

AFRICA DIGEST

Monthly Compilation of News Items from Africa

November 2025



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Prime Minister Sri Narendra Modi participated in the G20 summit, held at Johannesburg, South Africa from 21st to 23 November. This marked the fourth consecutive G20 Summit held in the Global South. The Prime Minister addressed all three sessions of the upcoming G20 Summit, which were focused on inclusive and sustainable economic growth, global resilience in areas such as climate action and food systems, and a fair future centered on critical minerals, decent work, and responsible AI. Officials also noted that he held several bilateral meetings on the sidelines in Johannesburg and joined the India Brazil South Africa Leaders' Meeting hosted by South Africa.

On the opening day of the summit, Prime Minister Modi proposed six new initiatives aimed at global development. These included the setting up of a Global Traditional Knowledge Repository, Africa Skills Multiplier program, Global Healthcare Response Team, initiative on Countering the drug-terror Nexus, Open Satellite Data Partnership, and a Critical Minerals Circularity initiative.

In the second session on building a resilient world, Prime Minister Modi highlighted India's push for cleaner, more secure and more inclusive development. He proposed a new Critical Minerals Circularity Initiative that would boost recycling, urban mining and second-life battery projects to strengthen global supply chains and support greener growth. He also spoke about the Open Satellite Data Partnership, which

would make G20 space-agency data available to developing nations for agriculture, fisheries and disaster management.

Modi stressed that global cooperation is essential to tackle climate change, secure food systems and ensure fair energy transitions. He pointed to progress made under India's G20 Presidency, including the Deccan Principles on Food Security and the creation of the Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group. He urged countries to work with the CDRI to expand access to finance and technology. Emphasising the climate threat to agriculture, he outlined India's own large-scale programmes on food security, health coverage and crop insurance as examples of inclusive, human-centric development.

In the third session, Prime Minister called for a fundamental change in promotion of critical technologies. He stressed that the applications of such technologies should be "human-centric" rather than "finance-centric", "global" rather than "national", and based on "open source" rather than "exclusive models". He also highlighted India's people-first tech vision, stressing fair access to AI, global rules for its safe use, and the need to build future-ready skills. He urged talent mobility, invited nations to India's 2026 AI Summit, and reaffirmed India's commitment to inclusive, sustainable progress.

After Prime Minister Narendra Modi met his Australian and Canadian counterparts parallel to G20 Summit in Johannesburg, a new trilateral technology and innovation partnership involving India, Australia, and

Canada was announced. In his social media post, he shared that the Australia-Canada-India Technology and Innovation (ACITI) Partnership was being launched to bring democratic partners across three continents closer together. The initiative is aimed at strengthening cooperation in emerging technologies, diversifying global supply chains, advancing clean energy solutions, and encouraging the widespread use of artificial intelligence. The announcement reflected a shared commitment to building a more secure, innovative, and future-ready global tech ecosystem.

South Africa Sets Ambitious, People-Centred Vision for Its G20 Presidency

South Africa has assumed the [G20 Presidency](#) at a moment when the world is grappling with overlapping crises, from climate change and economic instability to rising inequality and slow progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). With only 12 percent of the SDG targets currently on track, South Africa is using its presidency to push for a fundamental shift in global policymaking that puts inequality, sustainability and human well-being at the centre.

Guided by the African philosophy of Ubuntu, which emphasises shared humanity and collective progress, South Africa has adopted the theme Solidarity, Equality, Sustainability. These principles shape its call for the global community to recognise that no country can thrive in isolation and that the interconnected crises facing the world demand shared solutions.

A key priority for the presidency is strengthening disaster resilience, especially

as climate-induced disasters strike with increasing intensity. South Africa aims to rally international financial institutions, development banks and the private sector to scale up support for countries unable to bear the heavy costs of rebuilding.

Another major focus is addressing the debt burdens faced by low-income countries. Many developing economies, particularly in Africa, spend more on debt servicing than on healthcare, education or infrastructure. South Africa hopes to advance reforms that make sovereign debt management fairer, promote transparency in credit ratings and tackle the high cost of capital that traps many nations in a cycle of underdevelopment.

The presidency will also champion increased financing for a just energy transition. This includes strengthening multilateral development banks, improving support for country-led platforms such as South Africa's own Just Energy Transition Partnership, and encouraging private investment in clean energy. Ensuring that African countries benefit directly from the extraction and development of their critical minerals is another priority, especially as demand surges for minerals needed in renewable technologies.

South Africa has also outlined three high-level task forces focused on inclusive economic growth, food security and the responsible governance of artificial intelligence. These task forces will work closely with G20 Working Groups to drive concrete outcomes.

Crucially, South Africa aims to broaden participation in the G20 process. Building

on Brazil's efforts, it plans to involve civil society, youth, think tanks, labour groups and others through platforms such as the C20, T20, Youth20 and Women20. This inclusive approach seeks to give the G20's decisions wider legitimacy and ensure that policy solutions reflect diverse global perspectives.

With its call for unity and shared progress, South Africa hopes to use its presidency to steer the G20 toward meaningful action at a time when global cooperation is more essential than ever.

Germany returns Ethiopian artefacts after more than a century

Twelve Ethiopian historical artefacts have been repatriated after being kept by a German family for more than 100 years. These included crowns, shields, paintings, and gifts from Regent Tafari Makonnen, which are of cultural and historical importance. The artefacts were originally collected in the 1920's by Germany's then-envoy to Ethiopia Franz Weiss and his wife Hedwig. They are now housed at the Institute of Ethiopian Studies at Addis Ababa University (AAU). The successful return was facilitated by the German Embassy in Addis Ababa.

The Ethiopian Ministry of Tourism has stated that the repatriation of artefacts is bound to significantly strengthen Ethiopia's heritage, research capabilities and tourism sector. The official handover of the artefacts took place at the historic Ras Makonnen Hall and was attended by the Minister of Tourism, Selamawit Kassa, AAU President Samuel Kifle, and Ferdinand von Weyhe, the German Charge

d'Affaires. Speaking at the event, Minister Selamawit called it a "historic moment", noting that Professor Ramon Wyss and his niece Alice Wise were returning important artefacts to the Institute of Ethiopian Studies.

Germany's envoy to Ethiopia, Ferdinand von Weyhe, said the returned artefacts remain a powerful reminder of the deep and longstanding ties between the two countries. At the handover ceremony, Professor Ramon Wyss explained that his family felt a strong responsibility to bring the items back to Ethiopia. His father was born in Addis Ababa during the family's diplomatic posting, and Wyss said returning the artefacts was their way of honouring that connection. He added that the family wanted the pieces to be appreciated by the Ethiopian public and to help preserve the culture and history linked to his father's early life.

The Wyss family said the 12 artefacts they returned to Ethiopia had been carefully preserved over generations, having originally come into their possession as gifts or purchases made by Fritz Weiss in the 1920s. Ethiopian Tourism Minister Selamawit Kassa expressed deep appreciation, saying the family had shown genuine affection for Ethiopia by safeguarding these items and ensuring their return. She noted that the artefacts offer rare insight into Ethiopian craftsmanship of the 1920s and will soon be available for public viewing, research and academic study.

Selamawit added that this handover marks a significant milestone in Ethiopia's effort to reclaim cultural heritage removed over

the years, including during colonial-era plunder. She highlighted ongoing work to recover historic items held overseas.

Germany's chargé d'affaires, Ferdinand von Weyhe, praised the Wyss family's role in bringing the artefacts home, noting that the repatriation process had been underway since 2016 in cooperation with Ethiopia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Society of Friends of the Institute of Ethiopian Studies. He said the embassy would commemorate the occasion with a special exhibit at the Goethe Institute featuring rare photographs taken by Envoy Weiss and his wife Hedwig.

African nations' efforts to reclaim cultural treasures taken during earlier eras have seen growing progress in recent years, although some restituted objects have been offered only on temporary loan. In 2022, Germany became the first country to formally return a number of the renowned Benin Bronzes to Nigeria as part of a broader attempt to confront its colonial past.

Terrorism in Africa Identified by UN as an Escalating Danger to Global Stability

On November 17th 2025, UN Secretary-General António Guterres stated “Expanding terrorist networks, mass displacement and the collapse of essential services in West Africa and the Sahel are a growing concern worldwide.” He further elaborated that the growth in terrorist groups was “not only a regional dramatic reality..... Progressive links of its groups in Africa and beyond make it a growing global threat.”

According to the 2025 Global Terrorism Index (GTI), published by the Institute for Economics and Peace, the Sahel region accounted for 19 percent of all global terror attacks and 51 percent of global terrorism-related deaths. Presently around four million people are displaced across Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, and the neighbouring countries. This has raised concerns regarding the terrorist activities in the region among the international community.

Mr. Guterres called for a stronger, more coordinated regional push to tackle the escalating terrorism crisis across Africa. He urged governments to work together through unified strategies, improved intelligence sharing and tighter financial tracking, including through the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Compact and ECOWAS mechanisms.

Guterres warned that humanitarian needs in the Sahel and Lake Chad Basin remain critically unmet, with less than a quarter of the \$4.9 billion required for relief efforts funded so far. This shortfall, he said, leaves millions vulnerable and creates conditions in which extremist groups can expand.

Emphasising that “terrorists thrive where the social contract is broken,” he stressed the need to pair security responses with long-term investments in poverty reduction, basic services and sustainable development. Without addressing the root causes fuelling instability, he cautioned, the cycle of violence will only deepen.

Omar Aliou Touray, President of the ECOWAS Commission, cautioned the UN Security Council that terrorism is no longer

confined to the Sahel or the Lake Chad Basin — it has now spread across nearly all of West Africa. In response, he said ECOWAS is fast-tracking the deployment of its regional standby force. The initial phase will include 1,650 personnel, with plans to expand to about 5,000 troops as more support from regional states and partners becomes available.

Touray noted that although many partners have launched initiatives to counter extremist groups, the sheer number of separate efforts has led to “fragmentation.” This lack of coordination, he warned, weakens the collective fight. He stressed that West Africa must prioritise unity, saying that even the best funding and equipment will fall short without genuine collaboration and shared strategy. “Our differences shouldn’t divide us—they should be resolved,” he added, urging leaders to close ranks.

Sierra Leone’s President Julius Maada Bio — who currently heads both the country and the UN Security Council for November, as well as serving as ECOWAS chair — echoed these concerns. He called for [ECOWAS](#) to see itself not just as a regional organisation, but as a “community of courage” capable of guiding the region through instability. He argued that rebuilding democratic trust, strengthening regional security, and acting decisively against extremists must now be central priorities.

To support this vision, President Bio proposed a new joint framework involving ECOWAS, the UN, and the African Union. This compact, he suggested, would provide

a more predictable and coordinated system for financing and overseeing counter-terrorism operations across West Africa. Such a mechanism, he said, is essential to restore stability, reinforce democratic governance, and ensure the region can respond to emerging threats with unity and clarity.

Sudan faces mass displacement and humanitarian crisis in wake of civil war

By late October 2025, more than two years into Sudan’s brutal civil war, the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) [seized](#) El Fasher after an 18-month siege, tightening its grip over most of western Sudan. The city has since witnessed harrowing reports of mass killings, widespread abuses, and a deepening humanitarian collapse. As violence spreads into the Kordofan region —now the battleground between RSF-controlled west and Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF)-held east— estimates suggest the conflict may have already claimed over 150,000 lives.

Sudan was already in [crisis](#) before the war began in April 2023, with nearly 16 million people needing aid. But the conflict has pushed the country to breaking point: more than 12 million people have been displaced, and 30.4 million — over half the population — now rely on humanitarian assistance. Sudan today faces the world’s fastest-growing displacement crisis and one of the most severe humanitarian emergencies in modern history.

The independent human rights groups have [expressed](#) alarm over the deteriorating situation in Sudan as there have been

reports of trafficking of women and girls for sexual exploitation and sexual slavery. After the fall of El Fasher, children are also being recruited as fighters. These reports indicate that unaccompanied and separated women, girls and children are at an elevated risk of sexual violence and sexual exploitation.

To tackle this situation, alongside United Nations Organisation (UNO), [United Kingdom](#) (UK) announced a £5 million in emergency aid for Sudan, including £2 million dedicated to supporting survivors of rape and sexual violence amid the worsening crisis in Darfur. Days later, the UK joined G7 foreign ministers in a joint statement strongly condemning the RSF's escalating attacks on civilians and aid workers in El Fasher and North Kordofan. The group decried the war's devastating toll — including famine — and called for an immediate ceasefire, unhindered humanitarian access and a renewed push for diplomacy.

Speaking at the UN Human Rights Council on 14 November, Baroness Chapman warned that international inaction and ongoing impunity have allowed Sudan's conflict to spiral into the largest humanitarian crisis of the century. She stressed that both the SAF and RSF continue to block aid from reaching more than 30 million people in need and reaffirmed the UK's commitment, noting that it has already provided £125 million in humanitarian assistance this year.

Meanwhile, the UN Secretary-General's [Envoy](#) for Sudan, Ramtane Lamamra, is set to travel to Port Sudan and Addis Ababa

next week in an effort to revive political dialogue. His visit will center on pushing all sides to prioritise civilian safety and allow aid to move freely across conflict-hit areas, especially in Darfur and Kordofan, where humanitarian access remains dangerously restricted.

Coup in Guinea Bissau

Guinea-Bissau has entered yet another turbulent chapter after military officers ousted the country's president in a sudden coup on 26th November 2025. Just a day later, the army announced that General Horta Inta-A had been sworn in as the transitional president, leading a one-year interim government. In a televised statement, the general [defended](#) the takeover, claiming the military acted to protect the nation from growing threats to its stability. The announcement marks the latest in a series of political upheavals in the small West African nation, raising fresh concerns about its fragile democratic institutions and the uncertain road ahead.

Guinea-Bissau was thrown into turmoil when the military [arrested](#) President Umara Sissoco Embaló just hours before election results were due. Tensions had been rising after both Embaló and opposition candidate Fernando Dias claimed victory in Sunday's vote. Military leaders later appeared on national TV, saying they intervened to stop alleged attempts to manipulate the results. Dias, who also heads the electoral commission, was among those detained. The coup has drawn swift condemnation from ECOWAS and the African Union, especially as observers deemed the vote peaceful. The coastal nation, long plagued

by instability, has now seen nine coup attempts since 1974.

resident Umara Sissoco Embaló initially fled to neighbouring Senegal on Wednesday, just hours after a group of military officers declared they had assumed “full control” of the country. The move came ahead of the release of provisional results from Sunday’s vote—an election in which both Embaló and opposition contender Fernando Dias da Costa had already claimed victory, despite the likelihood of a second-round runoff.

The motives behind the coup remain murky, with rumours circulating that the operation may even have had Embaló’s tacit support. Many of the officers who emerged as the new power brokers—including newly appointed transitional president General Horta Inta-A and Prime Minister Ilídio Vieira Té—are known allies of Embaló. Té previously served as finance minister in his administration, adding to speculation about internal political manoeuvring rather than a straightforward military revolt.

International reaction has been swift and forceful. ECOWAS, the African Union, and the United Nations have all demanded the swift restoration of constitutional order and urged the military to allow the electoral commission to complete its work. Senegalese Prime Minister Ousmane Sonko publicly condemned the takeover as a “sham,” insisting that the democratic process must proceed and that only the electoral commission is authorised to declare the winner.

Back in Bissau, the military suspended the electoral process, closed borders and airspace, and imposed a curfew. Troops from the presidential guard and elite gendarmerie units fanned across the capital, manning checkpoints as sporadic gunfire echoed through the city before subsiding by early afternoon.

Speaking later to [France24](#), Embaló acknowledged, “I have been deposed,” though military sources assured local media he was being “well-treated.” The abrupt intervention marks yet another chapter in Guinea-Bissau’s long history of coups and political turbulence. With official results postponed and both leading candidates insisting they won, the country remains suspended in uncertainty—its fragile democracy once again overshadowed by power struggles within the military and political elite.