MEMORANDUM

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SUMMARY

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: EU SETS OUT ITS PRIORITIES

The European Commission is setting out a strategic approach for achieving sustainable development in Europe and around the world.

A first **Communication on the next steps for a sustainable European future** explains how the Commission's 10 political priorities contribute to implementing the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and how the EU will meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the future. A second Communication on a new **European Consensus on Development** proposes a shared vision and framework for development cooperation for the EU and its Member States, aligned with the 2030 Agenda. A third Communication on **a renewed partnership with African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries** proposes building blocks for a new, sustainable phase in EU-ACP relations after the Cotonou Partnership Agreement expires in 2020.

First Vice-President **Frans Timmermans** said: *"To build a future for our children and our planet to the benefit of everyone we are making the SDGs and sustainability a guiding principle in all our work. Implementing the UN 2030 Agenda is a shared commitment and needs everyone's contribution and cooperation, including Member States and civil society at large."*

High Representative/Vice President **Federica Mogherini** said: *"In our times we are more interconnected than ever before, so investing in people beyond our borders is also an investment for Europe. Today's proposals have the common aim of strengthening the impact of our cooperation with our partners across the world, whilst promoting sustainability at home and abroad. This is at the heart of the EU's Global Strategy published in June. The EU will keep leading an external action that supports peace, democracy and good governance, that reinforces resilience at all levels and promotes shared and sustainable prosperity for all."*

Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, **Neven Mimica** added: *"The proposal for a new European Consensus on Development is the EU's response to an increasingly interconnected and challenging world. I aim for a genuine consensus, under the shared ownership of EU Institutions and all Member States that will help us spearhead global action to implement the Sustainable Development Goals. Together with our proposals for our future partnership with the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries, it unequivocally confirms the EU's readiness to engage with our partners across the world to build a better common future".*

Sustainability is a European brand. The EU has a strong starting position and track record, with a high level of economic development, social cohesion, democratic societies and a commitment to sustainable development which is firmly anchored in the European Treaties. Yet, to preserve the future, the right policy choices have to be made today.

The main elements of the Commission's new, strategic approach, presented today are:

Next steps for a sustainable European future

- The EU's answer to the 2030 Agenda will include two work streams: the first is to mainstream the Sustainable Development Goals in the European policy framework and current Commission priorities; the second is to launch reflection on further developing our longer term vision and the focus of sectoral policies after 2020.
- The Commission will use all the instruments at its disposal, including its better regulation tools to ensure that existing and new policies take into account the three pillars of sustainable development: social, environmental and economic.
- To create a dynamic space bringing together the different stakeholders of the public and the private sphere, the Commission will launch a multi-stakeholder Platform with a role in the follow-up and exchange of best practices on SDG implementation across sectors.
- The Commission will provide regular reporting of the EU's progress towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda as of 2017, and will launch reflection work on developing further a longer term vision with a post-2020 perspective.

A new European Consensus on development

- The proposal for a new European Consensus on Development reflects a paradigm-shift in development cooperation under the 2030 Agenda, responding to the more complex and interconnected challenges the world faces today.

- The proposal puts forward shared vision and framework for action for all EU Institutions and all Member States, with particular emphasis on cross-cutting drivers of development, such as gender equality, youth, sustainable energy and climate action, investment, migration and mobility.
- The aim is to increase the credibility, effectiveness and impact of EU development policy, based on shared analysis, common strategies, joint programming, joint action and improved reporting.
- The new Consensus should frame all development policy activities of the EU and its Member States. An example of this approach is the proposed European External Investment Plan which will use Official Development Assistance to leverage funding from other sources to generate sustainable growth for the benefit of the poorest.

Towards a renewed partnership with African, Caribbean and Pacific countries after 2020

- A new partnership should help build peaceful, stable, well-governed, prosperous and resilient states and societies at our borders and beyond and deliver on our objective of a multilateral rules-based order addressing global challenges.
- The aim is to agree with the ACP partner countries on an umbrella agreement which would go together with regional tailored partnerships for Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific, which address the specific regional opportunities and challenges faced.

Background

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by the international community in September 2015, represents an ambitious new blueprint to respond to global trends and challenges. The core of the 2030 Agenda are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and associated targets, which run to 2030. Along with the other international summits and conferences held in 2015 in Addis Ababa and in Paris, the international community has an ambitious new frame for all countries to work together on shared challenges. For the first time, the Sustainable Development Goals are universally applicable to all countries and the EU is committed to be a frontrunner in implementing them.

Since 2000, the Cotonou Partnership Agreement has been the framework for EU's relations with 78 countries from Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP). The relationship focuses on the eradication of poverty, sustainable development and the gradual integration of ACP countries in the world economy. It seeks to increase peace and security, and to strengthen the democratic political environment. The agreement is reviewed every five years, and the proposal adopted today is a further step in preparing negotiations for a new partnership beyond 2020. (EC 22-11-216)

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Communication on the next steps for a sustainable European Future

NIGERIA APPROVES TAXATION, AIR SERVICES DEALS WITH SINGAPORE

The bilateral agreement for the avoidance of double taxation and prevention of physical evasion of taxes on income and capital benefits between Nigeria and Singapore has been approved by the Federal Executive Council (FEC).

Nigeria's Finance Minister Kemi Adeosun told journalists after the FEC meeting presided over by Vice President, Yemi Osinbajo, on Wednesday in Abuja that the objective of the agreement was to facilitate more trade between Nigeria and Singapore.

A local newspaper, the Leadership said that the minister explained that the agreement would ensure that nationals or enterprises from either country are not taxed twice on income or profits derived from each of these countries.

The minister added that the agreement would encourage more direct foreign investments into Nigeria, allow investors to know what their tax obligations will be and ensure sustainable tax regime for each country.

According to the Nigerian minister, Singapore is a major trading partner with Nigeria and that petroleum export to Singapore for the last five years is about $264 billion, while Nigeria imported about N311 billion worth of goods from Singapore.

In his briefing to journalists, Nigeria's Minister of State for Aviation, Mr. Hadi Sirika, said that the bilateral air service agreement with the State of Qatar, Singapore and Nigeria was also approved by FEC.

Sirika said that Singapore was becoming the most efficient and the biggest hub around the far eastern part of the globe, serving New Zealand, Australia, Japan, China, Singapore, Indonesia.

He explained that since Nigeria was striving to create a hub within Nigeria, the centre Africa, it would leverage on the opportunity to create air services between the two countries and Qatar being in the Middle East with robust aviation and strong carrier with ability to move goods and services in a very efficient and fast manner and also high value commodities by air.

According to him, Nigeria saw the need to sign some agreements so that it would define how businesses between Nigeria, Qatar and Singapore could be done.

He disclosed that President Muhammudu Buhari had approved that air services agreement be signed and that FEC has now rectified and approved what was signed as a document and that it would now go to National Assembly for rectification. (APA 17-11-2016)

RWANDAIR ACQUIRES AFRICA'S FIRST NEXT GENERATION BOEING 737-800

Rwanda's National carrier, RwandAir has acquired Africa's first next generation Boeing 737-800 as it attempts to boost its capacity and competitiveness around the globe.
According to senior officials of the airline on Thursday, the brand new aircraft, christened 'Kalisimbi,' arrived in Kigali on Wednesday evening from Washington where it was manufactured.

RwandAir becomes the first airline in Africa and second globally to acquire a Boeing 737-800NG equipped with in-flight internet connectivity, including WiFi.

The brand new aircraft is expected to facilitate the airline's expansion drive.

The 737 delivers the superior reliability, fuel efficiency and high-value returns operators require in competitive market, RwandAir, John Mirenge, the airline's chief executive said.

This particular acquisition, according to Dr Alexis Nzahabwanimana, Rwanda's state minister for Transport, will help RwandAir expand its flight coverage to both Europe, Asia and the US more efficiently.

In December last year, RwandAir signed a lease agreement with Aircraft Lease Corporation, an American based lessor to acquire two brand new next generation Boeing 737-800.

The next 737 is expected to be delivered in May next year.

RwandAir's fleet now grows to 12 aircraft and its capacity in terms of seats is expected to double with the acquisition of the fourth B737-800NG and its second A330 (300 series).

In September, the national carrier acquired East Africa's first brand new Airbus 330-200.

The expansion of the fleet comes at a time when the airline prepares to start flights to Gatwick, London's second-busiest airport next year and also the American market in the course of 2017.

In recent months, the airline has launched flights to Cotonou in Benin and Abidjan in Ivory Coast to bring the total number of destinations to 19.(APA 17-11-2016)

TOWARDS A RENEWED PARTNERSHIP WITH AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN AND PACIFIC COUNTRIES AFTER 2020

Towards a renewed partnership with African, Caribbean and Pacific countries after 2020

The Joint Communication **Towards a renewed partnership with African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries** builds on the longstanding relationship with the ACP countries, which provides a good starting point to build a strong and modern alliance that is apt for the challenges of a more interdependent, complex and contested world. It should help building peaceful, stable, well-governed, prosperous and resilient states and societies at our borders and beyond and deliver on our objective of a multilateral rules-based order addressing global challenges. High Representative/Vice-President Federica **Mogherini** and Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Neven **Mimica**, propose significant changes with the aim of setting out with partner countries on an umbrella agreement with common values and interests and facilitating increased cooperation at international level. This would be combined with regional tailored partnerships for Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific. Furthermore, future relations should also link up ACP countries with neighbouring regions, which are not part of the ACP group of states, but play a key role in relation to achieving EU objectives.

What is the Cotonou Partnership Agreement between the EU and African, Caribbean and Pacific countries?

Since 2000, the Cotonou Partnership Agreement has been the framework for EU's relations with 78 countries from Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP). The relationship focusses on the eradication of poverty, sustainable development and the gradual integration of ACP countries in the world economy. It seeks to increase peace and security, and to strengthen the democratic political environment. The Agreement entered into force in April 2003 and has been revised in 2005 and 2010 in accordance with the revision clause to re-examine the Agreement every five years.

In 2010, ACP-EU cooperation has been revised to be adapted to new challenges such as climate change, food security, regional integration, State fragility and aid effectiveness.

What are the key elements for a revised EU-ACP Partnership Agreement?

The Joint Communication presented on 22 November 2016 sets out the ideas and proposed building blocks for a political partnership with the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries. It builds on the internationally agreed UN 2030 Agenda, which provides a universal set of common objectives and on the Global Strategy for the EU's Foreign and Security Policy, which provides strategic guidance on the EU's external interests and ambitions. The Communication is also coherent with the Commission proposal to revise the European Consensus on Development.

The longstanding relationship with the ACP countries provides a good starting point to build a renewed political partnership. Partners on both sides will need to undertake significant changes in order to make their future relationship right for the task in today's world and to forge a powerful alliance delivering on key priorities.

The EU considers that decision-making and implementation of the new partnership will require an important shift towards the regional levels. Furthermore, future relations should link up ACP countries and neighbouring regions, which are not part of the current CPA, but play a key role in relation to key objectives as peace and security or better managed migration.

What do we want to achieve together after 2020?

Europe and the ACP countries share principles which should remain the foundations of our societies: peace, democracy, good governance, the rule of law and the respect for human rights. In view of creating sustainable development, our common objectives should be to foster sustainable growth and decent jobs for all, ensure human development, tackling climate change, turn migration and mobility into opportunities as well as speak with one voice on key global and common challenges on the international scene. On top of that, a renewed partnership would strengthen the political dialogue and consolidate our trade agreements.

What should this partnership look like?

The preferred scenario, laid out in the Joint Communication by the Commission and the High Representative, would be to agree with the ACP partner countries on an umbrella agreement with common values and interests and facilitating increased cooperation at international level. It should go together with regional tailored partnerships for Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific, to allow better addressing specific regional opportunities and challenges faced.

What are the priorities proposed towards the African region?

Africa is a continent of huge opportunities, but still faces a number of conflict situations and challenges, as poverty, unemployment and inequality remain high. The priorities proposed by the European Commission and the High Representative for the EU Africa partnership are to focus on achieving peace and stability, consolidating democracy and good governance, unleashing economic opportunities, managing migration and mobility as well as reaching human development standards.

What are the priorities proposed for the Caribbean region?

Caribbean countries face a number of challenges which the EU has an interest in addressing: climate change, vulnerability, citizen security, good governance and human rights, environmental preservation and energy sustainability. Deepening regional integration, fostering inclusive sustainable growth, trade and job creation, fighting inequalities and reducing natural disasters effects are also high on the agenda.

What are the priorities proposed for the EU-Pacific region?

The large number of island nations and their huge maritime territories make the Pacific countries an important player for the EU in tackling global challenges, particularly with respect to their vulnerability to natural disasters and climate change. Other priorities should focus on good governance, human rights, gender issues and inclusive sustainable growth.

This is only a proposal by the EU. What are the next steps towards a new Partnership Agreement after 2020?

The adoption of this Communication is an important milestone that will foster the debate with all stakeholders. The intention of the European Commission and the High Representative (HR) is to use this input for the establishment of a Recommendation including negotiating directives addressed to the Council in the course of 2017. Following agreement with the Council on the negotiating directives, this will allow to launch the negotiations for a new partnership with the partner countries.

Steps already carried out

Public consultation: In order to launch a broad reflection on the future relations with ACP countries, the Commission and the High Representative initiated a public consultation. Many discussions were held in parallel with key stakeholders.

Evaluation carried out in 2016: An evaluation of the first 15 years of the Cotonou Agreement was released by the European Commission and the HR in July 2016. It was used to draw lessons from the past and to provide inputs to the reflection process on how to govern relations with ACP countries after 2020.

Today's Joint Communication: This Joint Communication sets out the ideas and proposed building blocks for a political partnership with the ACP countries. It builds on the internationally agreed UN 2030 Agenda, which provides a universal set of common objectives and on the Global Strategy for the EU's Foreign and Security Policy, which provides strategic guidance on the EU's external interests and ambitions. The Communication is also coherent with the Commission proposal to revise the European Consensus on Development. The Impact Assessment accompanying this Communication details and assesses the different options ahead.

Upcoming steps

Outreach: A period of outreach activities which will run likely till mid-2017 where exchanges will take place with all stakeholders to best define our upcoming proposal for negotiating directives. Stakeholders to be consulted will comprise: Member States, European Parliament, ACP countries, non-State actors (civil society, economic and social partners and private sector), regional organisations, local authorities, non-ACP countries.

Beginning of the negotiations between ACP countries and the EU: As foreseen in the Cotonou Partnership Agreement (article 95), negotiations between the parties of the Agreement should enter into negotiation in order to examine what provisions shall subsequently govern their relations' post 2020. These negotiations are mandated to start eighteen months before the end of the total period of the agreement. They are expected to start earlier, in order to secure sufficient time for the conclusion of a new partnership.

Discussions regarding the future of the partnership after 2020 are therefore ongoing, both on the European and the ACP side.

What has been achieved so far under the existing Cotonou Partnership Agreement?

Political dialogue has fostered better mutual understanding of views as a sound and flexible process for continuous, comprehensive and broad engagement at all levels on all issues of common interest Mutually agreed commitments have contributed to progress in rule of law and governance. The CPA has contributed to increased peace and security on the African continent. The set-up of the African Peace Facility has played an important part in this.

Development cooperation has made a significant contribution to the eradication of poverty, improved food security and provided more equitable access to basic services for the most vulnerable communities, and has been key in raising awareness on environment and climate issues.

Trade policies have influenced the increase in trade flows to and from ACP countries. The increase in World Trade Organisation membership accompanied with the groups' increasing role in international trade negotiations, and the conclusion of several Economic Partnership Agreements between the EU and ACP countries has supported the integration of ACP States into the world economy.

What is the History of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement?

The European Union's relationship with the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) has been governed by a number of agreements, dating back to the Lomé convention signed in 1975, aiming to support the ACP States' efforts to move towards self-sustained development.

At the end of the Lomé Conventions (Lomé I - Lomé IV) important developments on the international stage, as well as socio-economic and political changes in the ACP countries highlighted the need for a re-thinking of ACP-EU cooperation.

Following an intensive public debate, negotiations started in 1998 for a revision of the ACP-EU relations. They were successfully achieved in early 2000 and led to the conclusion of the Cotonou Agreement.

The Cotonou Partnership Agreement (CPA) was signed in 2000 for a 20-year period and will expire on 29 February 2020. It is a wide-ranging agreement with underlying values and principles that covers many policy areas under three pillars: the political dimension, economic and trade cooperation, and development cooperation. (EC 22-11-2016)

ACCORHOTELS GROUP MANAGES FIRST HOTEL IN ANGOLA

The Ibis Styles Luanda Hotel, the first hotel in Angola to be managed by international chain Accor, was opened on Wednesday in Luanda, in the Talatona neighborhood, through an investment by the AAA Activos company started in 2007, the Angolan press reported.

This three-star hotel, which has 120 rooms and two restaurants, was opened in a ceremony attended by the Minister of Hotels and Tourism, Paulino Baptista and the provincial governor of Luanda, Higino Carneiro.

The minister of Hotels and Tourism said at the time that the opening of this hotel is a landmark in the sector because it “symbolises the entrance of one of the largest hotel chains, placing Angola on the international tourist route.”

French group Accor is present in 94 countries, where it operates 4,100 hotels in 20 brands ranging from economy to luxury, with 570,000 rooms, and its workforce is made up of 240,000 employees.

AAA Activos over the next two years has plans to open about 50 hotel units of various categories in Angola, adding another 6,445 rooms to those currently available.

By the end of the year hotels will be opened in the municipalities of Viana and Cacuaco, both with 180 rooms each, and in the first quarter of 2017 hotels of the same type will open in the provinces of Benguela, Lubango, Namibe and Sumbe.

AAA Activos also plans to open other hotel units in the superior and luxury segments, such as Grand Mercure, Mercure and Sofitel hotels. (10-11-2016)

NAMIBIA BEGINS ENERGY SECTOR REFORMS

Mines and Energy Minister Obeth Kandjoze said Wednesday that Namibia is taking measured steps to reform and develop the country's energy sector, to make room for independent players.
The energy sector is hamstrung by a monopolistic structure, the single buyer electricity market model that made national power utility, NamPower as the sole buyer of electricity in the country.

The model was adopted by the cabinet in 2000.

Kandjoze told delegates at the investment conference on Wednesday that the government is working to modify the single buyer market model.

"To accommodate the ever changing environment, a modified single buyer model is being discussed to allow independent power producers to sell directly to off takers other than then NamPower, such as regional electricity distributors, mines and other larger power consumers," he said.

He said the process of reviewing and updating the market model is expected to be completed by the last quarter of 2017.

Kandjoze said a review process of the current Independent Power Producers (IPP) Investor Framework is under way.

The review is aimed to develop an IPP Producer Policy to guide and promote private investment, with the process expected to be completed by March next year.

At the moment Namibia does not have an IPP Policy in place, but has the IPP Market and Investment Framework that facilitate the entry of private sector into the power generation sector.(APA 09-11-2016)

THE ACP-EU PARTNERSHIP AFTER 2020

Relations between the European Union and the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries are longstanding, dating back to before 1975 and the first Lomé convention. Successive partnership agreements have shaped the relationship up to the present time.
The current ACP-EU Partnership Agreement (CPA) was signed on 23 June 2000 in Cotonou, Benin – hence the name 'ACP-EU Partnership Agreement' or 'Cotonou Agreement'. It was concluded for a twenty-year period and will expire in February 2020.
The expiry of the Partnership Agreement, covering 100 countries with a total of some 1.5 billion people, is the opportunity to rejuvenate the EU's relationship with its ACP partners, taking into account the current global context.
A Joint Communication on A renewed partnership with the countries of Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific (link) proposes the building blocks for a new partnership with ACP countries.
What the new partnership is built on:

- UN 2030 Agenda (link is external), which sets out the Sustainable Development Goals (link is external)
- Global Strategy for the EU's Foreign and Security Policy
- Coherence with the European Consensus on Development

The Communication also takes into account the outcome of the joint consultation 'Towards a New Partnership between the European Union and the African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries after 2020' published in the summary report in March 2016 and the findings of the evaluation of the first 15 years of the CPA. (EC 22-11-2016)
Communication on a renewed partnership with African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries

TRADE BETWEEN CHINA AND PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING COUNTRIES EXCEEDS US$69 BILLION FROM JANUARY TO SEPTEMBER

Trade between China and Portuguese-speaking countries fell by 9.61% in the period from January to September to US$69.128 billion, according to official Chinese figures released by the Macau Forum.

In the first nine months of the year China sold to the eight Portuguese-speaking countries goods worth US$21.278 billion (-25.78% year on year) and bought goods from those countries worth US$47.85 billion (+ 0.09%), resulting in a trade deficit of US$26.572 billion.

Brazil attracted 75% of China's trade with all the Portuguese-speaking countries, with a total of US$51.673 billion (-7.08%), selling goods to China worth US$35.856 billion (+6.59%) and purchasing goods totalling US$15.817 billion (-28.0%).

Angola is second in terms of value, trading US$11.786 billion's (-24.28%) worth of goods with China in the period, having imported goods worth US$1.24 billion (-57.80%) and sold goods to a value of US$10.545 billion (-16.47%).

In a distant third place was Portugal with trade amounting to US$4.158 billion (+22.96%), with China having exported goods worth US$3.046 billion (+38.79%) and importing goods worth US$1.112 billion (-6.32%)

Mozambique is the fourth country in the list in terms of value, with trade with China recorded in the period reaching US$1.329 billion (-25.68%), with China selling goods in the amount of US$993 million (-31.53%) and purchasing goods whose value amounted to US$336 million (-0.62%).

China's trade with other Portuguese-speaking countries – Cabo Verde (Cape Verde), Guinea-Bissau, Timor-Leste (East Timor) and Sao Tome and Principe – reached US$181 million in the period from January to September.

Trade between China and the eight Portuguese-speaking countries in September amounted to US$8.897 billion (+1.91%), with China selling goods worth US$2.729 billion (-1.94%) and buying goods worth US$6.167 billion (+3.71%). (04-11-2016)

BANK OF MOZAMBIQUE REVOKES BANKING LICENSE OF NOSSO BANCO

The Bank of Mozambique has decided to revoke the banking license granted to Nosso Banco, which led to its dissolution and liquidation, the central bank said in a statement on Friday in Maputo.

The bank's financial situation had been characterized by a continuous degradation of the main prudential and profitability indicators, particularly weak capitalisation, an unsustainable economic and financial structure, as well as serious problems of liquidity and management, the statement added.

The central bank also reported that the restructuring plan, including its recapitalisation and change of administration and management structure, introduced in 2014, did not have the expected effects and added that after successive failures of this plan the bank demonstrated an inability to get out of its troubled economic and financial situation.

The bank, which was 77.2% owned by the National Social Security Institute (INSS) of Mozambique, had its headquarters, three branches and eight ATMs, all in Maputo.

The remaining shareholders of the bank were state power company EdM (16.13%), SPI – Gestão e Investimentos, SGPS of the governing Frelimo Party, with 4.09% and Alfred Kalisa, a Rwandan businessman and one of the founders of the bank, with 2.14%.

The Bank of Mozambique in October had to intervene in Moza Banco in order to guarantee the interests of depositors, “taking into account the solvency ratio was below zero,” according to the statement released at the time. (14-11-2016)

A PROPOSAL FOR A NEW EUROPEAN CONSENSUS ON DEVELOPMENT

A proposal for a new European Consensus on development

In the proposal for a new **"European Consensus on Development"**, presented by High Representative/Vice-President Federica **Mogherini** and Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Neven **Mimica**, the European Commission puts forward a shared vision and framework for action for development cooperation for the European Union and its Member States. It proposes a blueprint for aligning the Union's development policy with the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as part of the international community's agreed response to new trends and challenges posed by globalisation. It suggests an ambitious, new and collective European development policy, which addresses in an integrated manner the main orientations in the 2030 Agenda: people, planet, prosperity, peace, and partnership. The Consensus contributes to the objectives and values of EU external action, as agreed in Lisbon Treaty. It also supports the Global Strategy on the EU's Foreign and Security Policy presented in June 2016 by the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, which provides a vision for Europe's engagement in the world and promotes resilience at all levels to build peace and prosperity. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will be a cross-cutting dimension for the implementation of the EU's Global Strategy.

Why do we need a new Consensus on Development?

The world is more complex and interconnected than ever, and so are the challenges we face. In order to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development, we need to take a more comprehensive and universal approach. We have to understand and take into consideration that interventions in one field of action have impacts in other areas. Therefore, our development policy needs to give more prominence to key drivers with cross-cutting transformative potential, such as gender equality, youth, sustainable energy and climate action, investment, migration and mobility. Women and youth in particular must be seen not just as beneficiaries, but as drivers of development.

This was also recognised by the United Nations in September 2015, when the international community adopted the 2030 Agenda with the17SDGs at its core. It represents a comprehensive, universal framework for all countries to work together to eradicate poverty and attain sustainable development. It is supported by other international initiatives and summits in 2015, including in Addis Ababa on Financing for Development and in Paris on Climate Action.

The European Union had a leading role in the efforts for the adoption of such an ambitious agreement and is fully committed to implementing it. In order to do so, these fundamental changes in the way we want to respond to global challenges, now also need to be reflected in EU development policy. A lot has changed since 2005, when the original European Consensus on Development, based on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), was agreed as a Joint Statement by the EU institutions and Member States.

What is new about the proposed Consensus?

The new Consensus will provide the framework for a common approach to development policy shared by and applied by the EU and its Member States, working together to implement the 2030 Agenda.

The Commission Communication proposes that the EU and Member States work more closely together based on shared analysis, common strategies, joint programming, joint action and improved reporting, to increase the credibility, effectiveness and impact of EU and Member States development cooperation.

It responds to the 2030 Agenda and to all 17 Sustainable Development Goals, balancing the economic, social, environmental dimensions of sustainable development, as well as peaceful and inclusive societies. It is structured around the five core themes of the 2030 Agenda: People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership, addressing these in an integrated manner, recognising that action in one area has an impact in others.

The proposal reflects the paradigm shift established by the Addis Ababa Action Agenda – which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda – placing domestic actions and sound policies at its heart. It reflects the fact that each country has primary responsibility for its own economic and social development and promotes a new global partnership for sustainable development, encompassing policies and financial means.

When adopted, the new Consensus will also contribute to the objectives and values of EU external action, as agreed in the Lisbon Treaty. It supports the Global Strategy on the EU's Foreign and Security Policy (EUGS), which provides a vision for Europe's engagement in the world, promoting resilience at all levels to build peace and prosperity, and highlighting the importance of the SDGs. Development policy is an essential part of the range of EU policies to tackle global challenges, manage interdependence, and build a better world.

How will the European Union improve its development cooperation?

With the new Consensus, the objective is to **do more, do it better and do it differently**.

- *"Do more":* The new Consensus should integrate more systematically the economic, social and environmental dimensions. This requires giving more prominence to key drivers such as gender equality, youth, sustainable energy and climate action, investments, migration and mobility. It also means demonstrating the contribution of development policy to tackle global interconnected challenges, such as conflict, migration, economic growth and jobs, and climate change.
- *"Do it better":* The new Consensus should foster a more coordinated approach to development between the EU and its Member States, promoting joint programming and joint actions and making the most of tools such as budget support, trust funds and blending. It should also demonstrate a real cultural shift from inputs to outputs when it comes to measuring the effectiveness of our development actions, focusing on results. It will support greater efforts for policy coherence for development.
- *"Do it differently":* The EU and its Member States together continue to be the world's largest development and humanitarian aid donor. The new Consensus should put forward a package that combines Official Development Assistance with domestic resource mobilisation and private sector investment, supported by sound policies. It also requires differentiated, better-tailored partnerships with partner countries at different levels of development – to combine focus on poorest and fragile partners with innovative partnership with Middle Income Countries – and with a broad range of other stakeholders.

How could the new Consensus approach translate into concrete action?

The new Consensus should frame all development policy activities of the EU and its Member States. The Commission's proposal includes a series of examples of how EU development policy might change in response to the 2030 Agenda:

- The EU is a global leader in promoting gender equality and women and girls' empowerment in its external relations, particularly through the comprehensive **EU Gender Action Plan 2016-20**. Under the new Consensus, the EU and its Member States should step up efforts to promote the economic and social rights and empowerment of women and girls; strengthen their voice; and tackle violence against them.
- The EU and its Member Statesshould **increase the focus on supporting youth and improving their future prospects.** This includes increasing quality employment and entrepreneurship, and supporting effective education, vocational training, skills development, and access to digital technologies and services. The EU should also aim to strengthen youth empowerment and participation in local economies, societies, and decision-making.
- The EU and its Member States should **address sustainable energy needs** by contributing towards universal access to energy services that are affordable, modern, reliable, and sustainable, with a strong focus on renewable energy. Strategic investments in sustainable energy could be used to help build a healthy energy sector and to leverage private finance. This would go hand in hand with continued EU leadership in tackling climate change and supporting third countries to do the same.
- **The proposed European External Investment Plan** is an example of a 'smarter' use of Official Development Assistance to leverage funding from other sources, create quality and decent jobs, and generate inclusive sustainable growth for the benefit of the poorest. It will encourage investments that otherwise would not happen – for example in conflict-affected areas or where economic governance is lacking.

- Development cooperation will play an important part within the full range of policies and instruments of the EU and its Member States in efforts to prevent, manage and help resolve conflicts and crises, meet humanitarian needs and **build lasting peace and good governance**.
- The EU and its Member States should **step up efforts to better manage migration and forced displacement in partner countries, including addressing its root causes.** They will help to facilitate the safe, orderly regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, in order to seize the opportunities for development offered by migration, while addressing its challenges.
- The EU and its Member States should **develop new partnerships with more advanced developing countries to promote the 2030 Agenda and other shared interests**. The need for tailored approaches to implement the 2030 Agenda implies combining a **focus of aid on the poorest and fragile states**, with innovative partnerships with Middle Income Countries, promoting best practice, technical assistance and knowledge sharing.
- **The 'Collect More, Spend Better' approach** reflects the major emphasis placed by the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on domestic action and domestic resource mobilisation.The approach supports developing countries in three areas: improved domestic resource mobilisation; more effective and efficient public expenditure; and debt management. It addresses tax evasion, tax avoidance and illicit financial flows, as well as the efficiency, effectiveness and fairness of tax systems and of social protection systems.

How will the new Consensus relate to other EU initiatives?

The 2030 Agenda is applicable to all countries, including the EU and its Member States. The EU is committed to implementing it through both internal and external action. Thus the proposed Consensus is intended as part of a broader EU response and fits within the plan on "Next steps for a Sustainable European Future", as laid down in the Communication also published today. It is also fully consistent with the Global Strategy on the EU's Foreign and Security Policy (EUGS). The EUGS focuses on enhancing resilience of states and societies at all levels – starting from Africa, the EU's Neighbourhood and Central Asia. It includes multiple links to the 2030 Agenda. The SDGs will be a cross-cutting dimension for the implementation of the EUGS. The new Consensus will also be consistent and coordinated with the implementation of the Paris climate change agreement. The Consensus will guide actions in the context of regional agreements, strategies and policies in relation to developing countries. The future frameworks for relations with countries including in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific, will promote concrete implementation of the 2030 Agenda at regional level.

What are the next steps in the process?

The Communication contains the European Commission's proposal for the new European Consensus on Development. Over the coming months, this will be discussed by EU Member States at the Council and by the European Parliament. The objective is to agree on a joint text, a common framework for European development policy under the shared ownership of EU institutions and Member States. It is estimated that inter-institutional discussions could be concluded in the form of a Joint Statement in the first half of 2017. (EC 22-11-2016)

Communication on a new European Consensus on development
https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/proposal-new-european-consensus-development_en

LAND OWNERSHIP IN ANGOLA REQUIRES IT TO BE USED

Land rights in Angola are extinguished when there is no useful and effective use of the property for three consecutive years or six interpolated years, the minister of Urbanisation and Housing, Branca do Espírito Santo said on Monday in Luanda.

The minister, who was speaking at a seminar on Price Setting for Land Right Concessions, pointed out that the transfer of property rights and the establishment of limited land rights on lands in the private domain of the State may only take place for proper and effective use, according to Angolan news agency Angop.

Branca do Espírito Santo also said that the types of land rights that individuals and entities may have over attributable land are private property, civil use, right to precarious occupation and surface rights.

The minister said that only attributable plots within the State's or local authorities' private domain can be sold along with small plots of land that are insufficient for regular construction bordering land belonging to the applicant owner or concession holder. (15-11-2016)

W/BANK SPLASHES CFA190BN ON CAMEROON POWER PROJECT

The National Electricity Transmission Company of Cameroon (SONATREL) has acquired some CFA190 billion from the World Bank to help upgrade the national power transmission grid and facilitate a series of reforms in the sector.
According to the general management of the state-run company, "these funds will facilitate the rehabilitation and upgrading of the entire electricity transmission network in Cameroon, as well as its extension."

According to the management, "it is a program that runs from 2016 to 2022, which will actually begin next year."

The creation of SONATREL by the government last year is to regulate the electricity transmission sector, given that nearly 40 percent of the power currently generated in Cameroon is lost in transport, thanks to obsolete and inadequate facilities.

For SONATREL to function better, CFA600 billion will be required, according to the government.

In addition to the World Bank, the Cameroonian government is counting on other development partners for the completion of the program.(APA 15-11-2016)

BOB DIAMOND: THE MISADVENTURES OF A BANKER IN AFRICA

He insists he and Atlas Mara are just getting started: "This isn't five-minute rice"

Bob Diamond is shifting restlessly on the sofa, his Brioni jacket draped behind him. He's in his corner office, high up in the Seagram Building, a modernist icon on Park Avenue in Manhattan. He faces one of Takashi Murakami's smiley face flower motifs, which perfectly captures the former Barclays boss's signature optimism. He's needed plenty of that in recent years as he's tried to build a banking empire across sub-Saharan Africa. That daunting experience can be summed up by another eye-catching work of art, which is hanging in the reception area: a Pamela Rosenkranz metallic emergency blanket.

During an interview that lasts more than an hour, Diamond acknowledges the challenges the company he founded, Atlas Mara, has faced amid Africa's weakening economies. And he bemoans its share price, which has tumbled 68% since it went public in December 2013. No matter. His defence is a work of performance art. Frequently leaping to his feet—grabbing a golf club or a wad of bills from his wallet—he's theatrically dismissive of past failings and resolute about a future that will prove him right. He insists he and Atlas Mara are just getting started: "This isn't five-minute rice."

Today, Atlas Mara's acquisitions sprawl across seven countries, from tiny Rwanda to oil-rich Nigeria. But as Atlas Mara gobbled up banks, the commodities boom that had turned Africa into an investment hot spot fizzled, cutting the pace of economic growth in the region to a 15-year low. And that's only part of the story. The impact of the commodities bust was compounded by what seems like a number of missteps or miscalculations: buying a bank with operations in economically dysfunctional Zimbabwe as bad loans mounted, for instance, or taking a minority stake in a Nigerian lender that may need an injection of capital.

By creating a financial-services business in one of the world's poorest regions, Diamond says he's found the perfect intersection of doing good and doing well

The downward spiral of Atlas Mara stock didn't just frustrate shareholders, it also threatened the company's trumpeted plan to keep growing through acquisitions. Still, Diamond, who was christened "Bobtimistic" during his time at Barclays, isn't fazed by the criticism that's laid at his feet. "This is a long game," he says, "a five- to seven-year game." He's on a "mission", he says, and it's too early to count him out: "You acquire, you protect, and you grow banks during a difficult environment like this—and people are giving a report card now? I think the report card is very strong."

For the 65-year-old Diamond, his African venture offers the hope, however slim, of a new narrative after his unceremonious exit from Barclays. Although never accused of wrongdoing himself, he quit as CEO in 2012 when the company was fined for manipulating benchmark interest rates.

Diamond soon zeroed in on sub-Saharan Africa, where a growing population is demanding more and better banking services. Only about a third of African adults had bank accounts in 2014, compared with 94% in rich countries, according to the World Bank. By creating a financial-services business in one of the world's poorest regions, Diamond says he's "found the perfect intersection of doing good and doing well".

Diamond's detractors, several of whom were interviewed for this article, say he underestimated both the challenges of operating in developing African economies and the resources required to fulfill his aims. What's more, they say, the stock performance reflects that and threatens to impede further growth. "The lower the share moves, the more difficult it becomes for Atlas Mara to do a deal," says Ayodele Salami, who holds the company's securities among the $450m of African equities he oversees as chief investment officer at Duet Asset Management in London. "If they don't get scale, they will fail."

One deal that could catapult Diamond's venture into the big leagues—the purchase of a stake in Barclays Africa Group—has gone quiet. Last spring, Diamond said his private equity company, Atlas Merchant Capital, was in talks with investors including Carlyle Group, the US giant, about joining it in a possible bid. Diamond says the talks with Carlyle are now dead. (A spokeswoman for Carlyle declined to comment.)

Atlas Mara has spent more than $600m to assemble banking assets. That's more than twice the company's market value. Its biggest asset, a stake of just over 31% in Union Bank of Nigeria, has exposed Atlas Mara to growing bad debts, a currency devaluation, and falling oil prices. The situation isn't likely to improve anytime soon, according to forecasts by the International Monetary Fund, which says the Nigerian economy, the second-largest in Africa, is set to shrink this year. Amid the upheaval, Atlas Mara posted a 71% decline in profit in the first half of this year as operating expenses exceeded income. Instead of rising towards a 20% target set in 2014, return on equity—a measure of profitability—fell to 0.4%.

Through it all, Diamond's upbeat attitude remains intact. In August, presenting Atlas Mara's results on a conference call, he assured investors that recent headwinds would eventually become tailwinds. Meanwhile, the company announced it will cut as much as 35 percent of the staff who provide services across the group. For growth, Atlas Mara is counting on the banks it already owns, as well as a division it's building to provide risk-management and investment banking services to companies.

John Vitalo, Atlas Mara's CEO, says the company is looking to expand in Nigeria, enter Kenya, and eventually have operations in 12 to 15 African markets. During an interview in Kigali, Rwanda, Vitalo, the former head of Barclays's Middle East and North Africa business, speaks over the bustle of customers entering the main branch of Banque Populaire du Rwanda, which Atlas Mara bought last year. Next door, where Banque Populaire's new headquarters is under construction, builders are banging together steel scaffolding. The hubbub reflects the stubborn expectation that African economies will boom again. "You have high growth potential at the same time as capital is pulling back," Vitalo says. "That was the vision and insight of Atlas Mara."

The funding is in place. There is support for this potential transaction

These days, that potential is only patchily evident. By combining Banque Populaire with the commercial banking arm of the Development Bank of Rwanda, or BRD, Atlas Mara is creating the country's second-largest lender by assets. But even Rwanda's relatively robust $8bn economy is feeling the pinch, with growth forecast to slow to 6 percent this year, from 6.9 percent in 2015.

Although Diamond concedes that Atlas Mara's stock "is not a good currency" for making acquisitions right now, he says the company can find alternative sources of funding or even pay with its shares in some cases. Atlas Mara is looking at using the company's stock to purchase a bank, Diamond says, without identifying the target. It bought a bank in Zambia this year without raising money from investors. "We're very confident that given the right deals, we will find the right funding strategy," he says.

Kato Mukuru, the former head of equity research at Exotix Partners, who's been an African-bank analyst for eight years, doesn't buy Diamond's line. He says Atlas Mara's piecemeal expansion is too slow and too thinly spread. "They need to make up their minds on what they really want to be in Africa and go for it in a big way to convince investors to reverse that share price," he says.

Earlier this year, it looked as if Atlas Mara might be ready to do just that as it circled Barclays Africa. "The funding is in place," Diamond said on a conference call in April. "There is support for this potential transaction."

The following week those plans were crushed when SA's Reserve Bank signalled that a private equity offer for one of the country's lenders wouldn't fly. With a market capitalisation of more than $9bn, , Barclays Africa would be too big a reach for Diamond, says an investment banker who has had meetings with Atlas Mara and asked not to be identified. Atlas Mara's market value has dwindled to $244m as of late September, down from almost $800m in 2014.

Even so, Diamond says he and David Schamis, his partner at their investment vehicle, Atlas Merchant Capital, met "many investors" to discuss their interest in a bid for Barclays Africa, which he describes as "the single best business across sub-Saharan Africa". Diamond declines to comment on the progress of any discussions, though he hasn't abandoned all hope—marshalling once again the boldness that crackles through his 37-year career in banking.

The Massachusetts-born Diamond defied the sceptics at Barclays, which traces its roots to 1690, by turning what had become an also-ran investment bank into a profit engine in the years before the financial crisis. And he hasn't shied away from risky deals. In 2007, when he was president, Barclays launched an unsuccessful €67.8bn bid for Amsterdam-based ABN AMRO. A year later, in the darkest days of the financial crisis, Diamond struck an agreement to buy the North American investment-banking business of bankrupt Lehman Brothers Holdings for $1.75bn.

Getting control of Barclays Africa, a business he helped build and champion, would bring Diamond full circle, because that's where his interest in African banking took root. Barclays bought a controlling stake in SA's third-largest bank, Absa Group, in 2005. It was Diamond who asked Vitalo, then the chief operating officer at a Barclays Capital unit in London, to move to Johannesburg to run Absa's corporate and merchant bank. "Both of us have the view that one of the greatest gifts from working for Barclays was getting to learn about Africa," Vitalo says.

In April 2011, three months after becoming Barclays's CEO, Diamond grew visibly excited when the broadcaster Charlie Rose asked him about Africa in an interview. "When I step back and look at the opportunities for Barclays, and I say to myself, 'Where is there growth in the world and where is there a real competitive advantage for Barclays?' Africa comes right to mind," Diamond said. That year, Barclays decided to move its Africa headquarters to Johannesburg from Dubai and said it was considering increasing its stake in Absa.

During the meeting, Diamond impressed the bankers with talk of the huge opportunities in Africa, according to two people with knowledge of the private gathering who asked not to be identified

Yet Diamond's time at Barclays was running out. The polarising American, who spent more than a decade building London-based Barclays's investment bank into a bond-trading powerhouse, was dubbed the "unacceptable face of banking" in 2010 by Peter Mandelson, UK business secretary at the time. His high pay and Wall Street swagger were out of step with the mood in post-crisis Britain. He famously told Parliament in January 2011 that the time for "remorse and apology" from bankers for the financial crisis needed to come to an end, unleashing a torrent of criticism.

In May 2013, Diamond travelled to Cape Town for a World Economic Forum meeting on Africa. That's where he met the Ugandan with whom he would later found Atlas Mara. Ashish Thakkar, the head of Mara Group Holdings, was seated beside him at an event and, like Diamond, had an iPad mini with a red cover. By the end of the day, they had struck up a friendship. By September, Diamond says, they had agreed to set up Atlas Mara. Thakkar, 35, who moved to Uganda from the UK as a child and started his company at 15, has investments in property, technology and now banking.

Diamond and Schamis had already started Atlas Merchant Capital to invest in financial-services companies in developed markets, including Europe. To buy banks in Africa, Diamond says he knew he would need "permanent capital". So in late 2013, he and Thakkar sat down for a continental breakfast at Citigroup's offices in Lower Manhattan.

During the meeting, Diamond impressed the bankers with talk of the huge opportunities in Africa, according to two people with knowledge of the private gathering who asked not to be identified. His plan, according to the people: buy up African banks, inject the latest technology, import top executives to run operations, and watch the profits roll in. Before the year was out, Citigroup helped Atlas Mara raise $325m in a London initial public offering. Six months later, the company tapped investors for an additional $300m.

Atlas Mara brought on experienced Africa hands, including Arnold Ekpe, the Nigerian former CEO of Ecobank Transnational, who joined as chairman, followed by Vitalo. For Vitalo, who has known Diamond since they were both at Credit Suisse First Boston in New York in the mid-1990s, joining forces with Diamond was a no-brainer. “How often in life does an opportunity like this come along?” Vitalo asks.

They set about doing deals. Atlas Mara agreed to buy Gaborone, Botswana-based BancABC, the country’s fifth-biggest bank, for as much as $265m in April 2014, gaining access to financial-services operations in Botswana, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

Atlas Mara gained a 9.1% stake in Union Bank of Nigeria through its purchase of BancABC. By the end of 2014, it had spent an additional $270m to increase its stake. Union Bank is Nigeria’s eighth-largest lender by market value. Its stock has declined about 50% in the past two years. Given Nigeria’s bleak economic outlook, Atlas Mara said in its earnings statement in August that the naira’s decline may “dampen UBN’s contribution to net income” in the second half of the year. Diamond says he’s still eager to get control of the bank, but he’s been unable to buy more stock.

Atlas Mara’s most recent acquisition, completed this year, is Finance Bank of Zambia, the country’s sixth-largest lender. FBZ was bought for about $61m in cash, partly funded by development finance institutions, and 3.3-million Atlas Mara shares. Once integrated with BancABC’s Zambian operations, it will create one of the nation’s largest lenders by branches.

Clients looking to sell Atlas Mara stock, but unable to find buyers, have demanded that Diamond and Citigroup repurchase shares

Atlas Mara’s challenges are obvious. Its slumping share price and global investors’ souring mood toward Africa will make it harder to raise money for larger deals, says Zoran Milojevic, an analyst at brokerage Auerbach Grayson in New York. “There’s no money around, and raising money for African assets is even harder,” says Milojevic, who’s been covering frontier markets for about 20 years. “Africa is not the funky, hot place it was three years ago.”

Ilan Stermer, a banking analyst at Renaissance Capital in Johannesburg, has a buy rating on the stock because he believes it is undervalued. Even so, he estimates Atlas Mara’s net income will probably fall 55%, to $5.1m, this year.

The company will keep moving forward in the hope that the stock will improve, Vitalo says. “We are making money in spite of the more difficult economics and the fact that we have M&A costs,” he says. “We are executing on what we said we are going to do.”

Atlas Mara’s third-quarter results may show “continued positive operational momentum” when they’re released later this month, the company said in a statement today. Chairman Epke will step down in December, and Diamond will take his place on an interim basis, the company said.

Executives are losing money, too, Vitalo says, adding that he bought Atlas Mara stock at about $11 a share when he joined in April 2014; it closed at $3.45 on September 28. In 2015, he and Arina McDonald, the chief financial officer, took their bonuses in stock. “No one likes to suffer a declining share price,” Vitalo says. “We hate it, too. None of us have sold a single share.”

Investors such as Salami who criticised the level of pay at Atlas Mara, are unlikely to be sympathetic. Vitalo’s compensation amounted to $3.43m in 2015, according to the company’s annual report, or about 60% more than the $2.1m paid to Barclays Africa CEO Maria Ramos. Diamond is unrepentant, describing the compensation as “very fair”.

For the equities desk at Citigroup, which arranged Atlas Mara’s IPO almost three years ago, the share performance has turned into a headache, says a person with knowledge of the situation. Clients looking to sell Atlas Mara stock, but unable to find buyers, have demanded that Diamond and Citigroup repurchase shares, the person says, asking not to be identified because the dealings are private. Both parties bought back some stock, to little effect. To increase the liquidity of the stock, Diamond says the company has “very, very specific plans”, but does not elaborate. (A spokeswoman for Citigroup declined to comment.)

Diamond is undaunted—and not as alone as he appears in his misadventures in sub-Saharan Africa.

Take Eric Brock, founding partner of Boston-based investment firm Clough Capital Partners, which manages $3.5bn of assets and holds about 6% of Atlas Mara. “You can’t look at the performance of the stock and be happy with that," he says. "I believe in the company, the opportunity, and the management team. Things are never as dire as they look. There's a recovery in there."

Diamond sees it, too, but it's elusive. And time is running out. (Bloomberg 17-11-2016)

SENEGAL: SEPTEMBER TRADE DEFICIT PLUMMETED BY CFA1.7BN

Senegal's trade deficit has deteriorated on a monthly basis by CFA1.7 billion (about $2.890 million) during September 2016, according to the Department of Forecasting and Economic Studies (DPEE) on Thursday.

The deficit stood at CFA138 billion against CFA139.7 billion in August 2016.

The Dakar-based institution said this reflects a sharper decline in exports (minus 32.6 percent) compared with imports (15.2 percent).

"As a result, the coverage of imports by exports fell by 8.8 percentage points to 34 percent from 42.8 percent a month earlier" it added. (APA 10-11-2016)

BOTSWANA WITNESSES INCREASING WATER SCARCITY

Botswana's Minister of Land and Housing, Prince Maele said Thursday that water has become an increasingly scarce resource in the country.

Addressing Parliament, Maele said the situation is exacerbated by the inefficient use and management of water, especially by institutional consumers, resulting in high water losses.

"There are few sources of water supply remaining to be developed. This necessitates an integrated water resource management and comprehensive water demand management, "said Maele.

He said the Botswana National Water Master Plan Review (BNWMPR) provides a guide on national water demand, use, and development strategies. He said during NDP 11, the BNWMPR will be reviewed to give more perspective on emphasis on the role that trans-boundary water resources play in Botswana's water security as the country will depend heavily on international waters.

Maele adds that the water accounting component of the natural capital accounting programme which is implemented in cooperation with the World Bank under the Wealth Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystems Services (WAVES) program, will provide information about water supply and use (flow accounts) as well as costs and revenues (monetary accounts) in order to improve the performance indicators and management of the resource. (APA 10-11-2016)

ICC OFFICIALS APPEAL TO AFRICAN DEFECTORS TO STAY

"Don't go." That was the heartfelt appeal to African nations as the International Criminal Court opened its annual meeting on Wednesday under the cloud of a wave of unprecedented defections.

Gambia on Monday formally notified the UN that it was withdrawing from the court, following in the wake of SA and Burundi.

"Don't go," pleaded Senegalese politician Sidiki Kaba, the president of the ICC's Assembly of State Parties meeting in The Hague.

"In a world criss-crossed by violent extremism ... it is urgent and necessary to defend the ideal of justice for all," he said.

The tribunal opened in 2002 in The Hague as a court of last resort to try the world's worst crimes. But in his impassioned plea, Kaba admitted it was going through a "difficult moment".

He acknowledged some had seen "injustice" in the investigations brought before the court so far, but he offered reassurances, saying: "You have been heard." The court had to redouble its efforts to convince countries to return, and to ensure that there was truly universal justice for all, Kaba said.

Amid accusations of bias against Africa, Kenya, Namibia and Uganda have also indicated they are considering pulling out of the Rome Statute, the ICC's founding treaty.

"Though the powerful may seek to leave the court, the victims everywhere plead for its involvement," UN human rights commissioner Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein said.

He insisted "there is no substitute for the ICC" and in the long term "these states will boomerang back as the court is accepted by more and more states".

"By withdrawing from the Rome Statute, leaders may shield themselves, but it would be at the cost of depriving their people of a unique form of protection." He warned "a new trend of isolationism" sweeping the world would trigger more attacks on the court.

"Now is not the time to abandon the post, now is the time of resolve and strength," Zeid said.

"Do not betray the victims, nor your own people ... stand by the court ... it is the best that we have." The defections will take a year to come into force.

Currently nine out of the 10 ICC investigations are in African countries. The other is in Georgia.

But on the eve of the meeting, ICC chief prosecutor Fatou Bensouda revealed there was a "reasonable basis" to believe US troops as well as the Taliban and Afghan forces may have committed war crimes in Afghanistan.

In her annual report, she said she would decide "imminently" whether to ask to launch a full-blown investigation in Afghanistan.

If the investigation goes ahead, the tribunal would be taking on its most complex and politically controversial investigation to date. (AFP 17-11-2016)

MOZAMBIQUE APPROVES OPERATIONAL PLAN FOR FOOD PRODUCTION

The Mozambican government has approved an operational plan for food production by province in the country's 11 provinces next year, an official said on Thursday.

Cabinet spokesperson Mouzinho Saide said in a statement that the plan aims to identify products for consumption and marketing, as well as boost resources for the financing of agricultural activity.

The official said the executive also approved the agricultural marketing operational plan for 2017.

"The plan aims to ensure the absorption of agricultural production by the national market, with the prospects of production by province and the main players in marketing identified," the official said.

Mozambique has a shortfall of more than 1.5 million tonnes of grain during the 2016-2017 farming season, and government statistics indicate that about 7.2 million tonnes of cereals, mainly maize and rice, are consumed annually, and that six provinces experience food shortages.

Scientists say the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region is experiencing increasingly unpredictable weather patterns, with more hot days and fewer cold days.

The countries most affected are Zimbabwe, northern parts of South Africa, Mozambique and Tanzania.

Climate change will have a significant impact on the region's already vulnerable food security, environmental experts warn.

Climate effects are already costing the SADC region between 5 and 10 percent of its gross domestic product, according to the United Nations World Food Programme. (APA 10-11V-2016)

COTE D'IVOIRE: OIL PALM FIRM MAKES 2BN FRANCS AFTER-TAX PROFIT IN FIRST HALF OF 2016

After-tax earnings of PALMCI, an Abidjan-based company specialized in the production and marketing of crude palm oil, has arisen by CFA 2.351 billion francs (about $ 3.998 million) in the first half of 2016 compared to the same period in 2015, APA learns here Thursday.

This profit increased from CFA 6.030 billion francs in 2015 to CFA 8.382 billion francs in 2016, an increase of 39%. PALMCI's officials attribute this result to the “control of loads”.

Revenues increased by 2%, from CFA 70.392 billion francs in 30 June 2015 to CFA 71.472 billion francs in 30 June 2016. This increase was due to a 5% increase in shipments of crude palm oil which rose to 177,143 tons against 168, 615 tons in 2015.

According to PALMCI officials, the increase in turnover is also the result of the 4% drop in the average selling price of palm oil and the 9% increase in the average selling price of palm kernel oil.

As for operating income, it increased by 34% to CFA 11.172 billion francs compared to CFA 8.341 billion francs in 2015.

In terms of perspectives, PALMCI officials say that “the production of crude palm oil at the end of the year is expected to be in the same order as that of 2015”. They added that the financial year 2016 is expected to result in a profit. (APA 10-11-2016)

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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