance, we

have increased diplomatic and development efforts designed to empower women and girls through programs like the African Women's Entrepreneurship Program. And we have partnered with the next generation of African leaders through the President's Young African Leaders Initiative. The President and First Lady have personally hosted events in the United States and Africa focused on developing and supporting young African leaders, promoting entrepreneurship, and building partnerships between young Africans and Americans.

To promote opportunity through stability and growth, this
Administration also

While Somalia and South Sudan have made significant progress, they still have a long ways to go. Mali and the eastern DRC pose serious threats to regional stability and the futures of millions of civilians in conflict-affected areas. In Kenya, the United States already has provided over \$30 million since 2008 for elections preparation and voter education programs, and we will continue to engage Kenyans at the highest levels of our government to underscore the need for peaceful and credible elections this March. In Zimbabwe, we remain steadfast in our demand for a free and transparent constitutional referendum, followed by national elections. We also must continue to seek out creative ways to spur trade and investment, promote opportunity, and advance development throughout Africa. And in helping to address all of these challenges, we must continue to strike a balance between achieving our diplomatic goals, and protecting our people as best we can.

I began this speech by noting that I am deeply optimistic about Africa. In May 2000, *The Economist* ran a black cover with a map of Africa and a picture of a child holding a rocket launcher under the headline: “The Hopeless Continent. “ Then, in December 2011, the same magazine published a different cover, this time with a child flying an Africa-shaped kite under a blue sky and the headline: “Africa Rising.” There is no doubt in my mind that Africa is rising. Africa is moving forward. American businesses, elected officials, NGOs and, lest

I forget, American diplomats who realize this now will have a significant advantage over those who have yet to realize that the 21st century will belong to Africa.

Thank you. I look forward to taking your questions.

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