

MEMORANDUM

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The Memorandum is issued daily, with the sole purpose to provide updated basic business and economic information on Africa, to more than 4,000 European Companies, as well as their business parties in Africa.

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AFRICAN LEADERS SIGN 'CAPE TO CAIRO' FREE TRADE BLOC DEAL

African leaders signed on Wednesday a potentially historic 26-nation free trade pact to create a common market spanning half the continent from Cairo to Cape Town.

The deal on the Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA) caps five years of negotiations to set up a framework for preferential tariffs easing the movement of goods in an area home to 625-million people.

Analysts say the pact could have an enormous impact for African economies, which despite growth still only account for about 2% of global trade.

The TFTA pact was signed by Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe, Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn of Ethiopia and Mohamed Bilal, vice-president of Tanzania, at a summit in the Red Sea resort town of Sharm el-Sheikh.

But hurdles remain, with the timeline for bringing down trade barriers yet to be worked out and the deal needing ratification in national parliaments within two years.

"What we are doing today represents a very important step in the history of regional integration of Africa," Mr Sisi said as he opened the summit.

Addressing the summit, World Bank president Jim Yong Kim said the TFTA would allow Africa "to make tremendous progress and move the entire continent forward".

"Africa has made it clear that it is open for business," he said.

The deal will integrate three existing trade blocs — the East African Community, the Southern African Development Community and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (Comesa) — whose countries have a combined gross domestic product (GDP) of more than \$1-trillion.

"The geographical area covers Cape to Cairo ... the agreement paves the way for a continental free trade area that will combine the three biggest regional communities," Mr. Desalegn said at the summit.

Mr Mugabe said the deal will create a "borderless economy" that would rank 13th in the world in terms of GDP.

Members of the three blocs range from relatively developed economies such as SA and Egypt to countries such as Angola, Ethiopia and Mozambique, which are seen as having huge growth potential.

Negotiators drafted the deal this week at Sharm el-Sheikh, and said it had addressed concerns such as management of trade disputes and protection for small manufacturers once the TFTA comes into force.

Officials said the agreement envisions the eventual merger of the three blocs.

"The ultimate goal is to ensure easy movement of goods in these countries without duties," said Peter Kiguta, director-general of the East African Community.

The TFTA has been widely welcomed by world business leaders, with experts pointing out that only 12% of Africa's trade is between countries on the continent.

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development said in 2013 that if Africa is to boost its intra-continental trade, it must focus on creating "more space for the private sector to play an active role".

Analysts say that although the continent's growth over the past 15 years outstripped global GDP expansion by nearly three percentage points, falling commodity prices, power shortages, political instability and corruption are still holding back its economies.

Egyptian Minister of Industry and Trade Mounir Fakhri Abdel Nour told AFP the TFTA will help Africa boost trade and attract investments, while also building infrastructure and production capacities.

"Egypt itself expects to export about \$5bn worth of goods over the next five years" to TFTA countries, he said.

Officials said companies would benefit from an improved and harmonised trade regime, which would reduce the cost of doing business by eliminating overlapping trade rules.

"What we have realised is that having one trade regime is better than the costly multiple trade regimes," said Comesa secretary-general Sindiso Ngwenya, who led the negotiations among the three blocs. (AFP 10-06-2015)

EU INCREASES INVESTMENT AND BUSINESS COOPERATION WITH LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

The European Commission has today announced €118 million of new support for Latin America and the Caribbean, to increase EU investment and business cooperation in the region.

The announcement was made at the European Union (EU) - Community of Latin America and Caribbean States (CELAC) Business Summit.

Commissioner Mimica, responsible for International Cooperation and Development, said: *"Today's event is an opportunity for businesses from both sides of the Atlantic to come together, share ideas and strengthen ties. The new programmes signed today will help to further strengthen inclusive growth for European and Latin American societies."*

Elżbieta Bieńkowska, Commissioner for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs said: *"Business creates the jobs and growth we need, on both sides of the Atlantic. SMEs have a lot to gain from internationalisation. This event can help build and strengthen partnerships and extend value chains connecting our continents."*

Several new programmes announced today will be implemented through blending facilities (financial mechanisms combining grants and loans). They promote additional investment and key infrastructure in the transport, energy and environment sectors, and support the social and private sector's development in Latin American and Caribbean countries.

Some examples of the projects announced in the framework of today's event include:

- An investment grant of €15 million for the Geothermal Development Facility Latin America which focuses on the development of geothermal energy in Latin America.
- A contribution for an energy project for the Eastern Caribbean (€4.25 million of EU grant funding). This project gives technical assistance and invests in energy efficiency and renewable energy.
- The 5th phase of the AI-Invest programme (with total funding of €26 million) that facilitates access to international markets for Latin American small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

The European Union is also launching the European Union and Latin American business services and innovation network (ELAN) programme. Its aim is to promote EU business development in Latin American countries and technology-based business opportunities among EU and Latin American companies, with a total budget of €11 million. The programme is deployed in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Peru, Mexico and Costa Rica.

In the context of the Business Summit a new agreement between the European Commission and the Interamerican Development Bank (IDB), represented by its president Luis Alberto Moreno, has also been signed, to foster the close cooperation of these leading donor organisations.

The Business Summit, under the theme *"Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean: Promoting inclusive and sustainable growth by enhancing the role of Small and Medium Sized Enterprises,"* brings together 500 high-level participants from the business community, financial institutions and policymakers from across EU and CELAC Member States.

The conclusions of the Business Summit will be submitted as a formal recommendation to the EU-CELAC Heads of State and Government Summit. This is the 5th Business Summit between the two regions, after the previous ones held in Vienna (2006), Lima (2008), Madrid (2010) and Santiago de Chile (2013). Further information: <http://eucelac-bizsummit2015.eu/> (EC 10-06-2015)

EU-CELAC BUSINESS SUMMIT: NEW PROGRAMMES TO INCREASE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO REGIONS

EU-CELAC Business Summit heralds new funding for regional development

Commercial ties between the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean have doubled over the last decade boosting exports and jobs. As leaders from the Community of Latin America and Caribbean States met with European officials in Brussels today, several new projects were forged to elevate our trade ties and grow investment in small-to-medium sized enterprises, road infrastructure, water sanitation and sustainable energy among others, totalling €118 million.

The two regional programmes unveiled for Latin America are:

1. AL-INVEST 5.0 - Better Policies for the Growth of Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises in Latin America

The AL-INVEST Programme has been a flagship programme of EU cooperation with Latin America, facilitating the expansion of thousands of Latin American SMEs since 1993. The 5th phase of AL-INVEST 5.0 counts on a budget of **€26 million**.

The last phase of AL-INVEST (from 2009 to 2013) achieved some impressive results:

- The generation of €84 million exports in the region Mexico, Central America and Cuba alone. Each euro of EU contribution generated five euros of new business;
- The creation of more than 20,000 direct and more than 60,000 indirect jobs in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru;
- More than 6,500 SMEs in the Andean Region increased their exports, of which more than 1,000 became first-time exporters.

2. The new ELAN programme: European and Latin American Business services and Innovation network

A new programme of support for EU SMEs and the creation of alliances between EU and Latin American companies has also been launched. It has the objective of supporting EU companies to develop businesses in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Peru, Colombia, Mexico and Costa Rica. The focus, although not exclusive, is on sustainable businesses (ICTs, biotechnology, new materials, clean technologies and the green economy, nanotechnologies).

The programme is divided into two parts:

1. Part I will provide information on markets of interest to EU companies through a web platform and a team of professionals.
2. Part II organises events in each of the seven Latin American countries to develop technology-based business opportunities among EU and LA companies, with the collaboration of research and technology centres.

The programme will last three years and the budget is **€11 million**. It is being implemented in close cooperation with other existing EU initiatives such as the European Enterprise Network (EEN) and the IPR Helpdesk.

Programmes within the framework of the Caribbean Investment Facility (CIF)

Another part of the programmes announced today are financed through the regional blending facilities that the EU has set up in both regions: the Caribbean Investment Facility (CIF) and the Latin America Investment Facility (LAIF). Blending is a financing instrument combining EU grants with loans or equity from public and private financiers.

The programmes within the framework of the **Caribbean Investment Facility (CIF)** are:

- **EU - Suriname – Inter-American Development Bank (IDB): Support to Improve Sustainability of the Electricity Service**

The CIF investment grant of **€5 million** (out of a total investment of €42.77 million), expected to be signed with the Government of Suriname, is being provided as part of a programme to improve the sustainability of the local electricity service. The programme is part of a national strategy to design and implement a Sustainable Energy Framework in the country. Specifically, the programme will support the national electricity company Energiebedrijven Suriname (EBS) in improving its operational procedures and the provisioning of rural areas in Suriname. The CIF grant will promote the use of renewable energy technologies for electrification in the rural areas of Suriname by financing the procurement and installation of one small hydro power plant and one solar photovoltaic system in the hinterland.

- **EU - Belize – Inter-American Development Bank (IDB): George Price Highway Rehabilitation**

The CIF investment grant of **€5 million** (out of a total investment of €21.5 million), expected to be signed with the Government of Belize, is part of a programme to finance the rehabilitation of the George Price Highway. This programme aims to improve road connectivity between the northern, southern and central regions of Belize, as well as with Central America, including Mexico. Along with rehabilitation and maintenance works, the programme will include an institutional strengthening component to enhance transport planning, road maintenance management and training in related areas. The CIF grant will be used to cover the cost of the Roaring Creek Bridge replacement (€2.6 million) plus approximately 4 km of road rehabilitation. The rehabilitation of the Roaring Creek Bridge is of particular importance because it will guarantee access to the only evacuation route to the West during extreme weather events. Moreover, loss of access to the bridge cuts off a critical evacuation route during severe storm events and severely hampers trade with Guatemala as well as tourism in the country.

- **EU - Regional – Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) as lead Finance Institution and Department for International Development (DFID): Sustainable Energy for the Eastern Caribbean (SEEC)**

A Contribution Agreement is expected to be signed with the CDB for a CIF contribution of **€4.45 million** (including a €200,000 management fee for the CDB), including both technical assistance and an investment grant, to support the SEEC Programme. The Programme is designed to channel resources to the six OECS countries (Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, the Commonwealth of Dominica, St. Kitts and Nevis, and St. Lucia) on appropriate terms for technical assistance and investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy. By facilitating investments in renewable energies and energy efficiency, the programme will contribute to reducing electricity costs and prices for business, the administration and consumers alike. The Programme will also contribute to lowering the amount of recurrent foreign exchange committed to fossil fuel imports in the six OECS beneficiary countries, while decreasing greenhouse gas emissions.

- **EU - Regional – Agence Française de Développement (AFD) as lead Finance Institution and Caribbean Development Bank (CDB): Credit Facility for Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)**

There will be an announcement of the approval by the CIF Board on a CIF contribution of **€3 million**, in the form of technical assistance, to a credit facility provided by AFD to CDB. The credit facility will promote and finance infrastructure projects in the Caribbean in sectors such as energy, transport, water and sanitation, climate change mitigation and resilience. The technical assistance financed through the CIF will support member countries in the preparation and follow up of new projects.

- **EU - Dominican Republic – Agence Française de Développement (AFD): Increasing Efficiency in Water and Sanitation Management**

The CIF Board will announce their approval of a CIF contribution of **€10 million**, including both technical assistance and an investment grant, to a programme aiming to increase efficiency in water and sanitation management in the Dominican Republic. The programme will contribute to the investment programmes of two of the major service providers in the country, namely Instituto Nacional de Aguas Potables y Alcantarillados (INAPA) and Corporación del Acueducto y Alcantarillado de Santiago (CORAASAN), while reinforcing their efficiency and sustainability.

- **EU - Dominican Republic – European Investment Bank (EIB): Corporación Dominicana de Empresas Eléctricas Estatales (CDEEE) Energy distribution loss reduction programme**

There is to be an announcement of the approval by the CIF Board on a CIF investment grant of **€9.33 million** in support of an energy distribution loss reduction programme in Dominican Republic. The programme aims to reduce the commercial losses of the electricity distribution sector in the country, limiting the dependence of the national power sector in the Government's financial support and improving the availability of power supply to consumers.

The following projects have been announced under the Latin America Investment Facility (LAIF):

- **Regional – KfW Entwicklungsbank (KfW) as lead Finance Institution, Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), CAF – Development Bank of Latin America (CAF), European Investment Bank (EIB), Agence Française de Développement (AFD), World Bank Group (WBG), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA): Geothermal Development Facility Latin America**

There is to be an announcement of a positive opinion of the LAIF Board of the DCI Blending Framework on an investment grant of **€15 million** for the Geothermal Development Facility Latin America (GDF). The GDF aims to overcome existing barriers for the development of geothermal energy in Latin America by providing:

- (i) A tailored Geothermal Risk Mitigation Fund in order to facilitate project preparation and mitigate geothermal resource risk during the exploratory drilling stage of the project;
- (ii) Geothermal Investment Financing Windows to provide anchor financing for subsequent investments during the production drilling and construction stages of geothermal projects;
- (iii) A Technical Assistance Forum in order to coordinate and potentially execute existing and planned Technical Assistance activities and programs of the GDF members with the respective partner governments in order to ensure the implementation of appropriate regulatory and legal framework conditions. The LAIF investment grant complements a LAIF contribution for technical assistance provided in 2014.

- **EU - Regional – Agence Française de Développement (AFD) as lead Finance Institution, CAF – Development Bank of Latin America (CAF): Sustainable Cities and Climate Change**

There is to be an announcement of a positive opinion of the Board of the DCI Blending Framework on a LAIF contribution of **€4.2 million** for technical assistance to a project aiming to promote low-carbon and climate-resilient development in Latin America. EU funds will leverage a credit line of €100 million, that will be made available by AFD to CAF to finance climate-oriented investments in Latin America municipalities (urban projects targeting climate change mitigation and adaptation) and a technical assistance program will accompany the credit line.

- **EU - Regional – KfW Entwicklungsbank (KfW): Eco.business fund for SME-development in Latin America**

There is to be an announcement of a positive opinion of the LAIF Board of the DCI Blending Framework on a LAIF contribution of **€16 million**, including both equity and technical assistance, for the Eco.business Fund. The Eco.business Fund aims at promoting sustainable business practices that contribute to biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of natural resources in Latin America. The Fund's purpose is to promote the development of green enterprises in developing and transition countries, with an initial focus on highly biodiverse countries in Latin America (Peru, Columbia and Ecuador) and Central America, and possibly to extend to other Latin American countries.

- **EU - Honduras – European Investment Bank (EIB) / as lead Finance Institution, Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI): Honduras Sustainable Roads**

There is to be an announcement of a positive opinion of the LAIF Board of the DCI Blending Framework on a LAIF contribution of **€10 million**, including both investment grant and technical assistance, for the Sustainable Roads project in Honduras. The project comprises the rehabilitation, upgrading and road safety improvements of two road sections along the Western Corridor, which is part of the country's main road network and is integrated into the International Mesoamerican Road Network. Development of the entire Western Corridor in the coming years is a national priority for the Honduran government.

In addition to these financing initiatives; the European Commission has signed a Framework Agreement with the **Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)** to expand cooperation between the two institutions on economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean. It establishes the guidelines under which resources from the European Commission are to be administered by the IDB. It is a concrete follow up of the signature of Memorandum of Understanding between the two institutions in 2007. The Memorandum identified several areas of shared priority: social cohesion and poverty reduction; regional integration and trade development; renewable energy and energy efficiency; climate change; and collaboration on statistical information.

¹Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela

²Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago. The region also includes 17 territories with direct links to EU member states (four French 'outermost regions'; and 13 'overseas territories'— six British, six Dutch and one French territory). (EC 10-06-2015)

NIGERIA INAUGURATES UNION SECRETARIAT IN S/AFRICA

Nigeria's Consul General in South Africa, Uche Ajulu-Okeke, on Friday inaugurated the secretariat of the Nigerian Union in Pretoria, describing the association as a rallying point for Nigerians in South Africa.

Speaking at the inauguration in Pretoria, South Africa, she urged Nigerians resident in South Africa to register with the union to ensure easy access to the Nigerian mission in that country.

Okeke also urged smaller associations to affiliate with the union, saying it remains a platform for interface between the mission and Nigerians.

She said the mission was in touch with Nigerians resident in South Africa through the network of the union's branches in the country during the xenophobic attacks.

Okeke explained that in government records, successive Consul Generals have said that the Nigerian Union provides the most veritable umbrella to deal with and interface with Nigerians.

The Consular General's office, she added, would provide a photo copying machine, a computer set and a television set to the Secretariat.

The President of the Nigerian Union, Mr. Ikechukwu Anyene, said the union was formed in 2008 and has chapters in nine provinces and 58 wards in South Africa.

"The union's objectives are to promote unity among Nigerians in South Africa while supporting and promoting growth among Nigerians in the areas of trade, learning and culture, he said. (APA 06-06-2015)

TANZANIA: MILLICOM BUYS 85 PERCENT STAKE IN ZANTEL

According to a media statement issued by Millicom, it has agreed to buy an 85 percent stake in Tanzanian operator Zanzibar Telecom (Zantel) from the Etisalat Group.

According to the statement, under the terms of the agreement, Millicom will pay a total cash consideration of USD 1 dollar and assume total debt obligations of USD 74 million. In addition, Zantel will have up to USD 32 million in net current liabilities at closing.

Millicom expects the EBITDA of Zantel to reach USD 25 million through a combination of bringing new products and services to the existing customer base and delivering greater efficiencies. The acquisition agreement allows for an adjustment to the total consideration if that target is not reached by the end of 2019.

Millicom intends to retain and continue to operate the Zantel brand, while delivering cash flow growth by leveraging technical and operational efficiencies. The company plans to roll out 4G coverage and access more bandwidth capacity via the undersea fibre optic cable EASSy.

Millicom has arranged with an international bank, the provision of a USD 100 million 5-year credit facility for Zantel. The Government of Zanzibar will continue to own the remaining 15 percent of the shares in Zantel. The transaction remains subject to regulatory approval by the Tanzanian Communications Regulatory Authority and the Fair Competition Commission.

Zantel has an approximate 5 percent share of the Tanzania mobile market. (IT Africa News 05-06-2015)

NIGERIA: UNDP ADVISES ON CONSUMPTION PATTERN TO PROTECT ENVIRONMENT

The UN Development Programme (UNDP) Resident Co-ordinator Mr Dauda Toure on Friday in Abuja advised Nigerians to promote sustainable patterns of consumption and production to achieve environmental protection.

Toure gave the advice at a symposium organised to commemorate the 2015 World Environment Day (WED), under the theme Seven billion dreams. One planet. Consume with care.

He said the promotion of sustainable patterns of consumption and production would help to achieve sustainable development and help to save the planet.

The UNDP official said people everywhere should have a dream where everything is green, peaceful and flourishing and a dream where Mother Nature and Man are one.

A world in which the planet earth that we live in takes care of man, because the human being is also very careful the way he treats the earth. The question now is, how do we take care of our planet without necessarily hurting it? One of the ways is that we need to consume with care he said.

This can be achieved, in the words of the UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-Moon, by shifting our consumption patterns towards goods that use less energy, water and other resources, he added.

Toure, however, stressed the need for people to change their pattern of consumption, noting that they simply could not afford to waste the scarce resources which are fast diminishing.

People need to reduce, recycle and re-use, to ensure environmental protection and sustainability, the Resident Co-coordinator said.

In her goodwill message, Ms Marie Francoise Marie-Nelly, the World Bank Country Director for Nigeria, said the eco-system had been facing depletion as a result of unsafe environmental activities.

Represented by Dr Amos Abu, a specialist with the World Bank, Marie-Nelly said such activities had been affecting growth and development globally.

If the current production and consumption remain the same, and with the rising population expected to reach 9.6 billion, we will need three planets to sustain our ways of living by 2050, she said. (APE 06-06-2016)

LA TUNISIE DE NOUVEAU MEMBRE DU RÉSEAU EUROPE ENTREPRISE NETWORK « EEN »

Suite à l'appel à candidature lancé par la Commission européenne dans le cadre du programme COSME pour la compétitivité des entreprises et des PME, la Tunisie vient de se joindre à nouveau au Réseau «EEN » par la création d'un nouveau Consortium « **EEN Tunisie** » formé de cinq organisations nationales, l'**API en tant que coordinateur du consortium**, le **CEPEX**, la **CCI de Tunis**, **Technopark Elgazala** et la **CONNECT**.

Le réseau « EEN » est le plus grand réseau européen dédié à l'innovation et à l'internationalisation des entreprises, regroupant plus de 600 organisations partenaires réparties dans plus de 50 pays sur l'ensemble du territoire européen et en dehors de l'Union Européenne.

Le consortium tunisien fournira ainsi aux PME tunisiennes un éventail de services spécialisés permettant aux entreprises d'accroître leur compétitivité par le développement de leur potentiel, qu'il s'agisse de coopération technologique et d'innovation, de partenariat commercial, industriel et de services. Une réunion de démarrage des activités du consortium EEN Tunisie a eu lieu le 20 Mai 2015 au siège de la Délégation Européenne à Tunis.

Une réunion d'information générale sera organisée au mois de juillet 2015, pour impliquer tous les acteurs intéressés par ce réseau.(EC)

S/AFRICA: SPECIAL DESKS LAUNCHED TO ASSIST SMALL BUSINESSES

The South African Revenue Service (SARS)'s setting up of specialised small business support desks at its branch in Orlando East in Soweto for the first time will assist small business tax payers in the area to manage their entities properly, SARS Commissioner Tom Moyane has said.

The commissioner was speaking Friday at the official opening of the revenue service's Orlando East branch which has been in operation since May 2014. The ceremony also coincided with the launch of the small business support desks at the branch.

"We are unveiling the SARS small business desks that will provide a dedicated service to small business entrepreneurs.

"This initiative is to support small business development flows from our government's vision contained in the National Development Plan to put our country on a new trajectory," Moyane said.

Business tax advice, entity registration, business returns submissions and Tax Clearance Certificates are among the services provided by the support desks, he said.

"The small business desks, which are being rolled out at SARS branches around the country, were established as part of the government's commitment to support small medium scale businesses and to make it easier for them to comply with their tax obligations," he added.

Small businesses, the tax commissioner said, were the heartbeat of any developing economy because they created jobs for the local communities, apart from contributing to the overall national economy. (APA 06-06-2015)

FACEBOOK TAKES INTERNET.ORG TO SENEGAL

Social media giant, Facebook, has revealed that it has now set its sights on Senegal – in order to launch Internet.org as well as more than a dozen free basic services within the country.

According to Facebook, the services will be available to will be available to Tigo SIM card holders. Facebook originally launched Internet.org with the intention of bringing Internet access to two thirds of the world that are not connected.

Senegal is the sixth country in Africa where Internet.org is available. Internet.org is currently available in 13 countries, which includes: Zambia, Tanzania, Ghana, Kenya, Colombia, Guatemala, India, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Philippines, Malawi, Pakistan, and Senegal.

According to the company, its mission is to give people the power to share and make the world more open and connected.

“In our first decade we’ve been able to connect more than a billion people to Facebook. Internet.org’s mission is to make affordable internet access available to everyone in the world and to make the opportunities of the internet available to everyone. Free basic services are our solution to increase accessibility of the internet and create awareness around the value it may bring,” the company stated in a media release.

The free basic services that will be available through Internet.org to consumers with a Tigo SIM card will include: AccuWeather, BabyCenter & MAMA, BBC News, BING, UNICEF, Ebola Info, Facebook, UNICEF Facts for Life, Girl Effect by Nike Foundation, Malaria No More, Messenger, Wattpad, Wikipedia, Wiwisport, Dakaractu.com, Senjob. All services are in French. (IT Africa News 05-06-2013)

NYUSI URGES MOZAMBICANS TO TAKE CARE OF THE ENVIRONMENT

President Filipe Nyusi says environment must be taken good care of for the sake of future generations just as today’s Mozambicans inherited the natural environment from their ancestors, APA has learnt.

Addressing a rally on Friday in Nacala-a-Velha in the northern province of Nampula on the occasion of World Environment Day, Nyusi urged Mozambicans to take care of the country’s forests, replanting trees to replace those that are cut down.

“Only by protecting nature can we live well and our ancestors did not destroy the environment because they knew it is the guarantor of life,” he is quoted as saying by state-controlled daily newspaper Noticias on Saturday.

Nyusi stressed that preserving the environment means “guaranteeing that people continue to breathe pure air, take care of the soil, ensure that trees exist and give shade, and that marine resources and other species continue to exist and I urge the entire Mozambican people to continue preserving the environment because it is from the environment that we live.

Nyusi’s call comes just days after the country had received some disastrous environmental news.

The latest census of Mozambique’s elephant population showed that 48 percent of the animals died between 2009 and 2014, mostly at the hands of poachers. (APA 06-06-2015)

INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR SUSTAINABLE ENERGY INVESTMENT IN MOROCCO

Four international financial institutions are teaming up with the [European Union](#) to promote sustainable energy investments in [Morocco](#), supporting projects in the country that cut back on energy waste and also help to develop renewable energy sources.

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the [Agence Française de Développement](#) (AFD), [the European Investment Bank](#) (EIB) and [Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau](#) (KfW) launched the [Morocco Sustainable Energy Financing Facility](#) (MorSEFF).

The €80 million facility will provide loans via a group of participating banks and financial institutions for energy efficiency and small-scale renewable energy investments of private companies in [Morocco](#).

Loans, free technical assistance and investment incentives are bundled into a unique product aimed at promoting energy-efficient and renewable energy technology, raising awareness, reducing operating costs and improving competitiveness.

The European Union Neighbourhood Investment Facility (EU NIF) is providing €16.5 million towards the facility, with funds to be used to assist in project implementation and to provide incentives for investment.

Comprehensive technical assistance, funded by the EU NIF and by the EBRD Southern and Eastern Mediterranean (SEMED) Multi-Donor account, will provide support to banks participating in the facility in the design of business development tools and the successful implementation of the facility.

Mr Rupert Joy, the EU Ambassador to Morocco, said: “Energy efficiency is one of the most cost-effective means to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve energy security and economic competitiveness, and make energy more affordable for consumers. And it has an important role to play in creating jobs and growth. MorSEFF, supported by the EU’s Neighbourhood Investment Facility, will add a new dimension to our energy cooperation portfolio, complementing in particular activities to foster new and renewable energy.”

Mrs Sylvia Gansser-Potts, EBRD Director for Financial Institutions, said: “This facility is part of the EBRD’s wider effort to help its recipient countries reduce their energy consumption by promoting better practices and raising awareness about the advantages of sustainable energy investments. MorSEFF benefits from the expertise the EBRD has accumulated through investing a total of €16.5 billion in sustainable energy, and especially from its experience in providing finance via financial intermediaries.”

Ms Marie-Hélène Loison, AFD Director of the Mediterranean and Middle East Department, said: “AFD is proud to be part of the MorSEFF initiative which perfectly fits into Moroccan public policies and AFD development priorities, namely in Morocco. AFD has actually committed more than €15 billion to projects with positive impacts on climate globally since 2005, becoming a major stakeholder in international climate finance. AFD has also been developing innovative partnerships and financial tools to better involve the private sector. In particular, AFD commitment since 2006 for Sustainable Use of Natural Resources and Environmental Facilities, has reached €2 billion with about 40 partner banks.”

Mr Heinz Olbers, Director of Operations in the Southern and Eastern Neighbourhoods, said: “Building on its experience and expertise, the EIB is pursuing its activities in the Mediterranean with purpose. In 2014, projects worth over €1.6 billion have been supported in the region to stimulate the growth of the private sector, develop social and economic infrastructure and positively impact climate and the environment. In Morocco, a third of our financing was devoted to the development of renewable energy sources in 2014. Also, supporting enterprises is at the heart of our activities, with services and instruments tailored to the needs of our project developers. Our contribution to the Facility is part of these initiatives, supporting sustainable development and creating jobs for young generations.”

Mr Wolfgang Reuß, Director, KfW, said: “Promoting investment in sustainable energy to preserve our planet is a major challenge but is also a great opportunity for Morocco. KfW funds €2 billion of green energy investments in our partner countries every year. In Morocco the portfolio amounts to more than €1 billion. Through MorSEFF, we are proud to participate for the first time in green financing in the Moroccan banking sector, as well as in the wider region of North Africa and the Middle East.”

Under the new facility the financial institutions have already provided €20 million to BMCE Bank and its leasing subsidiary Maghrebaile.

Morocco is a founding member of the EBRD and has been receiving funding since 2012. To date the Bank has invested €483 million in 18 projects in the country, in addition to €130 million of trade-facilitation credit lines with local banks. The EBRD has also provided technical assistance support to more than 135 small and medium-sized local enterprises. (UfM 04-06-2015)

INDIAN GROUP WANTS TO BUILD THERMAL POWER PLANT IN MOZAMBIQUE

Jindal Africa, of Indian group Jindal Steel and Power Limited (JSPL), plans to build a power station and sign the corresponding power purchase agreement (PPA) for the sale of electricity in Mozambique by the end of the year, said the company's president.

Speaking in Cape Town, South Africa, to the Reuters news agency, Ashish Kumar, CEO of Jindal Africa, said the company could begin construction of the power plant immediately after signing the sales contract.

"It is a plant with a 150 MW production capacity, which will take 30 months to build and that has a cost currently estimated at US\$400 million," Kumar added.

The coal mine that the company operates in Mozambique, in Tete province, produces about 3 million tons of coal per year, but there are plans to increase production as soon as world prices begin to rise again.

The Chirodzi mine, which has proven reserves of 700 million tons and an expected life of 25 years, exported its first shipment of coal in the first quarter of 2013. (08-06-2015)

LIBERIA'S SIRLEAF OUTLINES PROGRESS BY DEVELOPING NATIONS

Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has said enormous progress has been made in developing countries due to strong international partnership, and named Sub-Saharan Africa as a clear example where the malaria mortality rate has been cut by nearly half since 2000.

In remarks at a public mobilization and poverty eradication outdoor event in Munich, Germany, Sirleaf said AIDS related deaths have also fallen by one-third in just eight years between 2005 and 2013.

According to a dispatch from Munich seen by APA on Sunday, President Sirleaf also disclosed that the mortality rate for children under five has fallen by nearly half since 1990, literally saving millions of lives every year.

She told participants at the event that primary school enrollment has jumped from 52 percent to 77 percent since 1990, with the biggest increase for girls; stressing: Primary school enrollments for girls are now almost on par with boys, which is a huge difference compared to 25 years.

President Sirleaf also indicated that the share of people in sub-Saharan Africa living in extreme poverty has fallen from 61 percent in 1993 to 47 percent in 2011.

She told the gathering that the world can eradicate extreme poverty, get more children in school with much higher quality education, ensure that women have greater property rights and greater access to health, education and finance.

She noted that by sustained development with people at the center, the world can stop illegal migration, and remove the global threat of infectious diseases adding, "We can, as called for in the Sustainable Development Goals, strive for a world that is just, equitable and free from extreme poverty by the year 2030."

She added that nearly one billion people entered the 21st century unable to read a book or sign their

names, while less than one percent of what the world spent every year on weapons should have put every child into school by the year 2000.

Also speaking at the event was the German Federal Development Minister, Gerd Muller, who said the event demonstrated the campaigners determination to see a world that is just and livable for every human population.(APA 07-06-2015)

KENYA SHILLINGS UNDER PRESSURE FROM US DOLLAR

The Kenya shillings is currently under pressure on the account of a stronger US dollar in the global currency markets, the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) disclosed on Tuesday.

According to a statement issued by the CBK, the shilling is also under pressure because of widening current account deficit and sustained high demand for foreign exchange in April and May

It said the exchange rate had stabilized in response to the active monetary policy operations leading to the tight liquidity conditions in the interbank market.

This has curtailed arbitrage activities between the interbank and foreign exchange markets, said CBK in a statement.

In addition, the Kenya shilling strengthened against the Euro and has continued to display relatively less volatility compared with major regional currencies, said CBK.

Currently, the Kenyan shilling is trading at Ksh.97.7778 to the dollar. (APA 09-06-2015)

AFRICA NEEDS CLEAN ENERGY INVESTMENT TO GET POWER TO ALL, SAYS PANEL

African governments should aim to increase power generation 10-fold to give all their people access to electricity by 2030, an effort that would require a big increase in investment focused on renewable energy, a panel of high-profile figures said.

Two in three Africans — about 621-million people — live without electricity, a situation worsening as the population grows, said an annual report from the 10-member Africa Progress Panel, chaired by former UN secretary-general Kofi Annan.

Nearly four in five Africans cook using biomass — mainly wood and charcoal — with some 600,000 dying each year from indoor air pollution, the report said.

To fill the energy gap, African nations do not have to resort to old, dirty technologies, Mr. Annan wrote in a foreword.

"We can expand our power generation and achieve universal access to energy by leapfrogging into new technologies that are transforming energy systems across the world," he said.

"Africa stands to gain from developing low-carbon energy, and the world stands to gain from Africa avoiding the high-carbon pathway followed by today's rich world and emerging markets," he added.

The Africa Progress Panel promotes sustainable development, and includes Irish musician and campaigner Bob Geldof, former Nigerian president Olusegun Obasanjo and rights advocate Graça Machel, widow of late South African president Nelson Mandela.

The 2015 report laid much of the blame for Africa's energy shortfalls on poor governance of power utilities, often viewed as vehicles for corruption and political patronage.

African governments have treated the provision of affordable energy as "a distant secondary concern", leaving some of the world's poorest people paying huge prices for energy compared with richer consumers, the report said.

Households living on less than \$2.50 a day spend about \$10 per kilowatt hour (kWh) on various sources of lighting, while the average cost for electricity is \$0.12/kWh in the US and \$0.15/kWh in Britain.

"Africa's poorest households are the unwitting victims of one of the world's starkest market failures," the report said.

Opportunity

Africa's energy sector needs investment of about \$55bn a year until 2030 to make up power deficits and provide everyone with access to electricity, the report said.

African governments could provide a large chunk of this by boosting tax collection, cutting corruption, ending subsidies for unprofitable utilities, stemming illicit financial transfers — put at \$69bn in 2012 — and tapping bond markets, it said.

The international community should also contribute aid and cheap loans to support investments that deliver modern energy to those without, it added.

Caroline Kende-Robb, the panel's executive director, said much of the energy infrastructure Africa needs is yet to be built, and the continent could benefit by choosing clean energy sources such as solar and hydro, and installing mini-grids.

"Energy policies have to be decided now for 15 to 20 years down the line. That is why Africans are saying, 'This is our opportunity to do things differently,'" she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria and SA are already building large power plants that use renewable energy, the report noted.

At the same time, many innovative companies are responding to household demand for lighting and power with products such as "pay as you go" solar.

'Failed' by climate finance

The report called on developed countries to raise ambition on cutting greenhouse gas emissions in the run-up to a new global deal to tackle climate change due in December.

It also urged reform of what it described as a fragmented and under-resourced climate finance system, which Ms Kende-Robb said had "failed" Africa by delivering piecemeal amounts.

At the latest round of UN climate talks in Bonn this week, climate justice groups backed a proposal by African states asking for support to develop feed-in tariffs and technologies for renewable energy.

The Africa Progress Panel report said Group of 20 countries should set a timetable to phase out fossil fuel subsidies, including banning exploration and production subsidies by 2018.

"Many rich country governments tell us they want a climate deal. But at the same time billions of dollars of taxpayers' money are subsidising the discovery of new coal, oil and gas reserves," Mr Annan said in a statement.

"They should be pricing carbon out of the market through taxation, not subsidising a climate catastrophe." (Reuters 05-06-2015)

ANGOLA IS GOING TO NEGOTIATE ANOTHER FINANCIAL PACKAGE WITH CHINA

Angola and China will negotiate "a new financial package to tackle the difficulties" created by the fall in global oil prices, said the Angolan ambassador in Beijing, cited by Angolan news agency Angop.

In a meeting with Angolan journalists before the arrival in Beijing of President José Eduardo dos Santos, the diplomat, João Garcia Bires stressed "the leading role" of China in the reconstruction of the country and hoped that Beijing "continues to be a strategic partner in this difficult phase for Angola."

The report from Angolan news agency Angop did not give an amount for the new "financial package" nor did it specify if it would be implemented as a loan or by opening lines of credit, as has happened in the last decade.

Eduardo dos Santos started Monday in Beijing his first visit to China in almost seven years, accompanied by five ministers, including the Ministers of Transport (Augusto Tomás), Trade (Rosa Pacavira) and Energy and Water (João Baptista Borges).

"Several cooperation agreements" will be signed during the visit, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said last week, without giving any further details. (09-06-2015)

NACALA PORT A WATERSHED-MOZAMBIQUE LEADER

Mozambique's President Filipe Nyusi has said the new port of Nacala-a-Velha, and its coal terminal, on the coast of the northern province of Nampula, is a step forwards in the industrialization of the country, APA can report Sunday.

Nyusi, who is on a working visit to the province, Nyusi toured the new port receiving detailed explanations on how it will function to export coal from the Moatize coal basin in the western province of Tete.

This undertaking employs 98 workers, of whom 60 to 70 per cent are from Nampula province, Nyusi said.

This is turning into reality the dream of jobs for young Mozambicans, he said.

The port is connected to Moatize by a 912 kilometre long railway which runs across southern Malawi.

Taken together, the port and railway employ 1,909 workers, of whom 90 percent are Mozambicans.

Moatize is owned by Brazil's Vale, which expects to produce 850,000 tonnes of coal from the mine by the end of this year and ramp it up to 8 million tonnes of hard coking coal and 4 million tonnes of thermal coal by 2013/14.

The port and railway have been leased to the Nacala Integrated Logistics Corridor CLN, in which the shareholders are Vale, the Japanese company Mitsui, and the publicly owned Mozambican ports and rail company Mitsui.

The Nacala-a-Velha coal terminal can handle 18 million tonnes a year. CLN's projections are for about 20 coal trains a day, requiring a fleet of 100 locomotives and 2,700 wagons.

12 ships a month are expected to call at the terminal.

Vale opted for a new port and railway when it became clear that the existing Sena line, from Moatize to the port of Beira, could not possibly cope with the forecast coal exports.

The natural deep-water port of Nacala is a trans-shipment hub for landlocked countries including Malawi and Zambia and has been used to handle regional exports of fertilizer, sugar, wheat and tobacco. Malawi is the biggest user of the port.(APA 07-06-2015)

CONSTRUCTION COMPANY SOARES DA COSTA MOVES FROM PORTUGAL TO ANGOLA

Angola will become the "strategic centre" of the Soares da Costa Construções, SGPS Group and Africa will become the Portuguese group's "primary market", according to a decision of the shareholders published Monday in Luanda.

Shareholders who "decided to undertake restructuring of the corporate boards" and appointed Joaquim Fotas as the new president of the executive committee and kept the Angolan businessman António Mosquito as chairman of the board of directors, as well as approving a guideline that involves winning new engineering contracts and reducing costs.

Soares da Costa, which was one of the major construction companies in Portugal, has said that Mozambique "will also become as a reference" for the group, according to the statement cited by Portuguese news agency Lusa.

According to information provided by the construction group, Joaquim Fitas was previously a director of Angolan construction company Omatapalo, and has "significant experience in the water sector."

He was also chairman of water company Águas de Angola, was a director of Mozambican water company Águas de Moçambique and was a board member of Lisbon water company EPAL.

In Portugal, the company is involved in a collective redundancy process for 272 workers who have not been working for “many months”.

At one time Soares da Costa had 100 construction projects underway simultaneously in Portugal, but now has just three (one in Porto, one in Coimbra and a third in Lisbon), according to the president of the Construction Union, Albano Ribeiro. (09-06-2015)

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