

MEMORANDUM

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WELCOME BACK TO 2018, THE 12th YEAR OF PUBLICATION

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APRES AVOIR LONGTEMPS TERGIVERSE, LA TUNISIE OUVRE SON CIEL



L'aéroport de Tunis-Carthage reste la chasse gardée de Tunisair pendant encore cinq ans

Sept ans après le début des négociations entre Tunis et Bruxelles, la convention sur l'Open Sky tunisien a été signée ce lundi, ouvrant la voie à une augmentation du trafic et de la concurrence dans le ciel tunisien. Seul l'aéroport international de Tunis-Carthage reste pendant cinq ans la chasse gardée de Tunisair, la compagnie nationale en grande difficulté.

Les [négociations entre la Tunisie et l'Union européenne](#) (UE), entamées en 2010, ont abouti à un accord sur les services aériens qui ouvre la porte à l'*Open Sky* entre la Tunisie et les États membres de l'UE. La convention signée le lundi 11 décembre devrait se traduire par 800 000 passagers supplémentaires sur une période de cinq ans. Elle pourrait ainsi générer une hausse de 2,7 % du PIB et accroître le trafic annuel de près de 13 %, selon la délégation de l'Union européenne à Tunis.

Ce futur flux de passagers réjouit les opérateurs du tourisme tunisien mais pas Tunisair. [En proie à de grandes difficultés](#), avec notamment un plan de restructuration en cours, la compagnie nationale voit d'un mauvais œil l'ouverture du ciel tunisien. L'accord prévoit pourtant que les compagnies low-cost desserviront tous les aéroports sauf celui de Tunis-Carthage, qui demeure la chasse gardée de Tunisair pendant encore cinq ans.

Échec du PDG de Tunisair

Si [Selma Elloumi, ministre du Tourisme](#), souligne que cet accord permet de « relancer le tourisme et de renforcer l'affluence des touristes vers la destination Tunisie », Ilyes Mnakbi, PDG de Tunisair, a tenté jusqu'au bout de défendre une position protectionniste : « Tunisair n'est pas habilitée à affronter l'Open Sky. Nos prix sont alignés sur ceux des grandes compagnies internationales. On ne peut pas concurrencer les compagnies low-cost, dont les tarifs sont beaucoup moins chers ».

Un aveu de faiblesse qui en dit long sur la situation de Tunisair, que certains politiques voudraient privatiser. La compagnie nationale a toutefois commandé six Airbus A320 et projette d'ouvrir vingt nouvelles escales pour contrer l'impact du low-cost avec l'Europe – *Les détails de la nouvelle stratégie de Tunisair sont à retrouver dans le numéro 2970, disponible en kiosque jusqu'au 16 décembre 2017 et dans notre boutique en ligne.*

Les principaux points de l'accord

Beaucoup retiendront l'effet de l'ouverture du ciel sur les tarifs aériens, mais l'accord a une portée beaucoup plus large. Il lève les limitations des capacités et des nombres de vols, prévoit une déréglementation tarifaire et la mise en place d'un contexte compétitif selon les règles de la concurrence. Il instaure aussi un rapprochement des législations, dont celles de la sécurité et de la sûreté de l'aviation civile ainsi que celles de la gestion du trafic aérien, de la protection des consommateurs et de l'environnement.

L'accord, qui est pour certains une première étape des négociations sur l'Aleca (accord de libre-échange complet et approfondi), entrera en vigueur dès réception par l'UE d'une note diplomatique notifiant la ratification de l'accord par le gouvernement tunisien. (JA 11-12-2017)

JAPAN AND KENYA'S PUSH FOR UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE WILL HELP DEFEAT POVERTY

On 12 December 2017, the Government of Japan is hosting a high level meeting on [universal health coverage](#). Japan's Prime Minister [Mr Shinzo Abe stated during the UN General Assembly](#), "Universal Health Coverage, is essential for addressing global challenges and achieving the core principle of the 2030 Agenda; that is, the realization of a society where "no one is left behind." Kenya's Cabinet Secretary of Health, Dr Cleopa Mailu is leading a high level team to Tokyo.

And 12 December, 2017 is also [Universal Health Coverage Day](#), the anniversary of the first unanimous United Nations resolution calling for countries to provide affordable, quality health care to every person, everywhere.

In Kenya, illness can mean financial ruin. Every day families are forced to sell their assets, rely on community support or see their modest life savings wiped out by medical bills.

Ill health is a substantial burden not only on Kenyan families, but also on the country's economic growth. Consider this. Every year, [nearly one million Kenyans are pushed below the poverty line](#) and remain poor as a result of healthcare expenses.

["Universal health coverage should be \[viewed\] as a rights issue,"](#) said Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the Director General of the World Health Organization (WHO). "Many families are getting into poverty because they are spending their savings for health care services."

Across the globe there is a strong correlation between high rates of out-of-pocket expenses and catastrophic and impoverishing health expenditure. It is a powerful factor in inequality of access to healthcare, often forcing the poor to forgo medical treatment. It also increases costs, because when poor people finally seek treatment it's either too late or else complications caused by delay have worsened their condition.

Approximately four out of every five Kenyans have no access to medical insurance, so the cruel reality is that most are just an accident or illness away from destitution. Among the poorest quintile a mere 3% have health insurance, this provided by the government's National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF). This rises to 42% of the wealthiest fifth where private cover is also more common. Additionally, there are stark disparities between rural and urban populations, where rates of coverage are an average of 12% and 27% respectively.

At President Kenyatta's inauguration speech on 28 Nov 2017, he stated, *"Over the next 5 years, my Administration will target 100% Universal Healthcare coverage for all households"*.

To its credit, the Kenyan government is taking steps towards reducing these inequalities. Payments for primary and maternal health services in public facilities have been abolished, resulting in increased utilization and improved outcomes, particularly among the poorest. [President Uhuru Kenyatta](#) at his inaugural speech emphasized, "Over the next 5 years, my Administration will target 100% Universal Healthcare coverage for all households".

Recent initiatives by the NHIF—such as inclusion of outpatient care and introduction of health insurance subsidies for the poor—are helping to expand coverage beyond those in formal employment. As a result, roughly 88.4% of households with health insurance are covered through the NHIF.

But as long as 33.6% of Kenyans survive on less than US\$1.90 per day, there are still millions who cannot access quality healthcare.

Lack of public awareness, high loss ratios due to fraud, and reluctance among insurers to underwrite cover for the poor are also important.

[Health insurance contributes only about 13%](#) to national health expenditure, with the balance made up of out-of-pocket expenses at point of treatment, government and tax revenues, and donor funding. Such statistics undermine Kenya's ability to achieve universal health coverage, enshrined in Kenya's Vision 2030 and Sustainable Development Goal 3.

There is a clear need to develop low-cost, innovative solutions for expanding insurance coverage and technology must form part of such solutions. Technology-backed automation can improve efficiency and enhance transparency, both key requirements.

Mobile money can perform faster, more transparent and targeted health payments through health e-vouchers. Technology can process claims and enable healthcare consumers and providers to interact more efficiently, while offering more customized products to people of all incomes.

Efficient storage and sharing of patient data could reduce the cost of care by, for instance, tracing false claims, preventing repeat tests, or avoiding misdiagnosis.

Technology can also offer substantial savings in administration costs, which currently swallow a staggering 40% of the NHIF's revenue, far in excess of the industry norm of 3-4%. Effective IT systems would help to reduce this astonishing disparity, as would improved governance and transparency. A lack of analytical capacity hobbles the NHIF's ability to forecast and respond to increasing costs, hindering strategic planning and development. Better technology can address this.

Ultimately, sustainability demands increased investment in preventive care and primary health. Diverting cash away from the [60% of the health budget that currently goes to curative care](#) will pay dividends. Better primary care reduces ill-health and catches disease at an earlier stage, when treatment is cheaper and more effective. It also frees up resources to expand insurance coverage for the poor.

Launching the country's SDG 3 Partnership Platform, to spur universal health coverage in Kenya with the United Nations in New York during the UN General Assembly in 2017, Kenya's Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs [Dr. Amina Mohamed remarked](#), "As a government we have clearly prioritized the Universal Health Coverage agenda because it is one of the ways to protect our people from the consequences of out-of-pocket health expenditure which in Kenya forms about a fifth of family spending".

We would welcome the Government of Japan and the Japanese private sector to join the SDG platform in Kenya, which can potentially leapfrog universal health coverage and become a model for other countries too.

Let us join hands to free every Kenyan from the tyranny of poverty by achieving universal health coverage. It is the very foundation for economic development and prosperity. (Huffpost 12-10-2017)

UNE ANNEE 2017 MOUVEMENTEE POUR LES TELECOMS



Une femme vend des téléphone portables à Cotonou, au Bénin

À l'heure des bilans, force est de constater que l'année qui s'achève n'a pas été de tout repos pour les télécoms. Alors que l'Afrique a dépassé le milliard d'abonnés mobiles, retour sur les amendes, les pertes ou octrois de licences et les bras de fer qui ont marqué l'année.

- **L'Afrique de l'Ouest s'attaque au roaming**

Alors que quatre pays d'Afrique de l'Est s'étaient engagés dès 2014 dans l'abolition des frais de roaming (la One Network Area entre le Rwanda, le Kenya, l'Ouganda et le Sud-Soudan est entrée en vigueur au 1er janvier 2015), l'ouest du continent accumulait les retards en la matière. Le 31 mars dernier, [l'initiative ouest-africaine de free-roaming](#) est officiellement entrée en vigueur dans sept pays (Sénégal, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinée, Mali, Burkina Faso, Togo et Sierra Leone), et [le Bénin s'y est associé le 12 décembre](#).

- **De multiples amendes**

Que ce soit à cause de la qualité insuffisante de leurs réseaux ou pour des manquements à l'information de leur clientèle, les opérateurs télécoms n'ont pas attendu 2017 pour se voir infliger de lourdes amendes par les États africains. En 2016, MTN en avait notamment fait les frais au Nigeria : l'opérateur sud-africain avait été condamné à verser une amende de près de 4 milliards de dollars pour des « manquements » en termes de sécurité.

Cependant, cette année a été particulièrement marquante, tant par les montants en jeu que par le nombre d'opérateurs et de pays en cause.

Ainsi, [en septembre, Orange, MTN et Moov](#) ont été respectivement condamnés à des amendes de 2,08 milliards de francs CFA (3,2 millions d'euros), 1,73 milliard de francs CFA et 1,15 milliard de francs CFA en Côte d'Ivoire. En octobre, les quatre opérateurs [qui officient au Niger](#), à savoir Orange, Celtel, Moov et Sahel-Com, ont été condamnés à payer 3,5 milliards de francs CFA, à cause de la mauvaise qualité de leur réseau. Au Cameroun, c'est à l'opérateur historique, Camtel, qu'Orange s'est résigné à verser 1,6 milliard de francs CFA suite à un litige commercial. Une facture que l'opérateur français conteste toujours, mais qu'il [a fini par accepter de payer](#) « pour ne pas pénaliser sa clientèle », après plusieurs coupures.

Enfin, au Bénin, l'État est allé jusqu'à [retirer sa licence à l'opérateur nigérian Glo](#), tandis que le bras de fer se poursuit avec la filiale locale de MTN (voir ci-dessous).

- **Etisalat et Millicom en recul**

2017 a également été marquée par une chute que personne n'avait vu venir : [celle de la filiale nigériane de l'émirati Etisalat](#), dont l'aventure s'est terminée fin juin après le défaut de paiement d'un prêt de 1,2 milliard de dollars (900 millions d'euros). Les repreneurs du réseau, renommé 9mobile et actuellement géré par un consortium de banques, devraient être connus le 31 décembre.

De son côté, Millicom poursuit son désengagement du continent, amorcé en 2016 avec la vente de sa filiale congolaise. Si la vente de Tigo Sénégal reste problématique (lire ci-dessous), l'opérateur a conclu avec succès celle de [sa filiale rwandaise à Bharti Airtel](#) en décembre et les négociations se poursuivent, notamment avec le Zimbabwe Econet, pour ce qui est des filiales du Tchad et de la Tanzanie.

- **Alpha Telecom arrive enfin**

Alors que la troisième licence malienne était attribuée [depuis 2012 à Apollinaire Compaoré](#), la mise en service du nouvel opérateur s'est faite plus qu'attendre. C'est finalement en ce 28 décembre que le groupe burkinabè Alpha Communication tentera de se faire une place entre le français Orange et Maroc Télécom.

De son côté, Stéphane Richard, le patron d'Orange, interrogé par *Jeune Afrique*, avait cité le Bénin comme « cible potentielle » pour son groupe.

- **Wari/Millicom, une affaire en suspens**

Si le retrait de Millicom, propriétaire de la marque Tigo, n'a été qu'une formalité en RDC, il a abouti au Sénégal à une véritable guerre – par communiqués interposés – entre l'opérateur et le groupe sénégalais de transfert d'argent. Cela après que Millicom a annoncé, le 31 juillet, l'annulation du contrat de vente de Tigo Sénégal, conclu [le 7 février](#) avec Wari et la cession de Tigo à un consortium contrôlé par Yerim Sow, Xavier Niel et la famille Hiridjee. Chaque société estime depuis être dans son droit : alors que Tigo Sénégal assure que le non-respect des échéances de paiement par Wari lui permettait d'annuler la vente en toute légalité, le groupe sénégalais de transfert d'argent assure avoir strictement observé les conditions du contrat de vente.

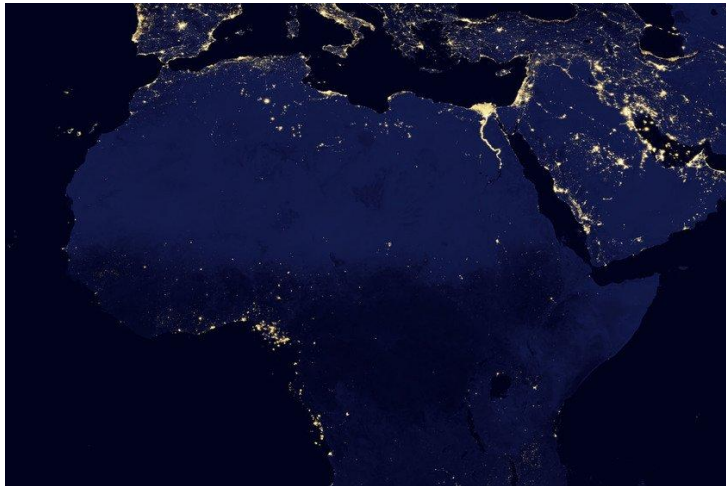
[En novembre, chacune des deux parties a appelé la Cour internationale de la Chambre de commerce internationale de Paris.](#)

- **MTN Bénin, un avenir incertain**

Le 7 novembre, l'Autorité de régulation des communications électroniques et de la poste (Arcep) du Bénin a ouvert une procédure de sanction contre la filiale locale de MTN, à qui elle reproche de n'avoir pas payé 134,435 milliards de francs CFA (205 millions d'euros) de redevances annuelles de gestion et

d'utilisation des fréquences, au titre des années 2016 et 2017. Mais la filiale du groupe sud-africain risque aussi la suspension de sa licence, et a vu son directeur général, [le Sud-Africain Stephen Blewett, sommé de quitter le territoire.](#) Ce dernier a depuis été remplacé par Euloge Ahouantchede, mais la crise n'est pas close...(JA 27-12-2017)

NIGERIA IN TOTAL BLACKOUT AFTER PRESIDENT PRAISES NEW CAPACITY



Africa's most populous country experienced a total power outage this week after a pipeline fire caused its entire grid to trip.

The blackout happened the day after Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari celebrated record levels of generating capacity in his New Year speech.

Most power in Nigeria, a country of approximately 181 million people, is generated by gas-fired thermal stations.

The fire on 2 January in the pipeline system near Okada in Edo State necessitated a shutdown of gas supply to six such stations, and the resulting loss of generation caused the national transmission system to trip at around 8.20pm, the country's power ministry said, [reports](#) online newspaper, *The Cable*.

By the following morning power had been restored in many parts of the country, other reports said.

In his New Year speech, President Buhari celebrated record levels of power generation.

"On December 8, 2017 the country achieved 5,155MW of power delivered to consumers, the highest level ever recorded," he said, reports *The Cable*.

The president listed several moribund power projects that have been revived, the expansion of plants through private investments, and a new wind-power scheme due to be operational this year.

He also praised the landmark, [3GW Mambilla Hydroelectric project](#), planned for decades, now being financed and built by a Chinese joint venture, with completion targeted for 2023. (BD 04-01-2018)

MAROC : RABAT N'EST PAS UN PARADIS (FISCAL)

Le Maroc a échappé de justesse à la liste noire des paradis fiscaux établie par l'Union européenne, le 5 décembre dernier. Les députés européens estiment que le pays s'est engagé à prendre des mesures concrètes afin de se conformer aux normes de l'OCDE en matière fiscale.



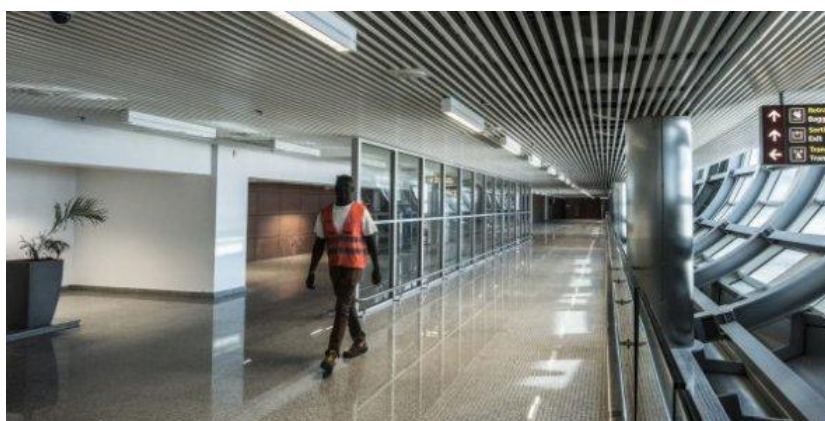
Mohamed Boussaid, le ministre marocain de l'Economie et des Finances

En établissant leur liste noire des paradis fiscaux, qui comprend 17 États ([dont la Tunisie](#)), les ministres des Finances de l'UE avaient d'abord considéré que les facilités fiscales que le Maroc accorde aux entreprises européennes installées sur son sol encourageaient d'éventuelles fraudes.

« Or c'est une mesure de compétitivité économique pour nous. L'UE ne peut tout de même pas condamner les fondements de notre politique industrielle ! » objectait une source diplomatique marocaine. Au terme d'âpres négociations, Rabat a pu obtenir que ce point précis fasse l'objet de « discussions approfondies » et que les exemples d'évasion fiscale repérés par l'UE soient examinés « au cas par cas ».

Le 2 décembre, soit trois jours avant la publication de cette liste – établie sur la base d'un simple questionnaire envoyé aux pays partenaires en juin –, [Mohamed Boussaid, le ministre marocain de l'Économie et des Finances](#), a envoyé un courrier à ses pairs européens, leur donnant suffisamment d'assurances pour qu'ils renoncent à mettre le Maroc à l'index. Le royaume s'est engagé à se conformer aux normes de l'OCDE en matière fiscale et à signer une convention d'échanges d'informations fiscales avec l'UE d'ici à 2019.(JA 04-01-2018)

AERIEN : COMMENT PRENDRE DE L'ALTITUDE ?



L'un des espaces de transit du nouvel aéroport Blaise-Diagne, à Dakar

Pour le ciel africain, tout se joue au niveau régional. Encore fragile, le marché est dopé par un trafic croissant et des partenariats entre compagnies. Reste à développer les infrastructures et à diminuer le prix des billets.

C'est sur les pistes flambant neuves [du nouvel aéroport international Blaise-Diagne de Dakar \(AIBD\), inauguré le 7 décembre 2017, qu'Air Sénégal va déployer ses ailes](#). Après l'échec des deux précédentes tentatives, [le pays tente de faire redécoller sa compagnie nationale en misant sur le long-courrier](#). « Dakar a toute sa place pour assurer des correspondances vers le Cap-Vert et la Mauritanie,

mais on constate aussi un développement des flux Sud-Sud vers le Moyen-Orient, l'Asie et l'Amérique du Sud », remarque Christophe Leloup, directeur régional d'Emirates à Dakar, devenu un hub logistique de la compagnie en direction de l'Amérique du Sud.

Portés par une croissance du secteur attendue à plus de 6 % par an dans la région, les aéroports s'agrandissent, comme à Lomé, et les compagnies cherchent à reprendre de la hauteur.

Ces transporteurs ont bien sûr à l'esprit les succès de la compagnie panafricaine Asky et d'Air Côte d'Ivoire

[Cédée pour un franc symbolique par le Fonds Aga Khan à l'État, Air Burkina](#) cherche à élargir sa flotte. En s'appuyant sur un plan de développement élaboré par Boeing, la compagnie camerounaise Camair-Co a relancé ses lignes domestiques et régionales et reprendra ses vols intercontinentaux dans un second temps. Enfin, début 2018, une compagnie béninoise doit prendre son envol, fruit du joint-venture entre le gouvernement de Cotonou et Rwandair.

Succès

Ces transporteurs ont bien sûr à l'esprit [les succès de la compagnie panafricaine Asky et d'Air Côte d'Ivoire](#). Toutes deux ont trouvé leur place en s'appuyant sur un hub régional qui leur permet d'accueillir les passagers d'une autre compagnie et de les redistribuer dans la région. « Sur dix personnes voyageant avec Air Côte d'Ivoire, six viennent d'Abidjan. Nous ne devons aller en chercher que quatre dans la sous-région pour remplir nos avions », explique René Décurey, directeur général du transporteur ivoirien.

Outre son partenariat stratégique avec Air France, Air Côte d'Ivoire a signé un accord avec [Ethiopian Airlines](#) pour attirer du trafic en provenance des États-Unis. La compagnie devrait transporter 850 000 passagers et atteindre les 100 milliards de F CFA (152 millions d'euros) de chiffre d'affaires en 2017.

Écrasés par les taxes

Pourtant, si ces sociétés recueillent les fruits de leurs efforts, leurs conditions d'opération restent difficiles. « L'effet hub nous permet de remplir nos avions, mais nous perdons encore de l'argent. Nous sommes écrasés par les taxes aéroportuaires, qui représentent 55 % du prix du billet et nous obligent à maintenir des tarifs relativement élevés.

Les opérateurs tablent sur une augmentation irréversible du trafic

Ce qui rend l'avion encore inaccessible à une large partie de la population », regrette René Décurey. Air Côte d'Ivoire et Rwandair entendent tout de même devenir rentables dès 2018.

Certains constructeurs ou poids lourds des airs, tels qu'Ethiopian Airlines, soutiennent économiquement ou techniquement des compagnies régionales qui, sans ces appuis, auraient du mal à se développer, comme la future Air Tchad. Pour justifier de tels investissements, les opérateurs tablent sur une augmentation irréversible du trafic, alors que la modernisation des aéroports doit aussi faire émerger de nouvelles activités commerciales et apporter de nouvelles recettes. De quoi provoquer une baisse du prix du billet d'avion et une hausse des revenus pour les compagnies.(JA 29-12-2018)

ANGOLA SOVEREIGN FUND ACHIEVES POSITIVE RESULTS IN Q3

The Sovereign Fund of Angola posted a positive result of US\$40.5 million in the third quarter of 2017, with total assets at the end of September of US\$5.03 billion, the institution said in a statement released on Wednesday.

The statement added that the "favourable performance" is due to the good results obtained from capital investments in securities, which generated a gross margin of US\$117.5 million.

José Filomeno dos Santos, Chairman of the Board of Directors, said in the statement that the "favourable performance and profitability" registered since 2016 "continued during the third quarter of 2017."

The statement noted that 48% of the Fund's capital was invested in assets in sub-Saharan Africa, 31% in North America, 15% in Europe and the remaining 6% in the rest of the world.

The Angola Sovereign Fund was set up with an initial allocation of US\$5 billion and José Filomeno dos Santos was nominated to lead it 2012 by his father and then Angolan head of state, José Eduardo dos Santos. (21-12-2017)

AFDB TO RAISE \$8B FROM CAPITAL MARKETS IN 2018

The Board of Directors of the African Development Bank (AfDB) has approved the Bank's 2018 borrowing programme for \$8 billion to be raised from capital markets, according to a press release from the Bank seen by APA on Thursday.

The AfDB provides financial assistance to its member countries by mobilizing resources primarily from the capital markets under its annual borrowing programme.

The African Development Bank is rated triple-A by all the major international rating agencies (Fitch, Moody's and Standard and Poor's), and accesses a wide array of capital markets with the bulk of its issuance in US dollars, Euros, Australian dollars and pound sterling.

The Bank has also shown a strong commitment to socially responsible investment programmes with a proven track record of successful issuance in green bonds over the past five years.

"We have stepped up our profile in the international capital markets, and will continue to raise funds across the globe to provide cost effective resources to our clients", said Hassatou N'Sele, the acting vice president Finance and Treasurer of the AfDB Group.

The Bank recently launched a Social Bond programme focused on meeting the critical development challenges that Africa is facing, and that are at the heart of the Bank's social mandate.

The AfDB has also used its 'High 5' operational priorities as a platform to launch theme bonds in 2017, including 'Improve the Quality of the Life for the People of Africa' bonds, 'Industrialize Africa' bonds and a 'Light Up and Power Africa' bond for which it received an award.

The AfDB will continue to explore the prospects for African currency bonds to facilitate the financing of its local currency operations, and promote the development of domestic bond markets across Africa. (APA 21-12-2017)

SOUTH AFRICA: ANC IS TECHNICALLY INSOLVENT, FINANCIAL REPORT SHOWS

The organisation is also R215m in debt and had a deficit of R47m over the past financial year

The ANC is technically insolvent as its liabilities exceed the value of its assets, according to the financial report tabled by outgoing treasurer-general Zweli Mkhize to the ANC national conference on Sunday.

Mkhize says in his report that "a process of updating the valuation of our assets will soon need to be undertaken to ensure that the situation is regularised".

The organisation is also R215m in debt and had a deficit of R47m over the past financial year. This was despite a debt-management programme over the past five years that brought debt down from the 2013 level of R249m.

But two election campaigns over the period and several conferences saw debt balloon again by 2017.

The ANC's election campaigns have been an enormous drain on its finances.

The party spent R750m on the national and municipal election campaigns, both held in the past five years.

A feature of campaign rallies has become the distribution of free T-shirts that together with other promotional material cost R250m. The financial report was first reported on by City Press at the weekend.

The R47m deficit for 2017 came despite a record five years of fund raising in which the ANC collected R2.6bn in revenue, mainly from private donations. Fund-raising income amounted to R1.69bn.

The ANC, like all political parties in SA, does not disclose the identities of its funders.

However, R443m came from the Independent Electoral Commission, which funds political parties on the basis of their size, and R80m came from the Progressive Business Forum — which hosts corporate dinners at which business people can interact with ANC leaders.

Debt management had helped to bring legal costs down over the five-year period, says the report, although these rose again to R11.2m in 2017 due to new litigation.

Over the five-year period, the ANC faced more than R80m in legal claims from creditors, which it settled for R62m.

Some of these cases dated back to the unpaid bills for the 2007 ANC national conference, the ANC Youth League Conference in 2008 and the national election in 2009.

In the report, Mkhize suggests that the ANC needs to modernise and restructure itself in order to live within its means.

One possible solution under discussion, which was reported by the Sunday Times last week, was that the ANC's investment arm, Chancellor House, sell its assets and place the funds in an endowment.

The main remaining asset of Chancellor House is United Manganese of Kalahari — which is jointly owned with Russian company Renova.

This is a large manganese mine in the Northern Cape with an estimated value of about R10bn.

It is unclear, though, how much Chancellor House still holds as it is believed to have diluted its stake over the years. (BD 20-12-2017)

KENYA AIRWAYS, AIR MAURITIUS EXTEND CODE-SHARE PACT

Kenya Airways and Air Mauritius on Thursday signed an MOU to extend their collaboration, in a bid to offer their customers more possibilities for connections at their hubs in Nairobi and Mauritius.

The two airlines already have a longstanding code-share agreement, under which Kenya Airways placed its code on the three-weekly flights operated by Air Mauritius on the Mauritius-Nairobi route.

Air Mauritius uses Nairobi as a hub from where it offers connections to a number of destinations in Eastern and Central Africa through the KQ network. Kenya Airways also uses Mauritius as a platform to connect on the Air Mauritius network.

“Kenya Airways is working toward strengthening its network and consolidating Nairobi’s position as a leading hub in East Africa. The networks of both our airlines are complementary, and we are confident that this agreement will allow us find the synergies for us to grow our respective networks,” said Kenya Airways Group managing director and CEO Sebastian Mikosz.

“This agreement is in line with the country’s Vision 2030 and our network strategy to tap into the emerging opportunities in Africa. Kenya Airways is a strong player on the continent, and has a solid network that can give us better access to East Africa, Central Africa and very soon to the USA. We value our partnership with Kenya Airways and are looking forward to take it to another level,” declared Air Mauritius CEO Somas Appavou.

The agreement was signed by the CEOs from both airlines and witnessed by Mike Seetaramadoo, EVP Commercial and Resource Optimization at Air Mauritius, and Vincent Coste, Kenya Airways Chief Commercial Officer. (APA 21-12-2017)

KENYAN WORKERS' STRIKE HALTS CHINESE RAILWAY PROJECT

Construction stopped on a major rail scheme in Kenya this week after hundreds of workers went on strike against the Chinese contractor.

The strike over pay and conditions follows the deaths last month of two workers on the project who were crushed when a culvert collapsed



Today, for the second day, more than 800 workers vowed not to return to building the 120km standard gauge railway (SGR) from the capital Nairobi inland to the town of Navaisha in the northeast until their grievances were addressed, news site, *Standard*, [reports](#).

As well as better pay and safety provisions, the workers complained that the contractor, China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC), a subsidiary of the giant China Communications Construction Company (CCCC), had been transporting them to site in open lorries.

In response, CCCC said today that it would be providing buses.



“We are exposed to many dangers as was proven two weeks ago. The Labour ministry should intervene,” one of the workers striking at Mai Mahiu, Navaisha, referring to the fatalities in December, [told](#) newspaper *The Star* when the disturbance began.

Two workers died and four were injured at Mai Mahiu on 18 December when a culvert on the line collapsed. One worker told *The Star* that the victims did not have [helmets or protective gear](#), and that the affected structure was weak following heavy rains.

This was denied, however, by the managing director of Kenya Railways Corporation, Atanus Maina, who [told](#) Capital FM that an abnormally strong wind caused the collapse.

Maina also refuted claims the workers were not properly equipped with safety gear, but said CRBC would conduct a safety compliance check.

CCCC been responding to the strike on social media. In a [statement](#) by spokesman Steve Zhao published on Facebook today it said: “The workers have raised a number of issues as the reason to their strike and we have taken up the issues in a responsible approach.”

The company said it adheres to Kenyan labour laws and has “spared no effort to ensure that we offer our staff the best possible working conditions”.

On the issue of pay, CCCC said it “varies depending on the skill level and position in the company”, but that it was “looking into the claims that there is a disparity in remuneration from one sub-section to the other”.

Today the company also said it had arranged four 50-seater buses to transport workers, and plans to procure more.



This week CCCC has been using site photographs to show its concern for worker welfare

Since the strike began the company has also taken to Twitter to assert its concern for [worker safety, health and welfare](#). It has made no statement on the 18 December fatalities via social media.

The Nairobi-Navaisha SGR is part of Kenya's grand plan for a railway stretching from its commercial and port hub of Mombasa all the way to its landlocked neighbours, through Nairobi. The Chinese-built Mombasa-Nairobi leg [opened to great fanfare](#) in May 2017.

After Navaisha, the line will extend to the Uganda border.

The contract to build the leg running northeast from Nairobi was awarded to CCCC in March 2016, but it has been the subject of local tension. In August that year the Kenyan government halted work on the Nairobi-Navaisha line when locals angry about not getting jobs [attacked Chinese workers](#).

Last month Kenya's President Uhuru Kenyatta said he wanted the Nairobi-Navaisha line [finished by June 2019](#).(CGR 05-01-2018)

CAMEROON: AFRICAN STANDBY FORCE LOGISTICS BASE TO BE OPENED

The inauguration of the African Standby Force (FAA) Continental Logistics Base created by the African Union (AU), is scheduled for early 2018 as ongoing infrastructure works are being completed, Cameroonian Defence Minister Joseph Assi Assomo announced Thursday.

"The implementation rate of Cameroon's initial commitments is exceeded. They are even more than 100 percent completed because the country has had to carry out additional work for very high sums at the request of the AU Commission, on the instruction of the head of state".

In other words, "we are only waiting for the inauguration of these structures which should happen shortly as soon as the AU decides," he added.

According to sources close to the project, this ceremony could take place in January 2018, before the first AU summit of the year.

Inauguration will lead to the installation of the project's start-up team, which will have a role to play in the African Union's peacekeeping operations in humanitarian or disaster preparedness interventions.

On October 12, 2015 the Cameroonian government and the African Union signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) requiring Cameroon to carry out a number of activities, including making available to the project land and state facilities.

Consequently, ten hectares on the Douala Airbase were made available to the AU for the deployment of the FAA. (APA 21-12-2017)

AFRICA'S LARGEST WIND POWER PLANT COULD RELOCATE FROM KENYA TO TANZANIA

Kenya's failure to approve the development of a 600MW offshore wind farm in Malindi, south-east of the country, has resulted in the developers considering moving the project to Tanzania.

Swedish firm, VR holding AB, which was set to construct Africa's largest wind power plant in Malindi, southeastern Kenya at a staggering Kshs. 253 Billion (\$2.4 B); making it the most expensive private funded project in east Africa; has since changed its plans.

According to Kenya's Business Daily the firm is moving the project to Tanzania, which shares the coastline with Kenya citing frustration to their efforts by Kenyan authorities. An executive at the company, Victoria Rikede said "We have opted to look for offshore solutions for Tanzania, Kenya is proving to be a very difficult place and besides the grid is too weak to absorb all the power produced and therefore mini-grids is the solution right now."

Kenyan officials are reported to have seen issues with the plants viability. The officials argued that the power plant would leave the country with excess power thus forcing consumers to pay billions annually for under utilized electricity. According to the official, it would defeat the purpose of clean cheap energy.

"The company was to give us a proposal for a smaller capacity plant of 50MW. They are yet to do so," said Isaac Kiva, the director of renewable energy at the ministry.

Kenya's renewable energy framework only provides for small and medium sized projects under the feed-in-tariff (FIT) system which fixes prizes for wind and solar energy of up to a capacity of 50 megawatts. Therefore at a cost of 3.2 Million Euros or Kshs. 423 Million per megawatt the 600 megawatt offshore project would be too expensive.

In rejecting the mega power plant, the ministry considered a phased implementation that brings power on stream gradually, in tandem with growth in consumer demand. Kiva added: "Wind is an intermittent power source and, therefore, we cannot approve such a big plant in one location since it will come with huge costs tied to power supply reliability and transmission."

The only other renewable energy project above 50 megawatt in the country is the 310 megawatt project in Lake Turkana built at a cost of Kshs. 70 Billion. Although completed, the plant unfortunately is yet to be utilized due to a lack of a transmission line costing consumers approximately Kshs. 5.7 Billion in fines.

However, once operational the project is set to provide the 310 megawatts (MW) of renewable power to the Kenyan national grid. "It is the largest wind farm in Africa (and) it has 365 turbines," Carlo Van Wageningen, director and board member at Lake Turkana Wind Power, told CNBC's Sustainable Energy. "We are hoping to soon see the transmission line completed so that Kenya will be able to benefit from this cheap source of power," he added.

Tanzania's acting commissioner for Energy and Petroleum Affairs, Innocent Luoga, told The Citizen that the investors had yet to officially communicate with his office. Luoga said: "When it happens, I am sure they will most definitely approach Tanesco [Tanzania Electric Supply Company], who will in turn inform us [the government] to plan a meeting."

Worker in Geothermal Plant in Olkaria Kenya photo credit wikimedia commons

The potential of wind power in terms of reducing carbon emissions is significant. According to the Global Wind Energy Council, in 2016 wind power helped the planet avoid more than 637 million tonnes of CO2 emissions. Although Kenya may lose out on this project the country is still in the race towards cleaner sources of energy ranking third globally in geothermal energy capacity and number one in Africa by the Renewables Global Status report, 2017.

Meaning whichever of the two countries gets to house the project, the goal is ultimately to reduce carbon emissions even further, which is a win win for all parties involved. (CRO 16-11-2017)

NIGERIAN STARTUP FARMCROWDY SECURES \$1MILLION IN SEED FUNDING

Farmcrowdy, Nigeria's first digital agriculture platform, which allows Nigerians to venture in and sponsor agriculture, announced that it had closed on seed funding of \$1 million from international and local investors including Cox Enterprises, Techstars Ventures, Social Capital, Hallett Capital and Right-Side

Capital; as well as angel investors Tyler Scriven, Michael Cohn, Josephine Group, FC Agro Allied SPV and Dr. Christof Walter.



Nigerian startup Farmcrowdy closes on seed funding of \$1 million.

Launched just over 12 months ago, Farmcrowdy, connects small scale farmers with sponsors, who invest in farm cycles. A farm cycle can be anything from poultry [3-5 months] to cassava [9 months]. The farmers receive on-the-ground advice from Farmcrowdy's Technical Field Specialists who also give them training in better agriculture practices and provide them with quality farm input. Prior to harvest, Farmcrowdy works with pre-arranged buyers who assist the farmers sell their yield at harvest and earn a decent margin. The sponsor then gets their original sponsorship +40% of the profit from the harvest, the farmer receives 40% of the profit and Farmcrowdy receives 20% of the profit. Farm sponsors can get between 6-25% returns after harvest depending on the farm type they sponsor.

The brainchild of Nigerian serial entrepreneur Onyeka Akumah, revealed that Farmcrowdy has to-date recorded close to 1,000 unique farm sponsors from Nigerians in Nigeria, the US and UK. The company has aggregated a combined 4,000 acres of farmland across 8 states in Nigeria and worked with more than 2,000 small scale farmers. Having raised over 250,000 organic chickens on its poultry farm cycles, Farmcrowdy continues to disrupt the agriculture sector through partnering with Nigerians locally and globally to build a community model for the empowerment of local farmers, and the boosting and production of food for Nigerians, while impacting positively on the lives of farmers and their families.

The seed fund will allow the startup to scale its operations with plans to expand into a combined 20 states in Nigeria, work with 4,000 additional small-scale farmers and engage a combined 20,000 new farm followers and farm sponsors on its platform to learn about the opportunities in Agriculture and partner with farmers.

Onyeka Akumah, Co-Founder and CEO of Farmcrowdy speaking on the investment said "The seed announcement is a remarkable milestone for us and Nigeria's Agritech industry as a whole – especially having just celebrated the anniversary of our first year of operations in November 2017. It will allow us to build on our earlier traction as we continue to introduce Nigerians to this exciting new category of partnering with farmers for impact and return. We are happy to amplify our work with the farmers across new states in Nigeria while empowering local farmers by hiring more agriculture technology experts to impart knowledge to ensure best practice in farming methods. We're thrilled that as a Nigerian startup operating for just over a year, we have a group of investors who share in the vision and mission of Farmcrowdy as much as we do."

Farmcrowdy recently launched their [first mobile app](#) which provides an accessible platform for agriculture enthusiasts to experience, learn, do their farming business with real farmers and appreciate agriculture practice first-hand through regular updates, images and videos from the farms. There is now the opportunity for Farm sponsors and farm followers to digitally track the progress of their sponsored farms from their mobile devices. The app has seen close to 5,000 downloads in the 3 weeks since launch, positioning the startup to take on more farm followers and sponsors both locally in Nigeria and globally. (ITNA 19-12-2017)

ITALIAN COURT ORDERS SHELL, ENI TO FACE TRIAL OVER \$1.3BN MALABU SCANDAL

An Italian judge has ordered Shell and an Italian oil giant, Eni to stand trial over alleged corruption in the \$1.3 billion controversial sale of Oil Prospecting Licence (OPL) 245.

The Chief Executive of Eni, Claudio Descalzi, is among several current and former executives charged, as well as the two companies.

A local newspaper, the Independent said on Thursday that the case involved the 2011 purchase by Eni and Shell of OPL-245 offshore oilfield – one of Africa’s most valuable oil blocks – for about \$1.3 billion.

Besides the two companies, 13 people including Eni CEO Claudio Descalzi and former Chairman of the Shell Foundation Malcolm Brinded were put on trial.

An Italian prosecutor filed preliminary charges against the two companies and individuals last February. The judge ruled on Wednesday that the case should go to trial, starting in Milan on March 5.

The Eni and Shell have denied any wrongdoing.

Under the Italian law, a company can be held responsible if it is deemed to have failed to prevent, or attempt to prevent, a crime by an employee that benefited the company.

Shell said in a statement that it was disappointed at the outcome of the hearing, but added it believed the judges would conclude there was no case against the group or its former employees.

The report quoted Eni as reiterating that its CEO had not been involved in any wrongdoing. It said the board had full confidence in Descalzi, who at the time of the deal was head of exploration and production.

The OPL-245 licence was initially awarded in 1998 by former Nigerian oil minister, Dan Etete, to Malabu Oil and Gas, a company in which he held shares. It was later sold to Shell and Eni.

However, campaign group Global Witness and others say much of the \$1.3 billion in payments for the block did not go to the Federal Government of Nigeria, but instead went to Etete, who was convicted of money laundering in a 2007 French case related to his time in the Nigerian government.

The deal is the focus of investigations in Nigeria and the Netherlands as well as Italy and has been alleged by anti-corruption campaigners to be an example of international oil companies conspiring with Federal Government officials to plunder the country’s natural resources. (APA 21-12-2017)

NIGERIAN OIL FIRM ANNOUNCES PLANS TO BUILD 4,600MW POWER PLANTS

The state-run Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) has announced plans to build power generating plants with combined capacity for 4,600 megawatts in Abuja, Kaduna and Kano states.

The Group Managing Director of the NNPC, Dr. Maikanti Baru, told the Niger State Governor, Mr. Abubakar Bello, who called on him in Abuja on Wednesday that the Corporation resolved to invest in the power sector due to the construction of the Ajaokuta-Abuja-Kaduna-Kano Gas Pipeline,

He said that the project, which will be executed in partnership with private investors, would support the Nigerian Government’s effort to provide stable electricity across the country.

“As part of the drive to establish power plants to augment the power supply to the nation, the Federal Executive Council has recently approved the Gas Pipeline project to be financed through public-private partnership.

“The project comes with other auxiliary ones, which include 1,350MW, 900MW and 2,350MW of power generation plants in Abuja, Kaduna and Kano, respectively,” a statement by the NNPC quoted Baru as saying.

According to Baru, the NNPC and the private investors will also build fertilizer plants in some parts of the country, one of which will be located at Izzon in Niger State.

Baru disclosed that in line with the presidential mandate on oil exploration in all the frontier basins, the Corporation was well-focused on exploration in the Bida Basin and would carry out the job professionally.

“We have contracted the geological mapping of the Bida Basin to the Ibrahim Babangida University, Lapai, and the job will be completed in three months,” he said.

Earlier, Bello said that the essence of the visit was to get first-hand information on the NNPC’s plans for oil exploration in the Bida Basin and to solicit the Corporation’s support in finding alternative parking spaces for tankers along the highways and communities in the state. (APA 21-12-2017)

MEDREG HIGHLIGHTS THE IMPORTANCE OF STRONG REGULATOR TO ACCOMPANY TUNISIA'S ENERGY TRANSITION



On 15 December, the MEDREG Secretariat, represented by Ms Daphné Lacroix in a Panel 2 entitled “**How to create a vast Euro-Mediterranean energy zone: Governance, regulation, infrastructure?**” highlighted the importance of establishing a clear, transparent and predictable regulatory framework to create the conditions of the energy transition and the RES objectives set by Tunisia.

Organized by Solidar Tunisie, a parliamentary think tank based in Tunis, the purpose of this meeting was to promote the dialogue between the main energy actors in Tunisia and at the Mediterranean level. A large part of the panellists, including Mr Riadh Mouakhar, the Tunisian Environment Minister, recommended the creation of a regulator.

MEDREG renewed its will to further support the Tunisian authorities in that process and involve them more in our activities.

Other participants included the Head of EU Delegation in Tunis, the Ambassador of Italy to Tunisia, representatives of the Tunisian Energy Ministry, the UfM Secretariat, STEG, DG ENER, and MEPs.

MEDREG, which benefits from the European Union's financial support, brings together 25 regulators from 21 countries, spanning the European Union (EU), the Balkans and North Africa. Mediterranean regulators work together to promote greater harmonization of the regional energy markets and legislations, seeking progressive market integration in the Euro-Mediterranean basin. Through constant cooperation and information exchange among members, MEDREG aims at fostering consumer rights, energy efficiency, infrastructure investment and development, based on secure, safe, cost-effective and environmentally sustainable energy systems. (MedReg 19-12-2017)

[MedReg](#)

POUR MOODY'S, LE CONGO RISQUE LE DEFAULT DE PAIEMENT SUR SES DETTES PRIVEES



Logo de l'agence de notation financière Moody's, à New York

L'agence de notation Moody's a déclaré, dans une analyse annuelle publiée ce lundi, que le profil de crédit du gouvernement de la République du Congo présentait un risque de défaut élevé. L'agence de notation a pointé les risques de pertes pour les créanciers privés, à cause d'une crise de liquidité aiguës et d'un bilan fragile.

« [Le choc pétrolier a eu un impact négatif significatif](#) sur le profil de crédit de la République du Congo. En cause, la forte dépendance du pays au pétrole, qui génère 36% du PIB, 33% des recettes de l'État et 80% de ses exportations », a déclaré Lucie Villa, directrice adjointe, analyste principale chez Moody's, et co-rédactrice du rapport. « Par ailleurs, [les paiements manqués concernant l'Eurobond 2029](#) reflètent les faiblesses institutionnelles du pays », a-t-elle ajouté.

L'agence rappelle les piètres performances du pays concernant l'efficacité du gouvernement, l'État de droit, la lutte contre la corruption et la qualité des réglementations, selon les indicateurs de gouvernance mondiaux de la Banque mondiale.

« Faiblesse de la gouvernance publique »

« [La faible transparence des données](#), les passifs financiers importants, les dépenses non déclarées et les antécédents du gouvernement en matière de paiements manqués témoignent de la grande faiblesse de la gouvernance publique », peut-on lire dans le communiqué.

Moody's pointe également les faiblesses budgétaires du pays, caractérisées par d'importants déficits publics qui ont fragilisé le bilan du gouvernement. « Vu la lenteur de la réaction budgétaire du gouvernement au choc pétrolier, Moody's s'attend à ce que les finances du pays ne s'améliorent pas dans un futur proche », ajoute le communiqué.

Programme du FMI

Moody's s'interroge également sur [la capacité du pays à conclure un programme d'aide avec le FMI](#). Et d'ajouter : « Même si le gouvernement parvenait à un accord, l'exigence du FMI en matière de viabilité de la dette pourrait entraîner une restructuration de cette dette » [qui représentait, en juin 2017, 110% du PIB du pays](#), selon l'institution de Bretton Woods.

L'agence souligne néanmoins des atouts dans le profil de crédit du pays, notamment son appartenance à la Cemac (Communauté économique et monétaire d'Afrique centrale), qui garantit une certaine stabilité macroéconomique, et le fait que le paiement des intérêts ne représentait que 2,6% des recettes du gouvernement en 2016, grâce au fait que la majorité de la dette est concessionnelle.

« Perspective négative »

« La perspective négative sur la note du pays reflète le risque accru que les créanciers du secteur privé subissent des pertes plus importantes que celles anticipées par la note Caa2 attribué au pays par Moody's », ajoute le communiqué.

L'agence de notation précise qu'elle dégradera encore la note du pays en cas d'augmentation du risque que la perte des créanciers du secteur privé dépasse 20%.

Contacté par téléphone, le porte-parole du gouvernement congolais n'était pas joignable au moment où nous publions cet article. (JA 16-10-2017)

The Memorandum is supported by the ACP-African, Caribbean, Pacific Secretariat, Chamber of Commerce Tenerife, Corporate Council on Africa, CIP-Confederation of Portuguese Enterprises, Hellenic-African Chamber of Commerce and Development, HTTC - Hungarian Trade & Cultural Centre, NABC- Netherlands-African Business Council, SwissCham-Africa and other organisations.

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



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Business Association

29th and 20th of January 2018

Addis Ababa: African Union Summit

NABA will be present in Addis Ababa during the last days of the African Union Summit. Our members are invited to take part in the Corporate Council on Africa's "U.S - Africa Business and Investment Forum" and we will support members present in Addis these days. Please email ef@norwegianafrican.no to learn more.

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