

# MEMORANDUM

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## REFUGEE CRISIS: EUROPEAN COMMISSION STEPS UP HUMANITARIAN AID TO SYRIA

The European Commission will give €62 million in humanitarian aid to support Syrians displaced by the conflict inside their country.

The European Commission will give €62 million in humanitarian aid to support Syrians displaced by the conflict inside the country. The funding allocation was announced today by European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management, Christos **Stylianides**, who is concluding his visit to Jordan and Lebanon.

The new funding comes at a critical moment with a worsening security situation in the country and will help cover winterisation and basic needs of refugees and host communities, such as health care, clean water, shelter, rent and education.

Commissioner Christos **Stylianides** said: *"We must continue to get humanitarian aid to Syrians in need as the coming winter will bring additional hardship to the most vulnerable. That's why the European Commission is taking action, getting lifesaving humanitarian aid to displaced Syrians inside the country and refugees in neighbouring countries. Over recent days in Jordan and Lebanon I've met entire families who have fled Syria. I've seen first hand how our humanitarian aid is making and will make a difference, yet peace is the only solution that can end the refugee crisis, a humanitarian crisis."*

The new funding for Syria follows the recent announcements of [€43 million for Lebanon](#) and [€28 million to Jordan](#), made by the Commissioner to the respective national authorities over [1-3 November](#). All in all €133 million in additional humanitarian aid in 2015 will go to the three respective countries.

On his visit, the Commissioner visited the Zaatari refugee camp in Jordan and refugees in the Bekaa valley in Lebanon. He discussed the growing needs of Syrian refugees with government officials and humanitarian partner organisations.

### Background

The funding allocation announced over recent days concerns the €200 million of additional humanitarian aid for 2015 proposed by the Commission on [23 September](#) to provide immediate resources to respond to demands from UNHCR and the World Food Programme and other relevant organisations in order to help refugees immediately.

The EU is the leading donor to the Syria crisis with over €4.2 billion from the EU and Member States collectively in humanitarian, development, economic and stabilisation assistance. (EC 03-11-2015)

## KENYA SIGNS \$600 MILLION LOAN WITH INTERNATIONAL FINANCIERS

The Kenyan government has signed a \$600 million syndicated medium term loan facility with Citi, Standard Bank and Standard Chartered Bank who have been mandated to be the main underwriters.

The facility, which has a two year tenor, was launched into general syndication to international financial institutions on 29 October 2015.

The facility is Kenya's second international syndicated loan financing, a statement from the National Treasury issued in Nairobi on Tuesday disclosed.

The proceeds from the facility will be used by the National Treasury to fund costs approved by Parliament in the Fiscal Year 2015/16, including infrastructure development projects in the road, energy, agriculture and water sectors. (APA 03-11-2015)

## FRENCH DEVELOPMENT AGENCY TO REHABILITATE 27 HEALTH CENTRES IN GABON

The French development agency (AFD) will fund to the tune of 32 billion CFA francs, the rehabilitation and training of care providers in 27 health centers across four provinces of Gabon, the Director of AFD, Yves Picard said at the end of a meeting with the Gabonese first Deputy Prime Minister for Health, Paul Mba Biyoghe.

“The objective is to help develop throughout Gabon through the health system, in order to improve services and health care facilities in the country’s inland,” Mr. Picard said on Monday.

The two personalities also made a review of the first phase of AFD’s support to Gabon’s National Health Development Programme (PNDS).

A first phase, which had required seven billion CFA francs funding, allowed Gabon to renovate seven maternity hospitals in the provinces of the Estuary and Woleu-Ntem (north).

AFD is currently funding several projects in Gabon, particularly in the field of environment, education and infrastructure. (APA 03-11-2015)

## NGOS FEAR THAT DEVELOPMENT FUNDS ARE GETTING SPENT ON BARBED WIRE

While EU ministers met yesterday (26 October) in Luxembourg to discuss “policy coherence” for development, NGOs expressed concerns that EU monies are increasingly being spent on border security, rather than fighting poverty and inequality.

Ministers had a debate on migration, focusing on how development cooperation can help address the migrant exodus currently facing Europe. According to the communiqué, they agreed “to step up the EU’s level of engagement and strengthen cooperation with third countries on migration both at bilateral and multilateral level”.

Ministers are reported to have exchanged views on how development cooperation and assistance can make an effective and short-term impact to the crisis response. Ministers also explored how the EU can further improve its instruments and policies.

The Council also had a discussion on gender and development, and adopted conclusions on a new framework for results-oriented measures for [Gender equality and women’s empowerment: transforming the lives of girls and women through EU external relations 2016-2020](#).

Ministers also had an initial exchange of views on future relations between the EU and the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries, in light of the expiration of the Cotonou Agreement in 2020.

Speaking to journalists after the meeting, EU foreign affairs chief Federica Mogherini called the discussions “very intense”.

It is no secret that the EU is struggling to find funds for managing the migrant crisis. In the past, development funds have frequently been used to respond to humanitarian disasters.

Oxfam International issued yesterday a statement, warning that EU’s development budget should be spent on people not on “barbed wire and checkpoints”.

Oxfam is disappointed that the EU’s planned new “Trust Fund for Africa”, intended to address migration, risks being used more for border security purposes, rather than fighting poverty and inequality.

According to Oxfam, EU development ministers failed at their meeting to confirm publicly that the new fund would be used for bona fide development projects, rather than border security and restrictions on the movement of people.

The €1.8 billion Trust Fund for Africa is officially called the [European Union Emergency Trust Fund for Africa](#). The Fund is expected to be formally launched at the [Valletta Summit on migration](#).

>>Read: [Juncker to announce African trust fund](#)

“The EU is mixing up objectives aimed at helping people who have been displaced from their homes through development cooperation, with those aimed at stopping them coming to Europe through security cooperation,” said Natalia Alonso, head of Oxfam’s Brussels office.

CONCORD, the European confederation for relief and development, wrote a letter to the ministers just ahead of their meeting.

The NGO requested minister to uphold the EU's commitments to increase resources meant for development assistance, and avoid diverting any part of it to cover the costs of managing the influx of refugees.

"Similarly, development aid and trade agreements with developing countries should not be subjected to the acceptance, on their part, of restrictive border controls, readmission agreements or other migration control measures," the NGO confederation stated. In its view, the EU needs to strengthen efforts to tackle the root causes of migration, that is, to contribute to the prevention and peaceful resolution of conflicts that cause many to move across national and international borders, as well as to implement existing policies on better management of humanitarian and environmental crisis.

### **Gender Action Plan**

Ministers adopted the Gender Action Plan (GAP) 2016-2020, which lays out objectives, example activities and potential indicators for each of the three thematic priorities (physical and psychological integrity, economic, social and cultural rights and empowerment, and political and civil rights).

As Development Commissioner Neven Mimica characterised it following the meeting, the plan is aimed at strengthening the empowerment of women and girls, and gender equality, and to making EU programs focused on that goal.

Cecile Vernant, Head of EU Advocacy for Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevoelkerung, welcomed the plan, especially for political dialogue being added to it.

However, she noted that it was important to see that the Council commits to ensuring consultation and engagement with civil society throughout the full cycle of planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the GAP.

"The new Action Plan is an advance on what has been done before. However, the EU institutions will need to give sustained support to EU services in Brussels and around the world including sufficient financial and human resources as requested by the Council to make sure that it is truly effective," Vernant stated. (EurActiv 03-11-2015)

### **AFDB APPROVES \$424 LOAN TO LAY YAOUNDE-BRAZZAVILLE HIGHWAY**

The African Development Bank (AfDB) has approved \$ 424 million loan to finance the 2nd phase of the construction of Ketta-Djoum highway (504.5 km) aimed at facilitating the transit on the Yaounde (Cameroon) and Brazzaville (Congo), official sources told APA Wednesday.

Covering the road works and related infrastructures as well as the studies on the transport sector, the preservation of biodiversity and the management of the project, the funding aims, according to the pan-African financial institution at boosting the economic and social development and regional integration in the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS).

According to the AfDB, if completed the project linking the two central African capitals will directly benefit road users and communities living in the area while enhancing trade between the two countries.

The infrastructure project will also help foster regional integration in Central Africa, by facilitating motorway connections between Cameroon, Congo, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea and the Central African Republic.

The Ketta-Djoum highway will furthermore reinforce poverty reduction efforts while creating jobs in both nations.(APA 28-10-2015)

### **SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE WANTS TO BECOME THE "DUBAI OF AFRICA" WITH A PORT BUILT BY CHINA**

After 2014 was marked by an unprecedented visit to China by a president of São Tomé and Príncipe, the archipelago will now receive a huge Chinese investment in order to become the "Dubai of Africa."

The deep-water port costing an estimated US\$800 million and whose construction was awarded to a Chinese group was presented in October by the government of São Tomé and Príncipe to investors in London, where the Prime Minister Trovoada in an interview with the Independent on Sunday, defended the archipelago's "business plan".

"What China is offering in a deal like this is a loan, not a donation. What we have is a technically capable Chinese company that has engaged. It's a business arrangement, not a political one," said the head of the government of São Tomé.

The China Harbour Engineering Company (CHEC) will co-finance the construction of the port, with at least US\$120 million. The government describes the new port as a "world-class infrastructure to serve the logistics needs of the Gulf of Guinea."

The first deep-water port on the archipelago will be built in the Fernão Dias area, Lobata district, 12 kilometres from the capital, and should become operational in 2019.

The Prime Minister of São Tomé told the Independent on Sunday that São Tomé had the goal of being the "Dubai of Africa," a "services platform" that takes advantage of its geographical proximity to some of the largest economies in the continent.

Last year, the relationship between China and São Tomé and Príncipe became less distant with the visit of Manuel Pinto da Costa, the first by a President of São Tomé to China in almost twenty years, despite being in a private capacity.

Also last year, Chinese company Guangxi Hydroelectric Construction Bureau started construction of a housing development on the island of São Tomé, a self-funded scheme worth an expected US\$300 million.

To be built between the capital of São Tomé and Príncipe and the Lobata district in an area of 214 hectares, the new development will have just over 100 houses as well as supermarkets, schools, kindergartens and a hospital.

Part of the "Expu Conga" project designed by the Ministry of Public Works of Sao Tome and Principe, the new development will also have buildings for the diplomatic corps accredited in the archipelago as well as various facilities with a maximum of seven floors for public administration services, including tourist, shopping, culture, sports and leisure areas.

In addition to building the new development from scratch, the contract also includes upgrading of the present city of São Tomé, built in the 1950s by the then Portuguese colonial administration. (03-11-2015)

## **15TH FEMIP CONFERENCE: EIB REINFORCES INNOVATION, ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND JOBS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN**

The European Investment Bank (EIB) hosted the 15<sup>th</sup> FEMIP Conference on 26 October in Luxembourg in partnership with the Luxembourg Presidency of the Council of the European Union, and the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM).

The meeting explored the links between private sector finance, entrepreneurship and job creation, with a focus on tools for financing pioneering investments in the Mediterranean region.

On the sidelines of the conference, the Luxembourg Presidency launched an initiative to support youth employment in Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia through vocational training. The initiative seeks to bring together public institutions in the three countries and private sector developers to provide capacity building that triggers entrepreneurship in the three North African countries as a pilot that will be replicated at a later stage to include Mashrek countries.

As one of the main lenders in support of economic and social development of the EU's Mediterranean partners, the EIB has provided €1,322 million since 2011 to support the private sector in the region through direct loans, bank-intermediated SME facilities, micro finance and equity risk capital. (EU Neighbourhood 30-10-2015)

## **THOUSANDS OF HECTARES RESTORED IN CAMEROON'S "GREEN SAHEL" OPERATION**

The operation dubbed “Green Sahel” the objective of which is to fight against the desert encroachment on the northern part of Cameroon has restored more than 500,000 hectares of ground in the last seven years, the Ministry of Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED) has announced here.

Since its resumption in 2008, the operation has restored 500,000 hectares of soil through reforestation actions in the Far Northern region, in addition to the setting up of 35 forest reserves.

Besides, thousands of trees were planted during staking out, éhole punchingé and plantation activities. Similarly, as part of this operation, there are plans to drill boreholes in the reforested sites.

Reforested sites are ceded back to municipalities for their management, which will help create thousands of jobs for local residents.

These are, according to the Environment Minister, Hele Pierre, égood pointsé' that will be exposed at the Conference of Parties (COP21) slated for December in Paris, France.(APA 28-10-2015)

## **TOTAL ADDS 30,000 BARRELS PER DAY TO OIL PRODUCTION IN ANGOLA**

The launch of the Multiphase Pump project, in the Rosa field of Angola’s Block 17, will add 30,000 barrels of oil per day to production in Angola, announced Total E & P Angola and Angolan oil company Sonangol in a joint statement.

The statement said that exploration of that oilfield in the Angolan sea was part of a programme called Increase in Sunflower Resources (Aumento de Recursos do Girassol – GirRI), launched in 2010 to optimise oil recovery in fields related to the Floating Production, Storage and Offloading Unit (FPSO). Technicians installed four high pressure multiphase pumps on the seabed, connected to the subsea production network of the Rosa Field, which will make it possible to recover 42 million barrels of additional reserves.

The project, whose technology is being used for the first time in the world, also includes installation of a connecting power cable between the Girassol FPSO and Dalia, to ensure the functioning of the pumps. Block 17 is one of the largest operated by French group Total, with recorded accumulated production of 2 billion barrels in April 2015. The operation is guaranteed by four floating production, offloading and storage units.

Total E&P Angola is the operator of Block 17 with a 40 percent stake, and its partners are Statoil with 23.33 percent, Esso Exploration Angola Limited, with 20 percent and BP Exploration (Angola), with 16.67 percent. (03-11-2015)

## **UFM JOINS FORCES WITH REGIONAL ACTORS TO PROMOTE CIRCULAR AND GREEN ECONOMY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN**

The Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), in partnership with the EU and other regional actors, is supporting “SwitchMed Connect”, an event organised by the EU-funded SwitchMed Programme on 29-30 October in Barcelona, gathering, for the first time, more than 350 stakeholders from Mediterranean countries to build synergies, exchange knowledge, and scale up eco and social innovative solutions.

In the framework of the event, the UfM will announce and present its “Med Recipe” Project: Supporting the Adoption of Sustainable consumption and production - SCP - and resource efficiency models in the Mediterranean.

“Med Recipe” seeks to provide financing access for SMEs, adopting SCP models in Jordan, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia, and stimulating the development of green industries and entrepreneurship in the Western Balkans and Turkey,

The **SWITCH-MED sustainable consumption and production programme** aims to promote a switch of the Mediterranean economies towards sustainable consumption and production patterns and green economy, including low emission development, through demonstration and dissemination of methods that improve resource and energy efficiency. It also seeks to minimise the environmental impacts associated to the life cycle of products and services, and, as opportune, to promote renewable energy. (EU Neighbourhood 30-10-2015)

### **NAMIBIA, INDIAN BUSINESS SIGN A BILATERAL AGREEMENT**

Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NCCI) and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) have signed a general bilateral business agreement in New Delhi on Wednesday.

The Namibian Press Agency quoted NCCI chief executive Tarah Shaanika in New Delhi that it was the first business agreement to be signed with Indian industry.

According to Shaanika, NCCI already has general business agreements with private industry in 43 countries across the world.

He said Namibia could learn a lot from India in the areas of food production, energy, infrastructure and healthcare.

“What is needed is for Indian companies to engage with attractive business partners in Namibia to ensure that transfer of technologies takes place,” he said.

Shaanika noted that it was high time for Africa to think more along business lines as opposed to political lines to engage with different countries to get the best product with a basis on mutual interest and equality. (APA 28-10-2015)

### **LAUCA DAM, IN ANGOLA, STARTS PRODUCING ENERGY IN 2017**

The first two turbines of the Laúca hydroelectric dam, on the Kwanza River in Angola, with the capacity to produce 340 MW each, are due to start operating in July 2017, announced Brazilian company Odebrecht, which is responsible for the work.

Kleriston Acácio, of the communication and image department of the Brazilian company told Angolan newspaper *Expansão* that power production tests would begin within 24 months and the first power turbine will be put into operation in 2016.

In late 2017 the first 500 megawatts (MW) of energy will increase to 2,070 MW when the dam is completed, representing twice the power currently produced by the Cambambe and Capanda dams. The dam, the third under construction in the Kwanza River basin, after the Cambambe and Capanda dams, will be 132 metres high and will create a reservoir of 188 square kilometres filled over a period of four months.

The Laúca dam, the largest civil and mechanical engineering projects in Angola, is located 47 kilometres downstream of the Capanda hydroelectric dam (AHC) and 400 kilometres from Luanda.

Work on the dam, which began in 2012, will cost US\$4.3 billion involved a loan and a credit line from Brazil.

When it starts operating at full capacity, the power produced at the dam will benefit over 5,000 people. The Odebrecht official also said the project will use 30,000 tons of steel, enough to build four Eiffel towers and 22,000 tons of cement or the equivalent of 465 eight-storey buildings. (30-10-2015)

## **KENYA AIMS TO BE AFRICA'S ECONOMIC HUB**

Kenya is seeking to position itself as the continent's manufacturing and technology hub, the preferred gateway to Africa for domestic and foreign investors, Deputy President William Ruto said on Wednesday.

Speaking at the launch of the World Bank's 2016 Doing Business report in Nairobi, Ruto said that the government has put in place an elaborate programme to make Kenya's business sector more productive and globally competitive.

"We have improved access to credit, registered improvements in starting a business by making it easier to access and pay stamp duty, reduced days for new electricity connections by enforcing service delivery timelines, improved document management at the land registry and introducing unified form for registration," said Ruto.

"I am pleased Kenya is now the third most improved country globally on the 2016 Doing Business rankings in a report released by the World Bank," he added.

He noted that the noble ambitions have in the past been undermined by unfavorable business environment which has hindered Kenya's goal.

"We are aware of the need to enhance our commitment to investor protection to attract investments. We will regularly monitor progress and resolve any emerging issues," he said.

The report ranked Mauritius as the best in Sub-Saharan Africa with a global ranking of 32, performing particularly well in the areas of paying taxes and enforcing contracts. (APA 28-10-2015)

## **WATER SUPPLY TO THE CAPITAL OF MOZAMBIQUE INCREASES FROM 2019**

The water storage capacity of the river Incomáti in Mozambique is expected to grow by about one billion cubic metres by the end of 2019, enabling the expansion of water supply projects to the Maputo metropolitan area as well as irrigation and manufacturing, Mozambican daily newspaper Notícias reported Friday.

According to estimates from water company ARA-Sul, the development is based on new sluice gates at the Corumana dam and completion of construction of the Moamba Major dam, whose financing is already available and work is underway.

With the construction of the Moamba Major dam, costing just over US\$466 million, it will be possible to store 760 million cubic metres of water. The remaining 300 to 400 million cubic metres will be guaranteed with the placement of the sluice gates at the Corumana dam.

Installing the sluice gates at Corumana, according to ARA-Sul, will make it possible to store as much water as the Pequenos Libombos dam, which cost US\$300 to US\$400 million. Completion of the works at Corumana will provide a total of 1.2 billion cubic metres, or an increase of 30 percent of the current capacity, which is around 800 million.

The two dams are considered key to guaranteeing the water supply to the capital and also to accommodate development planned for the next 20-50 years.

Studies conducted by Ara-Sul show a water harvesting system with an initial capacity of 60,000 metres per day could be installed at Corumana. In the second phase there are plans to double water catchment capacity to 120,000 cubic metres per day.

The construction project for a new treatment plant and five pumping stations along a main conduit 95 kilometres long to carry water from Corumana, was recently awarded to a Belgian consortium.

Estimates point to a need for just over 67 million cubic metres of water per year to supply the city of Maputo. (30-10-2015)

## LOUD DAWN FOR AFRICAN RESPONSE FORCE

Backed by tanks, armoured vehicles and plenty of European Union (EU) cash, thousands of African soldiers took on an imaginary enemy in the arid heart of SA this week, the last joint exercises before a homegrown continental strike force goes live.

Standing on faraway hilltops, commanders peered through night vision goggles and issued orders through helmet-mounted radios to the 5,400 troops simulating a dawn assault on rebels in the fictitious city of Kalasi marked out in the bush.

The orderly manoeuvres and hi-tech kit elicited purrs of approval from military chiefs who tout the rapid-reaction battalion — a crucial part of a long-awaited African Standby Force — as the antidote to insurrections spiralling into civil war or even genocide.

"This is an important milestone in our endeavour to create a tool that will be at our disposal should we require to intervene to quell violence," South African Defence and Military Veterans Minister Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula said at an opening parade.

But analysts say the force, which attains "full operational capability" in December, still faces two major challenges: funding, and forging the political agreement among 54 countries to send in troops — if need be without being invited.

"The big elephant in the room here is political will — the will to deploy without national consent, for instance," says Thomas Mandrup, an expert in African security and governance at the Royal Danish Defence College.

Under African Union (AU) plans, each of the continent's five regions — north, south, east, west and central — are meant to provide a brigade of 5,000 troops to the force.

But in a sign of potential divisions, North Africa sent only staff officers to this month's exercises, not troops, a reflection of the domestic political turmoil in the region. Without the likes of Egypt and Algeria, the force will lack much of the airlift capability crucial to any rapid deployment.

Instead, operations were likely to become a "coalition of the willing", Mr Mandrup says, much as SA, Tanzania and Kenya have done in United Nations-backed peacekeeping and intervention missions across Africa.

Recent security crises in Africa include coups in Guinea-Bissau, Mali and Burkina Faso, offensives by Islamist militants in Mali, Nigeria and Somalia, and conflict between rebels in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo and the Central African Republic (CAR).

The polished nature of this week's war games stood in contrast to decades of under-investment that has left African armies poorly equipped and trained, blunting the AU's ability to launch responses to political or humanitarian crises.

Nowhere was this more evident than Mali in 2013 when France, rather than the AU, rushed in troops and aircraft to block the advance of Islamist jihadists sweeping south from the Sahara.

Since 2004, the European Union (EU) has committed more than €1.3bn to African peace operations, including €225m last year for missions to Somalia, CAR and Mali.

More than 90% of AU peace and security efforts are funded by the likes of the EU and the US, although AU member states have pledged to provide a quarter of the funding for operations by 2020.

However, the concern remains that if Africa does not control the purse strings of the military force, it cannot control the outcomes.

Underlining the problem, the EU is even bankrolling this month's exercises, casting a shadow over the "African solutions for African problems" mantra espoused by politicians in national capitals and the AU headquarters in Addis Ababa.

"The external support for defence spending in Africa is, in my view, a major foreign policy handicap," says David Anderson, professor of African history at the University of Warwick.

"African states will truly own their defence and security when they pay for it themselves," he adds.

"There is no greater marker of sovereignty and independence than security and defence." (Reuters 30-10-2015)

## **MOZAMBIQUE WILL PRESENT PROJECTS TO THE INDIA FUND FOR AFRICA**

The government of Mozambique will start preparing projects to be submitted to the US\$10 billion fund for Africa announced last week by the government of India, the Mozambican prime minister said recently. Prime Minister Carlos Agostinho Rosário, who was speaking to Mozambican news agency AIM on the sidelines of the Third India/Africa Summit, in New Delhi, said his government intended to focus the projects in the areas of agriculture, water supply and restructuring the post office.

Rosário said that in the meetings held with the New Delhi authorities he found there was a lot of interest in strengthening bilateral cooperation in the agricultural sector and that an Indian team was expected to arrive in Maputo in the near future.

“I think that the agricultural sector is of great interest to the country. Mozambique cannot only rely on raw materials such as gas and coal, but we also need to have the population itself go through a development process,” he said.

The extractive industry was, however, also subject of bilateral talks, and Rosário found that India remains interested in projects related to gas exploration.

The Indian government Thursday pledged a credit line of US\$10 billion and US\$600 million dollars in aid over the next five years, noting that it pledged to work with the continent to develop information technologies and reduce the digital divide.

The President of Mozambique, Filipe Nyusi visited India in August, accompanied by 60 businesspeople, and the two governments signed two memoranda of understanding in the economic area and decided to move on to military cooperation, especially in the field of maritime safety, taking advantage of the fact both countries have coastlines on the Indian Ocean. (03-11-2015)

## **GUINEA, INDIA SIGN AGRICULTURE, HEALTH AGREEMENT**

Guinea and India signed agreements on agriculture and health sectors in the sidelines of the India-Africa Summit which opened in New Delhi on October 26 and which is attended by a Guinean delegation led by President Alpha Condé, diplomatic source told APA Thursday.

The Agreement to modernize the Agriculture sector worth \$55 million while that on health, which includes the construction of two hospitals, cost of \$35 million, the source said.

The cooperation between the two countries could in the future expand to other sectors including energy and infrastructure, the source added.

President Alpha Condé, who arrived in the Indian capital on Tuesday, was received by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. (APA 29-10-2015)

## **IMF LOWERS GROWTH FORECAST FOR MOZAMBIQUE TO 6.3 PCT THIS YEAR**

The International Monetary Fund Thursday lowered its forecast for economic growth in Mozambique, to 6.3 percent in 2015 and 6.5 percent in 2016, warning that there are “new challenges that require decisive policy measures.”

In a statement issued following a two-week technical visit to Mozambique, the team led by Michel Lazare said in a statement that “economic activity in 2015 remained solid,” but warned “from the mission’s point of view, growth will reach 6.3 percent in 2015 and is expected to accelerate slightly to 6.5 percent in 2016.”

The downward review cuts 0.7 points from growth previously forecast by the IMF – 7 percent this year and 8.2 percent in 2016 – and represents a setback for growth of 6.5 percent recorded during full global economic recession, in 2009, bringing an end to a five-year cycle in which Mozambique recorded economic growth of over 7 percent.

Between 2017 and 2020 on average “growth could reach 8 percent due to positive prospects for large-scale investments in extractive industries, particularly the liquefied natural gas industry.”

In a statement, the IMF staff noted “inflation remains low, at about 2 percent, but is expected to increase to 5-6 percent over the next few months due to the recent depreciation of the metical, and necessary adjustments in prices.” (30-10-2015)

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The Memorandum is supported by ELO - Portuguese Association for Economic Development and Cooperation, NABA - Norwegian-African Business Association and other organisations.



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