

MEMORANDUM

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ANDRIUKAITIS: EBOLA HIGHLIGHTS AFRICA'S HEALTH CHALLENGES

The [Ebola: From Emergency to Recovery](#) conference, being held by the European Commission today (3 March), provides an important opportunity to plan for the long term recovery and resilience of affected countries, Health Commissioner Vytenis Andriukaitis told EurActiv in an exclusive interview.

What are your impressions following your recent trip to the Ebola-hit countries in West Africa?

I visited Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone with the EU Ebola Coordinator, Commissioner Stylianides, in November. We saw great suffering and enormous needs. These countries needed more medical staff - mobile medical teams including epidemiologists, paramedics, nurses, medical workers - to provide treatment, and to train and work with local personnel, in particular in rural areas.

My first action on my return was to talk to all EU Health Ministers individually, and to the Health Council, to share my findings and encourage them in their efforts to provide additional staff and resources to the affected countries.

Besides Ebola, what are the greatest challenges for addressing health issues in Africa and in the developing countries?

Although the Ebola outbreak in West Africa is currently in the spotlight of the world's media because of its unprecedented scale and severity – over 22,900 cases and 9,200 deaths to date, there are other serious, long-running health threats affecting this part of the world, notably malaria, Tuberculosis (TB) and HIV/AIDS. Due to insufficiencies in basic services (health, education, water, sanitation) and to economic and governance difficulties, Africa needs the world's support in addressing these health challenges.

In 2011, 1.4 million people died from TB, with Africa recording the highest per capita death rate. Sub-Saharan Africa is the region most affected by HIV/AIDS and is home to 69% of all people living with HIV worldwide and 91% of all new infections among children. As for malaria, in 2010, 91% of global deaths from this disease were in Africa. These diseases are all preventable, and outcomes significantly improved with timely treatment. The European Commission is a founding member and major financial contributor to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and malaria (GFATM) which invests strategically to prevent and treat these diseases, particularly in developing countries.

Ebola and these other infectious diseases highlight the important challenge Africa faces in developing their health systems. The Ebola: From Emergency to Recovery conference, organised by the European Commission (3 March), provides an important opportunity, not only to improve the emergency response to eradicate the disease, but also to plan for the long term recovery and resilience of affected countries, including the development of their health systems. These countries must rebuild their health systems with better infection control, in line with International Health Regulations (IHR) and improve basic services such as water and sanitation. Last but not least, they should tackle the stigma associated with Ebola and other diseases such as AIDS – so that people come forward for timely treatment.

What is the EU doing at present, except providing funding NGOs to do work on the ground)?

The European Union has been active in the response to the Ebola emergency from the start. It has mobilised all available political, financial and scientific resources to help contain, control, treat and ultimately defeat Ebola. From the onset of the crisis, the EU has been in constant contact with the United Nations, relief agencies on the ground, the governments in the region as well as with regional organizations such as the African Union and ECOWAS. The appointment by the European Council of my colleague, Commissioner Stylianides, as EU Ebola Coordinator, as well as the establishment of an EU Taskforce, aims to ensure that EU institutions and Member States act in a coordinated manner with each other and with international partners.

The EU's total financial contribution (from Member States and the Commission) to fight the epidemic is over €1.2 billion. Of this, the Commission has given over €414 million to fight the disease, covering emergency measures as well as longer-term support. This covers humanitarian funding (more than €65 million allocated) which is channelled through humanitarian partner organisations, such as Médecins Sans Frontiers (MSF), Save the Children, UNICEF and many others. This EU aid contributes to epidemic surveillance, diagnostics, treatment and medical supplies, deployment of doctors and nurses, training of health workers and awareness raising, e.g. on safe burials.

The Commission is also providing over €210 million in development and early recovery assistance. Most of this money is provided to stabilise the countries, help them recover from the crisis and strengthen important areas like healthcare, eradication, water and sanitation. The Commission is also promptly and strongly supporting urgent Ebola research on potential treatments, vaccines and diagnostic tests, allocating almost €140 million from Horizon 2020, the EU's research and innovation funding programme.

In addition to funding and coordination, the Commission facilitates the delivery of material support from EU countries and provides expertise for all facets of the emergency. A good example of this is the deployment by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) of five teams of epidemiologists to work closely with the WHO in areas of the country affected by Ebola.

The Commission also organises logistical support including multiple airlifting operations. The EU medevac system ensures evacuation to an appropriately equipped hospital in Europe for international healthcare workers of any nationality who have been exposed to or diagnosed with the virus. My services are actively involved in identifying medical facilities available in EU when an evacuation request is made by the WHO. To date, a total of 27 people suffering from Ebola or having had a high risk exposure to the virus, have been medically evacuated to Europe.

With regard to being prepared for the outbreak spreading to the EU, although the risk is low, the Commission and the Member states have been working on preparedness and coordination of risk management in close cooperation with the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and the WHO. In the EU, we have established lists of available Ebola capacities which could be shared, including high security laboratories, hospital capacity and medical evacuation equipment and have provided information for travellers in all EU languages, key messages, and reviewed procedures for airports and health authorities on handling possible Ebola cases. Finally, we have launched the 'Ebola Communication Platform for Clinicians' - an online platform enabling the rapid exchange of information on the treatment and prevention of Ebola virus disease. The platform brings together EU hospitals and physicians recognised as reference centres for the treatment of Ebola.

What could be done better in the next few years? Are there plans to provide assistance to reform developing countries' health systems?

The high-level Ebola conference provides a forum to discuss precisely this. The governments of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone are expected to present their assessments and plans for national recovery, which are being prepared in cooperation with the United Nations, the World Bank, the African Development Bank and the European Union at the event. Priority areas for recovery will include resuming basic services - health, education, water, sanitation - and the need to return to economic development.

The main outcome of the conference is expected to be a declaration which will include concrete elements of future actions, such as the need to make pledged funds available and to maintain the international level of support including medical teams, laboratories, epidemiologists and other resources - until there are no more cases of Ebola.

The experience should be used as an opportunity to raise awareness and reduce stigma associated with Ebola and other diseases in Africa. Stigma is a barrier to receiving adequate and timely care and preventing the spread of the virus in the community.

What could be done in the field of training medical personnel? How could well-trained personnel be encouraged to stay in their home countries, instead of choosing immigration?

Health migration is also a big problem within the EU, with healthcare professionals abandoning their home country for higher salaries in other countries. A phenomenon sometimes referred to as the 'brain drain'. This is a concern all over the world, including in Africa. However, immigration rules in various countries go towards preventing a mass exodus.

At EU-level, we have an Action Plan for the EU Health Workforce which stresses the EU's commitment to the implementation of the WHO Global Code on international recruitment of health professionals. The European Commission is supporting a European network to improve workforce planning and forecasting, as destination countries in the EU should aim to meet future health workforce needs through medical and nursing education and training and avoiding recruitment from fragile economies. (EurActiv 03-03-2015)

ALREADY 100 DAYS FOR EU FOREIGN POLICY UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF FEDERICA MOGHERINI. WHAT HAS CHANGED SO FAR?

The style of EU Foreign and security policy has already changed: Europe's face is younger, more energetic, and often appears firmer than it did a year ago. The stronger synergies between development and other external policies are expectedly less visible with a European agenda highly dominated by security crises. Yet the attitude is new: more self-assured and visible than [Cathy Ashton](#), who reportedly hardly ever made public statements without preparation or a spokesperson by her side. Mogherini's almost relaxed attitude – sometimes using her personal political charisma if not charm – and as her rather tough [statements on the need for reforms in Ukraine](#) during her press conference in Kyiv, contrast with her predecessor's more discreet and measured tone. Mogherini does not hesitate to add a personal touch to her public statements – including on social media -which also seem to become more frequent and more assertive: Europe has found a voice.

Her record as High Representative so far is largely positive and she is still enjoying a honeymoon with public opinion and national foreign ministries, but this may not last long. Tensions at the [Foreign Affairs Council of January 2015](#) around the need for more sanctions against Russian individuals and entities and the potential threat of a Greek veto show that clouds are gathering on the horizon. Criticism started with the EEAS issues paper on Russia, prepared ahead of the Council meeting, which was [viewed as too soft by Merkel's circles](#). Singing in tune – which means turning the policy wheel neither too fast nor too slow – with Member States and national foreign ministers will be the key to Mogherini's success: leaving them enough space to play their role, and stimulating them when necessary. She did this well when she discreetly signing [an op-ed with Germany, the UK and France's foreign ministers on nuclear negotiations with Iran](#) (a file still looked after by Ashton as Chief Negotiator within the EEAS).

Mogherini's strength so far: no top-down revolution but listening and learning

Sensitive subjects on which any foreign policy chief can make mistakes or be criticised are numerous and Mogherini will soon be tested again by the national press but also a demanding European Parliament on Russia, Da'esh, terrorism and Libya. Until now, Mogherini has been wise enough not to try to revolutionise the European foreign policy system. She honoured her promise to pay more attention to the European Parliament, which now has to admit that she has better things to do than sitting for hours in the Strasbourg hemicycle. She will probably struggle to find time to brief MEPs ahead of each Foreign Affairs Council.

Some say her new working method that consists of narrowing down the agenda to a short list of key issues in the Foreign Affairs Council has not really been effective. This was confirmed by the postponement of a strategic debate on Africa this week. Yet burden sharing with Member States is certainly a useful and unavoidable approach and is already happening.

Mogherini's intensive travelling schedule demonstrates her willingness to learn and listen, to broaden her personal network and to get involved directly in international affairs. It also perhaps reflects her priorities: The Southern Neighbourhood and Middle East peace process, Ukraine, the US, and Africa, where she was due to attend the latest African Union summit in Addis Ababa late January. Will Asia come later through a European pivot to the East matching the US one?

Some of the initiatives that Mogherini has taken are actually the results of ongoing processes, such as the upcoming presentation of a [green paper](#) on the European Neighbourhood Policy: the EU's engagement with the Mediterranean, Eastern European and Caucasus countries had been under harsh criticism from within the EU diplomacy for months. The partnership with Africa acquired a roadmap at the Africa-EU Brussels summit in April 2014, several months before she took office: her added value on Africa was supposed to be demonstrated at the next Foreign Affairs Council in February where ministers held a [strategic discussion on EU-Africa relations](#). The defence agenda has been sketched out mostly by the 2013 Defence Council: the High Representative is expected to present an assessment of global security at the Defence Council next June.

Working creatively with national diplomacies and in the EU machine: a first test for Mogherini

As Commission's Vice President Mogherini is also supposed to seek coherence with development policies as well internal policies, beyond counter terrorism. Here the record is perhaps a bit blurrier. The first publicly tangible result of the [new Commission's external relations clusters modus operandi](#) is perhaps the [recent communication on a post-2015 global partnership for poverty eradication and development](#) (acknowledging the importance of means of implementation and thereby the leadership of the Commission with the support, "where necessary", of the EEAS).

What will be a test for Mogherini's power as High Representative is an internal reform of the EEAS (in particular its crisis management structures) and her ability to develop the EU's foreign policy more creatively together with Member States, including with their numerous contact groups and ad-hoc club diplomacy. She may have to wait for new faces to join her in the exercise. Some members of the EEAS corporate board and other senior officials, her close teammates, are going to change in the next few months. French diplomat Alain Le Roy will [replace](#) the current Executive Secretary General Pierre Vimont, though he may stay around as a special adviser like [Ashton](#). In the summer, the High Representative will have the opportunity to appoint new faces to Directors positions as well as a number of Heads of Delegations.

The renewed interest in stricter border control and anti-migration measures in the wake of the terrorist attack in Paris implies more cooperation between the EEAS and DG Home, which is not at all a given. More consequences of the attacks could be felt on the development agenda as well, which is already facing a milestone year with the negotiations of the Sustainable Development Goals, aid programming and the Paris COP21 Climate conference. A readjustment of the current EU policy, the Agenda for Change and the European Consensus on development in light of the results of the post-2015 agenda is expected. With eight Commissioners in charge of external relations, from different angles, the coordination and coherence imperative will certainly be a day-to-day challenge and practice will indicate whether Mogherini manages to play a meaningful role as Vice President of the Commission.

Will Mogherini achieve breakthroughs with the foreign and security agenda of the first six months of 2015: Russia, Libya, Syria and Iraq, [the February Foreign Affairs Council on terrorism](#), the launch of consultations on a new European Security Strategy and the June Council on defence? She certainly has scored high in terms of perceptions but the road to EU coherence is still long, and never ends. (ECDPM)

IS MIMICA HOLDING ALL THE ACES?

Mimica's first 100 days have shown us how he may play the game of international development cooperation during his tenure. Here's hoping he has not shown all his cards....

“This year can – and should – [signal a fundamental paradigm shift](#), in redefining and strengthening the way the international community works together,” said Neven Mimica, the EU’s new Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development.

Mimica’s five-year mandate will cover three major international negotiations – the post-2015 development agenda, [the Paris climate deal](#) and the [revision of the Cotonou Agreement](#). These will not only “[shape EU development policy for the next decade](#)” as Mimica says himself, but will determine the extent to which global solutions to global challenges are found, and [how the EU pursues its quest for collective action](#).

Six months after taking office, it is a good moment to assess Mimica’s steps towards defining the EU’s negotiating position in the post-2015 discussions. This is one of his [top three priorities](#), and [the outcome of negotiations will set the tone](#) for the revision of Cotonou, EU relations with Africa, the EU’s broader global agenda and its engagement with emerging economies and the rest of the world.

In a global agenda, emerging economies are more than donors

Mimica seems well aware that building a global agenda means that the EU cannot act alone. The fact that Mimica was the first member of the Juncker Commission to visit China is not trivial. While attending the [China-Europe High Level Cultural Forum in Beijing](#) in November 2014, the Commissioner said that the primary objective of his mission was to “[come to a better understanding of our respective positions on global and regional development challenges and processes and move towards closer relations in the future on those issues.](#)”

But he also recognised that “some misunderstandings still prevail on both sides on the exact nature and modalities of our foreign aid instruments.” Mimica may be missing the point that the post-2015 discussions do not revolve around the axis of “foreign aid.”

Normative statements for a post-2015 vision

The recent European Commission [Communication](#) outlined its vision for a new global partnership – and it reads like flat pack furniture instructions. It seems to say what “all countries” “middle income countries” and “emerging economies” *have to*, *need to*, and *should* do for good governance and set the right policy mix necessary to efficiently mobilise and use public and private finance for sustainable development.

The Communication informs the EU position in preparation for the Third Financing for Development Conference in Addis Ababa (July 2015) and the UN Summit in New York (September 2015). Yet, defining its position in this tone may not be the best way to engage in a constructive dialogue and facilitate consensus – particularly with emerging economies.

“Universality”, “shared responsibility” and “financial contributions”

During his visit to China, Mimica said, “China is an emerging international donor... We don’t expect each country to contribute the same, financially or in other ways, but we think there should be a balance between this universal and differentiated approach.” In his [keynote speech](#) on February 5th, Mimica stressed: “the EU is ready to do our part” but “upper middle income countries should also contribute their fair share” and “[make larger contributions to the financing of development.](#)”

These statements seem to blend together the overarching principles of universality and shared responsibility and reduce them to a purely financial discussion based on Gross Domestic Product levels. This is not to say that the Commission dismisses the importance of an ‘enabling and conducive policy environment at all levels’. This is in fact the first key component of its vision for a post-2015 framework, outlined in the Communication. However, in his public interventions, Mimica seems not to focus on it with the same intensity as he does with the financial means of implementation.

Recycling commitments with limited credibility and leverage

Mimica is pushing for renewed commitment to the goal of providing 0.7% of Gross National Income (GNI) for Official Development Assistance (ODA) and called on the EU to “[lead by example.](#)”

To believe that the EU’s political leverage in the post-2015 negotiations will increase with such a target is naive. [ODA has been ‘outgrown’ by other international financial flows](#) including remittances and net-equity inflows. Emerging economies are becoming donors in their own right, and their assistance is less loaded with values and prescriptive recommendations than EU development cooperation. The fact that ODA is losing political leverage in developing countries is no longer taboo.

Although the EU collectively remains the world leader in terms of ODA volume, the credibility of the 0.7% target has been significantly eroded as the Eurozone financial and economic crisis lingers on. [Only four EU member states actually exceeded the 0.7% target in 2013.](#)

The OECD Development Co-operation Directorate (DAC) definition of ODA should not be considered “universal”. ODA exists alongside other types of “development assistance”, including different models of “South-South cooperation”, most of which do not fit the DAC definition.

The EU has more chances of increasing its political leverage by putting itself in pole position by bringing concrete commitments on Policy Coherence for Development (PCD) to the negotiation table, rather than ODA pledges with limited credibility. Non-financial means of implementation, in particular PCD, may be a better bargaining chip with emerging economies.

A straight flush?

It is too early to say that Mimica will not succeed in pushing for the “paradigm shift in international cooperation” that the world so badly needs. He’s already shown a few cards in his hand, and its not looking likely he’s holding many aces. These cards are – a normative vision on what parties *should do*; looking to emerging economies only as donors; too much focus on financial contributions and a recycled EU commitment to the 0.7% ODA target.

Let’s hope in the next 100 days Mimica will surprise us with a more innovative vision of international cooperation and development at the global level, and the part the EU can play. What the world needs is more insight, political direction and creativity to generate consensus for an ambitious post-2015 framework. Being an efficient administrator will not be enough to make his mandate a success. (ECDPM 24-02-2015)

INDIAN GROUP JINDAL AFRICA REMAINS IN MOZAMBIQUE

Jindal Africa – Mozambique will remain active in Mozambique, despite the sharp drop in the price of coal on international markets, the Director-General of Jindal Africa Investments group said.

The price of coal per ton has fallen from US\$250 to a current average of US\$100 and several mining companies have either left their concessions in Tete province, in the face of huge losses, or put those assets up for sale.

Cited by the Mozambican press, Chandra Singh said the subsidiary in Mozambique had to undertake a restructuring that included termination of contracts with sub-contractors in order to reduce operating costs.

These statements come shortly after Coal India Ltd and Tata Steel, both from India, publicly announced they wish to dispose of operations in Mozambique in the coal sector.

Tata Steel will refrain from making new investments in the coal sector in Mozambique and plans to sell the assets that it controls, including a 35 percent stake in the Benga coal mine in Tete province, where it had Anglo-Australian group Rio Tinto as a partner.

Coal India, which recently announced it would step out of the state consortium created to find coal abroad for domestic consumption, is expected to announce in September the final decision on the departure or not from its two operations in Mozambique, allegedly due to poor quality of coal that is being mined in Tete province. (03-03-2015)

LIBERIA NO LONGER THE US’S FORGOTTEN STEPCHILD

As Liberia’s president visits the US Senate on Thursday to thank Americans for their pivotal role in the Ebola recovery, she will reflect on a sometimes fractious relationship spanning two centuries.

Ellen Johnson Sirleaf is due to address senators before meeting US President Barack Obama on Friday to discuss the recovery from an outbreak that has claimed 9,500 lives.

Of the West African nations afflicted by the disease, Liberia — where more than 4,000 people have died — is seen as the most advanced in curbing the spread of Ebola, largely thanks to unprecedented US support.

About \$2.5bn has been allocated by the White House to help Liberia fight and recover from Ebola, while Mr Obama has played a supportive role in securing International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank cash.

About 2,800 US troops — the largest-ever US deployment to the region — are being brought home after building clinics, training nurses and working around the clock to beat back the epidemic.

Analysts initially voiced concern about how Liberians, savaged by 14 years of ruinous civil war, would react to a new foreign armed presence and questioned US motives for its sudden philanthropy.

US engagement in Liberia began in the 1820s when the Congress- and slaveholder-funded American Colonisation Society began sending freed slaves to its shores.

Thousands of "Americo-Liberian" settlers followed, declaring themselves independent in 1847 and setting up a government to rule over a native African majority that it gave no right to vote.

James Ciment, the author of *Another America: The Story of Liberia and the Former Slaves Who Ruled It*, describes Liberia as "America's half-forgotten stepchild", poorly set up and neglected thereafter by the US.

The US's engagement with Ebola was nothing more than the fulfilment of a "special obligation" to help Liberia, he argued in *Slate* magazine in September.

Peter Pham, author of *Liberia: Portrait of a Failed State*, and director of the Washington-based Atlantic Council's Ansari Africa Centre, offers a similar analysis.

"To be quite frank, some of the benefactors who financed the repatriation of former slaves and other African diaspora to what became Liberia had unabashed racist motives," he said.

Mr Pham points to the US refusal to recognise Liberian independence until nearly 20 years after Europe as evidence that the prevailing view of a "special relationship" is little more than a "comforting myth".

Liberia has nonetheless been an unswerving ally, allowing itself to be used as a US military base during Second World War and backing Washington at the United Nations (UN) on Cold War issues, particularly the Vietnam war.

In return, the US has provided a fortune in aid — more than \$600m since 2009, according to the State Department — but critics say the US balance sheet remains in deficit.

They point to US support of the corrupt, repressive military dictator Samuel Doe in the 1980s, and its failure to remove him and broker peace ahead of civil conflict that left 250,000 Liberians dead.

Mr Pham, however, believes this black-and-white picture fails to recognise Liberia's own responsibility for its historical woes.

"While Doe was a brute and nowadays is universally condemned, it should be remembered that at the time he seized power, he was enormously popular with a vast majority of Liberians," he said.

In Liberia itself, academia tends to have a nuanced view of US influence on its "stepchild", seeing both good and bad.

Edward Wonkeryor, a vice-president of Liberia's Cuttington University, acknowledges US economic influence in West Africa as a motivation for helping Liberia.

The continent has been home to six of the world's 10 fastest-growing economies in the past decade, according to a 2010 study by the McKinsey Global Institute.

Yet just 1% of US investment abroad goes to Africa and many analysts believe China has surpassed the US as its largest partner.

As far as its moral obligations go, Mr Wonkeryor believes the Ebola crisis has presented Washington with a test that it has begun to pass.

"The US is helping with the Ebola crisis because it has a moral responsibility towards Liberia, considering the historical, cultural, economic, social, ideological and security relationships between both countries, from the founding of Liberia up to the present," he said.

Maj-Gen Darryl Williams, the head of the US army in Africa, led a task force in Monrovia to set up the US Ebola mission in September last year, with the epidemic at its peak.

He told reporters at a recent military conference in Dakar that the intention from the beginning had been to force back the epidemic and hand its management back to civilians as quickly as possible.

"We went into the process trying to work ourselves out of a job," he said.

Asked if he felt his troops had won over ordinary Liberians amid initial suspicion, he said the welcome from locals had been "absolutely overwhelming — very warm". (AFP 26-02-2015)

LUANDA HOSTS BUSINESS FORUM BETWEEN PORTUGAL AND ANGOLA IN JUNE

A forum of companies from Portugal and Angola, initially scheduled for the first quarter of this year, will be held in Luanda next June, the Portuguese Economy Minister said Monday.

Speaking in Lisbon, to Angolan National Radio, António Pires de Lima confirmed the forum, announced in January by the Portuguese Minister of State and Foreign Affairs, Rui Machete, during an official visit to Angola.

In the same statement, on the sidelines of a visit to the International Food and Beverage Show (Sisab), the Portuguese minister called for cross-investments between businessmen from both countries.

More than 9,000 Portuguese companies currently export to Angola and about 2,000, Angola-based have Portuguese investment, according to figures from Portugal's Foreign Trade and Investment Agency (AICEP).

In 2013, trade between the two countries totalled 7 billion euros. (03-03-2015)

RYTHME DE CROISSANCE ET REFORMES POLITIQUES EN AFRIQUE

Le rythme de croissance de l'Afrique subsaharienne a dépassé celui des réformes politiques (Rapport 2015) - Le rythme de croissance en Afrique subsaharienne a dépassé celui des réformes politiques, selon le rapport annuel du cabinet international Control Risk qui indique que les décideurs politiques devraient commencer à mettre en évidence certaines limites politiques de la croissance de l'Afrique subsaharienne.

Dans un communiqué de l'organisation de presse africaine (APO) transmis, ce mercredi, à la PANA, le rapport "RiskMap" explique que cette étude sur le continent africain constitue un guide bien établi faisant autorité, ainsi qu'un élément de référence essentiel pour les décideurs politiques et les chefs d'entreprise soucieux d'identifier les tendances mondiales qui seront à l'œuvre au cours de l'année à venir.

De fait, le rapport met en lumière les tendances sous-jacentes les plus importantes en matière de risques et de sécurité sur le plan mondial, et fournit un aperçu détaillé des marchés qui compteront le plus en 2015.

Selon le directeur général en charge de l'Afrique de l'Est au sein de Control Risks, Daniel Heal, les décideurs politiques et les chefs d'entreprise doivent commencer à observer certaines limites politiques de la croissance de l'Afrique afin de trouver des solutions aux problèmes structurels auxquels ils sont confrontés.

"En 2015, nous devrions commencer à observer certaines limites politiques de la croissance de l'Afrique. À ce jour, les gouvernements n'ont pas réussi à trouver de solutions aux principaux problèmes structurels auxquels ils sont confrontés, étant précisé qu'en général, la croissance se développe, malgré l'action des gouvernements plutôt que grâce à elle", a-t-il expliqué.

Donnant l'exemple du Kenya qui est l'un des pays les mieux gouvernés de la région, Daniel Heal a indiqué que ce pays accuse d'importants déficits et son niveau d'endettement devrait doubler d'ici 2017.

Control Risk est un cabinet de conseils d'envergure mondiale spécialisé dans la gestion des risques politiques, sécuritaires et d'intégrité. Il possède plus de trente ans d'expérience opérationnelle en Afrique. (Pana 26/02/2015)

ANGOLA'S PUBLIC DEBT EXPECTED TO REACH US\$47 BILLION IN 2015

The rise in Angola's public debt, which this year is expected to reach US\$47 billion or 45.8 percent of gross domestic product (GDP), will increase debt interest to US\$2.162 billion in 2015, according to the amending State Budget.

The new document, to be discussed in detail in the Angolan parliament until 19 March, includes a budget deficit of 7 percent, due to a strong drop in tax revenues due to a drop in international oil prices.

The Angolan public deficit in 2015 is now estimated at 806.5 billion kwanzas (US\$7.55 billion), which will require further borrowing, already negotiated with the World Bank, BBVA (500 million euros) Goldman Sachs (US\$250 million) and Gemcorp Capital (US\$250 million).

Interest payments have been rising in line with the country's debt levels since 2013, when the stock of public debt stood at US\$30.6 billion, or the equivalent of 30.6 percent of GDP.

In 2014 Angolan state debt rose to US\$36.5 billion, or just over 31 percent of GDP.

In the State Budget which came into force on 1 January, the Angolan government estimated debt at the end of 2015 would total US\$48.3 billion, equivalent to 35.5 percent of GDP.

In the budget under discussion, the amount of debt is revised downwards to US\$47 billion, or 45.8 percent of GDP, which is due to a downward review of economic growth in the revised state budget to 6.6 percent, from 9.7 percent previously. (03-03-2015)

ALGERIA: KENYA, ALGERIA SIGN COOPERATION PACT ON OIL, GAS

Kenya has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Algeria to promote bilateral cooperation in the field of oil, gas and power.

The agreement signed by Foreign Affairs and International Trade CS Amina Mohamed and Ramtane Lamamra seeks to improve and stimulate economic and industrial development in both countries in the field of oil, gas and power.

The MoU will seek to improve and stimulate economic and industrial development in both countries in the field of oil, gas and power which both countries consider strategic to their economies.

"As Kenya looks forward to commercial exploitation of its oil resources, we look forward to learning from Algeria's expertise, including in the drawing up of appropriate legal frameworks and capacity building to enable us to take charge of our hydrocarbon resources right from the onset," CS Mohamed said after signing the agreement in the presence of President Kenyatta and Prime Minister Abdelmalek Sellal.

She encouraged Algerian investors to explore opportunities for investment in the area of oil and to learn from Kenya's experience in geothermal energy production.

The areas of co-operation will cover policy, legal and regulatory framework of the oil, gas and power sector; onshore and offshore exploration and production of hydrocarbons; development of petrochemical industries; refinery maintenance activities; domestic marketing, transport and distribution of petroleum products.

The countries shall identify and examine specific projects on areas mentioned. The authorities responsible for the implementation of the MoU will be the Ministry of Energy & Petroleum, for Kenya and the Ministry of Energy for Algeria. The MoU is valid for three years and will be automatically renewed for similar periods.

Algeria has a well developed hydrocarbons industry which is the backbone of its economy, accounting approximately 60pc of budget revenues, 30pc of GDP and over 95pc of export earnings.

Algeria has the 10th largest reserves of natural gas in the world and is the sixth largest gas exporter. It ranks 16th in oil reserves. Algeria's oil production stands at 1.875million barrels a day.

Another MoU signed by the two countries through their Ministers of Foreign Affairs is between the Institute of Diplomacy and International Relations of Algeria, and the Foreign Service Institute of Kenya.

The two countries will set up a program of action which will revolve around exchange of information and content of the training programs in the domains of foreign policy, international relations, international law and international economic relations.

Promotion and reinforcement of cooperation between the two institutions in the framework of an exchange of experiences, experts, teachers and organisation of thematic seminars and conferences of which the content is jointly fixed.

The parties will fix the practical modes of each project jointly undertaken and particularly, the terms and the conditions of financing the operations of cooperation.

The Foreign Ministers also signed an agreement on visa exemption for the holders of diplomatic passports.

The MoU provides for the nationals of both countries holding valid diplomatic passports, not accredited in the territories of their respective countries, to enter, transit and stay or leave the territory of the other Party, without visa, within a period not exceeding 90 days from the date of the arrival. (Capital FM 25-02-2015)

JAPAN FUNDS WATER SUPPLY IN ANGOLAN TOWN

Japan has donated US\$103,000 to Angola to support a project to build a water purification system in the town of Quindenuco, Uíge province, the Japanese embassy in Angola said in a statement.

The statement said the funding will allow the construction of a drinking water purification system and two drinking fountains in an elementary school and in the Quindenuco community in the municipality of Uíge.

The project is the responsibility of non-governmental organisation to support widows, Acção Angolana de Apoio às Viúvas (Angoavi), in collaboration with Japanese company Yamaha Motor.

The drinking water supply system to be installed in that area was commercially launched by Yamaha Motor in 2010, and has already been installed in several countries in Asia and Africa.

According to the embassy's statement the system developed by the Japanese company uses a method of slow filtration, rather than using chemicals, and can purify 8,000 litres of water per day. (03-03-2015)

TANZANIA: TIGO INKS MONEY TRANSFER SERVICE DEAL WITH VODACOM

According to Tigo, this is a great evolution of the mobile money service in Tanzania.

Millions of M-Pesa and Tigo Pesa customers in Tanzania will soon be able to send and receive money directly into each other wallets. This follows the recent signing of a mobile money interoperability agreement between Tigo and Vodacom.

The agreement will see four million Tigo Pesa users exchanging money directly with seven million M-Pesa customers. According to both parties, this is yet another tangible step towards the enhancement of financial inclusion in Tanzania as well as the expansion of the mobile money ecosystem in Tanzania.

The International Finance Corporation (IFC) formulated the mobile-wallet-to wallet standards with support from Groupe Speciale Mobile Association (GSMA), (standards) which have been the basis of the interoperability discussions between mobile network operators in Tanzania.

Speaking at the signing ceremony in Dar es Salaam, Rene Meza, Vodacom Tanzania's Managing Director said: "This is a great evolution of the mobile money service in Tanzania. Our customers will soon be able to directly access the money received through Tigo Pesa and use it for whatever purposes they may have without necessarily having to cash it out."

M-Pesa users can pay for an array of services from their phones. These include; TV subscriptions, Flights, Insurance services, Utilities, Taxes, School fees, Pension Contributions and Loans to name but a few.

In support of this, Meza added that: "M-Pesa has added so much value to the lives of Tanzanians over the past seven years and the fact that this agreement with Tigo will see even more Tanzanians using our services to better their lives is indeed a major milestone. We expect to launch the service by the end of the year and are currently working on upgrading our M-Pesa platform which will see us invest in excess of Tshs 150 billion to cater for the expected growth of users."

Meza went on to say that the agreement signed between the country's two mobile operators would allow Vodacom's M-Pesa users to directly send and receive money to an additional four million Tigo Pesa users across the country at no additional cost or inconvenience to them by the end of the year.

"We are now working to ensure that we have both the technology and requisite resources needed to provide the quality of service that our customers have come to expect from us through the years we are nevertheless excited about the opportunities posed by this new operating model," Meza concluded. (IT News Africa 21-02-2015)

NEW RULES FOR WHAT COUNTS AS ODA

On 16 December 2014, the DAC's 2014 High Level Meeting issued a [communiqué](#) that sets out new rules for reporting and classifying official development assistance (ODA) loans provided by DAC members. Under the new rules, the grant or "concessional" portion of loans must meet higher standards than before and only this grant portion of a loan will count as ODA.

When the rules defining what counts as ODA were first set over 40 years ago, it was agreed that a loan must be "concessional in character" and have a grant element of at least 25%, calculated at a discount rate of 10%. However, as development finance has evolved over time, variability in donor interpretations regarding the meaning of "concessional in character" has led to reported figures not being endorsed by all members.

The new rules will apply a quantitative definition of concessionality. The grant element will still be calculated, but using a differentiated discount rate, consisting of a base factor aligned with the IMF discount rate (currently 5%) and a "risk-adjustment factor" (1% for upper middle-income countries, 2% for lower middle-income countries and 4% for least developed and other low-income countries). The grant portion of a loan to least developed and other low-income countries must now meet a minimum 45% grant element floor. The floor has dropped for wealthier countries – to 15% for lower middle-income countries and 10% for upper middle-income countries.

This so-called grant equivalent system provides a more accurate assessment and comparison of donor effort: grants score more ODA than loans and the softer the terms and conditions of the loan, the more ODA credit the provider receives. Combined with the differentiated discount rates, the grant equivalent system will incentivise lending on highly concessional terms to least developed countries and other low-income countries, and will also better reflect the donor effort in lending to these riskier countries.

The new rules also make ODA better reflect donors' current development co-operation policies. The former cash-flow based system "rewarded" donors in times when their loan portfolios were increasing and "penalised" them considerably later when loans were repaid. Consequently, ODA in any given year was greatly influenced by the development co-operation policies of the past.

The new rules will be implemented over a transition period of three years and will become the standard from 2019 reporting on 2018 ODA.

How is the new system better than what it replaces?

[According to Mark Lowcock](#), Permanent Secretary of the UK's Department for International Development and Chair of the group that led the discussions on the new framework for measuring ODA, it has improved in six important ways:

1. *It incentivises (i.e. rewards, in terms of the amount of ODA recognised) the provision of aid in the form of grants rather than loans, and within the lending components, it incentivises cheaper loans over more expensive ones.*
2. *It incentivises lending to least developed and other low income countries (where most of the problems the DAC is concerned with tend to be concentrated) over lending to middle income countries.*
3. *It provides additional safeguards to rule out ODA loans to countries where the IMF and/or World Bank think there is a risk of excessive debt being built up.*

4. *It retains scope to associate ODA lending with other development finance.*
5. *It is more transparent: full details of all ODA lending will be made public, and figures will be published showing how the new system compares with what would have been reported under the old one.*
6. *It provides for regular review and updating as the wider world (e.g. global interest rates) changes.*

DAC members also agreed to reverse the decline in ODA to least developed countries and other countries facing the greatest challenges, such as small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and fragile states.

Finally, the communiqué establishes a roadmap to develop a new statistical measure to complement the ODA measure, covering both ODA and non-ODA flows, so as to lend clarity to the overall picture of sustainable development financing. The draft components of this total official support for sustainable development measure (TOSD – its working title) are up for consultation and are being shaped by stakeholders in the lead-up to the [Third International Conference on Financing for Development](#) in Addis Ababa in July and the United Nations General Assembly on the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals in September.

In the [words of Erik Solheim](#), Chair of the DAC, “This modernisation of official development assistance comes at an important time now as the world prepares for post-2015 and a new set of sustainable development goals.”

“To eradicate poverty and continue the huge development success of the past decades,” concluded Mr. Solheim, “we need to direct more development assistance and concessional loans to the poorest nations and mobilise much more private finances for development.”

L'ABSENCE DE PROTECTION SOCIALE FRAGILISE LES PAYS EN DEVELOPPEMENT

Dans les pays en développement, des milliards de personnes ne bénéficient pas des protections sociales et sanitaires minimales. Une situation qui entrave les initiatives de réduction de la pauvreté et de prévention de crise sanitaire, comme Ebola.

Quelque 73 % des 7 milliards d'habitants que compte la planète n'ont pas ou peu d'accès à des assurances d'invalidité ou de santé, aux allocations de chômage ou à une retraite, selon l'Organisation internationale du travail (OIT). Dans les pays à faible revenu, le manque de couverture santé est même encore plus élevé (90 %) et les soins de santé de base sont hors de portée pour la vaste majorité des pauvres en Afrique.

« En 1948, la communauté internationale a décidé de faire de la sécurité sociale et des soins de santé pour les enfants, les chômeurs en âge de travailler et les personnes âgées des droits universels », rappelait Sandra Polaski, vice-directrice générale de l'OIT, lors de la présentation du dernier Rapport mondial sur la protection sociale, en juin dernier.

Si la promesse d'une protection sociale universelle reste loin de la réalité, certaines avancées sont à relever, tant au niveau national que mondial.

« D'une manière générale, l'intérêt pour la protection sociale augmente dans le contexte du développement international », assure Francesca Bastagli, directrice du programme de protection sociale à l'Overseas Development Institute, un institut de recherche indépendant qui se concentre sur la lutte contre la pauvreté.

La spécialiste a expliqué à *EurActiv* que de plus en plus de gouvernements, et notamment ceux des pays à faible revenu, se penchent sur la question de l'élargissement et du financement des systèmes de protection sociale.

Les négociateurs internationaux ont inclus des mesures de protection sociale et sanitaire dans la proposition des objectifs de développement durable des Nations Unies, qui remplacera les objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement. Cette décision a été saluée par les partisans d'un filet de sécurité minimum dans tous les pays du monde. Le programme de lutte contre la pauvreté post-2015 doit être débattu lors de la [séance plénière](#) de l'Assemblée générale de l'ONU en septembre.

Le [projet de document](#) comporte trois volets en lien avec la protection sociale: l'éradication de la pauvreté, l'égalité des genres et la réduction des inégalités.

Une « crise mondiale des professionnels de la santé »

Il reste pourtant des embûches de taille sur la voie d'une protection sociale et sanitaire pour tous. Car même quand une couverture sociale existe en principe, les plus pauvres n'ont en général pas les moyens de payer le co-paiement d'une visite chez le médecin.

Ceux qui sont assez chanceux pour pouvoir payer des soins de santé ne trouvent pas toujours l'aide nécessaire. En effet, l'OIT estime qu'il existe un « déficit » de 10,3 millions de professionnels de la santé dans le monde. Cette pénurie se concentre surtout dans les régions très peuplées d'Asie et en Afrique subsaharienne, où 80 % de la population n'ont pas accès à des soins de base.

Elle est « si grave que nous parlons d'une crise mondiale des professionnels de la santé », explique Xenia Scheil-Adlung, du département pour la protection sociale de l'OIT, à Genève, à *EurActiv*.

« En Sierra Leone, l'épidémie d'Ebola a rendu cette pénurie très visible. Il n'y avait tout simplement pas de professionnels disponibles pour expliquer aux gens ce qu'ils devaient faire, sans même parler des soins à prodiguer », indique-t-elle.

L'UE, championne de la protection sociale

Plusieurs initiatives ont récemment été lancées afin de favoriser l'élargissement de la protection sociale et sanitaire. Le [Programme pour le changement](#) et l'initiative « [Une vie décente pour tous](#) », les deux principales politiques de développement à l'étranger de l'Union européenne, qui appellent tous deux à l'investissement dans des assurances sociales et sanitaires pour les pays les plus pauvres.

Par ailleurs, les 184 nations membres de l'Organisation internationale du travail (OIT), dont les 27 États membres de l'UE, ont adopté en juin dernier une [résolution](#) sommant les pays à fournir une protection sociale minimale.

Enfin, des planchers en termes de protection sociale et de santé, conçus pour préserver la productivité des travailleurs, sont mis en avant par le Fonds monétaire international et la Banque mondiale, deux organismes par ailleurs souvent vivement critiqués pour leurs appels aux gouvernements endettés à réduire les dépenses sociales.

Du côté de l'Union africaine, la déclaration de Ouagadougou de 2004 et le cadre stratégique social de l'Union africaine de 2008 soutiennent une garantie de protection sociale et sanitaire.

« Certaines de ces initiatives ont été rendues possibles par l'UE, qui a réellement imposé l'idée que la santé, les soins à la mère et à l'enfant, ainsi que d'autres mesures de protection sociale, pouvaient contribuer à la réduction des inégalités, aussi bien au sein d'un pays qu'entre les pays », confie à *EurActiv* l'ancien assistant du précédent commissaire au développement, Andris Piebalgs.

Face aux problèmes de financement que pose la protection sociale et sanitaire, certains spécialistes défendent l'idée d'un fonds spécial destiné à aider les pays à faible revenu à mettre sur pied des programmes de protection, ou à renforcer les systèmes existants.

Olivier De Schutter, professeur de droit belge et ancien rapporteur spécial des Nations unies pour le droit à l'alimentation, et sa collègue chilienne, Magdalena Sepúlveda, expert indépendante de l'extrême pauvreté, ont ainsi appelé les pays développés à créer un [Fonds mondial pour la protection sociale](#).

Prévenir Ebola, entre autres

Dans le même temps, l'aide au développement doit faire face à l'épidémie d'Ebola en Afrique occidentale, qui a choqué le monde entier.

L'Organisation mondiale de la Santé (OMS) estime qu'Ebola a tué plus de 9 500 personnes et touché au moins 23 000 autres en Guinée, au Libéria, et en Sierra Leone. Le financement de l'action de l'OMS dans les six premiers mois de 2015 devrait coûter plus de [327 millions](#) d'euros, mais l'organisation ne dispose que de 89 millions.

« Avec un système de santé qui fonctionne, cela aurait pu être évité. La relation étroite qui lie le développement et la protection sanitaire n'est pas assez reconnue », a estimé Xenia Scheil-Adlung, de l'OIT.

Ebola n'est cependant pas la seule maladie à combattre. La semaine dernière, l'OMS a d'ailleurs exhorté les donateurs à ne pas oublier les « 17 maladies tropicales négligées » qui touchent principalement les plus pauvres, causant cécité, défigurement et handicaps, quand elles ne tuent pas.

Financer ces initiatives louables

L'efficacité de protection sociale et sanitaire dans les pays en développement ne convainc tout le monde.

Un [rapport](#) du Copenhagen Consensus Center, un groupe de réflexion américain qui analyse les coûts et les bénéfices des programmes de développement, se félicite des mesures internationales de réduction de la malnutrition, des maladies tropicales et de la tuberculose, ainsi que des initiatives censées garantir des soins de santé partout dans le monde. Toutefois, le groupe met en cause l'inclusion d'une protection sociale plus large dans le document des Nations unies qui sera publié dans le courant de l'année.

« L'introduction d'un plancher de protection sociale est louable, mais il sera difficile à mettre en place correctement. De plus, les ressources nécessaires à l'instauration d'une protection sociale complète sont considérables. Un tel système pourrait aussi créer un taux d'imposition réel très élevé (jusqu'à 100 %) pour les pauvres, ce qui les découragerait d'augmenter leurs revenus », estime le rapport.

En outre, le groupe de réflexion estime que les programmes de transfert d'argent, conçus pour apporter une aide immédiate aux communautés dans le besoin, et les filets de sécurité ont parfois des conséquences indésirables sur les autres groupes présents. Et ce « parce que, par exemple, les prix augmentent dans la région, ou parce qu'une meilleure protection sociale change les choix des gens en matière d'emploi, et favorise le travail au noir ».

Les auteurs du Rapport mondial sur la protection sociale pour 2014-2015 de l'OIT voient les choses de manière très différente.

« La protection sociale contribue énormément à la lutte contre la pauvreté, l'exclusion et les inégalités, tout en renforçant la stabilité et la cohésion sociale. Elle contribue également à la croissance économique en libérant le revenu des ménages et donc la consommation intérieure », estiment-ils.

« La protection sociale, et particulièrement les planchers de protection sociale, est essentielle à la relance économique, au développement solidaire et à la justice sociale. Elle doit faire partie du programme de développement à l'avenir. » (EurActiv 27-02-2015)

FIGHTING FLOODS: EU PROJECT HELPS ALGERIAN AUTHORITIES DEVELOP NATIONAL STRATEGY

As many as 689 sites in Algeria have been identified as vulnerable to flooding in a study on the fight against floods, carried out in the framework of the EU-funded water programme EAU III.

The study aims to develop a national strategy against floods, proposing structural and non-structural measures, including better consideration of risks in planning regulations or the development of a forecasting and warning system. Experts visited 50 of the identified sites in order to establish a detailed diagnosis and specific recommendations.

Following a stocktaking first phase, and before proposing an action plan and training, the team of experts presented the conclusions of the second stage of the study on 'types of floods' in a workshop in Algiers on 18 February. (EU Neighbourhood 27-02-2015)

CRISE PARALYSANTE DE L'ENERGIE AU GHANA

Le président Mahama s'engage à résoudre la crise paralysante de l'énergie - Le président du Ghana, John Dramani Mahama, a livré jeudi le discours sur l'état de la Nation de 2015 au Parlement avec la solution de la crise paralysante de l'énergie qui sape hautement les affaires et l'industrie dans l'agenda du pays.

La pénurie critique d'énergie a été causée par des déficits de production, du fait que les niveaux de trois barrages hydro-électriques qui produisent environ 52 pour cent de l'électricité, ont touché des niveaux très bas, des fournitures de gaz peu fiables de la West African Gas Pipeline au Nigeria et les problèmes d'équipement dans certaines centrales thermiques.

La situation a obligé les consommateurs à avoir seulement 12 heures d'électricité en 36 heures, obligeant ainsi certaines industries à licencier des travailleurs.

Mais le président Mahama a donné l'assurance que des mesures qu'il a déployées permettraient de résoudre les problèmes récurrents qui sont affligés à la nation depuis 1983, affirmant que son approche n'était pas de gérer comme les gouvernements précédents avaient fait, mais de trouver une solution une fois pour toutes.

'Je n'ai pas l'intention de gérer la situation comme cela a été fait dans le passé, j'ai l'intention de la corriger. Moi, John Dramani Mahama, je vais résoudre ce défi de l'énergie', a déclaré le président Mahama.

Il a déclaré que les défis de l'énergie seront une chose du passé en 2016, soulignant que son gouvernement allait ajouter 3.665 mégawatts en 2016 pour donner au Ghana plus de 6.450 MW.

Il a déclaré qu'il réformera également le secteur de l'énergie en mettant la gestion des trois centrales hydro-électriques en une seule entité de l'énergie et en restructurant le distributeur d'électricité appartenant à l'Etat, Electricity Company of Ghana, en une institution gouvernementale centrée sur le client.

Le président Mahama a déclaré que les consommateurs domestiques et les petites entreprises seront encouragés à utiliser l'énergie solaire et a fait appel au public pour économiser l'énergie. (Pana 27/02/2015)

TANZANIA: 14 PORTS TO BE RESTORED IN LAKE NYASA

Marine transportation structure that collapsed in 2006 in three regions bordering Lake Nyasa is set for restoration, as the government plans to re-establish 14 ports in the area.

Addressing residents of Kyela District in Mbeya Region on Wednesday, the Prime Minister, Mr Mizengo Pinda, declared the government's commitment to improve marine services to the convenience of the population.

"Since 2006 operations in 14 different ports in Ruvuma, Njombe and Mbeya regions were suspended, the experience has caused transport inconvenience to the people.

The government is determined to revive operations of the ports and Itungi will be the coordination centre," explained Premier Pinda.

He named the ports as Ndumbi, Lundu, Njambe, Mkili, Liuli and Mbamba Bay in Ruvuma. Others are Lumbila, Ifungu, Nsisi, Lupingu and Manda located in Njombe and Itungi, Kiwira and Matema in Mbeya Region.

According to a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office, the government has shifted the dry dock from Mwanza to the area and a contractor from Songoro Marines Company has already started the construction.

"The significance of the project can be measured through its contribution to socio-economic activities. The dry dock will provide a workshop for the assemblage of a marine vessel with the carrying capacity of 200 passengers and 200 tons of cargo," Mr Pinda explained.

It was explained that other vessels would be repaired at the dock when necessary and according to the contractor, the work will be completed by June, this year.

"Farmers will be able to transport their crops in addition to 60,000 tons of coal, 72,000 tons of cement from Mbeya to Malawi and other neighbouring cities, 10,000 tons of fertilisers from Dar es Salaam and iron from Liganga and Mchuchuma," he said.

It was further explained that the dry dock would be of a high standard and the public should take seriously the responsibility to conserve water sources for guaranteed flow of water to the lake.

The Prime Minister who has been on a week-long visit to the southern highland regions also laid a foundation stone for the construction of Lusungu Bridge which would serve as an important link to Matema port.

The bridge funded by the Road Fund at a cost of 3.7bn/- is 50-metre long and 7.3-metre wide and the work has been accomplished by 99 per cent.

He urged the public to take good care of such projects. In another development, the prime minister was bestowed with the honour to become a traditional leader and given the name of Mwakabulufu. The ceremony was officiated by a traditional leader Chief Ernest Mwailemale (Tanzania Daily News 28-02-2015)

SHORTS

Hundreds of boys in South Sudan have been kidnapped and forced to become child soldiers, the United Nations children's agency says. *"We fear [the children] are going from the classroom to the front line,"* said Unicef's representative in South Sudan, Jonathan Veitch. (© EU, 2015)

Towards a new European Neighbourhood Policy: the EU launches a consultation on the future of its relations

High Representative/Vice-President Federica **Mogherini** and Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations Johannes **Hahn** are launching tomorrow a consultation on the future of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP). The ENP was last reviewed in 2011: Given the significant developments in the neighbourhood since then, it is now essential to undertake a fundamental review of the principles on which the policy is based as well as its scope and how instruments should be used. The aim is to consult as widely as possible both with partners in the neighbouring countries and with stakeholders across the EU until the end of June. After this public

consultation, a Communication setting out proposals for the future direction of the ENP will follow in the autumn. (EC 03-03-2015)

Bomb attacks have killed at least 32 people in northern Nigeria, amid a wave of violence from Boko Haram militants. A suicide bomber killed at least 17 people at a bus station in Biu while a second bomber was caught by a crowd and reportedly beaten to death. In Jos, three bombs thrown from a car killed 15 people. (© EU, 2015)

From emergency to recovery: EU mobilises efforts to end Ebola and alleviate its impact

The “Ebola: from emergency to recovery” conference is taking place in Brussels today under the organisation and patronage of the European Union. While international efforts have reduced the number of Ebola infections in recent months, it is critical to maintain the momentum to prevent a sharp increase in new cases. The conference today aims to sustain the international mobilisation and to plan the next steps in the fight both against the current outbreak and the Ebola virus in general. Jean-Claude **Juncker**, President of the European Commission, said: *“To end Ebola and ensure sustainable development in the affected region is the best way to honour the memory of the victims. I would also like to pay tribute to all those who have been involved in the outbreak response with expertise, dedication and courage. Together with our Member States, we have mobilised more than €1.2 billion for the fight against this disease. And we will continue to help until we win the battle against Ebola”*. High Representative/Vice-President Federica **Mogherini** added: *“Ebola is a challenge that we must continue to tackle collectively, quickly and for the long term, also to help make sure that no other epidemic will have such a devastating impact in the future. Today is the time to do so: we have the opportunity and the responsibility to be effective in our development aid, to promote good governance and invigorate regional cooperation. With its political, diplomatic, humanitarian and financial tools, the EU is part of the solution and a partner”*. (EC 03-03-2015)

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND COMMUNICATIONS

Liberia - <http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2015/pr1583.htm>

Liberia - <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/survey/so/2015/car022415a.htm>

Liberia - <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/cat/longres.aspx?sk=42740.0>

Sudan - <http://www.imf.org/External/NP/LOI/2014/SDN/112114.pdf>

South Africa - <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/cat/longres.aspx?sk=42754>

South Africa - <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/cat/longres.aspx?sk=42753.0>

South Africa – <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/cat/longres.aspx?sk=42759.0>

South Africa – <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/cat/longres.aspx?sk=42758.0>

South Africa – <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/cat/longres.aspx?sk=42756.0>

South Africa - <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/cat/longres.aspx?sk=42755.0>

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