

MEMORANDUM

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AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION AND EUROPEAN COMMISSION MEET TO BRING NEW IMPETUS TO THE EU-AFRICA PARTNERSHIP

Tomorrow, the African Union Commission and the European Commission will hold their annual College-to-College meeting in Brussels. This is the biggest EU-Africa event of the year. Discussions will focus on development, migration, peace, security and democracy, and other topics of mutual interest.

Ahead of the event, European Commission President Jean-Claude **Juncker** said: *"I am particularly pleased to welcome Chairperson Dr. Dlamini-Zuma and her colleagues to this first meeting with the Commission that took office in November. We will build on the good progress made at last year's EU-Africa summit and ensure our partnership continues to deliver results. The summit will also be the opportunity to put a renewed focus on our cooperation in the field of migration at what is a particularly challenging time for all of us. In the context of the ongoing crisis in Libya and the dramatic situation in the Mediterranean, we have to enhance cooperation with North African and Sub Saharan African countries to build migration and border management capacities, with the support of international organizations already active on the ground."*

The two Commissions work together as the engine of EU-Africa relations, collaborating in tackling challenges that the two continents are facing together. The topics of tomorrow's discussions will include:

- cooperation on the post 2015 agenda and climate change negotiations
- intensifying a joint approach in dealing with the challenges of migration
- promoting women's contribution to economic growth and employment
- supporting innovation, trade and investment, private sector, infrastructure and energy as engines of inclusive growth
- joining efforts for sustainable agriculture, food and nutrition security
- cooperating in tackling violent extremism in Somalia, in the Sahel and from Boko Haram in Nigeria and neighbouring countries
- promoting peaceful democratic change through elections and respect of constitutions

Ahead of the meeting of colleges, a programme for building disaster resilience in sub-Saharan Africa (€80 million) will also be launched, during a signing ceremony chaired by EU Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Neven Mimica, with AU Commission Deputy Chairperson, Erastus Mwencha. The programme will put the AU Commission in the lead role for disaster risk reduction in the African continent.

The African Union (AU) Commission is chaired by Dr Dlamini-Zuma, who will attend this meeting together with seven AU Commissioners.

The annual College-to-College meetings are held to provide regular political guidance to the Africa-EU Partnership through political and policy dialogue, on an alternating basis in Brussels and Addis Ababa. The last meeting was held in April 2013 in Addis Ababa. No meeting took place in 2014 due to the organisation of the EU-Africa Summit in April 2014.

Africa-EU relations are framed by the Joint Africa-EU Strategy which was adopted at an EU-Africa Summit in Lisbon in 2007 and reaffirmed at last year's Summit. A road map (2014-2017) implements the Strategy in five strategic areas for dialogue and cooperation: peace and security; democracy, good governance and human rights; human development; sustainable and inclusive development and growth and continental integration; global and emerging issues.

EU support to the AU institutions

The European Union collectively (EU and Member States) is the biggest contributor to the AU Commission, supporting more than 80% of its programme budget. The EU has been supporting continental integration efforts in Africa over the years. This includes an allocation of €1.6 billion for the African Peace Facility which is the main source that funds African peace and security efforts.

In addition, the European Commission launched the Pan-African instrument in 2014, the first ever EU programme in development and cooperation that covers Africa as a whole, which will also further increase our cooperation with the AU Commission. Amounting to a total of €845 million from 2014 to 2020, it will fund activities in a broad range of areas and offer new possibilities for the EU and Africa to work together. It will contribute, amongst others, to increased mobility on the African continent, better

trade relations across regions and also better equip both continents for addressing trans-national and global challenges, such as migration and mobility, climate change or security.(EC 21-04-2015)

THE EUROPEAN UNION'S COOPERATION WITH AFRICA ON MIGRATION

Questions and Answers: Facts and Figures on cooperation with Africa

How does the EU cooperate with Africa on migration?

On the basis of its [Global Approach to Migration and Mobility](#) (GAMM) – the overarching framework of the EU external migration and asylum policy – the EU is running a broad dialogue with countries on the African continent on migration and mobility at bilateral, regional and continental levels:

- Continental level, with the African Union. A key [political declaration](#) on migration and mobility was endorsed by the Heads of State and Government at the EU-Africa Summit in April 2014. It reiterated the parties shared commitment to, amongst others, fight irregular migration and to address all its relevant aspects, including prevention, strengthened migration and border management, smuggling of migrants, return and readmission, as well as addressing the root causes of irregular migration and enhance cooperation to address trafficking of human beings, and offering international protection. The above mentioned declaration is underpinned by an [Action Plan](#) (2014-17), and the necessary financial resources.
- Regional level, with policy dialogues with countries along the western migratory route ([Rabat Process](#)) and the eastern migratory route ([Khartoum Process](#)). The regional dialogues are underpinned by concrete action plans and financial resources.
- Bilateral level, with specific political agreements concluded with Morocco, Tunisia, Cape Verde and Nigeria. These political agreements are matched by concrete actions, including a wide range of programme and project support, that aim to contribute to institutional and legislative reforms and capacity building in partner countries.

What is the EU-Africa Migration and Mobility Dialogue?

The [Africa-EU Migration, Mobility and Employment \(MME\) Partnership](#) was launched during the second Africa-EU Summit of Heads of State and Government in December 2007 in Lisbon, where the Joint EU-Africa Strategy and the [First Action Plan](#) (2008-2010) were adopted.

The EU-Africa Summit in 2014 gave new impetus to the cooperation on migration: In addition to the declaration on migration and mobility, an [action plan 2014-2017](#) was also adopted, focusing on the following priorities:

- Trafficking in human beings
- Remittances
- Diaspora
- Mobility and labour migration (including intra-African mobility)
- International protection (including internally displaced persons)
- Irregular migration

What is the Rabat Process?

The Rabat Process was first launched at the first Euro-African Ministerial Conference on Migration and Development in July 2006 in Rabat. It brings together governments of 55 European and African countries from North, West and Central Africa, together with the European Commission and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). The objective is to enhance dialogue and cooperation on migration more broadly (legal migration and mobility; prevention of irregular migration and measures to counteract it; migration and development; international protection), as well as to identify common priorities in order to develop operational and practical cooperation.

The Rabat Process has established a solid and fruitful dialogue between the EU and countries in North, West and Central Africa, and has fostered enhanced cooperation through the implementation of bilateral, sub-regional, regional and multilateral initiatives. The Seahorse Atlantic Network is an example of a concrete cooperation at regional level between Spain, Portugal, Senegal, Mauritania, Cape Verde, Morocco, Gambia and Guinea Bissau. It enables the information exchange between authorities along the Western African coast in order to prevent irregular migration and cross-border crime.

The fourth Euro-African Ministerial Conference on Migration and Development took place in November in Rome. The [Rome Declaration and Programme for 2015-17](#), adopted during this conference, identified two main priorities for future action: 1) strengthening the link between migration and development, and 2) the prevention and fight against irregular migration and related crimes, namely trafficking in human beings and smuggling of persons. It also introduced international protection as one of the four pillars for cooperation aligning them with the Global Approach to Migration and Mobility. Last week, the Steering Committee discussed the operationalisation of the Rome Declaration and the Programme.

How is the EU providing financial support to the Rabat Process?

Specific support to the Rabat Process is included in the [Annual Action Programme 2014 under the Pan-African Programme](#) of the Development Cooperation Instrument, through which the EU is funding an action supporting the migration and mobility dialogue with the African Union. In addition, the EU is funding through the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI), the European Development Fund (EDF) and the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) an important number of migration-related actions at bilateral and regional levels that support the implementation of various commitments taken under the Rabat Process. For instance, under the 10th European Development Fund, the EU is funding a €26 million project to support the free movement of persons and migration in West Africa. The project is implemented in joint management with the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The overall objective is to support the effective implementation of the ECOWAS Free Movement of Persons Protocols and ECOWAS Common Approach on Migration. The EU also envisages continued funding in the area of migration under the 11th European Development Fund which should be signed in the first half of 2015. As part of the Sahel Regional Action Plan, the EU will reinforce the development-migration nexus and mainstream migration into the EU and Member States' collective actions based on the Global Approach to Migration and Mobility and the Rabat process.

What is the Khartoum Process?

The Khartoum Process was launched at a Ministerial Conference in November 2014 in Rome. The objective is to establish a long-standing dialogue on migration and mobility aimed at enhancing the current cooperation, including through the identification and implementation of concrete projects. In the first phase, activities should concentrate on addressing trafficking in human beings as well as smuggling of migrants.

The Khartoum Process is led by a Steering Committee comprised of five EU Member States (Italy, France, Germany, UK, Malta), five partner countries (Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Sudan) as well as the European Commission, the European External Action Service and the AU Commission on the African side.

How is the EU providing financial support to the Khartoum Process?

The Khartoum Process will be directly supported under the "Support to Africa-EU Migration and Mobility Dialogue" programme (€ 17.5 million under the Pan-African Programme).

Additional initiatives are planned to implement actions in line with the Ministerial declaration of November 2014, including a project on Addressing Mixed Migration Flows in East Africa (€5 million under the Development Cooperation Instrument- Global Public Goods and Challenges thematic programme (DCI-GPGC), to be implemented by Expertise France) and a project on support to EU law enforcement cooperation along the Horn of Africa Migration Route (€0.75 million under the Internal Security Fund for police cooperation). Under the forthcoming Regional Indicative Programme for East Africa, South Africa and Indian Ocean region of the 11th European Development Fund, a cross-regional envelope of €25 million has been earmarked for migration in this region, with a particular focus on the Khartoum process, including the need to address international protection needs.

What is the Sahel Regional Action Plan?

On 20 April 2015, the Council adopted the [Sahel Regional Action Plan 2015-2020](#) which provides the overall framework for the implementation of the EU Strategy for Security and Development in the Sahel, as adopted and revised in its Conclusions on 21 March 2011 and 17 March 2014, respectively.

The Action Plan provides a solid basis for reinforcing the EU's focus around four domains that are highly relevant to the stabilisation of the region, namely prevention and countering radicalisation; creation of appropriate conditions for youth; migration, mobility and border management; the fight against illicit trafficking; and transnational organised crime.

Migration and Mobility

People move to escape poverty and conflict, to seek protection from persecution or serious harm, or to build a better life. For individuals, migration can be one of the most powerful and immediate strategies for poverty reduction. In the absence of employment opportunities, many youth seek for better opportunities by migrating. The Sahel Regional Action Plan will focus on this link between migration and development. In addition, the EU will focus on preventing and fighting against irregular migration, smuggling and trafficking in human beings; promoting international protection and organising mobility and legal migration.

The situation in Niger, as a major transit country, will require strengthened efforts, notably to reinforce and accompany the actions already launched by the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) mission EUCAP Sahel Niger.

Youth

Economic growth is necessary to create employment and to significantly reduce widespread poverty and income inequalities that continue to prevail across the Sahel. More effort is needed to create job opportunities throughout all sectors, in particular for youth.

The EU will provide assistance relevant for youth, including education and training as well as job creation, and ensure equal opportunities for boys and girls. An example of such as assistance is the empowerment of mainstream youth through identification of indicators to monitor and to promote education and youth employment so as to offer alternatives to illegal activities/extremist actions.

Further analysis on how to support youth as agents for positive change will also be provided. The EU will build youth resilience, e.g. by further promoting economic and employment opportunities (through support to SMEs and key value chains, the recruitment of local labour, etc.) and the reduction of inequalities in EU and Member States programmes, wherever possible.

A special reflexion could also be launched on demography challenge in order to know how to better address it. Demography should become progressively and more systematically part of the political dialogue with beneficiary countries. More broadly, EU and Member States' instruments will be mobilised to improve social cohesion and inclusive economic growth, including regional integration, in particular through the implementation of Economic Partnership Agreement Development Programme (EPADP).

Border management, illicit trafficking, and transnational organised crime

The EU currently supports a number of activities to fight illicit trafficking (partnership with UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and ECOWAS) in border zones, but also in the area of security and development.

Actions on border management, trafficking in human beings and other forms of trafficking, and transnational organised crime, in particular focusing on enhanced inter-agency and cross-border cooperation and information sharing will be pursued.

The EU will consider the implementation of integrated border management projects, in the Sahel region as well as around Lake Chad, including actions in the fields of both development and security. The EU is also encouraging Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) civilian missions already deployed in the Sahel region, such as the missions EUCAP Sahel Mali and EUCAP Sahel Niger within their

operational design and strength, to support local efforts aimed at developing local border management capacities and to contribute actively to the international coordination on the ground.

What about the Euromed cooperation?

A further strengthening of the multilateral dimension of the European Neighbourhood Policy could also add value to cooperation on migration. Neighbourhood countries are both countries of origin and of transit. Migration management requires solid regional frameworks. Their strengthening in the Southern Neighbourhood would provide the basis for a more systematic engagement with the existing regional forums and regional migration dialogues and programmes. In particular, [Euromed Migration](#) constitutes the flagship regional cooperation platform of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership with the objective to support EU Member States and Mediterranean partner countries in enhancing a comprehensive, constructive and operational dialogue and cooperation framework, with specific focus on reinforcing instruments and capacities to develop and implement evidence-based and coherent migration and international protection policies.

What about bilateral cooperation?

Bilateral dialogues on migration and mobility between the EU and third countries can take different shapes. The Mobility Partnerships as well as the Common Agendas on Migration and Mobility provide important frameworks for policy dialogue and operational cooperation on asylum and migration issues. So far, four such agreements have been signed with partner countries on the Africa continent: Cape Verde, Morocco, Tunisia and Nigeria. Financial resources have been allocated to support the implementation of these agreements.

The EU remains ready to start dialogues with other countries in the region in accordance with the political mandate given by the European Council. For example, the EU offer to launch a dialogue with Egypt has been reiterated at several occasions since 2011, but has not yet received a positive reply. Libya remains a priority country for such a dialogue as soon as circumstances allow.

Which types of activities are covered under a Mobility Partnership?

Typical actions/activities covered in a Mobility Partnership are:

Legal migration and mobility

- promotion of a better framework for legal migration and mobility, including through circular and temporary migration schemes as well as better information and protection of migrants, including pre-departure training;
- informing potential migrants on opportunities for legal migration and on requirements for legal stay, as well as on the dangers of undocumented migration and illegal work;
- institutional and administrative capacity-building of partner countries' authorities in legal migration management, through improvement of the regulatory framework, technical assistance, training, exchange of experts and best practices, etc.;

Fight against irregular migration and trafficking in human beings; border management

- improving the fight against migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings, notably through capacity-building, joint operational measures (including risk analysis and the exchange of information and best practices) and establishing operational interoperability between the relevant border agencies of EU, Member States and the partner countries;
- development of effective mechanisms and concrete initiatives for preventing and combating irregular migration and trafficking in human beings, including through actions raising public awareness;
- improving border surveillance, border management capacities and cross-border cooperation;

Migration and development

- support for voluntary return and sustainable reintegration of returning migrants, including through circular migration schemes, informing migrants abroad of the labour market situation in their home countries and their return possibilities, training of returning migrant workers and promotion of transfer of social security benefits, and stimulating entrepreneurship;
- promotion of legal and concrete measures reducing the cost of remittances, and encouraging their productive investment;
- promoting the role of (and cooperation with) diasporas.

Asylum and international protection

- support to the development of a legal and institutional framework on asylum in line with international standards;
- capacity-building of partner countries' authorities to develop and implement an asylum policy and provide international protection as well as to improve the reception facilities, such as the reception of asylum seekers and submission of asylum requests through the development of specific simplified procedures, in particular for those with special needs;
- promoting the cooperation between the national authorities competent for asylum procedures in third countries and their peers in the EU Member States.

What about cooperation with Libya?

The on-going Libyan conflict and ensuing lawlessness allows smugglers to operate with impunity. Stabilising Libya constitutes a crucial step in preventing further loss of life off the Libyan shores. The EU strongly supports the work of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya and the UN led dialogue process. The EU strongly encourages the Libyan parties to agree to a Government of National Unity. The EU is ready to offer support to that future government in a whole array of areas including on migration issues so as to help bring an end to the human suffering of migrants. In the meantime, the EU continues to address the humanitarian consequences of the crisis and its impact on migrants and other vulnerable groups.

Recent years have witnessed a significant investment in migration projects in Libya (€42.7 million committed between 2011 and 2014). Each EU funded programme entails different areas of interventions. Support to migration management focuses on three sub-sectors: human rights based migration management; countering irregular migration; and assistance to people in need of international protection.

After the deterioration of the security situation last year and in order to respond to the needs of people fleeing fighting areas in Libya, EU migration support has been refocused to guarantee emergency care and support for stranded migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and displaced people in Libya and in the neighbouring countries. Due to the very volatile political context, the institutional support programmes are on hold with the exception of training activities targeting the Libyan Coastal Gard (SeaHorse Programme, €4.5 million).

Since the beginning of the crisis in 2014, the EU funded programme START (€9.9 million), implemented by IOM, has supported the evacuation and repatriation of 788 stranded migrants (around 4,000 additional cases have been identified by IOM) and the distribution of Non-Food Items and Hygiene kits to 1,100 stranded migrants and to 2,600 displaced families across Libya. Two new programmes to be implemented by the International Federation of Red Cross in coordination with the Libyan Red Crescent have been signed and are expected to start delivering assistance to migrants (€6.25 million) and to IDPs and at risk groups (€2.9 million) in the coming weeks.

How the EU assists refugees in the regions closest to the conflicts – the case of Syria

Since the beginning of the conflict in Syria, the EU has mobilised around €3 billion in humanitarian, development, economic and stabilisation assistance for Syria and its neighbouring countries. Approximately €872 million has been mobilised by the Commission to help to respond to needs within Syria and its neighbouring countries hosting large numbers of refugees (Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey and Iraq).

For example, European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI)/European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) funds are being used to address medium term needs of the Syrian population such as access to basic services and infrastructures (education, vocational training, health, water, waste management, etc.), support to livelihoods and economic recovery, protection of cultural heritage, support to civil society in Syria, Lebanon and Jordan (€550 million). Support is provided to Turkey and Iraq through the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) (€73,5 million) and Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) (€6,6 million) respectively, and a Regional Programme has been developed to address the refugee crisis (documenting impact on host countries, testing pilot economic support activities) with the Danish MFA under the DCI Migration thematic line (± €12 million).

EU external migration policy

The Global Approach to Migration and Mobility (GAMM) is, since 2005, the overarching framework of the EU external migration and asylum policy. The framework defines how the EU conducts its policy dialogues and operational cooperation with third countries, based on clearly defined priorities which reflect the strategic objectives of the EU, and embedded in the EU's overall foreign policy framework, including development cooperation. Important also to underline that the GAMM aims to develop mutually beneficial partnerships in line with both the interests of the EU and of partner countries (which is needed to ensure effective management of migration flows).

The GAMM is focused on four thematic priorities: (1) better organising legal migration and fostering well-managed mobility; (2) preventing and combating irregular migration and eradicating trafficking of human beings; (3) maximising the development impact of migration and mobility; (4) promoting international protection and enhancing the external dimension of asylum. The protection of human rights is a cross-cutting priority.

The GAMM is implemented through several political instruments (regional and bilateral policy dialogues and action plans), legal instruments (visa facilitation and readmission agreements), operational support and capacity-building (including via EU agencies, e.g. FRONTEX, EASO and ETF, and technical assistance facilities such as MIEUX and TAIEX) as well as the wide range of programme and project support that is made available to third country administrations and other stakeholders, such as civil society, migrant associations and international organisations.

The GAMM implementation is a common and shared responsibility of the Commission, EEAS (including EU Delegations) and Member States, in accordance with their respective competences as set out in the Treaties.

General background on migration and development

Almost all developing countries are significantly affected by population movements. Of the estimated 232 million international migrants, approximately three quarters are citizens of non-OECD countries, and about a third resides in low- or middle-income countries. Migration and mobility have the potential to act as powerful enablers for economic, social and environmental development in low- and middle-income countries of origin and destination.

Migration and mobility are important livelihood strategies for many people in developing countries, and migrants almost always multiply their incomes when moving. However, weak governance frameworks make migrants particularly vulnerable to violations of their fundamental freedoms, human and other rights. Migrants disproportionately bear the human, social and economic costs of migration.

Furthermore, over 10 million refugees find themselves in protracted situations in developing countries - i.e. displaced for over 5 years without achieving a durable solution. Most internally displaced persons (IDPs) also live in protracted displacement.

The European Neighbourhood Policy under revision

In March 2015, an extensive consultation process on the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) was launched in order for the European External Action Service and the European Commission to prepare a proposal later this year for the future direction of the ENP. As set out in the [Joint Consultation Paper on the ENP Review](#), migration and mobility is a key area of co-operation for the EU and its partners.

The Review will set out proposals on how to further enhance mobility, especially for education, scientific, cultural, training and professional purpose and tackle common challenges, such as people smuggling and irregular migration. Migration stands among the most important topics of the ENP review with a view

to finding the common ground where European interests and those of partner countries can both be served.

EU support to African countries in the field of migration

The European Union is a leading donor when it comes to migration and development – more than €1 billion has been spent on more than 400 projects on migration between 2004 and 2014, and more than half of those projects are in support of our African partner countries. For 2014-2020, migration features more prominently in the programming than ever before. In particular, €344 million are dedicated to migration under the Global Public Goods & Challenges programme of the Development Cooperation Instrument. Migration issues also feature strongly as a priority in regional geographic programmes (Pan-African Partnership instrument, regional envelope for Southern Neighbourhood, West Africa and Central Africa cross-regional envelope for Eastern & Southern Africa), as well as in some national programmes in Morocco, Nigeria, Ethiopia, and Niger.

The Commission is currently launching efforts to better "mainstream migration" into its external cooperation on other thematic issues, which will mobilise further resources in the future.

Development cooperation can make a substantial contribution to addressing a host of relevant challenges such as helping partner countries in their efforts to develop migration-sensitive policies, addressing the root causes of irregular and forced migration and strengthening migrants' and refugees' rights. The potential of development cooperation to address the root causes of irregular and forced migration is the best investment we can make to address these phenomena.

Examples of EU funded projects

- **[Migration EU Expertise \(MIEUX\)](#): providing short-term expertise to partner countries to enhance migration governance: €8 million in the framework of DCI-GPGC contributing to the improvement of migration governance at national and regional levels by strengthening the capacities of public authorities to better manage migration and mobility in all its dimensions through the provision of rapid, short-term and small-scale peer-to-peer expertise assistance.**
- **[Global action to prevent and address trafficking in human beings and the smuggling of migrants](#): €10 million within the DCI-GPGC programme contributing to prevent and address trafficking in human beings and the smuggling of migrants by assisting countries in developing and implementing counter-trafficking and smuggling responses and capacities.**
- **[Support to Africa – EU Migration and Mobility Dialogue](#): €17.5 million in the framework of the DCI-Pan-African Programme to improve the governance of migration and mobility within Africa and between Africa and the EU, and enhance the role of African diaspora as development actors.**
- **[Supporting the third phase of the Rabat process: the Dakar Strategy](#): €2 million in the framework of the DCI-Migration and Asylum programme to support the implementation of concrete actions agreed under the process**
- **[Regional Protection Programme Horn of Africa: Strengthening protection and assistance to refugees and asylum seekers, mainly displaced Somalis](#): €5 million under the DCI-Migration and Asylum programme to protect and assist Somali refugees in the Horn of Africa, notably in Kenya and Djibouti, in the context of increased displacement in the region.**
- **[Support to Free Movement of Persons and Migration in West Africa](#): €24 million in the framework of the European Development Fund (EDF) allocated to improve free movement of persons and migration management in West Africa by supporting the effective implementation of the ECOWAS Free Movement of Persons' Protocols and the ECOWAS Common Approach on Migration.**
- **[European wide African diaspora platform for development \(EADPD\)](#): €1.2 million in the frame of the DCI-Migration and Asylum programme to promote the contribution of the diaspora to act as a development actor for Africa through the establishment of a European-wide African diaspora platform.**
- **[Support the reintegration of returnees and to the management of labour migration in Ethiopia](#): €10 million under the European Development Fund (EDF) to improve the reintegration system and assistance to Ethiopian returnees; to improve access to legal migration through enhanced capacity of relevant government institutions and to provide awareness raising about migration.**

- **Addressing Mixed Migration Flows in Eastern Africa.** €5 million to assist national authorities in setting up / strengthening safe and rights-respectful migration offices for migrants/asylum seekers/refugees; capacity building for partner countries to fight against criminal networks; provision of livelihoods and self-reliance opportunities for refugees and host communities.
- **Migrants in Countries in Crisis: Supporting an evidence-based approach.** €5 million under the DCI-GPGC programme to improve the capacity of states and, where relevant, other actors to assist and provide protection to migrants who find themselves in countries in crisis and address the long-term implications of such situations.
- **Civil Society Action for Promoting the Rights of Migrants.** €11.5 million under the DCI-GPGC programme to promote the rights of migrants and their protection and contribute towards eradicating human trafficking, in its different forms, in targeted countries, corridors and regions, in the frame of a globally coordinated civil society action.(22-04-2015)

THE EU-AFRICA PARTNERSHIP

On 22 April 2015, the College of the European Commission welcomes to Brussels the [College of the African Union Commission](#) for their annual meeting. This is this year's key event in the partnership between the European Union and Africa and the first College-to-College meeting of the new European Commission. It will give fresh impetus in the already vigorous relationship between two strategic partners who share common values, priorities and challenges – not only bilaterally, but also on the global level. The political framework of cooperation between the EU and Africa is the [Joint Africa-EU Strategy \(JAES\)](#), adopted in 2007, the first and only intercontinental partnership strategy. The Africa-EU Partnership is enshrined in the JAES: a partnership of equals, determined to tackle together issues of common concern.

In April 2014, the [4th EU-Africa Summit](#) took place under the theme "Investing in People, Prosperity and Peace". The Summit agreed that the implementation of the Joint Strategy during 2014-2017 should focus on five priority areas:

- Peace and Security
- Democracy, Good Governance and Human Rights
- Human Development
- Sustainable and Inclusive Developmental Growth and Continental Integration
- Global and Emerging Issues

EU-Africa relations

The EU is Africa's biggest trading partner; around a fifth of global foreign direct investment (FDI) flows in Africa comes from EU companies.

This partnership goes far beyond trade; over the period 2014-2020, the EU will invest almost **€40 billion** for the African continent, with a focus on development and other priorities, such as governance, migration and human rights; human development; energy and infrastructure and sustainable agriculture and food security. The EU and its Member States are the biggest contributors to the African Union programme budget, supporting approximately 80% of it, in particular through the newly created Pan-African programme to support African continental cooperation and integration.

The EU has been committed to help Africa achieve the [Millennium Development Goals](#).

- 31.9 million people have been assisted through social transfers for food security in Africa between 2004-2013 (goal 1)
- 3.4 million people received technical and vocational training (goal 1)
- 9.4 million new pupils enrolled in primary education (goal 2)
- 170,000 new female students have enrolled in secondary education, regardless of age in Africa between 2004 and 2013 (goal 3)

- 5.1 million children under one year of age have been immunised against measles in Africa between 2004-2013 (goal 4)
- 5.4 million births attended by skilled health personnel (goal 5)
- 261,000 people with advanced HIV infection received antiretroviral combination therapy. (goal 6)
- 41 million people have been connected to improved drinking water. (goal 7)

While progress towards the MDGs is remarkable, it was uneven: while most African countries are off track regarding the MDGs, many are among those that made greatest progress from their initial conditions.

In addition to development support, around 40% of EU humanitarian aid goes for projects in Africa every year. This means that the solidarity of European citizens helps save millions of lives on the African continent through food assistance, essential healthcare, shelter for displaced populations and first aid for the victims of conflicts and disasters.

Working together on peace and security

As part of a deepening political dialogue on peace and security and an increasing convergence of positions on African issues, the **EU and AU Political and Security Committees (PSCs)** held a joint field mission to Mali in February 2015, the first one of its kind.

The [African Peace Facility \(APF\)](#): The APF was created in 2004 as an innovative instrument constituting the main source of funding to support the African peace and security. Since 2004 the EU has provided €1.3 billion through it to back African efforts in the area of peace and security on the continent. This has, for example, allowed a number of African-led peace operations to take place, such as the AU Mission to Somalia (AMISOM), the International Support Mission MISCA in the Central African Republic (CAR) and six accomplished missions in Sudan, the Comoros, the CAR and Mali.

[Common Security and Defence Policy \(CSDP\)](#) missions: over the last decade, 16 CSDP missions have been deployed in Africa to preserve peace, prevent conflict and strengthen international security.

- Seven military missions: ARTEMIS, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC); EUFOR RD Congo; EUFOR, Chad/CAR; EU NAVFOR ATALANTA; EUTM Somalia; EUTM Mali; EUFOR RCA, CAR), EUMAM RCA
- Nine civilian missions: EUPOL Kinshasa, DRC; EUSEC DRC; Support to AMIS II, Sudan/Darfur; EUPOL DRC; EU SSR, Guinea-Bissau; EUAVSEC South Sudan; EUCAP NESTOR; EUCAP Sahel, Niger; EUBAM Libya, EUCAP Sahel Mali

Cooperation and results in the field of democracy and human rights

The EU regularly deploys election observation missions in Africa, often coordinated with observers from the AU and regional economic communities.

The EU-AU Human Rights Dialogue is held annually. Work covers areas such as freedom of association, business and human rights and abolition of the death penalty.

Examples of other areas of EU-Africa cooperation

Migration: The European Union is a leading donor when it comes to migration and development - over €1 billion has been spent on more than 400 projects on migration between 2004 and 2014, and more than half of those projects are in support of our African partner countries.

Infrastructure: The [Africa-EU Infrastructure Trust Fund \(AITEF\)](#) blends grants from the EU with loans from other investors for projects in the area of infrastructure. To date, AITEF has awarded over 100 grants to infrastructure projects that represent a total value of over €7 billion in the investment phase.

Agriculture: In Africa, the livelihoods of about 60 % of the population depend on agriculture. The EU has disbursed over €3.5 billion for food security in Africa between 2007 and 2014.

For the period 2014-2020, food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture were chosen as focal sector for bilateral EU cooperation in 33 African countries.

Water: An expected 17.8 million people will gain access to water and 6.3 million to sanitation as a result of the African component of the [ACP/EU Water Facility](#).

Energy: With EU support, Africa improved access to modern energy services for over 18.2 million people between 2007 and 2012. Over the same period, the EU has contributed to provide access to electricity to over 600.000 households in Africa, 15,700 kilometres of electricity lines were installed and 78,000 jobs in the energy sector created.

Climate change: Cooperation between the EU and Africa was vital to agree at the 2011 UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference in Durban, South Africa on new international negotiation objectives. Africa has received climate related EU aid amounting to €3.7 billion since 2002.

Environment: So far, five legally-binding Voluntary Partnership Agreements have been concluded between the EU and timber-producing African countries under the [Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade \(FLEGT\) initiative](#).

Higher Education: Around 80 universities across Africa have been involved in the Intra-ACP academic mobility scheme partnerships which are organising mobility across Africa for around 1,300 Master students and doctorates and for more than 270 academic staff members.

Almost 2,000 students across Africa have received scholarships for [Erasmus Mundus](#) Master Courses. More than 3,700 students at Bachelor, Master, doctoral and post-doctoral level, as well as 620 academic staff from Africa have so far undertaken mobility in the framework of the Erasmus Mundus Action 2 partnerships.

Research and innovation: The [7th EU Framework Programme for Research \(FP7\)](#) has funded some 600 cooperative research projects on issues related to food security, climate change, health and energy, with over 1000 participants from 45 African countries. In addition, Marie Curie fellowships were offered to some 400 African and European fellows at research centres in both continents.

Information Society/Information and communication technologies: The [EU funded AfricaConnect](#) programme project has established a high-capacity Internet network for research and education in Southern and Eastern Africa providing the region with a gateway to global research collaboration. It has extended and complemented the UbuntuNet network, the first regional research and education network in sub-Saharan Africa, connecting eight countries in the region (Kenya, Mozambique, Uganda, Ruanda, Zambia, Tanzania, Democratic Republic of Congo and South Africa). These countries are able for the first time to exchange research and education traffic in Africa without transiting through Europe. AfricaConnect has brought an average of 80% price reduction for broadband communication tariffs for the educational sector. (EC 22-04-2015)

ANGOLAN SECRETARY OF STATE CALLS FOR MORE DYNAMIC MODEL FOR COOPERATION WITH CHINA

Cooperation between Angola and China requires a new pace with the introduction of a more dynamic model “to move from contracts to investment in industrialisation,” the Angolan Secretary of State for Cooperation said on her arrival in Luanda.

Ângela Bragança, who travelled to China as part of the delegation led by the Minister of State and Chief of Staff, Edeltrudes Costa, said that Angola had the resources and China had the technological capability to support the development of the country “hence we looked at the need to boost the pace of bilateral cooperation.”

The Secretary of State, cited by Angolan news agency Angop, announced a meeting of the Joint Committee next May, in China, in the light of the conclusions of the meeting of the Steering Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation between Angola and China, to develop the central aspects of the new cooperation model.

“In this new model energy comes first, because of the need to expand the electricity grid, followed by agriculture, from production to the sale and processing of products,” she said.

During the meeting of the Steering Committee officials restated the need to consolidate the strategic partnership with China, to meet the targets set in the 2013-2017 Angolan National Development Plan. Bragança said the Angolan development fund was one of the issues discussed during the Commission meeting, held last weekend in Beijing.

According to the secretary of state all existing financial capacity was discussed, so that funding for the development of Angola can be carried out, to the extent that China is making, “Angola a priority country in its cooperation with Africa.”

In a statement issued in Beijing, the embassy of Angola in China stated that the Minister of State and Chief of Staff of the Presidency of the Republic of Angola called for an increase in China's investment in his country to "consolidate the strategic partnership" between the two countries.

"Our strategic partnership gains even greater significance in the current uncertain international economic and financial climate," said the Angolan Minister of State at a meeting with Chinese Vice-Premier Wang Yang.

Edeltrudes Costa's meeting with Wang Yang was held Monday in Beijing after the first session of the Steering Committee for Economic and Trade Cooperation between Angola and the People's Republic of China, the Angolan minister also called for the transfer of "China's experience in agriculture, food production and development projects in the social and cultural field and staff training." (22-04-2015)

NIGERIAN AGENCY COMMENCES CALIBRATION OF NAVIGATIONAL AIDS AT AIRPORTS

The Nigerian Airspace Management Agency (NAMA) has commenced the calibration of its navigational aids at airports and en-route stations across the country in a bid to further enhance seamless air navigation.

The Acting General Manager, Public Affairs of NAMA, Mrs Olajumoke Adetona said in Lagos that "the routine calibration exercise is intended to determine the precision and accuracy of these navigational aids".

According to Adetona, the exercise is being handled by ASECNA of Senegal in collaboration with NAMA Engineers and is expected to last for about two weeks.

She added that the exercise would involve the calibration of the agency's Instrument Landing Systems (ILS), Very High Omni-Directional Radio Range (VOR), Distance Measuring Equipment (DME), Path Approach Precision Indicators (PAPI) and Air Field Lighting Systems.

Adetona said that the other facilities to be calibrated included the Communication Radio Coverage across the nation.

The current operation is targeted at putting all the navigational aids at the Nigeria's airports and en-route stations in optimal capacity in line with ICAO standards and to continue to generate precise and accurate signals to guarantee the safety of air navigation in Nigeria.(APA 20-04-2015)

ANGOLA WANTS GREATER COOPERATION FROM CHINA TO DEVELOP THE COUNTRY

China and Angola have maintained good cooperation in many areas but there is still much to be done together, said Monday in Jakarta the Angolan Minister of Foreign Affairs.

"China has been participating in the infrastructure building programme in Angola ... but we still need many more roads and airports, and from what I understand this is an area where we can cooperate more," Georges Chikoti told Chinese state news agency Xinhua on the sidelines of the Asia/Africa ministerial meeting to be held on 22 and 23 April.

Chikoti stressed that Angola and China would cooperate more in energy, agriculture, trade and the development of industrial capacity, "and the two side will continue to identify projects that can be carried out."

In Beijing, delegations from both countries analysed the bilateral relationship during an audience granted by the Chinese deputy prime minister, Wang Yang, to the Angolan delegation led by the Minister of State and Chief of Staff, Edeltrudes Costa.

The meeting was preceded on Sunday by the first session of the Steering Committee for Economic and Trade Cooperation between Angola and the People's Republic of China, according to a statement from the Angolan embassy in China, cited by Angolan news agency Angop.

At the meeting, the Angolan delegation restated the need to consolidate the strategic partnership with China, to meet the targets set in the Angolan National Development Plan for 2013-2017.

Trade between Angola and China in 2014 totalled US\$37.07 billion (+3.23 percent), which resulted from Angolan sales of US\$31.09 billion (-2.67 percent) and Chinese sales of US\$5.97 billion (+50.73 percent). (21-04-2015)

NAMIBIA BATTLING RISING ELEPHANT, RHINO POACHING

The Namibian Police arrested five men at the weekend for illegal possession of elephant tusks in the Mukwe constituency of the Kavango East Region, police spokesperson Chrispin Mubebo said on Monday.

The suspects, who included one Angolan and two Botswana nationals, were found in possession of nine elephant tusks on Saturday following a tip-off from members of the community, Mubebo told journalists on Monday.

They are expected to be charged with the illegal possession of controlled wildlife products

The arrest came amidst investigation by the police and Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET) of the discovery 31 rhino carcasses in the Etosha National Park earlier this month.

MET permanent secretary Simeon Negumbo said a thorough investigation was underway to ascertain whether the cause of the death of the rhino was due to poaching or natural causes.

The carcasses were found in the western part of Etosha on April 8, with some still have their horns intact.

“The current levels at which our rhinos are being killed illegally in the country needs to be rapidly brought under control. In doing so, the MET will continue to strengthen its efforts in effective crime prevention and law enforcement through coordinated and integrated clusters of activities, such as security planning, monitoring, adaptive management and a strong and effective presence on the ground,” Negumbo said in press statement.

Negumbo said the ministry is in the process of launching an investigation unit that will be focusing on poaching syndicates to work hand-in-hand with law enforcement agencies and communities living in the vicinity of the Etosha National Park. (APA 20-04-2015)

MOZAMBIQUE IMPORTS TRAIN CARRIAGES AND BUSES FROM CHINA

Mozambique will this year import 70 train carriages to minimise the problem of passenger transport in the country, the Minister of Transport and Communications said Monday.

In a parliamentary hearing on the Economic and Social Plan, organised by the Committee on Agriculture, Economy and Environment, Minister Carlos Mesquita said purchasing carriages would boost the capacity of trains on the Sena Railroad, linking the port of Beira, the capital of Sofala province, to Moatize, in Tete province.

“The carriages will make it possible to increase the frequency of trains and the number of carriages in each of them,” said the minister.

Mesquita said that this year the government would also import over 300 buses from China, 80 of which would be donated to Mozambique by the Chinese government.

The Economic and Social Plan and the Budget for 2015 are under appreciation by the various working committees of the Mozambican parliament. (21-04-2015)

BOTSWANA ISSUES TRAVEL WARNING IN FACE OF S/AFRICA XENOPHOBIC ATTACKS

Foreign Minister Pelonomi Venson-Moitoi has cautioned Botswana citizens to reduce travels to South Africa until the xenophobic attacks in the neighbouring country stop.

At least five foreigners are reported to have died during the recent xenophobic attacks in South Africa.

Briefing the media on Monday, Moitoi said Botswana currently residing in South Africa should avoid falling victims of the xenophobic attacks.

Venson-Moitoi said her ministry was concerned by the safety of Botswana, especially those studying in South African institutions. She thus advised students to desist from making unnecessary trips or movements into areas hit by the xenophobic attacks.

“We are pleading with parents whose children are studying in South Africa to help us talk to students to avoid moving around so that they don’t get into trouble. The situation is not safe and we are asking them to take precautions.”

She explained that her ministry had instructed the Botswana High Commission in South Africa to keep a close eye on the safety of students, and offer them prompt assistance whenever the situation required.

She said the South African government had assured that it was controlling the situation.

“The President of South Africa has already addressed Parliament about the issue, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs has briefed foreign Diplomats about the issue.

She said government would continue monitoring the situation and ensure that Botswana in South Africa remained safe (APA 20-04-2015)

CABO VERDE’S FLAGSHIP AIR CARRIER RECORDS STRONG GROWTH IN 1ST QUARTER

The flagship air carrier of Cabo Verde (Cape Verde) TACV ended the first quarter 2015 with 20 percent growth in turnover, and March was the best month in the company’s recent history, according to the carrier’s press office.

In a statement, TACV said that the result, compared with a forecast of only 3 percent growth was obtained despite macroeconomic uncertainties, a weak internal tourist market and the volatility in its main markets, including Portugal and Brazil.

“This level of performance has been achieved with the introduction of corrective actions in the online booking platform, new baggage policies and increased cargo transport sales,” the statement said.

“Strengthening the supply to Brazil was also a determining factor, along with the strategic planning of new flights to Lisbon, allowing these two markets to record the largest gains in the entire commercial network,” added the company.

TACV will now pay particular attention to performance in the second quarter, which it describes as crucial with the opening of new routes by next June to Bissau (Guinea-Bissau), Providence (United States) and Recife (Brazil), and it is also preparing promotional campaigns to boost the airline’s image. (21-04-2015)

LESOTHO BATTLES AGAINST IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON FOOD PRODUCTION

Lesotho’s senior crop production officer at the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS) Sekhonyana Mahase says his ministry is aware of the consequences of climate change that could bring food production in the country down to its knees.

In an interview on Monday morning in Maseru, Mahase said in an effort to counterattack this problem,

his ministry is undertaking a survey to find out short term growing varieties of crops. He said experience has taught them that when crops take shorter time to mature, produce is of low quality and when they take long time, produce is of high quality.

Mahase added that they also encourage farmers to plough on time so that their crops should not be behind time.

These are some of the adaptations we are undertaking, he explained.

He further pointed out that in some places; they encourage farmers to practice Conservation Agriculture (CA) because there is usually minimal disturbance of soil so during floods, soils could not be washed away easily.

Mahase explained that some of the issues are beyond their control like frost and hail stones and thus appealed to the traditional doctors to help.

He said where applicable, they encourage farmers to practice irrigation particularly during drought periods.

Mahase also pointed out that they also advise farmers to employ protected agriculture especially those involved in vegetable production through the use of green houses. (APA 20-04-2015)

BANK OF CHINA SETS UP TEAM IN MACAU FOR BUSINESS WITH PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING COUNTRIES

The Bank of China branch in Macau has set up a team to promote economic and trade cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking countries, according to Wednesday's edition of local Portuguese-language newspaper Tribuna de Macau.

The newspaper said the initiative aims to take advantage of "the great opportunities" of the central government's policies and maintain "active" coordination with the Macau government to build a service platform for business cooperation between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries in the territory. In addition to offering all types of banking services, the Bank of China in Macau also intends to provide "more appropriate and customised financial services" according to the "commercial characteristics" of relations between China and Portuguese-speaking countries.

The bank also serves to "strengthen cooperation with banks of Portuguese-speaking countries" and to promote the use of the yuan in trade "between China and Portuguese-speaking countries."

The creation of a "cross-border yuan clearing platform" that can be "spread" to Portuguese-speaking countries, the bank told the newspaper.

The Bank of China (Macau) noted the potential of trade and economic links between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries stating that since the creation of the Macau Forum the value of bilateral trade has exceeded US\$100 billion.

Since its inception, the team has contacted the Macau Forum, with Macau government bodies, with the Portuguese banks in the territory and with trade associations of China, Macau and Portuguese-speaking countries, "establishing a regular communication mechanism."(22-04-2015)

EU COUNCIL STRESSES IMPORTANCE OF SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH NEIGHBOURS

Following the launch last month of a review of the European Neighbourhood Policy, EU foreign ministers, meeting in Luxembourg today, emphasised the need to work on a revision of the ENP in order to ensure it provides the adequate framework for long term relations with partners, while making it more political and responsive to the diverse challenges in the neighbourhood.

The Council stressed that a revised ENP should take into account interests and needs of the EU and its neighbours, commitment to reforms, and the level of ambition of the partnership.

It said stability and prosperity in the neighbourhood, based on principles of political inclusion, rule of law, the respect of human rights and inclusive economic development, is a fundamental interest of the EU.

Ministers reiterated the importance to develop integration and dialogue under the regional dimensions of the ENP, and underlined the central role of the Eastern Partnership and the Union for the Mediterranean. (EU Neighbourhood 20-04-2015)

LUCAPA DIAMOND COMPANY FINDS LARGE DIAMOND IN ANGOLA

Australia's Lucapa Diamond Company found a 63.05 carat (12.61 grams) diamond in the Lulo mining concession in Angola, the company said in a statement recently.

Lucapa Diamond said the diamond was the largest found since the company and its partners began prospecting operations of alluvial diamonds in the concession in January 2015.

"This discovery highlights the potential for the extraction of large diamonds in this mine which may exceed the production of Sociedade Mineira de Catoca," the statement said.

The Lucapa Diamond Company's partners in this project are Angolan companies Endiama and private group Rosas & Pétalas.

The Lulo concession lies 150 kilometres from the Catoca diamond mine, which has the largest kimberlite in Angola and the fourth largest in the world, and both are located in the same geological area. (22-04-2015)

SOMALIS LEAVING SOUTH AFRICA FOR GREENER PASTURES

Eight-hundred-and-forty-eight Somali refugees bade farewell to SA last year for greener and friendlier pastures, while 1,206 others are awaiting news of whether their resettlement applications have been approved or not.

The office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in SA resettled more than 1,000 refugees last year, most of whom are Somalis.

Refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) came in second at 161, followed by Ethiopians at 23 and 12 Burundians. Four Zimbabweans, 10 Rwandans, one Sudanese, seven Afghans and two Eritreans round off the list.

The three most popular destinations were the US, Canada and Australia, said UNHCR spokeswoman Tina Ghelli on Monday.

Some Nordic states also accept resettlement applications.

But the process was long and could take up to three years, said Ms Ghelli, adding that the UNHCR had been inundated with calls in the wake of SA's latest wave of xenophobic violence.

There was even a period when the UNHCR set up a special mission in the Eastern Cape because of a high incidence of xenophobic attacks against Somalis, she said.

"Although we have been getting a lot of calls from people, our first option is local integration. Resettlement is not an overnight thing," Ms Ghelli said.

The two other approaches the UNHCR favoured when it came to refugees were voluntary repatriation and resettlement.

People who qualified for the latter were identified based on specific criteria, for example, someone who had fallen victim to xenophobic attacks multiple times or had been tortured, said Ms Ghelli.

"First we interview candidates for resettlement, after which we send their files to prospective host countries. The US, Canada and Australia take up most resettlement cases. Also, a few Nordic states consider applications," she said.

Once an application was sent to the US, for example, its immigration agents would then come to SA to re-interview candidates.

"It can take up to three years before the full process is complete and an applicant departs to a resettlement state," Ms Ghelli said.

The UNHCR has forwarded 1,534 people for resettlement.

"The US takes most Somalis followed by Canada," she said. (BD 20-04-2015)

GUINEA-BISSAU EXPERIENCING "EXCELLENT TIME" FOR DOING BUSINESS

Guinea-Bissau going through an "excellent time" for doing business, the vice president of the Business Confederation of the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CE-CPLP) told in Bissau Tuesday. Bramia Camará, who is also president of the Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Agriculture and Services (CCIAS) of Guinea-Bissau, said this was a "crucial time to seize the opportunities that the country offers," when explaining his expectations for the meeting of Business Confederation of the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP), which started Wednesday in Bissau.

The Vice President of the CE-CPLP said the meeting would be attended by businesspeople from Angola, Equatorial Guinea, Mozambique, Portugal, São Tomé and Príncipe and Timor-Leste (East Timor), as well as countries in the region, such as Senegal, Gambia and Mali.

The vice president of the Business Confederation of the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries said Guinea-Bissau's business opportunities included cashew nuts, fruit, fish, bauxite, phosphates and heavy minerals. (22-04-2015)

INFRASTRUCTURE SPENDING IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES NEEDS TO DOUBLE, STUDY SHOWS

Spending on infrastructure in developing countries needs to double, says Trafigura, one of the world's biggest independent commodity trading and logistics houses.

But mitigating financial risk is key to managing infrastructure projects, it said in a white paper launched at the Gordon Institute of Business Science (Gibs) on Friday.

The Foundations for Growth: Infrastructure Investment in Emerging Markets paper written by London-based independent economists Llewellyn Consulting, said the world needs infrastructure worth about 3.5% of global gross domestic product (GDP) annually to 2030.

"In Africa, where existing infrastructure networks are particularly sparse and underdeveloped, the deficit exceeds \$90bn per year over the coming decade, or 15% of the region's GDP per year," report co-author Russell Jones, a partner at Llewellyn Consulting, said at Gibs on Friday.

"In some of the more fragile states, the infrastructure gap amounts to an even more startling 25% of GDP per year," he said.

The report cited deficits in all major infrastructure — energy, water and sanitation, telecommunications, and transport. It said infrastructure needed in emerging markets was "an absolute requirement for developing countries' future competitiveness".

The report highlighted a need to "negotiate tensions" between construction and operation. It also raised questions over whether to implement major, prestige, "or arguably" more high-impact minor projects; new infrastructure versus maintaining existing assets; and public versus private funding.

"But these obstacles could be overcome with an enlightened approach on all sides. And the potential rates of return are high for all concerned," it said.

"Guarantees have to ultimately come from development banks," Mr. Jones said.

In Africa, these include the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Development Bank of Southern Africa, and numerous foreign funding institutions.

The report cites the AfDB as saying the low quality of African infrastructure constrains economic growth on the continent by about two percentage points every year, and reduces business productivity by up to 40%.

It states that "many African countries have also systematically underinvested in repair and maintenance in recent decades, leading to poorly performing, inadequate infrastructure assets".

Fiscal policy in Africa had been "terribly pro-cyclical and therefore damaging", Mr. Jones said.

This had left Africans paying dearly for infrastructure development during booming commodity cycles, and not taking advantage of much lower price inputs during busts.

Risk is also a constant factor in Africa. Labour problems have plagued Eskom's unfinished Medupi power station, while Sasol has repatriated hundreds of workers from Mozambique fearing anger over xenophobic violence in SA.

Infrastructure needed to be sustainable and not just "creaming off profits" Mr. Jones said.

In developing Africa's infrastructure there needed to be "more trust" between multinational companies and governments. "Governments have to accept their expertise," he said.

In this context, Matthew Birtch, lecturer in strategic management at Gibs, said on Friday that building transport infrastructure was about moving people from one place to another — not about profit alone. (BD 20-04-2015)

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND COMMUNICATIONS

Gambia - <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/cat/longres.aspx?sk=42866.0>

Gambia - <http://www.imf.org/External/NP/LOI/2015/GMB/030415.pdf>

Ghana - <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/cat/longres.aspx?sk=42865.0>

Liberia, Madagascar - <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/survey/so/2015/new042115a.htm>

Zimbabwe - <http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2015/pr15175.htm>

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