

MEMORANDUM

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EURO-MEDITERRANEAN REGION IN THE SPOTLIGHT AT MARRAKECH COP22: ARLEM COMMISSION DISCUSSES ENERGY & CLIMATE CHANGE AND CROSS BORDER COOPERATION

Within the framework of the UN Climate Conference COP22, the second meeting of the Commission for Sustainable Territorial Development of the Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly (ARLEM), was held this week to discuss two thematic reports: '[Energy and climate change in the Mediterranean Region](#)' and '[Cross-border cooperation in the Mediterranean](#)'.

ARLEM is to adopt both reports in Malta in February 2017. The Euro-Mediterranean assembly will be present at the Union for the Mediterranean ministerial meeting on energy to be held 1 December 2016 in Rome. Ministers will discuss energy cooperation in the Mediterranean and the ways to scaling up energy investments in the region.

As a replicable model to boost sustainable energy investments and facilitate the transition to a low-carbon economy, the European Committee of the Regions presented the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy during COP22. The objective is to stress the added value of the Covenant in the Southern Mediterranean, Sub-Saharan and Western African countries. The event saw a groundbreaking declaration from the Western African Economic and Monetary Union, committed to mobilize its 3300 municipalities to join the Covenant. The CoR will follow up with its partners and the European Commission on this exceptional commitment.

ARLEM was launched in 2010 to bring a territorial dimension to the UfM by involving local and regional authorities more closely in UfM projects. It is composed of 80 local and regional representatives from the EU and its Mediterranean partners and is chaired by a co-presidency, representing Mediterranean partners and the EU. (EEAS 17-11-2016)

ARLEM [webpage](#)

ANGOLA RESUMES GROWTH IN 2017, IMF SAYS

Angola's economic growth is expected to increase to 1.25% in 2017, after no growth in 2016, reflecting the recovery of the non-oil sector, according to a report issued on Wednesday in Washington by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The same report, which presents the results of the 2016 mission under Article 4, said that the inflation rate is expected to increase until the end of the year to 45%, before declining to a 20% rate in 2017, as a result the application of tighter monetary conditions and a stable national currency.

"The medium-term prospects are for a gradual recovery in economic activity, although there are risks, including a further decline in oil prices and delays in the implementation of structural reforms needed to promote economic diversification," the report said.

The IMF mission led by economist Ricardo Velloso said that despite the measures taken to mitigate the impact of the decline in oil prices, which allowed significant improvement in the primary non-oil fiscal balance and devaluation of the kwanza against the dollar, "additional measures are necessary to continue adjusting to the new reality of international oil markets."

The document stated that the government's actions to control public spending partially offset the impact of lower oil prices, and the overall fiscal deficit is expected to be about 4.0% of GDP in 2016.

"However, public debt is expected to exceed 70% of GDP at the end of 2016, reflecting the depreciation of the exchange rate beyond the projected fiscal deficit," the report said, with IMF staff calling for the Angolan government to seek a fiscal deficit of no more than 2.25% of GDP in 2017. (17-11-2016)

ANGOLAN ECONOMY CREATES 1.5 MILLION JOBS FROM 2009 TO 2015

The Angolan economy created over 1.5 million jobs from 2009 to 2015, according to the “Indicators of Economic Growth and Distribution of National Income in Angola”, report, the supporting document to the monthly discussion of the National Assembly, Angolan news agency Angop reported.

The same report indicates that more than 1.36 million jobs were created by the public and private business sector, while 183,800 were created by government services.

The document also reveals that Angola grew from 2004 to 2008 by an annual average of 17%, one of the fastest growing countries in the world in that period and the global economic and financial crisis has had significant effects on the economy, which from 2009 to 2015 had an average annual growth rate of 4.2%.

The lower rates of economic growth from 2014, due to the strong and unexpected drop in oil prices in the international market, which started in the second half of this year and that made the country plunge into a crisis that is still ongoing.

Average annual growth in the oil sector over the 2009-2015 period was negative (-0.78%), when the economy as a whole grew by an annual average of 4.2%, as a result of the non-oil sector contribution, which registered an increase of 7%, with emphasis on agriculture 11%, industry 8%, construction 11.9% and energy with 14.3%.

The report notes that despite the reduction in the weight of the oil sector in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), of 58% in 2008 to 35% in 2015, oil still remains Angola’s main export and the main source of State tax revenues. (17-11-2016)

BMCE BANK OF AFRICA, L’AFD ET LA BEI S’ASSOCIENT EN FAVEUR DE LA PROTECTION DE LA RESSOURCE EN EAU ET DE L’ADAPTATION AU CHANGEMENT CLIMATIQUE DU MAROC



Ce protocole d’entente entre des acteurs majeurs du financement de la lutte contre le changement climatique permettra d’attirer des investissements privés pour l’adaptation au changement climatique au Maroc.

Soumis à un fort stress hydrique qui est amené à s’accroître sous l’effet du changement climatique, le Maroc connaît depuis 1995 des avancées notables dans le secteur de l’eau et mène une politique incitative notamment en faveur des investissements de dépollution industrielle, du recyclage et de la réutilisation de l’eau.

Acteur de la finance durable, BMCE Bank of Africa souhaite accompagner ce mouvement.

L’importance de l’eau et de l’assainissement pour l’adaptation au changement climatique du Maroc a été soulignée une nouvelle fois lors de la publication de sa Contribution nationale (INDC) en vue de la COP21 : en effet 11 des 14 objectifs d’accroissement de la résilience du pays aux changements climatiques concernent l’eau et l’assainissement et incluent : la collecte, l’épuration et la réutilisation des eaux usées, l’économie d’eau en irrigation, l’amélioration du rendement des réseaux ainsi que la préservation des eaux souterraines.

Dans cette perspective et afin d’accompagner la stratégie du Maroc en matière d’adaptation au changement climatique, l’Agence Française de Développement (AFD) et la Banque européenne d’investissement (BEI) étudient la mise en place d’une ligne de crédit en faveur de BMCE Bank of Africa qui rétrocédera les fonds aux industriels et aux opérateurs d’eau potable et assainissement pour financer des projets de protection de la ressource en eau et d’adaptation au changement climatique :

dépollution hydrique, réutilisation des eaux usées traitées, réduction des fuites, etc. BMCE Bank of Africa a également l'intention de mieux sensibiliser ses clients aux technologies contribuant à la protection de la ressource en eau.

L'AFD et la BEI sont déjà partenaires de BMCE Bank of Africa au travers de l'expérience réussie du programme « Morseff » (Morocco Sustainable Energy Financing Facility) destiné à encourager les investissements dans l'énergie durable par l'intermédiaire d'institutions financières.

« BMCE Bank of Africa, est honorée, souligne M. Brahim Benjelloun-Touimi, Administrateur Directeur général exécutif Groupe, de réitérer, à travers ce nouveau partenariat, son engagement en faveur de l'Adaptation au Changement Climatique. Dans le contexte du stress hydrique que connaît le continent africain, et suite aux échanges entre les différents pays autour de la thématique de l'Eau, lors de la COP22, le soutien financier s'impose. BMCE Bank of Africa, s'est d'ores et déjà assuré un positionnement fort sur le secteur de l'énergie à travers son produit Cap-Energie-programme MorSEFF ; le moment était opportun d'accompagner les entreprises marocaines dans leur mise en conformité avec la réglementation en termes de prétraitement des eaux tout en améliorant leur rentabilité à travers la réutilisation des eaux usées. Nous sommes également fiers d'accompagner le Royaume dans le renforcement des réseaux d'eau et d'assainissement. L'intégration des préoccupations sociales dans nos financements contribuera ainsi à faire de la finance durable une finance à impact positif. »

« L'AFD est fière de travailler avec la BEI et BMCE Bank of Africa à l'instruction d'une ligne de crédit dédiée à la protection de la ressource en eau. Cette ligne de crédit sera entièrement dédiée à des projets d'adaptation au changement climatique. A cet égard, elle constituera une première au Maroc, et sans doute même en Afrique. Elle contribuera tout particulièrement à accélérer les investissements privés dans la dépollution hydrique industrielle. L'AFD est déjà fortement engagée dans le secteur de l'assainissement liquide domestique au Maroc. Elle joue notamment le rôle de chef de file des bailleurs européens pour le financement de l'Office national de l'électricité et de l'eau potable (ONEE) dans le cadre du Programme national d'assainissement. Nous sommes donc très heureux d'étendre désormais notre soutien au traitement des eaux industrielles et de renforcer au travers de cette initiative innovante notre coopération avec BMCE Bank of Africa que le Groupe AFD accompagne déjà dans sa démarche de finance durable », a déclaré Rémy Rioux, Directeur général de l'AFD.

Pour M. Mickael Koehler, Directeur Général pour le Voisinage (NEAR) à la Commission européenne, ce nouvel appui de la BEI et de l'AFD pour le secteur privé, vient compléter les soutiens de l'UE qui a apporté plus de 227 millions d'euros depuis ces 15 dernières années au Maroc pour réformer le secteur de l'eau et améliorer et la politique d'assainissement « pour le bien de la population marocaine et de notre planète en général ».

« A l'heure où se tient la COP 22, cette initiative avec l'AFD et BMCE est emblématique de l'engagement de la BEI en faveur de l'adaptation aux changements climatiques dans le secteur de l'eau et de l'assainissement. La BEI est l'un des premiers financiers du secteur avec à ce jour plus de 1300 projets d'eau et d'assainissement dans le monde, représentant plus de 60 milliards d'euros de financement. Assurer la sécurité hydrique des pays dans le contexte des changements climatiques est l'une de nos priorités. A travers nos projets, nous aidons les pays, à l'intérieur comme à l'extérieur de l'UE, à adapter leur gestion de l'eau pour tenir compte des changements climatiques. » a souligné Marion Hoenicke, chef de Division à la BEI pour les opérations de prêts aux PME dans les pays voisins. (BEI 15-11-2016)

FOREIGNERS DOMINATE PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN ANGOLA

Private investment in Angola is still dominated by foreign investors, a fact that is compounded by the difficulty of domestic investors in obtaining internal financing for projects, the director of the Technical Unit for Private Investment (UTIP) said on Wednesday in Luanda.

"There are more foreign investment contracts than domestic investment contracts," said Norberto Garcia, during a meeting organised by the Office of Revitalization and Implementation of Institutional Communications and Marketing Management (GRECIMA).

Quoted by news agency Angop, the director of the UTIP said that to overcome the lack of funding for the projects of national investors negotiations are underway with several Chinese banks and the China Fund for Africa.

Garcia also said investment contracts worth US\$9 billion had been signed over the past 12 months, projects that will create more than 5,000 direct jobs.

The signed contracts relate to investments in sectors such as Industry, Agriculture, Energy and Water, Transport and Tourism, among others, providing at least 3,000 indirect jobs and a lead time of 34 to 36 months.

The UTIP, an agency created a year ago under the direct purview of the Civil House of the President, is responsible for conducting investment projects above US\$10 million, offering several benefits to domestic and foreign private investors, under contracts with the State involving reduction or exemption from various taxes.

Garcia also said that current legislation on private investment in Angola has been an asset in attracting international investors and safeguards repatriation of profits and dividends, after the implementation and maturity of the project. (17-11-2016)

MOZAMBIQUE IS EXPECTED TO PRODUCE 120,000 TONS OF CASHEW NUTS IN 2016/2017

The sale of cashew nuts in Mozambique in the 2016/2017 campaign is expected to reach 120,000 tonnes compared to almost 100,000 recorded in the previous year, said the director of the National Cashew Institute (Incaju).

Ilídio Bande, who was speaking in the Nampula district at the official launch of the 2016/2017 campaign, said there are good indicators in all provinces producing nuts and the goal is therefore likely to be achieved.

The beginning of the cashew nut marketing year is the culmination of a preparation process involving producers, service providers, government agencies and other stakeholders so that the whole process is conducted smoothly, according to Mozambican daily newspaper Noticias.

The governor of Nampula, Victor Borges, recalled the province is the largest cashew producer in Mozambique and called on producers to combat the problems affecting the cashew trees, including pests and wildfires. (17-11-2016)

TUNISIA LOOKS UP TO ITS WINE HERITAGE TO REVIVE STRUGGLING TOURISM SECTOR



Tunisia's tourism industry has been on the downward spiral since the 2011 revolution. recent terror attacks have also affected it allure to foreign visitors who usually patronize the beaches.

But the sector could soon bounce back with a different verve from an unlikely source – viticulture.

With some 3,000 years of wine production experience, Tunisian wine producers are hoping to steer the sails of the country's suffering tourism sector.

Wine producers like Mohammed Ben Sheikh is preparing to open up his vineyard which sits atop the hills overlooking the Mediterranean sea to tour operators next year.

"This new product, which I hope from 2017, will be made available to tour operators from Tunisia as well as foreign tourists, is a cultural route. A cultural route is an alternative to conventional tourism," he told AFP.

His plan includes harnessing the archaeological heritage of the country as well as its wine producing history to create what he terms cultural tourism.

“Carthage was the granary of Rome but it was also its wine cellar. It had a great agronomist, Magon, who was the first to write treaties on wine growing,” he explains.

Thus the idea is to develop a tour stretching from the capital Tunis to the nearby Cap Bon peninsula, mixing archaeology with visits to local vineyards.

Neferis produces 1.2 million bottles of wine annually, a fraction of the 32 million bottles produced from wineries across the country each year.

This is part of a revival of the wine industry in Tunisia since the 1990s after it took a dip in the post-independence era when Europeans started patronizing their own products.

But still, a vast majority of the wine produced is consumed locally, something wine producers are hoping to change.

“Previously we did not in practice, present the same wines to the export market and the tourism sector,” said Belgacem D’Khili, a veteran of the industry. He explains though that now they are working on having the same wine for both markets with the hope that Tunisian wine gains international recognition. Tunisia earns approximately 80 million euros annually from its wine sector. Of this amount, about 25 million euros goes into the state coffers by way of taxes. Revenue from wine export does not exceed 10 million euros.

Industry players have attributed this to the limited scale of vineyards – about 15,000 hectares on a national level and a near absence of a marketing strategy, things they say they have started working on. (BD 30-10-2011)

SIERRA LEONE CAPITAL’S MUNICIPALITY LAMENTS GOV’T INTERFERENCE IN TAX COLLECTION

The cash-strapped Freetown City Council of the Sierra Leonean capital, has lamented its inability to collect tax from inhabitants of the city and has blamed the central government for it.

A spokesman for the Council said Tuesday that anytime they tried to take action the central government had frustrated their efforts, so that they have always been behind in terms of tax collection and losing billions of leones.

Between 2009 and 2012, the Council’s annual revenue went up to Le2 billion (about US\$300, 000, according to the current exchange rate).

Residents of the city have cited corruption for refusal to pay tax. This apathy especially heightened after the indictment of the former Mayor, Herbart George Williams, on corruption charges in 2011. As a way of overcoming the challenge, the Council under the current leadership of Franklyn Bode Gibson put in place a number of enforcement regulations, among them setting up road blocks to force reluctant citizens to pay tax. But this, according to Syril Marthia, Public Relations Officer of the Council, has always been opposed by the central government. This, he said, has made it difficult for them to honor their development commitments to the people.

Mr. Marthia told the Premier News that as a Council they expected the government to support them not frustrate their revenue generation ability.

In 2015, according to figures from the FCC, its tax collectors realized only Le85 million (US\$12, 000) worth of local tax.

“We are using tax payers’ money to undertake development projects in Freetown,” Marthia said, stressing that this can’t be done without people paying tax.(APA 18-11-2016)

SWAZILAND PRIVATE SECTOR URGES GOVT TO CLARIFY AUSTERITY MEASURES

Swaziland's private sector has urged government to clearly state specific cost cutting measures especially in the public sector, and present supplementary funding for the payment of owed suppliers, APA can report on Tuesday.

The announcement was made late on Monday by the Federation of Swaziland Employers and Chamber of Commerce (FSE&CC), which is formed by both big and small private sector companies.

FSE&CC chairperson Andrew le Roux, said at the height of the moribund economy, the private sector expects Minister of Finance Martin Dlamini, through the Medium Term Budget Policy Statement (MTBPS) to come out clear and pronounce specific costs cutting measures and further come up with supplementary funding to clear the backlog of all outstanding amounts owed to suppliers by government, especially small and medium businesses.

Suppliers, especially Small Media Enterprises, SMEs are crying foul over delayed payments by government while some claim they have not been paid for services they provided government three months ago.

Regarding the cost cutting measures, Prime Minister Sibusiso Barnabas Dlamini indicated that there were no immediate cost cutting measures that the country could employ soon.

The Premier is quoted in the local media as saying his government could learn from countries including South Africa and Zimbabwe, who were already implementing clear belt tightening measures.

Swaziland has asked neighbouring South Africa for an emergency bailout to patch over a national cash crunch that has sparked rare political unrest against King Mswati III, Africa's last absolute monarch.

Swazi dissident groups have suggested Mswati, who has at least a dozen wives and an estimated personal fortune of \$200 million, is looking for a 10 billion South African rand loan from Pretoria..(APA 08-11-2016)

MOROCCO'S AERONAUTICS SECTOR TAKING OFF



Morocco's close geographic proximity to Europe has made the country a perfect platform for American and European businesses looking to move manufacturing offshore to lower costs. Nowhere is this clearer than in the aeronautical industry.

The sector has grown rapidly from less than a dozen firms to now seeing over 100 international companies operating in the country. Bolstered by a welcoming tax and regulatory climate, the industry enjoys high growth rates of around 15% annually and represents \$1bn, or 5%, of [Morocco's](#) total exports.

Although the '[Arab Spring](#)' destabilised many governments in the region, Morocco proved resilient to political turmoil, leading aeronautics firms to increase investment in the Kingdom. Last week Morocco signed a major deal with Boeing to create an ecosystem that could attract 120 suppliers, boost aeronautics exports by \$1bn and create almost 9,000 jobs, with the 'Boeing ecosystem' impact being felt across the country.

“The Boeing ecosystem is of great value for many reasons, especially in that it will attract other players to follow suit,” says Jean AbiNader, Executive Director of the Moroccan American Trade and Investment Center. “But it’s not only Morocco’s aeronautics industry that benefits, with Bombardier recently announcing that it was moving its cluster for railroad production to Morocco. Aeronautics is the leader and thus has a key voice in building stronger supplier networks.”

The aeronautics industry in Morocco is already home to some of the world’s leading aerospace manufacturers. Matis, a joint venture between Boeing and Safran, employs over 1,000 workers and exported €70m worth of products in 2015, with Boeing also relocating more jobs from Northern Ireland to Morocco earlier this year. Bombardier has plans to invest close to \$200m by 2020 in the tax-free Midparc zone and French firm Daher is on track to open its third plant in Morocco in 2017, at a cost of more than \$16m.

Skills gap

The creation of the Midparc Casablanca free zone, located close to the Mohammed V International Airport and offering complete tax exemption for companies during the first five years of operation, has brought in many companies and helped build up a burgeoning industry, but if the sector is to double in size by 2020 as hoped, a well-trained workforce is vital.

For example, the Moroccan machinists at Baccarat Precision, a French aerospace contractor, needed far more training to construct complex cylinders than their French counterparts, according to a 2012 Wall Street Journal report. Errors caused by the Moroccan workers caused a rejection rate for the cylinders to be much higher than the 2% target, leading to unprofitability for the manufacturer.

In response to the skills gap shortage, a number of new institutions have opened to specially cater to the needs of the aerospace sector. “The industries have already come up with a solution, and that is public-private partnerships that have industry and government collaborating in curriculum development and training across all technical specialties,” says AbiNader. He also believes that Moroccans have now proven they are able to quickly and effectively absorb technical training because of new a planning and delivery systems that have been implemented.

Trading partners

Morocco’s King Mohammed VI has undertaken a wide-ranging reform programme since coming into power in 1999, with the Arab Spring driving forward further democratic changes. A raft of [free trade agreements](#) with the US, European Union and several Arab countries has also played a central role in developing the industry.

The unrestricted free trade with the EU may have contributed to the industry’s success, but there are concerns that there has been too high a focus placed on attracting EU firms. According to some reports, up to 90% of foreign aerospace companies are French, although in recent years this figure has fallen somewhat as American businesses set up in the country.

A broader base of businesses will not only help to increase competition but it would also lessen the impact of stagnating growth in EU states, which could lead to a drop in investment and demand. Additional work by Morocco’s government is required to promote the country’s aeronautics industry in North America, with both the US and Canada being strong potential trading partners.

The North African country still has key challenges to overcome which could impact the long-term viability of the aerospace industry. This includes ballooning national debt, high levels of unemployment and faltering growth rates. It is essential that Morocco maintains an investment-friendly business environment if major multinationals are going to continue investing in the country.

While Morocco’s aeronautics industry is going from strength to strength, the rise of Tunisia, Turkey and Malaysia as low-cost competitors cannot be understated. However, as AbiNader says, competition is about more than just salaries.

“It’s also about competencies, adequate supplies, labour regulations, and quality, and on all of these criteria and more, Morocco holds its own and is better situated geographically to access its target markets without competition from South Asia or Latin America,” says AbiNader. (African Business 31-10-2016)

LA BANQUE DE CHINE S'INTERESSE AU SECTEUR ENERGETIQUE AU CAMEROUN



Le développement des infrastructures à l'instar de la construction du barrage hydroélectrique de Song Dong (Centre) dont le coût est estimé à 375 milliards de francs CFA pour une capacité de production de 270 mégawatts (MW) intéresse la Banque de Chine (BDC), a appris mardi APA auprès du ministère de l'Economie, de la Planification et de l'Aménagement du territoire.

« Nous sommes très intéressés et prêts pour financer le projet hydroélectrique de Song Dong », a déclaré le banquier chinois, selon le vice-président de la BDC, Wu Shouhua, cité par le ministère de l'Economie.

Le barrage de Song Dong est assorti une centrale hydro-électrique d'une capacité de 270 MW et de deux lignes d'évacuation d'énergie de 225 KV, longues de 75 km.

En janvier 2015, le gouvernement camerounais a signé avec la société Hydrochina International, un contrat commercial pour le développement du projet de barrage de Song Dong.

A en croire le ministre de l'Economie, Louis Paul Motaze, le Cameroun a besoin d'être accompagné par des bailleurs de fonds pour la réalisation des projets d'investissements.

Dans cette perspective, a-t-il souligné, l'on pourrait se tourner vers la BDC puisque « divers autres projets de deuxième génération sont envisagés au Cameroun, notamment la construction de chemin de fer et d'autoroutes.

Les recherches de financements se feront très prochainement et nous viendrons vers la BDC pour connaître ses méthodes ». (APA 08-11-2016)

CHINA PAYS FOR MOTORWAY EXTENSION WORKS IN GUINEA-BISSAU

A company from China will begin work to extend the motorway linking Bissau to the city's airport, the only international airport in Guinea-Bissau, the minister of Public Works, Construction and Urban Development Malam Bandjai said.

The minister, who was speaking at the ceremony to deliver the second phase of the solar lighting project in the city of Bissau from the Chinese ambassador, Wang Hua, did not disclose the name of the company in question or the cost of the work, but said everything would be paid for by the Chinese government.

The Chinese ambassador only said that his country would continue to support Guinea-Bissau in the fight against poverty and underdevelopment.

The implementation of the second phase of the solar lighting project in the city of Bissau, like the first, was entirely funded by China and executed with the support of Chinese technicians. It consisted of placing solar street lights in some avenues and in streets in the capital of Guinea Bissau.

Ambassador Wang Hua said at the ceremony that China would be responsible for the maintenance of these lampposts. (09-11-2016)

SOMALIA PRESIDENT PLEADS FOR URGENT AID AS 'DEADLY' DROUGHT BITES

The Somalian President, Hassan Sheik Mohamud has appealed for urgent humanitarian assistance for nationals affected by an acute drought in the country.

A statement released from the presidency on Monday, saw the President call on Somalis in the diaspora and the international community to intervene “to aid the situation urgently as it is time for action.”

“I appeal to the Somali people, wherever they are all over the world to help and stand shoulder to shoulder with their suffering Somali people who lack food and water due to the drought in the country.

I appeal to the Somali people, wherever they are all over the world to help and stand shoulder to shoulder with their suffering Somali people who lack food and water due to the drought in the country.

“The government will also take an important part. The Gu’ season has passed without rains with earlier rainy seasons failing. So, the Somali people need to help one another and help their brothers and sisters with food and water.” he said.

The president further stated that the drought has widely affected the country, but some areas are worse than others, “the drought is everywhere but in particular the drought hardly hit the north western and North Eastern regions of Somalia, of Somaliland and Puntland, where many livestock have already been lost, with people starting dying, in areas the drought is very critical” Hassan Sheik Mohamud added.

According to him, the already bad situation had worsened due to delayed rains. He added that whatever aid comes through the government will also make its input to save the most affected people from starving to death.

The European Union (EU) last month announced a €66.5m aid package to respond to the El Niño and food security crisis in the Horn of African region.

The package of development assistance focuses on the four countries that are most severely hit by El Niño and that are experiencing food insecurity: Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan.

The breakdown of the funds are as follows:

- Ethiopia (€22.5 million)
- Somalia (€8 million)
- South Sudan (€28 million) and
- Sudan (€8 million)

Aside the issue of drought, Somalia is also suffering from the scourge of terrorism from the Al-Shabaab militant group. The recent withdrawal by Ethiopian troops in some areas have seen the terrorist group take over towns.

The country is currently undertaking its local and legislative elections. The process will lead to the election of a President later this month. The Somali National Army is being helped by the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) to maintain security.(Africa News 09-11-2016)

SENEGAL: ECONOMIC ACTIVITY DOWN OVER 6 PERCENT IN SEPTEMBER

Domestic economic activity (excluding agriculture and forestry) in Senegal went down by 6.4 percent month-on-month in September 2016 compared with the previous month, according to the Dakar-based Department of Forecasting and Economic Studies (DPEE) on Tuesday.

“This is due to the underperformance recorded in the primary sector (minus 34.2 percent), secondary sector (minus 17.6 percent) and to a lesser extent the tertiary sector (minus 1.9 percent)” the DPEE said.

However, on an annual basis, the activity recorded a 6.7 percent growth during the period under review, thanks to positive results in the tertiary sector (plus 9.3 percent), secondary sector (plus 4.3 percent) and public administration (plus 8 percent).(APA 08-11-2016)

SUBSIDIARY OF CHINESE GROUP CITIC BUILDS FACTORY IN ANGOLA

CITIC Aluminium Angola, Lda., a subsidiary of Chinese group CITIC, is investing US\$40 million in an aluminum frame factory under construction in the Luanda-Bengo Special Economic Zone (EEZ), the deputy governor of Luanda for the economic sector said on Tuesday.

José Cerqueira, who was visiting the EEZ in the company of potential Chinese investors, said the factory, located in a plot of 20 hectares and be operational in the second quarter of 2017 is expected to have production of 10,000 tonnes of aluminium frames in an initial phase and create 350 direct jobs.

During the visit, Chinese investors had the opportunity to find out about the units installed in the region and announced they plan to establish investment partnerships in infrastructure such as factories to manufacture sanitary ware, mortar, glass processing and tiles, among others.

This visit to the EEZ was part of the Angola-China Investment Forum which brought together in Luanda over 1,500 Angolan and Chinese investors and aimed to create an environment to enable economic cooperation and combine factors of business strategies aimed at attracting investment to projects that need funding.

During the two-day event, Angolan and Chinese businesspeople signed several private investment contract in agriculture, fisheries, geology and mining, construction, industry, and showed they intended to speed up the implementation of sector projects. (09-11-2016)

RWANDA FEELS THE PINCH AS DONORS SLASH HEALTH AID



Rwanda has improved the quality of its home-grown science.

Rwanda has made major public-health strides since the country's genocide against the Tutsi people ended in June 1994, but declines in foreign aid now threaten that progress.

Donors such as the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria have reduced assistance to Rwanda by 40% over the past three years, jeopardizing advances in a country seen as a development success story. The situation will be hotly discussed at the annual meeting of The World Academy of Sciences in Kigali on 14–17 November.

"If the decline in funding continues, there are a lot of things to lose rather than to gain," says Sabin Nsanzimana, who manages initiatives on HIV and other blood-borne diseases at the Rwanda Biomedical Center in Kigali, which runs the country's health programmes.

The declining foreign aid is part of two broader trends in development: redirecting money to countries that have the highest number of sick people, and urging developing countries to fund more of their own development work. The former has reduced aid to Rwanda, a small country that has slashed the incidence of diseases such as HIV. Like many other developing nations, Rwanda doesn't have the resources to move money from priority areas such as education into health, says Nsanzimana, citing a study by Anna Vassall, an epidemiologist at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine¹.

Vassall estimates that even if sub-Saharan African nations more than triple their spending on HIV in the next five years, most could only raise half the money they need to meet the goal set by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS of [ending the epidemic's global threat by 2030](#).

Fredrick Kateera, director of research for the Rwanda office of the non-profit organization Partners in Health, says that funding cuts could imperil the research that is needed to fight diseases such as malaria in Rwanda and elsewhere. "Setting up surveillance systems costs just as much money as just giving out drugs and bed nets," Kateera says.

Proof of concept

Rwanda has long been seen as a prime example of how science can aid development. After the genocide in 1994, Rwanda's President Paul Kagame invested in building roads, high-speed Internet access and [applying science to local problems](#). The country slashed maternal and infant deaths, new HIV infections, AIDS deaths and mother-to-child HIV transmission².

Kagame has also used his authority to ensure that science conducted by local and foreign scientists promotes domestic development. In 2012, the country's ministry of health published guidelines compelling all foreign research projects to strengthen Rwandan research capacity, such as training its scientists or building infrastructure. Rwandan researchers routinely appear as first and last authors on studies conducted in the country, in contrast to other African nations where [native researchers often don't benefit from foreign collaborations](#).

"You can't just be a global health researcher who drops in, gets some data, publishes it with your name as first author and never comes back," says epidemiologist Edward Mills of the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation in Seattle, Washington, and an adjunct professor at the University of Rwanda in Kigali.

Staff at clinics and ministries who fail in their roles to meet stringent health targets can also be reassigned or sacked. In July, for instance, Kagame removed Agnès Binagwaho from her post as minister of health. The highly regarded paediatrician earned the US\$100,000 Roux Prize for using data to improve public health in April 2015, but was let go after malaria cases in the country quadrupled to 2 million between 2012 and 2015.

Shift in strategy

Human-rights groups have chafed at Kagame's authoritarian tendencies, but he has kept corruption low in Rwanda compared with other sub-Saharan African nations. This made the country a favourite of donors for much of the 2000s. But that shifted after 2013, when organizations such as the US Institute of Medicine questioned donors' generosity towards Rwanda compared to nations with much higher HIV burdens — such as Swaziland.

In response, donors recalibrated; in 2014, for instance, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria began using a new formula that allocated funding in part according to a country's burden of disease. In June, the fund said that it had reworked its formula again in response to protests from countries such as Rwanda that it punished them for their success. Still, Rwandan researchers are feeling the pinch.

"The willingness to do research is there, but many institutions are lacking funding," says physician and molecular biologist Etienne Karita, who is country director for Projet San Francisco, an HIV-prevention programme in Kigali.

Despite the funding constraints and bureaucratic restrictions, Rwandan researchers who train abroad often return to their home nation, attracted by the prospect of playing their part in rebuilding.

Kateera, for instance, earned his medical degree in Uganda, where universities have partnerships with prestigious institutions in Europe, the United States and Asia. Tiny Rwanda, with one-third the population and one-ninth the area of Uganda, doesn't have that same wealth of opportunities. But Kateera feels that he can make more of a difference in Rwanda: "You can make a big impact and measure it much more easily here compared to in a larger country," he says. He and other researchers hope that donors will hear their case, and make sure that this impact continues. (BD 17-11-2016)

NAMIBIAN LEADER COURTS FOREIGN INVESTORS

President Hage Geingob on Tuesday thanked over 1000 local and international investors who are attending the country's investment conference, saying as it is a sign that the nation has a story to tell. "On behalf of the government and the people of Namibia, it is my great pleasure and honor to welcome you to the Invest in Namibia International Conference. I would like to thank all of you for attending this conference, as it is a sign that Namibia has a story to tell that the world is interested in hearing," Geingob said in his opening address.

President Geingob guaranteed foreign investors that they can trust the country's institutions and that the government would welcome them with open arms.

"The government has ensured that Namibia has a conducive environment for doing business. Our infrastructure is on par with the developed world, medical services and recreational facilities are available, our financial systems are of world class standard and we have an array of shopping malls, a vibrant retail sector and top hotels and lodges, all providing a high standard of living for the foreign investor to live in Namibia should he or she desire," he said.

The two-day conference is being held under the theme 'Promoting Investment for Inclusive Growth and Industrialisation', which Geingob noted is "a recognition that domestic and foreign investments are critical enablers in promoting economic growth, industrialization, diversification and wealth creation".

The Invest in Namibia Conference, organised by the government aims to mobilize potential investors from the vast investor pool in the country for business to business matchmaking with foreign businesses and enterprises. (APA 08-11-2016)

FINLAND TO PUMP €15M INTO ETHIOPIA UTILITY SCHEMES

The Finnish Ambassador to Ethiopia, Helena Airaksinen on Wednesday disclosed that her country will be extending a €15 million annually to support rural water supply and sanitation as well as expansion of primary school education in the country.

The ambassador told reporters that Finland will also offer professional and financial assistance to help the east African nation expand its rural infrastructure.

The Finnish diplomat professed her country's desire to carry out concrete works in these selected sectors during the second Growth and Transformation Plan which Ethiopia is set to accomplish in the next four years.

With the support, Finland's intervention aims to benefit more than 1.8 million people mainly in the supply of potable water.

Loan and financial support will be extended to smallholding farmers so as to help them add value to their crops, the Finnish diplomat said. (APA 09-11-2016)

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Fernando Matos Rosa

fernando.matos.rosa@sapo.pt
fernando.matos.rosa@skynet.be