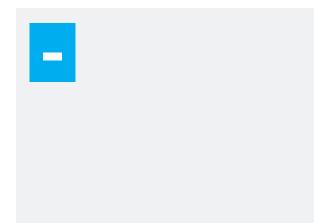
MEASURING AFRICA

BY EMIRA WOODS
INSTITUTE FOR POLICY STUDIES

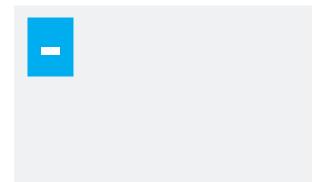
OVERALL



LEGISLATION



SPENDING



APPOINTMENTS

Special Envoy to Sudan Scott Gration's meeting with the Darfur advocacy community before a trip to Sudan was welcome. Assistant Secretary of State for Africa Johnnie Carson has already reached out to the Africa advocacy community before his confirmation. But many key posts relating to Africa, however, remain unfilled.

EXECUTIVE ORDERS

President Obama enacted Deferred Enforced Departure for Liberians, which prevents the forced deportation of Liberians living in the United States.

COMMUNICATIONS

Little communication has been forth-coming from the Obama administration on overall Africa policy. Similar to the Bush administration, there seems to be no comprehensive policy articulated as of the first 100 days.

WAR / PEACE

There is no clear position from the Obama administration on AFRI-COM. The Obama administration has done little to address the conflict in the Congo. Remarks on Somali piracy didn't address root causes or recommend positive solutions to the crisis, but the administration recognizes that there can be "no purely military solution."

INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMACY

The administration has supported the indictment of Sudan's President, Omar Al Bashir, by the International Criminal Court for crimes against humanity, war crimes, and possibly genocide. Yet, the United States still hasn't signed on to the Rome Statute to participate in and strengthen this global tribunal.

HUMAN RIGHTS / DEMOCRACY

The administration condemned the coup in Madagascar. It has also supported the African Union's call for sanctions against the coup leaders in Mauritania. This is a change from the Bush administration, where U.S. interests in oil and other strategic resources often led to deal-making with undemocratic governments.

GREEN / ENVIRONMENT

Obama administration pledges toward a new global green economy make little mention of the African continent.

ECONOMIC EQUITY

The Obama administration joined other wealthy nations in giving additional power, leverage, and resources to the International Monetary Fund, the very institution that caused the severe economic crisis in Africa and much of the world.