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IN FOCUS

Europe and Africa: Will AU and EU be equal partners?
Africa's slow COVID vaccination continues. Four reasons why

AFRICA IN BRIEF

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COMMENTARY

Europe and Africa: Will AU and EU be equal partners?

The EU-AU relations have the potential to become equal partners. However, it has a long way off having numerous challenges.

Anu Maria Joseph



Image Source: ConsiliumEurope

On 4 February, The European Union imposed In February, the European Union (EU) and the African Union (AU) held their sixth summit in Brussels. The summit introduced a "Joint Vision for 2030" aiming at a "renewed partnership." Before the summit, both sides aimed to reset years of an unbalanced relationship dominated by mistrust, grievances and disappointments. The two-day summit discussed matters of mutual interest to bring about a comprehensive Europe-Africa partnership along with the global challenges of climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic.

The summit served as an opportunity for both sides to transform the usual donor-recipient aspects into an equal partnership. It mainly focused on the goals for the future to build an area of solidarity, security, prosperity and mobility.

The President of the European Council, Charles Michel, said: "A new forward-looking ambitious spirit has emerged that must form the foundations of this special partnership between Europe and Africa." Senegal's President Macky Sall, who currently chairs the African Union, said:

"We now have a historic opportunity to look at the basis of a new kind of partnership, a renewed partnership, we want to build together".

EU and AU: Three major challenges

Although both the EU and AU have acknowledged the need to develop a strong partnership of equals, the deep-rooted challenges obstruct the progress.

First, the EU-AU relations have remained asymmetric; the EU unilaterally defined the terms of engagement, even when it rhetorically insisted on the idea of partnership. The EU's outlook on African development does not correspond to the needs of the continent. Human rights remain the basis for the EU's approach to trade and development cooperation with the AU. It reflects the lack of justice and mutual respect towards its African partners.

Second, even after the two decades, the AU still lag in its ability and capacity to act as an effective independent institution. It remains as an entity forged by foreign benefactors, especially the EU. Further, the AU's integration is often stumbled by internal divisions and distinctive expectations of its member states. In addition, while seeking access to EU trade and aid initiatives, European leaders have cultivated privileged ties with African elites and ignored the need of African public interests and capacity building.

Third, the issue of chronic instability in West Africa, ethnic-regional conflicts in the Horn of Africa and a dangerous

Islamist militancy followed by migration are great concerns for EU member states. In the past 18 months, a wave of military coups has taken place in Burkina Faso, Guinea, Mali and Sudan fuelled by impotent state institutions, corruption and economic insecurities.

The Road Ahead: Four potential areas of cooperation

Despite the above, the EU-AU's joint objective to develop as equal partners has enough potential.

First, the new initiatives. The EU's global gateway investment scheme is expected to re-ensure the EU as Africa's best partner, countering China's Belt and Road. The EU has promised 450 million vaccine doses to Africa by mid-2022. About EUR 425 million have been allocated to ramp up the pace of vaccination. These initiatives are expected to regain the trust of the African countries, which were disappointed with vaccine waiver and supply controversies.

Second, Africa's growing geostrategic significance. The heightened interests of the global powers bring the AU and its members better options to reduce its dependence on a single external partner EU. The development initiatives offered by China and the US provides options for Africa. Besides, Russia, India, Turkey, and the Gulf countries also have been competing for political, economic and military footprints in the Africa. The "new scramble" for Africa's emerging market, natural resources and geopolitical advantage provides an opportunity for both to rework their relationship.

Third, the recent institutional reforms of AU opened hopes for changes. In 2018,

the African Union adopted the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), which connects the 55 African countries to form the largest trade agreement in the world. The agreement creates a single continental market for goods and services to strengthen the economic integration of Africa. It has given foundations to the institutional reform of the AU, paving the way for pan-African progress. Parallel to AfCFTA, the African Union Passport project, giving visa-free travel between the Union's 55 member states, has given political momentum to the idea of pan Africanism. The long term prospects of the initiatives have the right potential for the AU to leverage its collective economic influence in its political relationship with the EU and other partners.

Finally, the EU remains the leading aid, trade and investment actor for AU member states. African exports of raw materials, chemicals, fishery and agricultural goods continue to be the mainstay for many European industries. Europe needs Africa as much as Africa needs Europe, even though both differ in their capacities.

The EU has to move beyond the aid centric and human rights-based approach to partnership. It is equally important for the AU and its member states to set agendas to ensure their concerns and interests are addressed. Besides, the AU needs to implement progressive resolutions to address the institutional challenges and foreign dependency. In sum, the two 'sister continents' have identified their potential and laid the foundations to redefine their strategic framework to be equal partners. However, the objective has a long way ahead with the challenges.

COMMENTARY

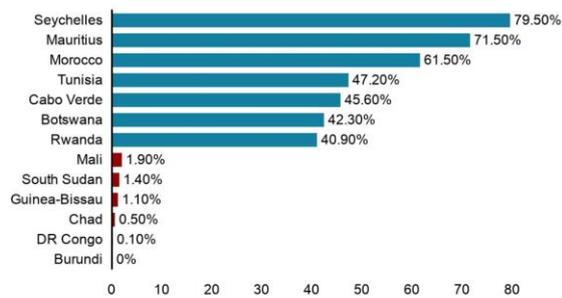
Africa's slow COVID vaccination continues. Four reasons why

Africa's vaccination programme remains slow; it is unlikely to meet its target of vaccinating 70 per cent of the population by June 2022.

Nireekshan Bollimpalli

Most and least vaccinated countries in Africa

Share of total population who received a full dose schedule



Source: World Health Organization (WHO), data as of 30 December

Image Source: BBC

The COVID-19 pose immense challenges to Africa. Since its outbreak in February 2020, Africa has witnessed four waves of COVID-19 driven by the emergence of new highly transmissible variants, though not necessarily fatal, than those in the preceding waves. The individual governments' response and capacity to deal with the virus effectively has improved. Intensive Care units have increased across the continent from eight per one million people in 2020 to nearly 20 today. The oxygen-producing capacities have improved, too, thanks to the concerted efforts of the national governments.

Despite the above progress, Africa's vaccination remains low, resulting in disastrous consequences if not addressed adequately. Africa's fragile and already strained healthcare systems are not ready to face the challenge that resulted in the loss of human lives and economic fallouts, which reversed years of progress that the continent has made in the recent past.

Until March 2022, Africa has received around 1.2 billion doses of vaccines. More than half of them (about 65 per cent) have been facilitated by COVAX, 29 per cent

through bilateral deals and goodwill and the rest six per cent through the African union's vaccine acquisitions trust. However, the rate at which people are vaccinated against COVID-19 is disappointingly low in the continent, with only around 12 per cent of the total population fully vaccinated. The average percentage of fully vaccinated people also varies between the countries. It is estimated that eighteen countries have vaccinated less than 10 per cent of their population, and three of them only less than one per cent. Such stark differences in vaccination rates can be observed in the case of Seychelles and Mauritius, who have inoculated 81 and 75 per cent of their populations, respectively (owing to lesser population), while countries like the Democratic Republic of Congo and Burundi have their vaccination rates well below 1 per cent. The differences can also be observed among countries with the same levels of population. For example, while South Africa has fully vaccinated 29 per cent of its population (with around 4 per cent already receiving the booster dose), Tanzania managed to inoculate only 4 per cent of its population. If these present trends of low vaccinations and regional disparities continue, it is improbable to meet the set target of vaccinating 70 per cent of the population by the middle of this year. This could also mean an impending risk from the upcoming variants, which could only be averted if there is a six-fold increase in the vaccination rates across the continent, according to the latest estimation by the World Health Organization. Although the target seems ambitious, it is impractical due to various factors that hinder and continue to affect

the vaccination efforts in the continent.

Four factors hindering Africa's vaccination

Africa's vaccination efforts are hindered by several factors that stand as a roadblock to the continent's fight against the virus. First, the widening supply gaps from various sources to Africa. They have fallen short of their targets, leaving the governments with no choice but to delay their vaccination campaigns. Export restrictions and hoarding by the developed countries are fueling these supply gaps. It is imperative that the partners in the developed world adequately address this issue and ensure timely and reliable delivery of vaccines as Africa is highly dependent on the vaccines coming from across the borders owing to their lack of vaccine manufacturing capabilities.

Second, Africa's ability to manufacture vaccines. Although efforts are being made by the African Union to scale up the local manufacturing capabilities, this largely depends on how quickly Europe is ready to make investments and support technology transfers to the continent. The recently concluded EU-AU summit had not been a major breakthrough in this context. The European Union's refusal to waive the patent restrictions not only constricts the transfer of relevant technologies to Africa but, in the long run, emerges as a roadblock to the EU-AU relationship. None of the vaccine manufacturing companies approved in the EU agreed to work with the African partners in the manufacturing process. This needs to change for good. A genuine cooperation and partnership relationship must be struck to expand the vaccination coverage and build a healthier world.

Third, logistical and operational issues contribute to the efforts. A lack of a proper cold chain infrastructure, problems in the logistical departments and corruption cause significant delays in adding costs to

imports. Low urbanization levels are adding to the already existing problems. Although the rate of urbanization increased in the past decade or so, large segments of the population still reside in remote areas, making it difficult to administer the doses. Lack of a national government plan, inadequate trained medical staff and digital barriers among the people are the other problems that dampen the pace of vaccination in the continent.

Fourth, mistrust and vaccine hesitancy is also driving down the demand for vaccines making it difficult to help people realize the public health importance of immunization.

To conclude, there is still a long way to bring the pandemic to manageable levels in Africa. The lack of urgency and commitment from the developed world to tackle the virus problem in the continent is partly the reason behind the half-hearted efforts from the African countries. Therefore, it is imperative now more than ever for a concerted and unified effort from all the relevant parties. Given the continuous emergence of new variants, it is only safe to dedicate the available resources towards containing the virus efficiently. Vaccinations must be ramped up equitably to meet the set targets.

Achieving 70 per cent immunization by June 2022 is doubtful, considering the low levels of planning and administration. The governments must formulate strategies based on practical realities rather than ambitions. The focus must be on eliminating the domestic bottlenecks that impede the vaccination efforts by devising clear vaccination plans, improving logistics, conducting mass vaccination campaigns, and adequately managing the doses received. All these initiatives could undoubtedly improve vaccine coverage in the continent in the months to come.

AFRICA IN BRIEF

9 March-15 March

by Anu Maria Joseph and Apoorva Sudhakar

ETHIOPIA

About 750 civilians killed and many tortured by the half of 2021: Ethiopian Rights group

On 11 March, the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission said that at least 750 civilians were killed or executed in Amhara and Afar regions in the second half of 2021. In the report released on 10 March, the country's rights body listed out the casualties and abuses including torture, gang rapes, looting, destructions and enforced disappearances. It said, about 403 civilians died and 309 injured in air raids, drone attacks and heavy artillery fire. Another 346 civilians lost their lives in extrajudicial killings by the parity forces. ("[750 civilians killed in Amhara in half of 2021: Rights body](#)," *Al Jazeera*, 11 March 2022)

About 53 people were killed in an unidentified armed group attack

On 14 March, Reuters reported that the EHRC said at least 53 people were killed after an unidentified armed group attacked a civilian convoy and its military escort in a Western Ethiopian region on 13 March. About twenty soldiers and three civilians were killed during the attack. Whereas, 30 attackers died in the long gun battle that followed. ("[Ambush and reprisals in Ethiopia kill 64 - rights body](#)," *Reuters*, 14 March 2022)

KENYA

President Kenyatta to back his rival for the elections

On 13 March, President Uhuru Kenyatta endorsed his former rival Raila Odinga as the presidential candidate for upcoming elections in August. Kenyatta said: "We have chosen Raila Odinga without any opposition, to be the fifth president of

Kenya" and Odinga accepted the nomination. In February, Kenyatta's Jubilee party announced that it would join the Azimio la Umoja (Quest for Unity) coalition headed by Odinga. The announcement brought together Kenya's top political opposing parties. ("[Kenya's President Kenyatta backs his former rival Odinga in polls](#)," *Al Jazeera*, 13 March 2022)

TANZANIA

Government set to evict local communities for trophy hunting

On 10 March, All Africa reported that thousands were protesting the government's eviction plan in Loliondo and the Ngorongoro Conservation Area. According to International Land Coalition-Africa, 70,000 and 93,000 are at the risk of eviction from these areas respectively; the government reportedly plans to use the land for trophy hunting and elite tourism. The Indigenous People's Rights International opined "displacing the 70,000 Maasai pastoralists with their 200,000 livestock will make them homeless and lose their cultural identity and rights." ("[Tanzania: Masaai Way of Life Threatened by Govt Plans for Trophy Hunting #AfricaClimateCrisis](#)," *All Africa*, 10 March 2022)

SOMALIA

UN short of funds to tackle drought; aid agencies say donors diverting funds to support Ukraine

On 9 March, the UN humanitarian coordinator for Somalia said funds were inadequate to address the drought in Somalia. The coordinator said the UN had achieved only three per cent of the USD 1.46 billion necessary for Somalia and said

the war in Ukraine had overshadowed the humanitarian crises elsewhere. On 10 March, BBC reported the concerns of aid agencies who warned that the Ukrainian crisis is leading to donors diverting their funds from Africa. The Norwegian Refugee Council and Oxfam reportedly estimated that donors had reduced funds to Africa by 70 per cent to help their Ukrainian operations. ("[UN worried about lack of funds to tackle Somalia drought](#)," *News24*, 9 March 2022; Will Ross, "[Aid drains from Africa as focus shifts to Ukraine](#)," *BBC*, 10 March 2022)

SUDAN

About 17 people killed in Darfur in a militia attack

On 11 March, BBC reported that at least 17 people have been killed and dozens injured in an attack in Jebel Moon in the conflicted Darfur region of Sudan. About four villages were attacked and burned down. The violence started on 10 March morning and continued for hours, quoted by a spokesperson in the AP news agency. It is assumed that the attack was caused by the clashes between Arabs and non-Arabs, said a local resident and activist. Earlier this week, another 16 people died in a similar attack in the same region. ("[17 killed in militia attack in Sudan - reports](#)," *BBC*, 11 March; Samy Magdy, "[Sudanese group says tribal clashes kill 19 people in Darfur](#)," *AP News*, 11 March 2022)

SOUTH SUDAN

WFP warns of hidden hunger emergency

On 11 March, the World Food warned that 70 per cent of South Sudan was on the verge of facing a hidden hunger emergency. The WFP press release outlined that 8.3 million people are likely to face extreme hunger in the upcoming lean season; the estimate includes refugees in South Sudan. The WFP said the crisis was fuelled by the existing "unprecedented levels of food insecurity caused by conflict, climate shocks, covid, and rising costs." ("[Families pushed to the limit as South Sudan braces for its worst hunger](#)

[crisis ever](#)," *World Food Programme*, 11 March 2022)

CHAD

Military government and opposition groups carry on peace talks in Qatar

On 13 March, the military government and the multiple opposition groups started peace talks in Qatar. The Doha meeting is expected to be the first step to end the rebellion and hold the elections. About 44 armed rebel and opposition groups attended the meeting. Chad, the landlocked African country, stepped into insurgency when the longtime leader Idriss Deby was killed last year. His son, Mahamat Idriss Deby took over the power, vowing to hold free elections. The opposition and rebel groups claimed Deby's takeover as a violation of the country's rules for presidential succession. ("[Chad military gov't, opposition groups hold peace talks in Qatar](#)," *Al Jazeera*, 13 March 2022)

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Militia killed 18 civilians in Ituri province

On 9 March, Reuters reported that about 18 civilians who had taken refuge in a church compound in Eastern Congo were killed by militiamen, said a witness and a local human rights group. The attack took place on 8 March in Banyali Kilo district of Ituri province. CODECO, one of the active armed groups in Eastern Congo is blamed for the attack. The militia group has killed hundreds of civilians in recent months. Congo's army troops which have been deployed in conflictual areas of North Kivu and Ituri provinces have been unable to stop the violence. ("[Congo militiamen kill 18 civilians in church compound](#)," *Reuters*, 9 March 2022)

NIGERIA

At least 19 security officials killed in a gunmen attack in Kebbi state

On 10 March, the Africa News reported that at least 19 security agents including 13 soldiers were killed in Kebbi state of Nigeria, when gunmen attacked the deputy governor's convoy, said local residents. On

7 March, a similar incident occurred in the same area where about 57 vigilantes were killed in an attack by gunmen, locally known as bandits. In the past few months, the security situation in the region has deteriorated even as the military attempts to take control of the bandits camps. ("[Gunmen in Nigeria attack deputy governor's convoy killing at least 19](#)," *Africanews*, 10 March 2022)

Ex-Boko Haram members graduate from de-radicalisation camps

On 14 March, BBC reported that 559 ex-Boko Haram members will be reintegrated into the society shortly. The development comes after the ex-members graduated from a de-radicalisation camp in Gombe State. De-radicalisation camps were started in 2015 by the military as part of the government's counter-terrorism initiatives. (Ishaq Khalid, "[Former Boko Haram militants to rejoin communities](#)," *BBC*, 14 March 2022)

SENEGAL

Military launches operation against MFDC separatists

On 13 March, the military Chief of Staff announced an operation against the Casamance separatists. Al Jazeera quoted from the military statement which said the operation aimed at dismantling the Movement of Democratic Forces of Casamance (MFDC) and safeguarding people and property. The development came after the MFDC fighters killed four Senegalese soldiers and captured seven captured near the border with the Gambia. ("[Senegal begins military operation against Casamance secessionists](#)," *Al Jazeera*, 15 March 2022)

BURKINA FASO

Over 30 people killed in three days

On 14 March, eight people were killed in an attack by armed fighters in Soum province, an area reportedly impacted by presence of groups linked to al Qaeda and the ISIS. The development brings the total

death toll of people killed by armed fighters in three days to over 30. On 13 March, 15 people, including 13 military police officers were killed in a similar attack. On 12 March, an assault on a gold mine claimed nine lives. ("[Burkina Faso: More than 30 killed in attack on town of Arbinda](#)," *Al Jazeera*, 14 March 2022)

MOZAMBIQUE

Death toll rises to 11 as Cyclone Gombe makes landfall

On 13 March, Africanews reported at least 11 people had died after Cyclone Gombe made a landfall on 11 March, destroying Nampula and Zambezia provinces. The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) said around 115,000 people were impacted. Several roads and agricultural lands were left inaccessible. Previously, southern Africa was severely impacted after tropical storm Ana made landfall and claimed 88 lives in January. ("[Cyclone Gombe kills at least 11 in Mozambique](#)," *Africanews*, 13 March 2022; "[Seven dead as Cyclone Gombe hits Mozambique](#), president says," *News24*, 11 March 2022)

SOUTH AFRICA

President appoints a new Chief Justice.

On 10 March, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa appointed jurist Raymond Zondo as the country's new chief justice, who will be in charge from 1 April. Since 2017, Zondo has been the deputy chief justice at the Constitutional Court. He became popular with President Ramaphosa's anti-corruption drive followed by the inquiries into the widespread corruption allegations under the presidency of Jacob Zuma. Ramaphosa said "The Chief Justice stand as the champion of the rights of all South Africans and bears responsibility for ensuring equal access to justice," adding that he is confident that Justice Zondo "will acquit himself with distinction in this position." ("[South Africa's Ramaphosa appoints new chief justice](#)," *Al Jazeera*, 10 March 2022)

South Africa most unequal country, says World Bank report

On 9 March, the World Bank released a report “Inequality in Southern Africa” wherein it outlined that South Africa was the world’s most unequal country. The report said over 80 per cent of the country’s wealth is owned by 10 per cent of the population. The report said race continued to play a role in driving inequality in South Africa despite the abolition of apartheid decades ago. The report revealed: “The legacy of colonialism and apartheid, rooted in racial and spatial segregation, continues to reinforce inequality,” adding, race contributed to 41 per cent of the income inequality in the country. (“[South Africa most unequal country in the world: Report](#),” *Al Jazeera*, 10 March 2022)

REGIONAL

CAR’s ex-militia leader surrendered by Chad

On 14 March, the International Criminal Court said Chad had handed over Maxime Jeoffroy Eli Mokom Gawaka to the court. Mokom, a militia leader from the Central African Republic is accused of crimes in a sectarian conflict between rebel coalition Seleka and anti-Balaka forces during 2013 and 2014 when the former overthrew President Francois Bozize in 2013. Mokom led the anti-Balaka forces and in 2019, he became the disarmament and demobilisation minister. The ICC holds that there are “reasonable grounds” to believe that Mokom was involved in crimes against humanity, including enforced disappearances, torture, persecution and murder, “intentionally directing an attack against the civilian population” and enlisting fighters as young as 15 years. (“[Chad surrenders Central African ex-militia head to ICC](#),” *Al Jazeera*, 15 March 2022)

19 migrants go missing in the Mediterranean

On 12 March, The Guardian reported that at least 19 people had been missing after a

boat with 23 migrants capsized in the Mediterranean Sea. The Libyan coastguard said the migrants were Egyptians and Syrians. The International Organization for Migrants (IOM) said at least 192 people had drowned in the Mediterranean and 2,930 had been intercepted and returned to Libya in the first two months of 2022. (“[At least 19 migrants missing after boat capsizes off coast of Libya](#),” *The Guardian*, 12 March 2022)

INTERNATIONAL

Ukraine withdraws troops and equipment from UN missions.

On 9 March, a UN official said that Ukraine will withdraw its troops and equipment including helicopters from UN peacekeeping missions in Africa and Europe ahead of the Russian invasion. Ukraine contributes about 300 troops, police officers and staff to the UN peacekeeping mission. MONUSCO, the largest mission among them, is concentrated in Democratic Republic of Congo. Ukraine has troops in Mali, South Sudan and Sudan. (“[Ukraine to pull troops and equipment from U.N. missions](#),” *Reuters*, 9 March 2022)

IMF warns of food insecurity and fuel price hike in Africa prior to the Ukraine war

On 10 March, the International Monetary Fund’s chief warned that the Ukraine war threatens Africa’s improvements in recovering from the damage caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and unleashes new challenges for the continent. IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva warned of the vulnerability of Africa to the impacts of the war- food price hike, increasing fuel costs, lower tourism revenues and difficulties to access international capital markets. Georgieva said: “At this difficult moment, the fund stands ready to help African countries reduce the cost of any needed policy adjustments through policy advice, capacity development, and lending. Recent reforms to the fund’s lending toolkit

provide greater flexibility to help meet financing needs.” (Eric Martin, “[IMF Chief Says Ukraine War Threatens Africa in Food, Fuel Prices](#),” *Bloomberg*, 10 March 2022)

Blinken meets Ivory Coast’s PM

On 14 March, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken met with Ivory Coast’s Prime Minister Patrick Achi. The meeting focussed on the disbursement of the USD 524.7 million under the Millennium

Challenge Corporation (MCC). The PM also outlined the security challenges in the country. The meeting comes after Ivory coast hosted the Flintlock, a US-led military counter-terrorism training programme in February. (“[US’s Blinken meets Ivory Coast PM to discuss trade, security](#),” *Al Jazeera*, 15 March 2022)

About the authors

Anu Maria Joseph is a postgraduate scholar at the Department of Political Science in Madras Christian College, Chennai. Nireekshan Bollimpalli is a Postgraduate Scholar at Christ (Deemed to be University). Apoorva Sudhakar is a Project Associate at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru.

About NIAS Africa Studies

As a part of the area studies initiatives, the Institute started a focussed study on Pakistan in 2020. In 2021, it expanded the area studies to include Europe Studies, China Reader, and Maritime Studies. In 2022, the Science, Technology and International Relations (STIR) programme at the Institute is further expanding its area studies, to include Africa.

The primary focus of NIAS Africa studies would be on the following five verticals: contemporary political issues, colonial legacies, problems of governance, civil-military equations, and the rise of radical Islamic groups. The primary objective is to study Africa from an internal prism. ,

NIAS Africa Studies would include a series of expert lectures, workshops, publications and a weekly exclusively focussed on Africa. The initiative also aims to create a network of young scholars studying Africa and also African scholars studying in various Indian institutions.

About the team

Apoorva Sudhakar

Apoorva Sudhakar is a Project Associate at the School of Conflict and Security Studies at the National Institute of Advanced Studies. Her areas of interest include peace and conflict in Africa and South Asia. She has previously worked on the conflict over the Nile Dam and the abductions in Nigeria.

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Mohamad Aseel Ummer is a postgraduate scholar in International Relations and Political Science at the Central University of Kerala. His areas of interest include conflicts in Africa and the rising threat of Islamist insurgency in the continent, and political dynamics in Southeast Asia.

Anu Maria Joseph

Anu Maria Joseph is a postgraduate scholar at Department of Political Science in Madras Christian College, Chennai. Her areas of interest include democracy in Africa, human rights issues, ethnic conflicts in Africa, Afro-European and Afro-China relations.

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Other publications from the NIAS-STIR Programme

NIAS Global Politics
The World This Week
Current | Background | Analysis

CWA 4425, 12 December 2021

The Biden-Putin, and Modi-Putin Summits
President Joe Biden and Russian President Vladimir Putin meet in a video conference in a diplomatic effort to reduce the building tensions in the eastern bank of Ukraine.



The US and Russia: Biden-Putin video conference
On 7 December, US President Joe Biden and Russian President Vladimir Putin met in a video conference in a diplomatic effort to reduce the building tensions in the eastern bank of Ukraine.

The US-Spain's Security Advisor like Afghanistan - President Biden was disappointed with President Putin, as he views the increased American support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. He said President Putin's desire for a Russian ally in Ukraine, the United States and the European Union would require a strategic reassessment. He also said President Putin's nuclear option, Americanisation of Ukraine.

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The World This Week
Current | Background | Analysis

CWA 4424, 14 November 2021

The Coal compromise at COP 26, Xi's power consolidation in China, and a Migrant Crisis in Europe
Russia, UK, Canada, India, and France Crisis (Challenges)



The Glasgow Compromise on Coal: Phasing down, instead of phasing out
The Glasgow summit managed to reach a compromise on coal, and agreed to "phase-down" instead of "phase-out".

The Glasgow Compromise on Coal: Phasing down, instead of phasing out
The Glasgow summit managed to reach a compromise on coal, and agreed to "phase-down" instead of "phase-out".

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CWA 4423, 23 November 2021

Biden-Xi virtual summit, and Russia's ASAT test
Aviation | India and Russia | Middle East



China: 'Virtual meeting between Biden and Xi calls for greater cooperation'
Xi Jinping said the Biden-Xi summit was a "historic first step" towards normalizing relations between the two countries.

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The World This Week
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CWA 4407, 07 November 2021

COP 26 agreements on methane and deforestation, and elections in Japan
Aviation | India and Russia | Middle East



COP26: Focus on Deforestation, Methane, and Coal
On 13 October, COP 26, the UN Climate Change Conference began in Glasgow, United Kingdom. It is being hosted by the UK in partnership with Italy, and will conclude on 13 November. The UN Secretary-General António Guterres introduced "No Net Land Use Change" as the main goal of the summit.

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NIAS FORTNIGHTLY ON
science, technology & international relations

11 January 2022, Vol. 1, No. 11

Reviewing the COP 26: Major Agreements, Issues, and Challenges
COP 26 concluded with three major agreements on methane, coal and deforestation. Previous initiatives agreements on methane, coal and deforestation have not been able to deliver the commitment. The new agreements will have to be the highlight of the previous ones to be successful.

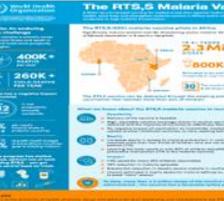


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science, technology & international relations

17 October 2021, Vol. 1, No. 11

Will against Malaria: Will the WHO-Approved RTS,S Vaccine be a gamechanger?
Though the newly approved RTS,S vaccine provides a ray of hope for regions severely affected by malaria-like Africa, the road ahead is a long and difficult one. Producing more efficacious vaccines, increasing healthcare funding, and a deeper research agenda of the Global South towards the Global South are some of the key challenges in the way of the complete elimination of malaria.



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NIAS FORTNIGHTLY ON
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7 September 2021, Vol. 1, No. 09

Drones: The Evolution, Types, Hypes and Controversies
Drones have evolved from being mere tools for surveillance to a quintessential element of power, prestige and technical prowess.



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28 December 2021, Vol. 1, No. 12

The Race for Hypersonic Missiles
In the 21st century, hypersonic missile technology has become the need of every country. It is viewed as a tool to counter present China, the US, Russia, and North Korea have already tested missiles. Several countries like India, Australia, France, Germany, and Japan are also focusing on the development of hypersonic technology. The consequences of the race, however, would be catastrophic.



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NIAS Area Studies
EUROPE MONITOR

Vol. 01, No. 01, December 2021

The Endgame Belarus-Poland Migrant Crisis



The European Union, Google, and the antitrust bill
"Her heart beats too": Poland's anti-abortion protests continue
The US-EU Steel and Aluminium Trade Rests Five Takeaways
The Impact of Climate Change on the European Wine Industry

NIAS Area Studies
EUROPE MONITOR

Vol. 01, No. 01, November 2021

Recent terror attacks in Europe: Five trends from England to Norway



Poland, the EU, and a Complicated Polesxit
The Belarusian strategy for push migrants into Europe
Germany and the European Energy Crisis
Europe's Warming Energy Crisis
Facebook's Metaverse and Europe

NIAS Area Studies
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Vol. 01, No. 01, December 2021

Terror Trial in Paris



Switzerland Referendum on Same-Sex Marriages
Polio's Europe Strategy
Migrant Crisis in Belarus
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