

MEMORANDUM

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Wellcome back for 2017

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NEW VICTORIA FALLS TERMINAL TO BOOST TOURISM IN TRANSPORT IN ZIMBABWE

The recently commissioned \$150 million Victoria Falls Airport is expected to have a significant impact on the international arrivals in Zimbabwe's premier tourist destination. The new international terminal has capacity to service 1,2 million people per annum and a new parallel 4 000m runway to cater for wide body aircraft in the class of Boeing 747.

The international airport can now handle larger aircraft and greater numbers of aircraft arrivals and departures, and stakeholders need to be able to make this work for the travel and tours sector of the economy. The Civil Aviation Authority is working on new air services with Ethiopian Airlines having already committed a scheduled service direct into Victoria Falls in 2017, using a much larger aircraft. Hospitality operators are likely to utilise more of the existing accommodation capacity, in the anticipation that numbers will grow to levels that will demand it. Cresta Hotels is one operator that invested in Victoria Falls in 2014 in anticipation of the impact the airport project would have on visitors. They are now looking forward to increased business now that the project is complete.

Victoria Falls is the epicentre of a 500 Km radius, which includes one of the great rivers of the world, the Zambezi, and a diverse number of wilderness areas ranging from the Okavango Delta and Chobe National Park in Zambia, Hwange and Matusadonha National Parks and Lake Kariba in Zimbabwe. Neighbouring countries are also working on developments that will cause for optimism in the tourism industry. Developments are taking place at Maun, gateway to the Okavango Delta, at the airport to transform it into a major service facility for travellers heading there.

Hospitality operators have full confidence in the future of travel and tourism throughout Southern Africa and increased international interest in the whole area. (COR 16-12-2016)

PRIVATISATION PROCESS OF CABO VERDE'S SHIPYARDS FAR FROM COMPLETION

The sale of Cape Verdean shipyard company Cabnave is far from being completed, wrote Cape Verdean newspaper Expresso das Ilhas, which noted that Portuguese group ETE had made the best financial offer for the company's privatisation tender.

The Portuguese group recently announced it had qualified "first in the international public tender for the privatisation of Cabnave, shipyards on the island of Sao Vicente in Cabo Verde, and the next step is financial negotiations and the final terms of the 30-year concession contract."

But a source close to the privatisation process cited by the newspaper said that although the group presented the best financial offer that does not mean that it will be owner of Cabnave, "given that the State, represented by the government, has the right to cancel the tender and launch another."

"The process is identical to the one of French company Bolloré French in relation to the ports privatisation process," cautioned another source cited by the Expresso das Ilhas, who also said that this (international tender) was just the first step in the process.

The sale of Cabnave is being seen by the government as a sensitive process, similar to what happened with the concession of national ports, and the government is currently examining the proposals it has on the table, the newspaper said.

The ETE Group, established in 1936, operates mainly in the maritime and port area of logistics and consists of 42 different companies.

Present in countries such as Cabo Verde (where it operates in the logistics area), Colombia, Mozambique and Uruguay, the ETE group last year posted turnover in excess of 200 million euros and currently employs over 800 people across three continents. (19-12-2016)

LIBERIA, SWEDEN IN \$3.2M DEAL TO HEAD OFF CRIME

The Liberian and Swedish governments have signed a \$3.2 million cooperation agreement to build the capacity of officers of the country's national police to fight crime and improve service delivery.

According to a statement on Tuesday, in remarks at the signing ceremony held at the weekend at the Zone Six Police Depot in Brewerville outside Monrovia, Swedish Ambassador Lena Nordstrom said the project will also attend to basic crime investigation, crime scene investigation with a specific focus on crimes related to sexual and gender-based violence, and increase collaboration between the Liberia National Police and Prosecution Service.

According to Nordstrom, the initiative is in support of the Swedish government's Development Cooperation Strategy with Liberia for the next four years (2016-2-20) worth approximately \$158m.

The strategy, she said, has three result areas including human security, pro-poor growth and democracy, gender equality and greater respect for human development.

Nordstrom said Sweden has a feminist foreign policy that seeks to ensure gender equality and equal participation of men and women, adding, "it is a piece of security measure when women are given equal opportunity to be active voices in the security sector and also in the community."

Meanwhile, the Swedish envoy has called on the Liberia National Police to ensure that security within the country's borders is protected at all times, since they have a strong leadership to take over security from the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL).

"For the LNP to be successful in its national duties, they have to allow the citizens to trust them," Ambassador Nordstrom said.

Also in remarks, Police Inspector General Gregory Coleman said the agreement marks a very important milestone, and pledged the LNP's commitment to raise the officers' professional level to meet international standards, especially in the areas of crime scene investigation, as well as sexual and gender-based violence, among others. (APA 19-12-2016)

WORLD BANK NETWORK AIMS TO HELP SMALL BUSINESSES DEVELOP CLEAN TECHNOLOGY

The World Bank Group and partners have launched a network that brings together more than 30 foundations, donors, venture funds, and others to help local businesses in 12 countries develop clean technology and advance climate action.

The Climate Business Innovation Network will support developing countries in their transition to clean energy and other climate-smart paths by building local capacity and linking small businesses to global sources of technology, finance, and expertise.

Diverse partners, including foundations, donors, businesses, investors, venture funds, universities, international organizations, and government agencies will provide advisory services, partnership and funding to small and growing businesses in developing countries, with a focus on Africa. As the network expands, more organizations will join to enhance the service offerings.

"The World Bank Group is happy to be convening organizations for maximum impact through the new Climate Business Innovation Network, to help accelerate small and growing businesses' capacity," said Anabel Gonzalez, the World Bank Group's senior director for Trade & Competitiveness. "The network will deliver concrete solutions to climate problems, while creating jobs and value in our partner countries and helping them meet their Paris commitments."

With countries gearing up to implement the actions in the Nationally Determined Contributions, it is essential they deploy the latest innovations available. The network will allow climate technology businesses in developing countries to access the expertise and know-how needed to adapt and adopt innovative business models that have been proven in other countries.

Specifically, the network will:

Spread models to enable climate innovation: Countries have implemented a range of strategies to catalyze innovation locally and globally to create new technologies for climate mitigation and adaptation.

The network will be the premier vehicle to gather experiences and share them with participating countries and stakeholders.

Diffuse disruptive green business models: The innovation we are seeing in every country around the world in climate sectors is creating many new business models which not only address climate challenges but do so in a commercial manner that creates jobs and investments. The network will gather, collect, and share these successes, linking private sector firms and government entities across boundaries to facilitate this transfer.

Crowd-in global sources of finance for climate tech innovation: Both the public and private sector have shown keen interest to invest in novel climate change solutions with developing country applications. There are many barriers to such investment, however, including lack of knowledge, high transaction costs, and challenges to align different investor interests. The network will gather these sources of funding for climate innovation to channel them effectively among a pipeline of promising options.

The network also will sponsor networking events and pitch competitions, and share local and global research and resources through a virtual platform.

Over the next decade, investments in clean technology sectors in developing countries are expected to top \$6.4 trillion globally, with \$1.6 trillion of that market accessible to small and medium enterprises. The network can help leverage the available financing for climate solutions in local markets. In doing so, it can both diminish the stresses of climate change on vulnerable populations while improving their livelihoods with the benefits of newly introduced climate solutions.

In Asia, initial network partners include the National Agency for Technology Entrepreneurship and Commercialization Development (Vietnam) and the Vietnam Climate Innovation Center. (World Asia Editors 2016-12-19)

GOVERNMENTS OF CABO VERDE AND PORTUGAL MEET AT SUMMIT IN FEBRUARY 2017

The fourth summit of heads of government of Portugal and Cabo Verde (Cape Verde) takes place on 20 February in Praia announced last week the Cape Verdean Minister of Foreign Affairs, Luís Filipe Tavares.

The minister, who was speaking to journalists in the capital, said that the documents for the summit, during which the 2016-2020 Strategic Cooperation Programme will be signed “are finalised.”

Tavares said that in relation to the overall budget support programme “there are still no definitive figures.”

The summit, originally scheduled for December, was postponed until January for reasons related to the agenda of meetings of the Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Costa in the European Union and subsequently postponed until February.

This will be the fourth summit to be held between the two countries, after the first in June 2010 in Lisbon, the second in Mindelo in December 2012 and the third again in the Portuguese capital in December 2014.

The new Strategic Cooperation Programme (PEC) for the 2016-2020 period, is due to be signed at the summit. It includes sectors such as health, education, culture, security and defence, among others. (19-12-2016)

INSURANCE BROKER AON RAISES MOZAMBIQUE'S SOVEREIGN RISK

Mozambique was the only country in sub-Saharan Africa to see its Political Risk, Default Risk and External Transfers increase to High, according to an analysis by risk insurance brokerage firm Aon (<https://www.riskmaps.aon.co.uk/>).

Analysts from the brokerage, which every year draws up a map of the political risk of almost all countries, wrote that due to deterioration of the general credit rating in the last quarter of 2016 Mozambique rose from a rating of “Medium-High” to “High.”

In the quarterly update, analysts said “Mozambique is going through a debt crisis, exacerbated by the discovery of government fraud and the subsequent suspension of financing and international support, including from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) aid programme.”

Recalling the debts of public companies that were hidden from the country’s official, the AON analysts anticipate difficulties in the short and medium term, not only in payment of debts but also in the business environment in Mozambique.

“The ongoing international audit should reveal that current debt levels are unsustainable, which means that more debt restructuring will be necessary,” the report said, adding “this could undermine the business environment for international entrepreneurs.”

The Political Risk map, whose latest quarterly update has now been published, examines nearly 160 countries and territories through 168 indicators. (06-01-2017)

EU COOPERATION POSITIVELY PERCEIVED IN ALGERIA, POLL REVEALS



A large majority of Algerians (78%) believe the EU’s financial support to their country has been totally effective, and two thirds of them see the EU as an important partner, according to the findings of a survey carried out in the framework of the EU-funded EU Neighbours South project.

In fact, more than half of respondents in Algeria consider that the support of the EU contributes a lot to the development of their country while a majority of them think the EU should have a greater role to play in their country in trade (70%), human rights (69%), economic development (69%), transport (62%) and education (65%).

Almost three quarters of Algerians are satisfied with their life while only 29% are positive about the economic situation and 22% about employment in their country.

This survey is part of the first series of opinion polls, conducted in seven EU Southern Neighbourhood partner countries: Algeria, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia, looking, inter alia, at perceptions of, and attitudes towards the EU, level of information about the EU, awareness of EU financial support as well as the general mood of respondents in the Southern Neighbourhood countries, including their views on current and future economic, employment and general life situations. (EEAS 19-2-2016)

Opinion poll – [Algeria](#)

UGANDA'S MUSEVENI CHAMPIONS RIVER NILE CONSERVATION

Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni has said his government would take strict measures to ensure the conservation of the River Nile.

"The problem of the Nile is too much agriculture. The Chinese brought the culture of growing paddy rice in the wetlands which need to be left alone and used sustainably" the Ugandan leader said.

Museveni was speaking in the presence of his Egyptian counterpart President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi at the end of a day's visit to Uganda on Sunday.

Museveni said conserving the Nile was environmentally necessary so that Egypt, which relies heavily on the river for water supply would not be affected.

Museveni noted that the Nile Basin countries should also develop a highway along the Nile to enable landlocked countries like Uganda, South Sudan and Ethiopia, to reduce the distance to Europe and to the Port of Alexandria.

The Ugandan president also encouraged Egyptian investors to build warehouses in Uganda so that products do not only appear on the Ugandan market during the trade fairs.

President Al-Sisi called for increased trade between Uganda and Egypt.

He noted that a joint Permanent Commission is slated to meet and see how to boost trade between Uganda and Egypt.

President Al-Sisi said his government would collaborate with Uganda in many sectors including irrigation, livestock farming and electricity among others. (APA 19-12-2016)

MACAU AND RENMINBI MARK RELATIONS BETWEEN CHINA AND THE PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING COUNTRIES IN 2016



Relations between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries were marked in 2016 by the 5th Ministerial Conference of Forum Macau, which reinforced the importance of the Special Administrative Region, the Chinese currency and industrial partnerships.

The drop in commodity prices affected the economies of Brazil, Angola and Mozambique and resulted in a reduction of trade of these countries with China, but also a diversification of the relationship, coinciding with the new Chinese central government's policy on Africa.

In Brazil the crisis meant an opportunity for multiple Chinese investments, like buying a 15% stake of CPFL Energia by the China State Grid Corporation, and in Angola and Mozambique Chinese funding became even more important than it already was.

Xu Yingzhen, the Secretary General of Forum Macau, said that in the last three years the Portuguese-speaking African countries and Timor-Leste (East Timor) received 240 million euros in loans from China with favourable terms, as agreed in 2013 in the 2013-2016 Action Plan, which came out of the 4th Ministerial Conference of the Forum.

The “One Belt, One Road” strategy and strengthening the productive capacity of Portuguese-speaking countries are part of the next action plan of Forum Macau, which came out of the ministerial conference on 11 and 12 October as well as the internationalisation of the renminbi, as a facilitator for investment and trade – for companies – and funding – for the States, which will have a major hub in the Macau financial sector.

At a conference in Lisbon in September, Anselmo Teng, chairman of the Monetary Authority of Macau, who stressed that the MSAR plans to establish a RMB clearing platform between China and Portugal, “which may support the internationalisation procedures” of the Chinese currency and “provide facilities to clear economic and trade transactions in RMB between China and Portuguese-speaking countries.”

Potential development in the cross-border use of RMB between China and Portuguese-speaking countries is very broad, given the current level of trade of more than US\$98 billion in 2015, said Teng. The fifth ministerial meeting of Forum Macau, more than a decade after the institution, was founded is attended by five prime ministers – Portugal, Cabo Verde (Cape Verde), Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique and China – and is already considered the highest level meeting ever.

The Prime Minister of China Li Keqiang announced the allocation of at least 2 billion yuan (US\$300 million) in loans with preferential terms to the Portuguese-speaking African and Asian Forum members, in order to promote the productive capacity of beneficiary countries.

Another new feature of the conference was that the headquarters of the US\$1 billion fund for investment in Portuguese-speaking countries announced by China in 2013 will be transferred from Beijing to Macau to facilitate contact with potential interested parties.

Writing in Macao magazine, José Luis de Sales Marques, President of the Institute of European Studies of Macau, said the financial infrastructure to support the “One Belt, One Road,” strategy, and the Asian Bank for International Investment and Fund for the Silk Road, can provide technical expertise and opportunities for “solid investments in infrastructure projects in Portuguese-speaking countries (PLP) for private and institutional investors from Macau, and the future Macau Fund.”

The new measures to deepen Macau’s role include its transformation into a China-PLP financial services platform, the creation of the Confederation of China-PLP Entrepreneurs, a base for training Chinese-Portuguese bilingual professionals and the construction of a Services Platform Complex for Commercial China-PLP Cooperation.

During his visit to China, ahead of participation in the Macau Forum Conference, the Prime Minister of Portugal, Antonio Costa, met with the President of China, Xi Jinping, to request more Chinese investment, which has been constant. The most recent example is Fosun’s investment in the largest private bank in Portugal, Banco Comercial Portugues (BCP), where it became a partner of Angolan state oil company Sonangol.

At the same time, the Bank of Portugal is negotiating with the China Minsheng group the sale of Novo Banco, which has important assets in Mozambique and other Portuguese-speaking countries.

2017 was also marked by the launch and completion of various infrastructure projects financed by China in the Portuguese-speaking countries, and the good performance of the smaller, but also more diverse, Portuguese-speaking world economies.

According to the IMF, the Guinean economy will grow 4.8% in 2016, Sao Tome 4%, and Cabo Verde (Cape Verde) 3.6%. Mozambique, in a context of austerity and uncertainty due to the political and security situation, has a growth estimate of 4.5%, Angola is in stagnation and Equatorial Guinea should register a downturn of 9.9%. (19-12-2016)

EGYPT: LAUNCH OF NATIONAL CAMPAIGN PROMOTING POSITIVE PARENTING WITH EU SUPPORT



The National Council for Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM) in Egypt launched this week the first of its kind multimedia campaign on positive parenting “Awladna” (meaning *Our Children*), in partnership with the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF). The campaign is supported by the EU in the context of the joint programme titled ‘Expanding Access to Education and Protection for at Risk Children in Egypt’.

The multimedia campaign “Awladna” will run for one month, reaching out to millions of parents and caregivers, through TV and Radio Public Service Announcements (PSAs), SMS transmission, and social media posts engaging some celebrities under the slogan #Calm Not Harm, as well as printed press, outdoor advertising, and direct public interaction.

The campaign comes as part of a holistic approach to support the development of policies on protecting children from violence, and to raise public awareness on the issue of positive parenting especially targeting parents, caregivers and parents-to-be.

“The ‘Awladna’ campaign reflects the European Union’s commitment to the support of Egyptian children. The campaign comes within a broader programme under which the European Union has committed EUR 30 million in grants to support increased access to education and protection of at risk children. We are pleased to work closely with the National Council of Childhood and Motherhood and UNICEF to ensure that Egyptian children grow up in an environment that is conducive to their development and wellbeing”, said Reinhold Brender Chargé d’Affaires a.i. of the EU Delegation to Egypt. (EEAS 19-12-2016)

[EU-Egypt relations](#)

ANGOLA INCREASES FOREIGN PROMOTION OF ITS TOURISM POTENTIAL

The Institute of Tourism Promotion (Infotur) of Angola on 18 January at the International Fair of Madrid Tourism (Fitur) will launch a foreign promotion campaign to attract thousands of tourists and international investors to the sector, according to a statement issued in Luanda.

In the statement, the Director of Infotur, Eugénio Clemente, said that the institute’s strategy for 2017 is based on three pillars, which are participation in major international trade fairs, implementing international promotion campaigns and the “discovery of Angola as a destination by international tour operators.”

“This new strategy is more market-oriented and will begin at Fitur, and we are improving our offer to compete with our neighbours,” the statement said

Clemente announced that the Institute this year intends to take part in the international tourism fairs of Madrid, Lisbon and Berlin and conduct international promotion activities on the business opportunities available in the tourism sector in Angola.

After 2016 it focused its strategy on the internal market, with the completion of a series of actions aimed at promoting the country’s tourism potential, operator training and dissemination of business opportunities in the sector, Infotur considers 2017 to be a year for external promotion of Angola as a destination. (05-01-2017)

PORTUGUESE FIRM APPROVES INVESTMENT IN MOZAMBIQUE OIL AND GAS PLANT

Portuguese oil firm Galp Energia says it has approved another investment in Mozambique's Rovuma Basin where it hopes to plough several millions of dollars in the exploration of oil and gas.

In a notice to Mozambique's Securities and Exchange Commission on Monday, Galp Energia announced that "its board of directors approved the investment in the Coral South area in the southern African country's Rovuma Basin.

The company described the board approval as "a relevant landmark for the final decision of investment in the project.

"The Coral South project consists of the construction of a floating liquefaction unit for natural gas (FLNG) with an annual capacity of more than 3.3 meters of liquefied natural gas (LNG), which will be connected to six wells," the company said.

The company pointed out that it signed a 20-year agreement with British oil giant BP in October to sell the total volume of LNG produced at the Coral South FLNG. (APA 19-12-2016)

WHERE DO MOST OF SOUTH AFRICA'S TOURISTS COME FROM?



Germany overtook the UK as SA's largest source of tourists in October, Statistics SA reported on Monday.

The number of German tourists visiting SA jumped 30% to 40,492 in October from 31,158 in October 2015.

The number UK tourists increased 14% to 39,696 in October from 34,936 in the same month in 2015.

The overall number of foreign tourists visiting SA grew 14% to 850,956 in October from 748,561 in October 2015.

The US maintained third place with an 8% growth in tourists to 27,583, with fourth-placed France narrowing the gap with a 22% jump in tourist numbers to 19,009 people.

Of the German visitors, more than 98% were holiday makers.

Four percent of UK visitors were on business trips, and 3% of US visitors. (BD 19-12-2016)

GERMANY DONATES MILITARY EQUIPMENT WORTH 3M EUROS TO NIGERIA

Nigeria's Minister of Defence Mansur Dan-Ali on Sunday took delivery of military equipment worth 3 million euros from his German counterpart, Dr. Ursula Von der Layen for the Nigerian military to fight insurgency in the North-East region of the country.

The German Minister of Defence, Dr. Ursula Von der Layen, who handed over the equipment to Dan-Ali, at the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja, said that the donation was done under the 2012-2016

Memorandum of Understanding between the two countries.

According to local media reports, the equipment included Vallon Metal Detector, Ground Surveillance Radar System, Counter-Improvised Explosive Device and Explosive Ordinance Disposal Equipment.

The German minister explained that the assistance did not extend to the sale of sophisticated military weapons.

When I meet my counterparts around the world, the topic at the top of the agenda is always the same; the fight against terrorism and extremism ♦ these are terrorists who use religion for their own evil purposes.

Everywhere, terrorists sit behind a blind trail of destruction and death; they seek the vulnerable like children, just like the Boko Haram does in Nigeria, the minister said.

The German minister noted that to combat the enemy of this nature is mostly difficult and dangerous and that it was in the common interest that the people of Germany and Nigeria are saved from them.

Responding, Dan-Ali assured that the equipment would be deployed effectively. (APA 19-12-2016)

PORTUGUESE GROUP MOTA-ENGIL AWARDED ANOTHER PROJECT IN ANGOLA

The Angolan subsidiary of Portuguese construction group Mota-Engil has been awarded a project worth 178 million euros to repair one of the main roads in Luanda province, according to a presidential order. The work awarded to Mota-Engil Engenharia e Construção África to repair the Via Express/Camama/Avenida Pedro de Castro Van-Dunem Loy road includes micro and macro-drainage works, as well as building a roundabout.

With three lanes in each direction, the Via Express (Expressway) is one of the main roads in Luanda, a city with almost 7 million inhabitants, according to Portuguese news agency Lusa.

The document signed by the President also states that the execution of this work, included in the Public Investment Programme, will be carried out under Portugal's credit line guaranteed by the Export Credit Insurance Company (COSEC).

The governments of Angola and Portugal intend to accelerate the inclusion in the COSEC export insurance and credit line projects to be carried out by Portuguese companies in Angola, with priority given to infrastructure and defence.

This intention was announced in October, in Luanda, at the end of a meeting between the Angolan Finance minister, Archer Mangureira, and the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Portugal, Teresa Ribeiro, during an official visit to Angola.

This credit line was created by the Portuguese government in December 2008, as part of measures to minimise the effects of the economic and financial crisis and to support internationalisation, with a state guarantee and exclusive management by COSEC. (05-01-2016)

BP INVESTING \$916M IN WEST AFRICA AS IT BUILDS UP ITS NATURAL-GAS BUSINESS



BP has agreed to buy stakes in West African licences held by Kosmos Energy for \$916m as the British producer builds its natural-gas business after an acquisition in Egypt last month.

BP will become operator and acquire a 62% working interest in licences at four deep-water blocks off Mauritania plus an effective 32.49% interest in permits at two blocks off Senegal, the companies said on Monday. Kosmos will keep 28% and 32.51% of the Mauritanian and Senegalese licences respectively, and will remain exploration operator.

"The deal gives BP a leadership position in an emerging world-class, low-cost gas basin with advantaged access to global gas markets," the London-based company said.

CEO Bob Dudley said the project "brings together all the elements" needed to create a new liquefied natural gas hub in Africa.

BP upstream CEO Bernard Looney said the Mauritania-Senegal basin would become an "important profit centre". The company last month purchased 10% of Eni's Zohr field in Egypt for \$375m, giving it access to one of the world's largest natural gas discoveries in recent times.

Larger rival Royal Dutch Shell strengthened its position in natural gas and LNG with the \$54bn acquisition of BG Group in February.

Financial Capability

While energy exploration has slowed in Africa with the slump in oil prices, Kosmos and Cairn Energy have made discoveries off Senegal. That includes Kosmos's mid-2015 discovery of the Greater Tortue complex, which is estimated to hold 25-trillion cubic feet of gas, according to Will Hares, an analyst at Bloomberg Intelligence.

"Kosmos is an explorer, and brings in an experienced operator with deep LNG experience and effectively funds their work programme for the next several years," Hares said.

Kosmos and BP also entered into an exploration partnership covering new ventures in Mauritania, Senegal and Gambia, according to the statement.

BP "brings financial capability, deep-water development and LNG expertise," said Kosmos CEO Andrew Inglis, who was formerly BP's upstream chief. (Bloomberg 19-12-2016)

EGYPT SIGNS \$500M DEAL WITH AFDB

Egypt on Monday signed a deal to obtain a payment of \$500 million from the African Development Bank (AfDB), the second of three disbursements of a \$1.5 billion loan.

Egyptian Minister of International Cooperation Sahar Nasar signed the agreement with Leila Mokaddem, AfDB's Resident Representative for Egypt, in Cairo.

Nasar announced earlier this month that the AfDB's board approved to disburse the second payment of \$1.5 billion in budget support loan.

Egypt's central bank received earlier in January this year the first tranche of the AfDB loan. (APA 19-12-2016)

ANGOLA LNG RESUMES PRODUCTION AFTER “CONTROLLED STOPPAGE”

The Angola LNG company has resumed production of liquefied natural gas after a “controlled stoppage” that started last December, reported the international trade press, citing a company spokesman. Angola LNG, a partnership led by US group Chevron whose facilities in Soyo were built by US company Bechtel, has had a number of scheduled and unscheduled stoppages since it resumed exports in June 2016, after a stoppage of two years for major repairs.

Launched in 2007 to take advantage of the natural gas resulting from oil exploration, the project brings together, in addition to Chevron (36.4%), Angola’s Sonangol (22.8%), BP Exploration (13.6%), Italy’s ENI (13.6%) and France’s Total (13.6%).

It is also one of the largest investments ever made in the Angolan oil industry – US\$10 billion – featuring seven tankers and three loading bays and is intended to eliminate the burning of natural gas released as part of oil exploration. (05-01-2016)

The Memorandum is supported by the ACP-African, Caribbean, Pacific Secretariat, Chamber of Commerce Tenerife, AHEAD-GLOBAL, Business Council for Africa, Corporate Council on Africa, ELO - Portuguese Association for Economic Development and Cooperation, Hellenic-African Chamber of Commerce and Development, HTTC - Hungarian Trade & Cultural Centre, NABA - Norwegian-African Business Association, NABC- Netherlands Africa Business Council, SwissCham-Africa and other organisations.

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A 2017 New Year's Message from Dr. P.I Gomes, Secretary-General of the ACP Group of States

“ACP Secretary-General salutes Global Climate Alliance.”

In extending New Year Greetings to our 79 Member States of the African, Caribbean & Pacific (ACP) Group, may I once again reiterate the deep appreciation of the ACP's Secretariat to our Presidents and Prime Ministers, the Council of Ministers, Senior Officials, Continental and Regional organisations, development partners, civil society and private sector organisations that contributed so significantly to the main achievements of the ACP Family in 2016.

The gains made in the last year were particularly valuable in advancing commitments made by the ACP Group to the 2015 Paris Agreement and 2016 Marrakech Declaration on climate change. This is a great tribute to the programmes of the Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA) spearheaded by the ACP & European Commission with resources from the European Development Fund (EDF).

The ACP is proud of the ratification and implementation of the 2015 Paris Agreement by so many ACP member states. Their submissions of nationally determined targets for adaptation and mitigation of climate impact on food security, protecting forests and oceans, ensuring sustainable management of extractive sectors and enabling our ACP agro-processing enterprises to move up and into Global Value Chains (GVCs) and derive improved incomes, skills development and decent jobs, especially among women and youth. This has shown significant success, for example, among cocoa, coconut, cotton, cashew nut farmers and fishers in West Africa and Pacific Islands.

The impact of these results across several sectors is tangible proof of growing attention to specific UN Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These have included reducing extreme poverty, fostering food and nutrition security, protecting land, forests, oceans and seas and upgrading living conditions in slums and urban settlements and thereby providing a strong platform for continuing progress of ACP States in achieving sustainable development in 2017 and the years ahead.

The Intra-ACP programmes of the 11th EDF in this area will deepen these results aiming at a cumulative impact in the 2017-2020 period of the ACP's Strategic Management Plan (SMP) by addressing capacity-building and climate policy analysis in ACP Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) and Least Developing Countries (LDCs).

Along with climate change, the ACP Group has identified trade, investment, research and innovation to loom large among the 2017-2020 activities in anticipation of and further preparation for forthcoming negotiations with the European Union (EU) for a successor agreement to the current ACP-EU Partnership Agreement, signed in 2000 in Cotonou, Benin for twenty years, ending in February 2020. In addition, preliminary analysis will be given to core principles for a possible Free Trade & Development Cooperation Agreement with the UK in the wake of its Brexit-EU relations.

On the trade front, sound progress has been made in 2016 with the contentious ACP-EU economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) that enables implementation measures for these WTO-compatible, preferential trade and investment accords to start reaping some, if even limited, harvests in public-private partnerships, for example, in a range of commodities, fishery products and professional and cultural services within CARIFORUM, in Southern Africa, a few African and Pacific economies. Those ACP countries with full or interim Agreements, that have not been ratified should do so as soon as possible and ensure their tariff schedules are prepared to take effect in 2017.

So too must be more concerted actions by ACP member states to ratify the WTO 2013 Trade Facilitation Agreement for which the ACP Group as a critical global force had exerted its influence in the G90 (Group of Developing Countries) to secure a Treaty that reduces cross-border customs regulations and transaction costs.

The ACP Group will continue to play the role of champion, advocate and reliable ally of the Global South in ensuring an enduring commitment to the development dimension of the World Trade System.

Linked to strides made in trade negotiation capacity building by the ACP Secretariat in serving our member states, efforts in 2017 are being centred on the design of an ACP-wide Investment regime to be developed in collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade & Development (UNCTAD).

At the UNCTAD XIV Summit in Nairobi, July 2016, the ACP and UNCTAD agreed on broad principles for regulatory and incentive systems to address cross-border and downstream investments on natural resource and commodity enterprises such as cocoa, cotton, kava, cashew nuts as well as minerals, oil, gas and petroleum by-products. Moreover, in collaboration with UNCTAD, the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and FAO, the ACP has proposed a comprehensive approach to “harnessing the blue economy”. This will address marine resource development, research and innovation studies on fisheries, sea-bed mining, coastal area conservation and development, artisanal and aquaculture programmes.

Beyond climate change, trade and investment, the 104th Session of the Council of Ministers in Brussels in November 2016, unambiguously agreed that peace and security are pre-requisites for sustainable development and sustainable development could not be attained without peace and security.

While the ACP welcomes the notable gains in the rule of law and good governance by many ACP States as witnessed by the smooth transition of power by electoral means in Ghana, we are firmly resolved that the outgoing President of the Republic of the Gambia, Yaya Jammeh should handover the mantle of leadership to the democratically-elected President as expressed by the will of the people.

To this unequivocal call by fellow Leaders of the Economic Community of West African States ((ECOWAS) and by the African Union, United Nations and a host of civil society organisations in The Gambia, the ACP Group has aligned itself and urges President Jammeh to honour the electoral results and demit office by the constitutionally-due date of 18 January 2017.

As the ACP looks to this year that will be undoubtedly marked by meagre economic recovery, growing political uncertainty, complex realignments at the international level and continuing regional conflicts, we will redouble efforts to strengthen our initiatives to assist our member states to implement the UN's Agenda 2030 and the SDGs and vigorously pursue alliances of the like-minded to safeguard multilateral institutions for the good of all humanity. In this regard, 2017 will be a year for consolidation, standing firm on South-south solidarity and strengthening the core values and mutual interests between and among ACP societies as efforts are intensified for the structural transformation and diversification of ACP economies. The achievements of 2016 provide a strong platform on which to aim for reasonable success during this year and beyond.

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