

# MEMORANDUM

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## TUNISIA 2020: EU PROVIDES EUR 150 MILLION TO SUPPORT RECOVERY IN TUNISIA



Exactly two month after issuing the communication on '[Strengthening EU support for Tunisia](#)', the EU committed yesterday, in the framework of the Tunisia 2020 conference, to grant over EUR 150 million to support Tunisia. This support will focus on three main areas: supporting recovery, supporting the development of regions, and maximising the potential for growth and job creation while serving the environment.

EU Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations Johannes Hahn, who was present at the event, said: “the main message that I convey from Brussels is that we believe in Tunisia and we are determined to help Tunisia to succeed in its political and economic transition.”

The recovery support programme (PARV), the fifth phase of which was signed yesterday, devotes EUR 70 million to reforms designed to make the State more efficient in managing its public finances. The programme will also support the tourism sector, hit hard by last year’s attacks.

The programme “Focus on Decentralisation and Integrated Territorial Development” (CAP2D), which dedicates EUR 43 million to supporting Tunisian regions and municipalities, combines territorial planning in a broad sense, decentralisation and local democracy. Recognising that the needs of local authorities are sometimes very concrete, the EU has decided to allocate EUR 3 million of the CAP2D programme to the Trust Fund set up by the World Bank to ensure the supply of equipment to municipalities.

EU action also involves measures taken in close partnership with the major European financial institutions i.e. the European Investment Bank (EIB), the German KfW, the French Development Agency (AFD) as well as the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). Through the Neighborhood Investment Facility (NIF), it is possible to combine EU grants with loans granted by these entities to generate projects that directly benefit Tunisia.

The programmes signed by Commissioner Hahn with the representatives of these institutions during the conference are oriented in two main directions:

- **Economy and growth for job creation:** whether through the EBRD's "Regional Support Programme for Financial Inclusion" and "Support Programme for Trade and Competitiveness" or the EIB-managed “Facility for Venture Capital”, EUR 92 million will strengthen the Tunisian economy and its actors, including a EUR 25 million grant from the EU via NIF;

- **The fulfilment of Tunisia’s commitments under the Paris Agreement on Climate Change:** through a EUR 16 million financial support for the creation of the first solar power plant in Tunisia to be located in Tozeur (southern Tunisia), to be implemented by the KfW and which includes a EUR 1.5 million grant from the EU via NIF. The EU will also provide a EUR 10.75 million grant to the EUR 140 million project to build water treatment plants, thereby contributing to the regional de-pollution effort in the Mediterranean.

Further financial support will follow as the EU will grant EUR 300 million annually between 2017 and 2020 and will mobilize EUR 800 million in loans in partnership with the European financial institutions. (EEAS 30-11-2016)

## SWAZI EDUCATION TO BENEFIT FROM \$14.5M UNESCO KITTY

The Swaziland Education Coalition will benefit from a \$14.5 million kitty of the Global Partnership for Education supervised by UNICEF.

Swaziland will be part of the 20 African countries that will receive the funding to achieve the African Union's Agenda 2063 which seeks to render every African literate.

Announcing this was African Network Campaign Coordinator Boaz Wakuru during a meeting held at the Mountain Inn in the Swazi capital Mbabane on Friday.

Sikelela Dlamini, the Chairperson of Swaziland Network Campaign for Education (SWANCEFA) said the money will be disbursed among 14 affiliate organisations. (APA 25-11-2016)

## BOTSWANA'S TOURISM INDUSTRY POWERING ECONOMY

Botswana's Vice President Mokgweetsi Masisi has hailed his country's tourism industry as one of the most important sectors powering her economy.

The sector, he said, was the second largest contributor to GDP and service sector and had recorded the largest growth in jobs created.

Officially opening Travel Lodge in Gaborone on Friday, Masisi said the need to put in place an enabling environment in which the private sector could function effectively and profitably could not be understated.

"Tourism is cross-cutting thereby requiring several sectors of the economy to perform in alignment to the national tourism vision. In this regard, the government will continue to harmonise its policies, legislation and initiatives to ensure that tourism is facilitated in the best way possible" he said.

Masisi stated that "there are a total of 80 licensed hotels in Botswana, 41 of them owned by citizens, 21 non-citizens and 18 joint ventures.

He said the hotels have created 11, 604 jobs. (APA 25-11-2016)

## KENYA PLANS TO BUILD ITS FIRST NUCLEAR POWER PLANT



Kenya plans to begin constructing its first nuclear power plant at a cost of \$5bn by 2021 as the country seeks to bring down the cost of electricity.

An unreliable and expensive power supply is cited by business as a deterrent to investment in East Africa's biggest economy. The nuclear plant, due for completion in 2027, would add 1,000MW, the nation's Nuclear Electricity Board's acting CE Officer Collins Gordon Juma said.

The nation generates about 2,299MW of electricity, mainly from geothermal wells and hydroelectricity dams, according to the Energy Regulatory Commission. It intends to increase capacity to 6,766MW by 2020.

The government had finished a grid analysis and was now carrying out a feasibility study, Juma said in an interview. It would invite construction bids after settling on a suitable technology and on the site. The government was considering both public-private partnerships and government-to-government agreements as financing options, he said.

"When we talk of 1,000MW, we are talking half of the capacity we have right now in the country," Juma said in the coastal city of Mombasa on Tuesday. "It is very expensive, so we are looking at several funding options. We are speaking to various governments."

### **Funding options**

Kenya and South Korea signed agreements to collaborate on designing, constructing and operating nuclear reactors when the African nation's energy secretary, Charles Keter, visited the Asian country in September. Kenya is seeking to build a 4,000MW facility by 2033.

Nuclear power would lower the cost per unit to about 4-6 US cents per kilowatt-hour, Juma said. The country is trying to wean itself off diesel-generated electricity that costs about 38c per kilowatt-hour.

Kenyan power consumers pay an average of 18.7c per kilowatt-hour, compared with 9c in neighbouring Tanzania and 3c in Ethiopia, African Development Bank data show. (Bloomberg 01-12-2016)

## **65 PERCENT VIOLENCE HAPPEN IN SWAZI HOMES**

About 65 percent of cases of violence in Swaziland occur in homes, Deputy Prime Minister Paul Dlamini revealed on Friday.

Dlamini made the revelation during the launch of the 16 Days of Activism against Violence in the capital Mbabane.

"The family structure is gradually disintegrating and as such, cases of violence are on the rise because there is nobody to restore peace and harmony in the family," he said.

He said one major cause for the erosion of the extended family; which was useful in solving disputes, is the HIV and Aids pandemic.

Dlamini revealed that his office was working tirelessly to together with parliament to have the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence (SODV) bill enacted into law as a measure to deter perpetrators from committing violence. (APA 25-11-2016)

## **CAMEROON RAISES BAR ON COCOA YIELD TO 600,000 TONNES**

Cameroon's ambition to produce 600,000 tonnes of cocoa per year by 2020, compared to its current 270,000 tonnes could rely heavily on strategies aimed at improving its output through good farming practices, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER) said on Friday.

Cameroon's objectives include the promotion of new cropping practices, extending new plans and improved seeds.

To this end, two manuals have just been drafted the first targeting extension workers while the other is for cocoa producers.

According to MINADER, they are "a guide to good agricultural practices, certification requirements, production techniques, list of phytosanitary products and other important elements for the improvement

of the quantity and quality of cocoa in Cameroon.”

Besides, the manual should also address a series of identified having an impact on productivity, such as aging orchards, producers' low income, low input use and inadequate knowledge of production practices by small-scale producers. (APA 25-11-2016)

## EU SUPPORTS SUSTAINABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN EGYPT



The EU Delegation to Egypt together with the EU-funded project MED-ENEC is conducting a three-day event, back-to-back with the Sustainable Built Environment (SBE16) Conference. The event, held from 29 November to 1 December 2016 in Cairo, offers an opportunity to share best practices, discuss cooperation across the region, and highlight the importance of sustaining a regional energy efficiency community.

The EU-funded MED-ENEC project has provided technical support to Egypt and other countries in the South MENA region focusing on promoting energy efficiency. MED-ENEC supported national partners as they seek to improve policies and framework conditions that help increase the use of energy efficiency solutions and RE technologies.

The EU and MED-ENEC are major sponsors of the Sustainable Built Environment conference. During the MED-ENEC session, speakers will provide an overview of the support activities during last few years and point out possible next steps to be taken in order to ensure the sustainable continuity of respective actions. (EEAS 29-11-2016)

MED ENEC – [website](#)

## CHINESE GROUP TAKES PART IN HOTEL CONSTRUCTION PROJECT IN CABO VERDE

The Bucan Construções e Imobiliária group and Cabo Verde Management have signed a contract to work with China National Complete Plant Import & Export Corporation for the construction of a hotel on the island of Santa Maria, the Cape Verdean press reported.

The hotel, which will be managed by the Spanish hotel chain Barceló Hotels & Resorts, will have 1,150 rooms and will be built in two phases, the first of which will begin in April 2017 and is expected to take 24 months and cost 122 million euros.

This new Bucan group hotel will be in the tourist area of Lacacão in the Integrated Tourist Development Zone (ZDTI) of Santa Monica, with the local press reporting that the partnership with the Chinese group should allow more Chinese tourists to visit Cab Verde.

Weekly newspaper A Semana noted that after signing a partnership agreement with the Bucan group in April 2009, the Integrated Tourism Development Corporation of Boa Vista and Maio (SDTIBM) provided a plot of 700 hectares, for the infrastructure of a project called Lacacão Urbanisation.

The project involves an estimated investment of 600 million euros and is expected to spend 40 million on basic infrastructure, and investments in production and distribution of energy and water, collection and treatment of waste water and road construction in Boa Vista.

The newspaper noted the China National Complete Plant Import & Export Corporation was the second Chinese entity to enter Cabo Verde, after Macau businessman David Show signed a contract for the construction of the largest tourist resort in Cabo Verde, in the islet of Santa Maria, opposite the capital city, Praia. (25-11-2016)

## CHINA FINANCES CONSTRUCTION OF MOTORWAY IN GUINEA-BISSAU



China will finance the construction of a motorway between the city of Bissau and Safi, a town which is 14.4 kilometres north of the Guinea-Bissau capital, in what will be “a work of modern engineering,” the Chinese ambassador said.

Ambassador Wang Hua made the announcement on Friday during the announcement of the arrival of Chinese technicians to Bissau to prepare the start of the motorway construction work, which will cost US\$ 16.5 million and will facilitate flow of commercial products from the interior to the capital.

The Chinese diplomat said the agreement between the two countries has been signed, the work will start in 2017 and the motorway will have three separate lanes in each direction and its own lighting.

Wang Hua also said all the technical and financial conditions were in place for work to begin and gave assurances that China will continue to support the development of Guinea-Bissau.

China has been a great partner for Guinea-Bissau in terms of bilateral cooperation, having already built several infrastructures including the Presidential, Government and Justice palaces, the National Assembly, the Military Hospital, the “24 de Setembro” National Stadium and the public lighting system in the city of Bissau. (28-11-2016)

## BRUSSELS DONORS CONFERENCE PLEDGES €2 BILLION FOR CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC



President Touadera's swearing-in ceremony in the Central African Republic capital of Bangui.

International donors yesterday (17 November) pledged \$2.2 billion (€2 billion) in aid for strife-torn Central African Republic, one of the world's poorest countries, officials said.

“The positive response you have given ... will galvanise our efforts and make sure our recovery plans bear fruit,” Central African Republic President Faustin-Archange Touadera said after a donors’ conference in Brussels.

The pledges topped the \$1.6 billion Touadera had wanted over three years to kick-start the devastated economy but were short of the \$3.0 billion targeted for the five-year programme.

“I have noted some of you have reservations about our ability to implement our recovery plan but I hope I can reassure you,” the president said, stressing his commitment to ensure all funds were properly accounted for.

The Central African Republic sits strategically on the crossroads of Africa and is home to some five million people split deeply along ethnic and religious lines.

Former colonial power France intervened in 2013 to stop violent Christian-Muslim clashes and formally ended its peacekeeping mission only last month, hailing it a success despite fresh outbreaks of violence. A more than 10,000-strong UN force, MINUSCA, is now responsible for security.

### **CRA not ‘a lost cause’**

Touadera said security was absolutely vital to success but while the situation was difficult, his country was “not a lost cause.”

“We call on you to give us the support needed to make the difference...we need your solidarity and help,” he told donors in an opening address.

EU foreign affairs head Federica Mogherini said: “The Central African Republic is turning the page and now it is our turn to step up and help.”

EU Budget and Human Resources commissioner Kristalina Georgieva said Brussels and member states had put up more than \$780 million and she hoped to see the total amount increase.

“We have a contract of rights and obligations with the Central African Republic and we all have to deliver on the promises we make,” Georgieva said.

“There is no reason whatever that the people of this country should be poor,” she added.

French Development Minister André Vallini had earlier cautioned against expecting too much.

“Nothing has been agreed yet and we do not know if we will get to these figures,” he said as he went into the conference.

Donors include the EU, the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, France and the United States.

Touadera was elected early this year, but still does not have full control of the country.

Efforts to disarm Muslim and Christian militias responsible for thousands of deaths and the displacement of 10% of the population have also failed.

France still has several hundred troops in the country as Paris and the West keep a wary eye on Boko Haram jihadists in Nigeria and northern Cameroon.

Washington also has around 100 special forces near the border with South Sudan. (EurActiv 18-11-2016)

## **BOTSWANA - COPPER MINE’S LIQUIDATION PAINFUL BUT NECESSARY**

Botswana President Ian Khama said Friday that putting BCL copper mine under provisional liquidation was a painful decision, but a necessary one for his government because it had become unviable and costly to run.

Addressing members of the High Level Consultation Committee (HLCC) in Gaborone, President Khama said the mine was draining government resources.

“One painful decision we had to make was the placing of BCL in Selebi Phikwe (in northern Botswana) under provisional liquidation. This is something which from my point of view was not unexpected” said Khama.

He added that “BCL has been a history of ups and downs and in recent times there have been more ups and downs and we have as a government been putting in capital injection into BCL over the years.”

Khama said while the government acquired loans in the past to fund operations of the BCL Mine, falling commodity prices and other factors made it difficult to sustain it.

Faced with the prospect of continuing to invest more funds into an unprofitable entity, Khama said the government found it necessary to submit it to provisional liquidation.

He also said the mine itself was no longer viable as it was an old mine which had become unsafe.

“We got to a stage where we said as a government, do we keep on pouring our resources into a dying entity” he said. (APA 25-11-2016)

## **PM DEFENDS MOZAMBIQUE’S REFORM OF THE FINANCIAL SYSTEM**

The liquidation of Mozambican bank Nosso Banco requires a legislative reform of the financial system to ensure greater protection of depositors in the event of financial difficulties of credit institutions, the Mozambican Prime Minister said on Thursday in Maputo.

Carlos Agostinho do Rosário, answering questions from MPs in parliament during the debate on Nosso Banco, pointed out that current legislation does not allow the Bank of Mozambique to use the Deposit Guarantee Fund as a bank resolution instrument, to facilitate mergers between more solid banks and those with financial difficulties.

At the end of his speech, the Prime Minister described the liquidation of Nosso Banco as an exception, saying that “the financial system remains generally stable and reliable and Mozambican banks remain a safe place to save money.”

The Bank of Mozambique announced on 11 November the liquidation of Nosso Banco, held by the National Institute of Social Security, and part-owned by power company EdM and SPI, the business arm of the Mozambique Liberation Front (ruling party Frelimo).

The central bank said at the time that the liquidation of Nosso Banco was determined by the continuing deterioration of the main prudential and profitability indicators, negative equity, and capital far below the regulatory minimum and weak liquidity. (25-11-2016)

## **MORE EUROPEAN TRAWLERS WILL BE ABLE TO FISH IN MAURITANIAN WATERS**

Further six trawlers from the Community fleet will be allowed to operate in Mauritanian waters in the framework of the Partnership Agreement in the fishery sector between the European Community and Mauritania.

The decision was taken at the extraordinary Joint Committee held in Nouakchott, where it was also analysed the way in which the EU will support the Mauritanian fisheries sector and the MACAPEL investment project was discussed.

During the Committee, which took place on November 15 and 16, the Parties noted with satisfaction the progress made in implementing the sectoral support funds and agreed to earmark EUR 6 million to support infrastructure works in the artisanal fishing port of Tanit.

In addition, with scientific advice confirming the existence of a surplus and in accordance with the general principles of the EU Common Fisheries Policy, the Parties also agreed to introduce new fishing opportunities for up to 6 EU demersal freezer trawlers targeting black hake.

In exchange, the EU will pay EUR 2.5 million on top of the EUR 55 million already included in the Protocol.

Besides, Mauritania confirmed its interest in the MACAPEL project, a Mauritanian-Canary Island investment project aimed at transferring know-how and developing landing and processing infrastructure in the port of Nouadhibou.

The Parties agreed to continue discussions on the project and to decide on further steps depending on progress made regarding funding of the project. (FIS 19-11-2016)

## **CAMEROON AND MOROCCO TRADE VALUED AT CFA61BN**

Economic and commercial exchanges between Cameroon and Morocco are estimated at CFA61 billion this year, according to statistics published Friday by the Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Artisans (CCIMA).

These figures reflect a permanent increase in trade which in 2010 was around CFA30 billion.

“Moroccans want to create partnerships with Cameroonian companies and, in the long term, establish themselves in Cameroon. The sectors of activity we target are among others agri-food, construction and public works (BTP), electricity, mining, etc” Moroccan industrialist Amal Belkhemmar added.

Over the past five years, there has been a strong presence of Moroccan companies in Cameroon active in areas such as insurance, banking, water and sanitation, and processing industries.

So many activities that contribute to the surplus trade balance for Morocco.

Presently, Cameroon’s exports to Morocco are made up of products such as wood, cotton, fresh bananas, coffee and cocoa.

Morocco, for its part, is exporting cardboard, electrical equipment and fertilizers to Cameroon.

A few months ago, the two countries decided to open permanent offices in Casablanca and Douala to promote their products.(APA 25-11-2016)

## **MOZAMBICAN INDUSTRIALISTS WANT TO PREVENT EXPORT OF RAW CASHEW NUTS**

Industrialists from the cashew sector in Nampula province, the largest producer in Mozambique, are demanding a change in the law to prevent the export of raw nuts, the president of the Association of Cashew Industrialists (Aicaju) said recently.

Yunus Mahomed said that the ban on exports of raw cashew nuts is essential to ensure the supply of raw materials to processing units, ensure jobs and allow the collection of revenues and the consequent payment of taxes.

Daily newspaper Noticias reported that foreigners, mainly from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, travel to Nampula province at harvest time to buy the product directly from the producer/harvester.

Nampula province has a total of 33 cashew processing factories, 12 of which are in operation, employing about 13,500 workers the remaining 13 factories are at a standstill due to a shortage of raw materials, despite the province’s production reaching a average of 30,000 tonnes per year.

The provincial government recently announced it intend to buy 44,000 tonnes of cashew nuts to ensure the supply of raw material to factories in the province, to secure jobs and revenues for the state. (25-11-2016)

## TOTAL DECROCHE SON TERMINAL GNL A ABIDJAN



Un cargo chargé de GNL (gaz naturel liquéfié) sur la côte angolaise.

Le projet de terminal de regazéification de gaz naturel liquéfié (GNL) mené par Total en Côte d'Ivoire vient d'être officiellement lancé. Il prévoit la mise en place d'une unité flottante de stockage et de regazéification du GNL (FSRU) à Vridi, dans la région d'Abidjan, et un gazoduc connectant le FSRU aux centrales électriques Ciprel et Azito, dans le sud-est de la capitale économique ivoirienne. L'installation va nécessiter près de 100 millions de dollars d'investissement – contre 200 millions de dollars évoqués début octobre par les autorités ivoiriennes – et permettre le traitement de 3 millions de tonnes de GNL par an.

Pour Philippe Sauquet, qui pilote depuis juillet la toute nouvelle division *gaz, énergies renouvelables et électricité* du producteur français d'hydrocarbures, ce projet « illustre la stratégie de Total de développer de nouveaux marchés gaziers, en ouvrant aux économies à forte croissance l'accès au marché du GNL », selon un communiqué daté du 25 novembre.

Total est l'opérateur et le premier actionnaire (34 %) du projet. À ses côtés figurent l'opérateur gazier et pétrolier national azerbaïdjanais SOCAR (26 %), le géant anglo-hollandais Shell (13 %), des opérateurs publics ivoiriens **Petroci** (11 % ; hydrocarbures), **CI Énergies** (5 % ; électricité), du spécialiste du transport gazier **Golar** (6 %) et du producteur énergétique américain **Endeavor Energy** (5 %). La mise en service du terminal est attendue pour mi-2018.

Total envisage de développer des projets similaires en Afrique du Sud, au Maroc et au Sénégal, notamment.

Le groupe français espère tirer de ces nouveaux marchés plus de 50 % de sa croissance des ventes de GNL d'ici à 2025.

Total est leader de la distribution pétrolière en Côte d'Ivoire, où il compte 170 stations et 160 salariés, ainsi que des permis d'exploration (CI 100 et CI-514) au large des côtes ivoiriennes. (JA 25-11-2016)

## ETHIOPIA UNVEILS \$145M SMALL SCALE-IRRIGATION DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Ethiopia's Ministry of Farming and Natural Resource on Friday unveiled its second phase small scale-irrigation development project which will run for the coming seven years.

The 145 million US dollars project will benefit 108,000 households with construction of 150 small irrigation schemes across the country.

The project will be implemented in 110 food insecure woredas (districts) in Oromia, Amhara, Tigray and Southern Nations, Nationalities and People's Regional States of the Horn of Africa nation.

According to the Ministry, 116 small irrigation schemes were built and 12 hectares of land were developed in the first phase of the project benefiting more than 64,000 households. (APA 25-11-2016)

## TERTIARY SECTOR RECORDS HIGHER NUMBER OF BANKRUPTCIES IN ANGOLA

The largest amount of bankruptcies in Angola since the crisis began in 2014 occurred in the services sector, said chairman of the Institute to Support Small and Medium Enterprises (INAPEM), António de Assis, told state newspaper Jornal de Angola.

De Assis told the newspaper the Ministry of Economy, which created a department to deal with this issue, had ordered a survey of the number of unproductive and operating companies to determine how many are still in operation, just have facilities or are in liquidation.

The chairman of INAPEM said that the greatest difficulty entrepreneurs are facing is related to strategic choice, "there are many who start a business without having objective ideas, creating small scale business services – such as beauty salons, tobacco shops and small shops – only for the purpose of securing bank loans."

De Assis noted that these companies cannot benefit from the Angola Investe programme and also cannot rely on financing from commercial banks as their projects lack credibility, "which worsens survival expectations in this sector."

António de Assis said he believed that entrepreneurs should start their businesses with the little they have or partner with others to start a process in which INAPEM plays a "key role" as an entity responsible for the certification of companies with access to institutional financing programmes.

The Institute to Support Small and Medium Enterprises has registered more than 7,000 certified companies across the country. (25-11-2016)

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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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## Corporate Council on Africa Appoints Florizelle Liser as New President and CEO

WASHINGTON, DC – Corporate Council on Africa (CCA), the leading U.S. business association focused on U.S.-Africa trade and investment, announced today that Florizelle (Florie) Liser, Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Africa, will be the Council's next President and CEO. Ms. Liser was appointed unanimously by the CCA Board of Directors following an international search. Her appointment is effective January 23, 2017.

"We are thrilled that Florie Liser is the next President and CEO of the Corporate Council on Africa," said Dr. Jeffrey L. Sturchio, Board Chair of CCA and President & CEO of Rabin Martin, "She has unmatched experience in U.S.-Africa trade and investment policy, deep knowledge of Africa and an unparalleled network of relationships with leaders across sub-Saharan Africa including heads of state, ministers and other key stakeholders, in the U.S. Government, multilateral organizations, the business community, and civil society. These strengths and her vision make Florie the perfect person to lead CCA into the future, building on the strong foundations laid by Stephen Hayes and the team."

Ms. Liser succeeds Stephen Hayes as the third President and CEO of CCA. Florie brings her expertise and extensive network on trade and Africa to her new role, along with a strong track record of working with the private sector to translate policy into action. She will also be the first woman to lead the Council since its founding in 1993. "21st century Africa presents enormous opportunities for businesses looking to take advantage of growing markets across the continent," said Ms. Liser. "In my new leadership role at CCA, I look forward to building on CCA's great work to date, and I'm committed to working with U.S. and African businesses and other stakeholders to grow opportunities and strengthen commercial relationships across Africa."

Ms. Liser will join CCA from the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), where she has been Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Africa since 2003. In that role, she has led trade and investment policy towards 49 sub-Saharan African nations and oversaw implementation of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). Prior to this role, Florie served as Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Industry, Market Access, and Telecommunications from 2000-2003. She has also served as Senior Trade Policy Advisor in the Office of International Transportation and Trade at the Department of Transportation from 1987-2000; worked as a Director in USTR's Office of GATT Affairs, and also served as an Associate Fellow at the Overseas Development Council (ODC) from 1975-1980.

The current President of the Corporate Council on Africa, Stephen Hayes, said, "I am honored to be succeeded by such a person as Florie. It is difficult to imagine a more qualified person for this position, or one who has collaborated more closely with our three primary constituencies: the private sector, the U.S. Government and Africa itself. She understands the Corporate Council on Africa and has enormous empathy for Africa. She now has the opportunity to lead the private sector to greater engagement with the continent and help open America to African investment in this country. Her success will be America's success."

### About Corporate Council on Africa (CCA)

Corporate Council on Africa is the leading U.S. business association focused solely on connecting business interests between the United States and Africa. Established in 1993 to promote business and investment between the United States and the nations of Africa, the Corporate Council on Africa serves as a neutral, trusted intermediary connecting its member firms with the essential government and business leaders they need to do business and succeed in Africa. Learn more at [www.corporatecouncilonafrika.com](http://www.corporatecouncilonafrika.com) (30-11-2016)

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