MEMORANDUM

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SUMMARY

THE EUROPEAN UNION REAFFIRMS ITS SUPPORT TO MADAGASCAR

Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Neven Mimica, reaffirms the European Union's support to Madagascar during an official visit to the country, where he will meet with President Hery Rajaonarimampianina .

On his two-day visit in Madagascar, Commissioner in charge of International Cooperation and Development, Neven Mimica, will reaffirm the EU's commitment to Madagascar by supporting democracy and a broad-based poverty reduction strategy. Further, he will attend the 16th high-level summit of the *Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie* (OIF).

On this occasion, Commissioner Mimica said: *"The European Union will continue to stand by Madagascar and its people, as well as to keep up our dialogue with Madagascar in order to support effective and open democratic governance. During my mission I will have the opportunity to visit two EU funded projects aimed at strengthening civil society, but many challenges lie ahead when it comes to achieving inclusive and sustainable growth that will break the cycle of poverty. One thing is very clear: the European Union is and will remain one of the most important partners of Madagascar".*

The Commissioner will visit two EU-funded projects as part of the DINIKA programme, which supports the operational capacities of civil society organisations. The two projects are part of municipal development plans, which respond to needs identified by citizens: 1) a nursery for the children of mothers working in a stone quarry, to avoid children staying in the quarry without any protection; 2) support to a cooperative of women and disabled people doing basketry (handicraft) to allow them to diversify their products and better develop the commercial part of their activity.

As for the OIF summit, Commissioner Neven Mimica and Michaëlle Jean, the Secretary General of OIF, will renew and update the cooperation framework between the European Commission and the OIF in view of recent global developments, in particular the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This renewed Memorandum of Understanding is a concrete example of the EU's wish to join forces with other development players in order to help partner countries to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Background

Madagascar is one of the poorest countries in the world, with challenges like chronic instability or poor governance, which prevent it from reaching its potential and from effectively reducing poverty. With more than 23 million citizens, half are under 20 years old, 80% are living on less than USD 1.2 per day, and two-thirds have no access to education or electricity.

The economy has been further weakened by a prolonged political crisis. Presidential and legislative elections in December 2013 ended five years of transition and marked the return of Madagascar to constitutional order. These elections allowed for the lifting of Article 96 appropriate measures under the Cotonou Agreement, which in turn led to the resumption of full EU cooperation in May 2014.

The Commissioner's visit to Madagascar aims at confirming the EU continuing support. It takes place one year after the signing of the 11th National Indicative Programme (NIP) with President Rajaonarimampianina in Brussels.

The EU 11th National Indicative Programme allocation is EUR 518 million for the period 2014-2020, of which EUR 253 million have already been committed and partially disbursed. It includes a first budget support of EUR 78 million for 2014-2015 and a EUR 156 million contribution to the Africa Investment Facility for infrastructure projects. Furthermore, EUR 122 million are to be adopted in early 2017, including for rural development projects.

On the *Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF)*:

The collaboration between the OIF and the EU was established in 2006 and aims at promoting peace, democracy and sustainable development. The OIF-EU partnership represents a geographic entity that covers five continents, with 54 Member States, including 17 EU Member States. It stresses the importance of cultural diversity, multilingualism and gender equality.

The renewed Memorandum of Understanding (LINK) between the EU and the OIF will increase synergies, effectiveness, and complementarity in the areas of democracy, human rights, cultural and linguistic diversity, education, training, youth, and economic, social and sustainable development. (EC 24-11-2016)

MOZAMBIQUE PLANS TO BAN EXPORT OF TIMBER LOGS

Mozambique's parliament on Wednesday approved in general and unanimously, the bill that creates conditions for a ban on the export of timber logs of all kinds, according to the Mozambican press.

The proposed government bill amending the law passed by the National Assembly in 2010 has implemented a surcharge for all exports of unprocessed or semi-processed, times, Mozambican daily newspaper Noticias reported.

The Minister of Land, Environment and Rural Development, Celso Correia, who presented the proposal, acknowledged that the 2010 law failed to achieve any of its goals, and that Mozambique continued to record high timber log exports and weak intervention in the national processing industry.

The 7/2010 law allowed the export of timber logs of some species of tree, an exception that was exploited by exporters who declared all timber logs were of the species not covered by the ban.

The most important article in the draft bill now presented merely repeals the 2010 law clause that allowed the export of wooden logs.

The amendment to the law, the minister said, will allow the government to change the 2002 Rules of the Forestry and Wildlife Law, which also allowed the export of timber of second, third and fourth class logs of precious species, obtained through a simple license or forest concession.

Correia stressed that the new law aims to create conditions for a total ban on timber log exports of all kinds and ensure the industrialisation of the forestry sector, encourage the export of higher value-added products (finished and semi-finished) and create more jobs in the forestry sector. (24-11-2016)

GERMANY LIFTS TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS ON ETHIOPIA

Germany has lifted the travel warning that restricted its citizens from travelling to Ethiopia, the Ethiopian Tourism Organization said here Wednesday.

The warning was lifted following the peace and stability restored in the country, Getnet Yigzaw, public relations head of the Tourism Organization told reporters in Addis Ababa.

Britain, Germany and the United States were among the countries which issued a travel warning on travel to Ethiopia following a wave of unrest in Oromia and Amhara state of the east African country.

Britain and the US are also expected to lift the travel warning to Ethiopia, Yigzaw said

Last week, the government of Ethiopia lifted the directive which restricted diplomats from travelling beyond a-40 kilometers radius out of Addis Ababa without prior notification to the government.

Ethiopia declared a six-month nationwide state of emergency in October 2016 in an effort to control a wave of violence in its largest state where 68 foreign-owned and government properties were torched. (APA 16-11-2016)

EU COOPERATION WITH MADAGASCAR

What is the current political and economic situation in Madagascar?

The European Union has been a key partner to Madagascar since XXX, to support its efforts in reaching its potential and overcoming the challenges it faces, such as poverty. Being the fourth biggest island in the world the country counts more than 23 million people. Half of its population are under 20 years old, 80% are living on less than USD 1.2 per day, and two-thirds have no access to education or electricity.

Its economy was weakened by a prolonged political crisis between 2009 and 2014. Presidential and legislative elections of December 2013 ended five years of transition and marked the return of Madagascar to constitutional order. These elections allowed for the lifting of Article 96 appropriate measures under the Cotonou Agreement, which in turn led to the resumption of full EU cooperation in May 2014.

The visit of Neven Mimica, European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, to Madagascar aims at confirming the EU continuing support. It takes place one year after the signing of the 11th National Indicative Programme (NIP).

What is the current state of play of EU cooperation with Madagascar?

The National Indicative Programme (NIP) is mobilising €518 million under the 11th European Development Fund for 2014-2020 to support Madagascar in its efforts of reducing poverty, by facilitating inclusive and sustainable growth.

The programme focuses on **three sectors**: Governance and strengthening of public policies (€145 million); Infrastructures in support to economic development (€230 million); Rural development (€130 million). €8 million have also been earmarked to continue supporting the civil society, and €5 million for supporting measures including the functions of the National Authorising Officer.

Actions will target **three regions** identified because of their important development potential and their proximity to a harbour with a regional dimension, as well as because of their development challenges. The regions are North and Diego Suarez, Centre Antananarivo-Tamatave, South and Fort-Dauphin.

Several projects are under preparation, particularly in the rural development sector that should bring this rate to 73% by mid-2017.

The envelope under the 11th European Development Fund comes in addition to the €300 million projects from the 10th European Development Fund, most of which are still being implemented.

What are examples of the EU's development cooperation with Madagascar and what positive effects have been achieved so far?

Infrastructures

1) Under the 11th European Development Fund, a €156 million contribution has been made to the Africa Investment Facility to implement road, energy and water infrastructure projects, with blending grants and loans from Financing Institutions.

- Roads: The "Rocade Tana" was recently finalised, together with the European Investment Bank and the Agence Française pour le Développement (AFD) as financing institutions. This project aims at building 8 km of the ring road of the Malagasy capital, for an expected traffic of 25,000 vehicles/day as of 2019. It will facilitate access to the capital, divert transit traffic and thereby relieve congestion in the streets.

- Water and sanitation: A second project aiming at improving sanitation in Tana and fighting floods in the capital area (with AFD as co-financing institution) has recently been approved. A comprehensive water and sanitation Master plan of the capital region will be established and key rehabilitation works in wastewater and drainage networks will be carried out.

2) Under 10th European Development Fund, infrastructures have also been supported by the EU.

Roads : the rehabilitation of 1000 km of key national roads and of 300 km of connected feeder roads along the Western and the South Eastern coasts was ensured. Whenever possible, labour intensive methods have been implemented to provide work to a maximum of Malagasy people (rather than using machine power); it has already allowed injecting direct revenues to estimated 10,000 households and 8,000 should be added to the scheme by the end of the programme.

Railway: As part of emergency work on infrastructures following weather damages, a major **railway** viaduct in Sahesenaka was prevented from collapsing. This viaduct is the only way to connect 300,000 people on the Eastern Coast to the city Fianarantsoa.

Several renewable **energy** production projects were also supported allowing more than 10,000 households to get access to a reliable renewable source of energy.

Social sector:

1) Under 11th European Development Fund, €76.5 million have been disbursed in 2014-2015 to support the State budget immediately after the end of the political transition, which helped maintaining a certain level of basic service delivery in the fields of health and education.

2) Under 10th European Development Fund, the EU has supported the social sector in nine of the 22 regions of the country which represent 43% of the total population. This support has allowed:

- the reopening and functioning of 73 Basic **Health** Centres with the recruitment of 88 physicians and 473 paramedics, the upgrading of 831 centres through the provision of medical equipment and equipment to improve the quality of services offered to the population,
- The return to primary **school** of 3,800,000 children in 2013-2014 with school kits and food provided to them.

Rural development

Under the 10th European Development Fund and the Sugar Protocol, 19.000 HA perimeter in the North of Madagascar were rehabilitated. Thanks to this action, 85% of the 300km irrigation system is now functioning against 50% at the beginning of the action. This progress creates significant opportunities for the 6.000 small sugar cane and rice producers among which 1.750 women. The rice production has tripled.

In the South, the project AINA has allowed to increase agricultural productivity and production with new practices and seeds adapted to difficult local and climatic conditions, and improvement of storage. The project included also awareness actions about good practices in nutrition, sanitation and hygiene. AINA has helped improving nutrition and hygiene practices of 33.500 pregnant or lactating mothers and of 94.000 children below 5 years old (51% and 83% of the respective targets).

Support to civil society

Under the 10th European Development Fund, the EU is supporting the Malagasy civil society through the DINIKA programme (€10 million), which runs from 2012 until 2017 and aims at promoting good governance at local and national levels.

Under this framework, several projects have been initiated to help for example mothers and disabled people to work locally in good conditions. The programme has funded to date 117 grants to civil society. Furthermore, civil society organisations are supported in their "watch dog" role, which means that they take part in public debates regarding the national and municipal budgets, natural resources, human rights, and social rights, all important matters to fight corruption and to promote the rights of the citizens. (EC 24-11-2016)

ANGOLA'S ECONOMY EXPECTED TO GROW AT AN AVERAGE RATE OF 2.9% BETWEEN 2017 AND 2021

Economic growth in Angola will remain dependent on the fluctuation of oil prices in international markets and is expected to come in at an average of 2.9% between 2017 and 2021, compared with 4.1% in the 2012 to 2016 period, according to forecasts from the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU).

Given that tax revenues will remain relatively weak due to falling oil prices, the EIU predicts that Angola will record an average budget deficit of 5% of GDP in the 2017-2021 period.

The EIU, in its latest report on Angola, said that the inflation rate should start to decline after the high figures recorded this year (the latest is 40.4%), down to 18.4 % in 2017 and maintain this downward trend until 2021, when it is expected to stand at 7.7%.

The national currency, the kwanza, will continue to lose value against the dollar because of the difficulty in obtaining the US currency as a result of low oil prices and the disparity with the exchange rate on the black market will remain high.

The EIU also said that the National Bank of Angola will remain focused on the need to contain rising prices through a restrictive monetary policy, as shown by the increase in the basic interest rate, the BNA rate, by 700 basis points to 16% between January 2015 and September 2016.

Further increases to the BNA rate should take place at least in the first half of the review period, from 2017 to 2021 due to the effect the devaluation of the national currency will have on the prices of products, both imported and domestic.
The Economist Intelligence Unit expects, however, that the Angolan central bank will come under pressure from the government to adopt a less rigid monetary policy if economic growth rates do not recover to higher values when oil prices start to increase in 2017. (24-11-2016)

ETHIOPIA EARNS OVER $67M FROM GOLD, GEMSTONE EXPORTS

Gold and gemstones export has generated $67.59 million income in the first quarter of this Ethiopian fiscal year, the country's Ministry of Mines, Petroleum, and Natural Gas said in a statement on Tuesday. The ministry said the revenue was obtained from the export of 996.5 kg of gold, 95.7 kg raw and 52.8 kg of value-added opal.

174,800kg of other gemstones were also exported from the country during this period, the statement noted. (APA 15-11-2016)

ZIMBABWE PLANS TO SELL ITS IVORY STOCKPILE TO CHINA, EXCEPT… IT CAN'T

Confiscated ivory is moved to secure containers from a stockroom at the Kenya Wildlife Services in Nairobi. Kenya will burn 105t of confiscated ivory, almost all of the country's total stockpile, at the end of April.
Zimbabwe's environment minister Oppah Muchinguri-Kashiri wants to sell her country's supposed $10bn ivory stockpile to China using a possible international legal loophole.
However, experts say that not only is the minister misinformed that such a loophole exists, but her assessment of the size and value of her nation's stockpile is grossly overestimated.
Media reports from within Zimbabwe claim it sits on 96,000 tons of ivory valued at $10bn.
"The minister is not only confusing kilos with tons, but also millions with billions," said Alejandro Nadal, a professor at the Centre for Economic Studies, El Colegio de Mexico who specialises in wildlife trade.
Muchinguri-Kashiri informed the Zimbabwean parliament recently that as a Convention on the Trade in Endangered Species (Cites) member, Zimbabwe can legally take out a reservation against the current global ban on ivory as long as it's within 90 days of the Conference of the Parties (CoP17), which ended in Johannesburg on October 5.
A reservation, the minister hopes, means Zimbabwe could commercially trade ivory if another Cites member nation, like China, also entered such reservation within the 90-day period.
But the reservation Muchinguri-Kashiri proposed is simply unobtainable, according to Stella Reynolds, a UK barrister and expert in international law.
She said the southern African nation would only be allowed a reservation if two-thirds of the member countries voted for a change in appendices listings at the meeting in Johannesburg. That did not happen.

Elephants in Zimbabwe remain listed under Appendix II, which previously allowed Zimbabwe, together with Namibia and Botswana, to sell off their ivory stockpiles to Japan in 1999 and again, with SA added to the trio, to China and Japan in 2008. But since then annotations added to the listing have all but prevented any stockpile sales.

According to Cites value estimates at the time of the 2008 sale, Zimbabwe sold around four tons at around $500,000.

Based on these estimates, the nation has a stockpile value of between $5m and $10m, depending on sale prices. China and Japan colluded in 2008 to keep the prices of stockpiled ivory down so they could sell it on to dealers for a profit. Nevertheless, this is a far cry from the purported $10bn.

It was reported that Muchinguri-Kashiri hoped to use the funds to help relieve Zimbabwe's foreign debt. however Muchinguri-Kashiri has been misinformed about how the funds may be spent. Under the agreement reached by Cites in July 2007, the countries that sold the ivory were "obliged to use the funds raised exclusively for elephant conservation and community development programmes within or adjacent to the elephant range."

She therefore may not use any funds from potential future sales in sectors beyond conservation.

The reservation and size, value and distribution of funds of her nation's stockpile are not the only areas where Muchinguri-Kashiri has erred. She railed against other African countries that wanted fuller protection for elephants: "There are certain countries in Africa, such as Botswana, Kenya and Chad that no longer have wild animals and they are pushing for a ban on the sale of ivory," she told parliament.

However, Botswana is home to the largest single elephant population on the continent, about a third of all Africa's elephants, and Kenya, according to the latest figures from the Great Elephant Census, has showed an increase in its elephant populations over the past decade, while Zimbabwe's have showed a decline over the same period.

Zimbabwe has an exemption under Cites allowing it to trade in worked ivory carvings for non-commercial purposes. Providing that a person purchases a valid Cites certificate (which retailers are obliged to provide) and the value of the items in question is less than $500 and no more than 10kg, they are permitted to take ivory souvenirs out of the country.

An investigation into elephant management and ivory trade in Zimbabwe by the International Fund for Animal Welfare (Ifaw) in 2006, revealed that some sellers of ivory have little regard for the Cites permit requirements. Consequently, Chinese dealers have transported large quantities out of Zimbabwe using this exemption.

Both Kenya and Chad have recently destroyed their ivory stockpiles, sending a clear message to consumers that it is no longer acceptable to buy ivory, while China and the US have begun a process of closing down their own domestic markets, which will practically close the door to any ivory stockpile sales from Zimbabwe. (BD 16-11-2016)

BRAZIL TO HONOR PLEDGE TO CONSTRUCT MOZAMBICAN DAM, SAYS ENVOY

The Brazilian ambassador to Mozambique, Rodrigo Soares says his country will honor its pledge to finance the construction of the Moamba Major Dam despite the reassessment of Brasília's cooperation projects with Mozambique and other countries, local media reports here Thursday.

The diplomat made the announcement after he was received by Prime Minister Carlos Agostinho do Rosario on Wednesday.

Soares said the reassessment of projects in the cooperation portfolio that require public funds is a "normal procedure" in the context of the current changes in Brazil's government, an apparent reference to the impeachment of former President Dilma Roussef.

He added that the reassessment is being made by Brazil's National Economic and Social Development Bank (BNEDES).

BNEDES announced a month ago that it had suspended funding for projects of 25 Brazilian companies under investigation for corruption, including construction works in Mozambique and Angola.

The Brazilian companies are being investigated under a probe code named 'Operation Car Wash' being carried out by the Brazilian Federal Police into allegations of money laundering and corruption.

BNDES names the companies concerned as Odebrecht, Queiroz Galvão, Camargo Corrêa and Andrade Gutierrez.

The main project at risk in Mozambique is the US$300-million Moamba Major Dam where the contractor is Andrade Gutierrez.

Soares, however, stressed that the Brazilian government wanted to strengthen its cooperation with Mozambique, revealing that the southern African country is currently the largest beneficiary of Brazilian cooperation in the world.(APA 10-11-2016)

CAR INFLATION CLIMBS 6 PERCENT

The rate of inflation in the Central African Republic is reportedly at 6 percent, while it is considered at 3 percent in other countries of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CAEMC), CAR's Monetary and Economic Committee of the Bank of Central African States (BEAC) said Friday after a meeting in Bangui.
The meeting, held quarterly in the different BEAC countries, was chaired by Finance Minister, Henry Marie Dondra in the presence of the bank's new Vice-Governor.

The increase in violence noted in certain regions of the CAR would explain this situation marked by an increase in the prices of certain basic necessities due to traffic disruptions on some roads.

The Minister of Finance also announced the introduction of certain trades to the credit committee meeting.

The meeting is held at the same time as the Monetary and Economic Committee meeting for their influence on the Central African economy.(APA 11-11-2016)

BLOOMBERG LAUNCHES AFRICA EDITION OF BLOOMBERG.COM

Justin Smith, CEO Bloomberg Media

Bloomberg announced the launch of Bloomberg.com/Africa, a regional edition of Bloomberg's flagship digital destination designed to serve the continent's growing audience of business and financial professionals.

Bloomberg Media CEO Justin B. Smith unveiled the new edition at the second Bloomberg 'Africa Business Media Innovators' (ABMI) forum today in Naivasha, Kenya, which convened media, technology and business influencers from 11 countries – including nine African nations – to explore the role business and financial journalism plays in bringing accountability, transparency and investment to African economies.

Bloomberg.com/Africa will combine the resources of Bloomberg's more than 100-strong editorial team across seven bureaus in Africa, as well as Bloomberg's global team of more than 2,600 reporters and analysts. It is the latest in a series of regionally-focused editorial platforms built to serve the growing audience of business and financial consumers seeking stories on global markets told through a local lens.

Speaking at ABMI 2016 in Kenya, Smith said: "Our mission is to build the leading multi-platform global business and financial media company and delivering more relevant stories to our global audiences via localized platforms is central to our strategy. In the last year, we have launched regional sites in Europe, Asia and the Middle East, re-launched our Japanese language website and entered into an ambitious multi-platform partnership in India. We are excited to now expand our reach across Africa's vibrant and growing economies."

"Africa is playing an increasingly significant role in the global economy," said Antony Sguazzin, Managing Editor Bloomberg, Sub-Saharan Africa. "With the launch of this dedicated regional digital platform, we are establishing a home to showcase the best of Bloomberg's rich content on the people, companies, politics and economies shaping the continent."

Bloomberg.com/Africa will be powered by Javelin, Bloomberg Digital's new article and template design that was unveiled recently with the launch of Bloomberg Technology. Javelin provides a significantly improved user experience, reducing page load time, which is critical in delivering a faster mobile experience for a largely mobile-driven African audience. Bloomberg.com has seen impressive growth in the region in mobile – in the last three months, the site has seen +23% growth in mobile unique visitors compared to the same period last year[i].

The best of the new edition's content will be fed to a dedicated Africa Twitter handle @BBGAfrica. Bloomberg will continue to explore the addition of Africa-specific products to expand its reach to this important growing economy, and where appropriate, seek partners to help scale Bloomberg's reach across the continent.

Bloomberg has accelerated its global expansion in 2016. The company will continue to leverage its multi-platform distribution, strong global brand, technological assets and editorial resources around the world to grow aggressively in 2017. In 2016, Bloomberg Media's total revenue year-to-date through September is up +8% compared to the same time period last year. (IT News Africa 16-11-2016)

ETHIOPIA ATTRACTED OVER $500M FDI IN THREE MONTHS

Ethiopia has attracted more than $500 million foreign direct investment (FDI) over the last three months, said the country's investment commission on Friday.
FDI flow to the country in the reported period was equivalent to that of the same period the previous fiscal year, Fitsum Arega, Commissioner of the Ethiopian Investment Commission told a press briefing.

However, the violence and unrest occurring in the past few months partly affected the country's target of attracting more FDI in this fiscal year, he said.

According to Fitsum, the government's huge investment in infrastructures; namely railways, hydropower, telecom, road and industrial parks have played a big role in attracting FDI.

Hence, the country attraction of $560 million FDI in the first three months of this Ethiopian fiscal year, he noted.

Despite challenges such as drought, insecurity and decline in export trade, the country's FDI in the first quarter of the year looked promising, he added

Projects with a combined capital of $3.5 billion are expected to launch investments during this fiscal year.

Of the 24 horticultural farms that had been attacked during the recent unrest, 23 of them have resumed business partially or fully.

Out of 23 factories attacked by the violence, 21 have commenced partial or full production, Fitsum added(APA 11-11-2016)

BELGIUM ALLOTS CFA2.5BN FOR BURKINA WATER SCHEME

Belgium has provided Burkina Faso with CFA 2.5 billion to multiply access to drinking water, the Economy and Finance Minister disclosed to APA on Friday.
The loan is intended for the project to supply drinking water to populations displaced while making way for the construction of a new airport in Donsin, about 30 km from the capital Ouagadougou.

For these populations to live decently, the government decided to clean up and supply drinking water to their areas.

Belgian support will provide drinking water for more than 12,000 people.

The conditions for granting the Belgian funds have been reduced (zero interest rate for a period of 30 years with a delay of 10 years) in view of the excellent ties between the two countries, the ministry said. (APA 11-11-2016)

LIBYA: EU, UNICEF AND GOVERNMENT JOIN FORCES TO SUPPORT YOUTH

UNICEF together with senior officials from the Libyan Ministry of Local Government and the EU Delegation held a workshop in Tunis on the commitment and partnership for young people in Libya. Within the framework of the EU-funded programme 'Towards Resilience and Social Inclusion of Adolescents and Young People', UNICEF will aim to address priorities of education, child protection and other priorities of youth in Libya.

The two-day workshop was held with the aim to agree on a shared vision and to establish a solid partnership between the Ministry of Local Government and UNICEF to work together within the EU-funded programme.

"Youth is a fundamental element in sustaining the current transitional process and in guaranteeing the

democratic and prosperous future of Libya" said Stefano Sotgia, Head of Cooperation at the EU Delegation to Libya.

During the workshop, the parties agreed on an implementation strategy which involves youth, municipalities, the civil and the private sectors.(EEAS 16-11-2016)

NAMIBIA: GERMAN EQUIPMENT AID LIFESPAN EXTENDED

The Namibian Ministry of Defence (NDF) and its German counterpart have signed a new extension agreement on German Equipment Aid to the country, the German embassy in Windhoek said on Friday. The embassy said in a statement that the agreement "is another milestone of mutual cooperation between the two defence forces".

The main objective of the long standing agreement is to train the Namibian Defence Force in order to enhance its peacekeeping capabilities and to implement common strategic goals in defence cooperation - for a peaceful and prosperous Africa.

Through the agreement, Germany has contributed in equipment worth N$353 million (22.6 million Euro) to the national defence since the southern African country joined the Military Aid Programme as a recipient country in 1992.

In February 2015, the two countries signed an agreement worth N$41.5 million (€3.2 million) used for equipment aid, including the construction of a medical and maintenance facility. (APA 11-11-2016)

MAURITANIA MAKES ANNUAL TARGET OF 100,000 TONNES OF VEGETABLES

Mauritania's Minister of Agriculture, Lemina Mint El Ghotob Ould Moma said her department is planning to cultivate about 5,690 hectares of land this year to produce nearly 100,000 tons of vegetables. "To this end, we have taken a number of measures, including the creation of 120 km of wire netting" Moma said during Monday's launch of the vegetable growing ceremony in the town of Tidjikja, 600 kilometers east of Nouakchott.

These measures include the provision of 100 tonnes of seed potatoes and 2,500 kilograms of other species of seeds, 304 irrigation units, 280 of which are equipped with solar energy, 70 tonnes of fertilizers and important quantities of pesticides.

Over 80 pilot agricultural farms have been set up in recent years for women's cooperatives while another 110 will be laid in various parts of the country this year, the minister added.

She also announced the launch of a winter crop season to grow wheat on over 3,000 hectares.

For this purpose, Mint El Ghotob Ould Moma said 35 tractors have been acquired and will be distributed to farmers in highly productive areas, stressing that the state will bear the costs of protecting crops against birds through control teams and aerial treatment in case of need.

She emphasized that her department was currently conducting a national program for the realization of 100 pilot oases based on recognized technical standards in this field. (APA 14-11-2016)

WILL THE DEVELOPMENT BUSINESS BE OUT OF BUSINESS BY 2040?

David de Ferranti has seen and done a lot during a long development career — he spent 25 years at the World Bank where he was regional vice president for Latin America and the Caribbean, started his own nonprofit, and also served as a fellow at the Brookings Institution and the United Nations Foundation.

After decades in the development business, de Ferranti is not retiring, although he did recently step down from his latest role as founder and chief executive of the Results for Development Institute, an organization he started nearly 10 years ago to "bridge the gap" between policy and research. In that time, R4D has grown from just a handful of employees to more than 115 staff.

Devex caught up with de Ferranti at an event to mark the end of his time as R4D's president, where he reflected on the future of development and asked: Will the development business be out of business by 2040?

The short answer to this question, according to de Ferranti, is "no". After all, the development community has been predicting its own extinction for years and is still very much alive, he said.

Instead, he predicts development "... won't be so much out of business as in a different business." Power in the sector will be firmly in the hands of the "global south" and current development institutions will look and behave very differently.

De Ferranti also took stock of progress toward eradicating poverty and found himself cautiously optimistic. "More people are climbing out of poverty and at a faster rate than ever before," he said.

De Ferranti said data showed 720 million people have moved above the poverty line since 1981 while extreme poverty has fallen from 52 percent in 1981, to 22 percent in 2008, with African and Asian economies making the most impressive progress.

While more needs to be done, de Ferranti sees huge potential in what he calls the "knowledge and connectivity revolution," and thinks the development community has not yet fully recognized the implications of information sharing technologies for the world's poor.

"My hunch is it will be a business of everyone everywhere helping everyone else according to their skill sets. This could be 'south-south' as well as 'north-south,' information moving in all kinds of directions," he explained.

De Ferranti advises development organizations to pay attention to three important trends emerging in the field.

1. Evidence matters.

Evaluation techniques have come a long way, according to de Ferranti. Development practitioners can now gather huge and far more detailed amounts of evidence quicker than ever before, giving staff the ability to "learn as you go and ask fine-tuned questions," he said.

The development community needs to take advantage of these advances in the type of evidence it can gather, he said.

2. Northern-based organizations as we know them are a thing of the past.

The prevailing power structures in international development need to be overhauled and decision-making moved away from Washington, D.C., and London, de Ferranti said. He wants to see power in the hands of people who actually have something directly at stake. This will have big implications for organizations working on development, especially those based in the global north.

However, it is not just where development organizations operate that needs to change. The way they do business will also need to evolve if they are to stay relevant. Lines will continue to blur between different types of organizations working on development issues, according to de Ferranti.

For example, NGOs are getting more entrepreneurial, consulting groups are becoming more attuned to how to do good as well as make money, and people from the public sector and private sector are "reaching across those aisles" to learn from each other and do business, he said.

3. We need a culture of learning.

The development community needs to better embrace failure and use it as an opportunity to learn from its mistakes, according to de Ferranti.

"I hope we can build a culture within and across organizations which makes people ready to stick their necks out, confident they will get a helping hand from colleagues rather than feel damaged for it," he said. (Devex 22-11-2016)

NIGERIAN MINISTER CALLS FOR FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN POWER SECTOR

Nigeria's Minister of Power, Works and Housing Babatunde Fashola has called for foreign investment in the country's power sector.
Speaking at the 5th European Union (EU)-Nigeria Business Forum in Lagos on Thursday, Fashola noted that the Nigerian economy would not grow without investment in infrastructure.

Reacting to a recent call by Africa's richest man Alhaji Aliko Dangote that the government should reverse the privatisation deal concluded three years ago, for improved performance in the sector, Fashola said that the government was not planning to revoke the privatisation of the power sector.

He assured that the government would respect and uphold the contracts in the power sector it inherited from the past administration

The minister said that he would support improvement in governance, performance and efficiency in the power sector and would not support cancelling of the contracts.

According to Fashola, revoking the contract will send wrong signals to other investors and that can affect the flow of Foreign Direct Investments (FDI). (APA 11-11-2016)

CABO VERDE AIRLINE MAY BE SHUT DOWN

The Prime Minister of Cabo Verde (Cape Verde) on Monday admitted the possibility of dissolution of the country’s flagship airline, Transportes Aereos de Cabo Verde (TACV), but gave assurances that the government will do everything to avoid this scenario, reported the Cape Verdean press.
Ulisses Correia da Silva said the “company’s health is complicated” and the government was working with the World Bank to find a strategic partner for TACV so it “can continue to fly.”
The Cape Verdean airline faces financial troubles and the government is working on a restructuring plan with a view to its privatization, a plan that would include cuts in operational expenditure and staff dismissals.
“We are creating the conditions for its restructuring and then for its privatisation and fundamentally looking for a solution to the privatisation of the international business,” said Ulisses Correia e Silva.
The Prime Minister of Cabo Verde was attending the naming ceremony of one of the aircraft of Canary island airline Binter, which since Saturday has provided a link between the Cape Verdean islands of Santiago, Sao Vicente and Sal.
The ceremony, along with the Prime Minister, was attended by several Cape Verdean ministers and a delegation from the Canary Islands led by the president of the government, Fernando Clavijo Batlle, who is in Cabo Verde for the summit between the two regions, on Tuesday in Praia. (15-11-2016)

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.
The Memorandum is also made available by AHEAD-GLOBAL, BCA, Chamber of Tenerife (by posting it at the Africa Info Market), CCA - Canadian Council on Africa, CCA - Corporate Council on Africa (USA), ELO,HTTC ,NABA,NABC (by posting selected news) and SwissCham-Africa to their Members.

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www.elo-online.org | www.helafrican-chamber.gr | www.htcc.org.hu

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29TH – 30TH OF NOVEMBER: BUSINESS MISSION TO TUNISIA

NABA welcomes Norwegian companies to join a business mission to Tunis in connection with the Tunisia 2020 investor conference, 29th – 30th of November.

Tunisia 2020 will present the government's 2016-2020 National Development Plan, as well as new structural reforms to promote investment. The conference will serve as a great opportunity to interact with both government and the private sector.

Special focus during the conference will be given to: digital economy, tourism, education, automotive/aeronautics industry, health/pharmaceutical, textile, renewable energy, agribusiness and water management. There are no visa requirements for Norwegian nationals going to Tunis, and both Lufthansa and AirFrance/KLM provide great links from Oslo.

Venue: The Congress Center, Tunisia

Event contact: Eivind Fjeldstad
Phone: +4795969631
Mail: ef@norwegianafrican.no

Download 29th – 30th of November: business mission to Tunisia Program

Fernando Matos Rosa

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