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News Worth Knowing

The Daily Brief is taking a summer break from August 12 - August 23, and will be back on August 26.

Editor's note

Sudan's ruling Transitional Military Council and the country's main opposition coalition, the Forces of Freedom and Change (FFC), on Sunday [signed a constitutional declaration](#) outlining the structure of a planned three-year transition.

According to the deal a joint civilian and military council will be appointed on August 18, followed by a prime minister on August 20, and a cabinet on the 28th.

After months of tense talks, and deadly crackdowns on protesters, this is as close as Sudan has come to making an unlikely transition. Eight months ago former president Omar al-Bashir - ousted in April - was in his 30th year in power, presiding over one of Africa's most entrenched autocracies.

It's a moment of opportunity, but caution is advised.

The catalyst for the mass protests that led to Bashir's removal - [a crumbling economy](#) - remains. Official inflation stands at 47.8% amid shortages of basic goods, while the IMF expects the economy to shrink by 2.3% in 2019, following a 2.1% contraction last year.

Assuming the agreement is implemented - a final version is to be signed on August 17 - reversing this must be an urgent priority.

This also isn't the first deal to be signed, and [there is suspicion](#) that the military is just trying to appease mediators.

Let's hope this time is for real.

Today's picks

From the continent

Nigerian authorities on Saturday arrested Omoyele Sowore, a high profile activist and outspoken critic of the government, for allegedly inciting revolution in Africa's biggest economy. His detention comes amid fears about rising repression under president Muhammadu Buhari. **More:** [Reuters](#)

Zambia's finance ministry has said it plans to delay the introduction of a new non-refundable sales tax on goods and services, replacing replacing Value Added Tax, until January 2020. The proposed tax, 9% and 16% on locally supplied and imported goods respectively, has angered miners in Africa's second-biggest copper producer, who warn it will stifle investment. **More:** [Africanews](#)

The Daily Stat

\$1.80

The current average price per kilogram of Kenyan tea, the lowest in five years due to excess supply and weak demand. **More:** [Reuters](#)

The Global Perspective

Russian president Vladimir Putin has ratified a 'Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Agreement' with Egypt signed in October, the latest example of efforts by Moscow to ramp up engagement with Africa. The first ever Russia-Africa summit is due to take place in Sochi on October 24. **More:** [Egypt Today](#)

Uganda has started the largest ever trial of an experimental Ebola vaccine expected to be deployed in neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo, where a more than year-long outbreak has left at least 1,800 people dead. In July the World Health Organization declared it an international emergency. **More:** [Africanews](#)