MEMORANDUM

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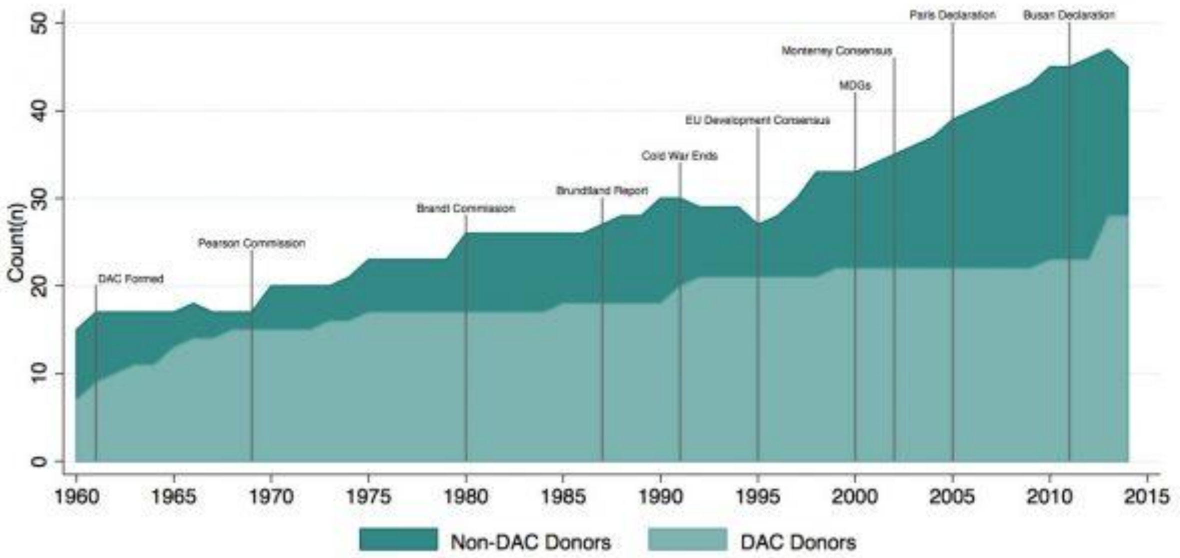
11 YEARS OF UNINTERRUPTED PUBLICATION

SUMMARY

THE RISE OF NEW FOREIGN AID DONORS: WHY DOES IT MATTER?

In 1960, the world had 20 states providing foreign aid to developing countries. In 2014, this number more than doubled to 48 official donors, which is an underestimate as it doesn't include donors like India, China and Brazil that do not report to the Development Assistance Committee (DAC).
This donor expansion occurs even as many observers worry about the relevance and impact of Official Development Assistance (ODA). This form of aid is increasingly a dirty word, synonymous with lack of innovation, dependency and corruption.
How should we make sense of the paradox of high donor growth in this loveless environment?

Figure 1: Number of donor countries reporting ODA through DAC, 1960-2014



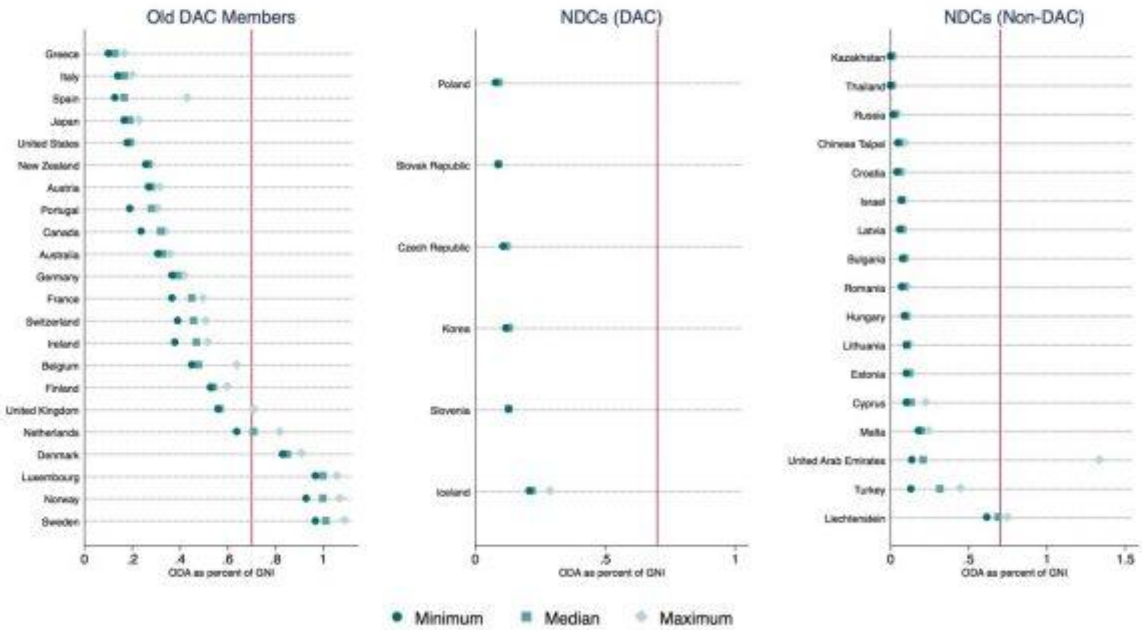
World history has ingrained donorship as something that is good, desirable and appropriate for all modern states. American President Harry Truman's inaugural speech presented aid as an obligation of all 'developed' states. Even states emerging from colonial subjugation saw the potential for identity as a donor, albeit framing their role as a 'partner' respectful of state sovereignty. This association between advanced nationhood and donorship has carried over into recent times, for example, with prospective EU members assessed by their capacity to participate in European development initiatives.
In a recent ODI paper with Liam Swiss of Memorial University, we suggest that becoming a donor is muscle-flexing on the world stage, a display of a state's financial wealth and bureaucratic capacity to assist weaker nations. This is an important reason why western democratic liberal countries are donors, why new EU members must become donors, and why even states that continue to receive aid increasingly provide it as well.
But if foreign policy status is the prime motivation for 'donorhood', what kinds of aid providers are new donors becoming in practice? Are these new players more than just donors in name? Are they adopting the donor organisational form as well as adhering to its mission critical functions? Or is the gap growing between new donors' organisational form and their functions?

The mismatch between donor form and function

We paint a sobering picture of the kinds of new donors the world is getting. In an analysis of 26 new donor countries (NDCs) over the 2010-2014 period (the best possible sample, though admittedly a restricted one), we highlight a growing gap between old and new donors' commitment to development as proxied by quantity of aid, allocation to the poorest and most fragile countries, and commitment to multilateralism.

For example, few NDCs have yet to attain the levels of generosity achieved by more established donors. NDCs that are DAC members have a median ODA/GNI ratio of 0.125% over 2010-2014, while NDCs that are not DAC members but report to the DAC have a median ratio of 0.09%. Except for Liechtenstein, Turkey and the UAE, established donors exhibit greater development largesse.

Figure 2: ODA as % of GNI by donor category, 2010-2014



NDCs also allocate less aid to the neediest nations than established donors. New donors saw less than 8% of their aid go to least developed countries and only around 10% dedicated to fragile states over 2010-2014. In contrast, established donors provided nearly 20% of their aid to LDCs and roughly the same to fragile states.

It is only in their allocation through multilateral channels that we might view NDCs expressing a stronger commitment to global development. Nonetheless, disaggregating donors by EU membership status illustrates a more nuanced allocation pattern. Non-EU NDCs provide less than 20% of their ODA through multilateral channels, in contrast to EU NDCs that disburse more than 70% of their aid multilaterally. Obligatory contributions to the EU are the main culprit for this discrepancy, suggesting restrained support for multilateralism among the wider group of NDCs.

That new donors are very different from established ones is not surprising. NDCs tend to invest bilaterally within their region, with poverty and humanitarian needs and multilateralism very much secondary objectives. They are also climbing a learning curve of unknown steepness. Nonetheless, the fact that we see little variance in aid investment or allocation patterns (with perhaps the exception of Turkey and the UAE) suggests that even as NDCs gain experience and capacity as donors, their expressed commitment is path dependent.

These results show it is plausible that NDCs are assuming the donorship mantle without a strong commitment to development in terms of ODA spending, allocation to the neediest nations and support for multilateralism. Admittedly, this analysis cannot be interpreted as suggesting that DAC donors are complying with their collective responsibilities either, where rhetoric is known to exceed reality. Nonetheless, what we observe is a decoupling between adopting to the donor form and adhering to core donor functions.

What should be done?

More donors and more aid should be a win-win for development and the aid community, especially if rumored cuts to some of the largest DAC donors' aid budgets materialise. New donors can increase the viability of the aid project and revitalise the field with new actors, instruments and forms of engagement.

And yet, more donors exhibiting less commitment to development is worrisome. Beyond the obvious risks of fragmentation and duplication, the growing gap between form and function undermines important donor obligations for which no distinction between old and new actors should be made.
Concerns are also real that the responsibilities of established donors will be downgraded to the lowest common denominator or result in a real decline in their bargaining power. A shared standard of performance could militate against such a possibility. Unfortunately, global benchmarking exercises are caught in a global politics trap, with no acceptable site for either regulating or monitoring the expanded universe of bilateral donors.
Good global citizenship on the part of all donors will clearly not happen overnight. Established donors must model behaviours and reduce the gaps between their intentions and implementation. NDCs will need to self-regulate more, ensuring their search for reputational legitimacy is not always decoupled from a strong commitment to some of the mission-critical functions of a donor. And the DAC will need to move quickly to reform along the lines of what DAC Chair Charlotte Petri Gornitzka has described as "going from being a club to a hub for development." No state should forget the ultimate purpose of becoming a donor is to act like one.(DEV 04-08-2017)

ANGOLAN AIRLINE POSTS LOSS OF US$12 MILLION IN FIRST HALF

Angolan flagship airline TAAG reported a loss of US$12 million in the first half, more than double the loss recorded in 2016, the company said in a statement issued on Thursday in Luanda.
The airline said in the statement that the unaudited financial results for the first six months of 2017 still showed "some improvements," despite the loss in the half compared to the loss of US$5 million for the entire year in 2016.
"This level of performance is much better if we compare it with historical losses of more than US$150 million in some years," said the company, which until 10 July was managed (since the end of 2015, via concession agreement) by air carrier Emirates, with Peter Hill as chairman of the board.
TAAG explained the decline of the accounts for the six-month period with a provision of 21 million euros relating to "unfunded tax liabilities abroad" for the 2010 financial year."
The Angolan company, which is expected to continue to be managed by a management committee headed by Joaquim Teixeira da Cunha, at least until the 23 August general election, following the "abrupt" exit by Emirates, said that passenger transport allowed revenue growth of 16% year-on-year and freight increased by 78%. (04-08-2017)

UN REPORTS HUNDREDS OF KILLINGS IN DRC

On Friday, the UN detailed more than 250 "extrajudicial or targeted killings" in the Democratic Republic of Congo's (DRC) Kasai region from mid-March to mid-June, counting dozens of children among the dead.
The findings, based on interviews with refugees from Kasai who had fled to Angola, blamed state agents for the murders of seven children. The refugees gave harrowing accounts of the violence in the region, which the UN warned had taken on "an increasing and disturbing ethnic dimension".
Victims recounted mutilations, including of a seven-year-old boy whose fingers were cut off, and an attack on a hospital in the village of Cinq where 90 people were killed, some because they were too injured to escape a raging fire.
Aside from government troops, the UN blamed a state-backed militia called the Bana Mura, as well as the anti-government Kamwina Nsapu militia for a range of atrocities.

"Survivors have spoken of hearing the screams of people being burned alive, of seeing loved ones chased and cut down, of themselves fleeing in terror", the UN human rights chief Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein said in a statement.

A team of UN investigators "was able to confirm that between March 12 and June 19 some 251 people were the victims of extrajudicial and targeted killings", the report said. "These included 62 children, of which 30 were aged under eight."

Regarding the murdered children, the UN said seven were killed by members of the army (FARDC) or the national intelligence service, while six died at the hands of the rebel Kamwina Nsapu. The Bana Mura militia members are blamed for the deaths of 49 minors.

"Some of the violations and abuses committed in Kasai may amount to crimes under international law," the UN said in a statement.

The violence in Kasai erupted last September after clashes resulted in the death of a Kamwina Nsapu tribal chieftain; the group then rebelled against the authority of President Joseph Kabila's regime in Kinshasa and its local representatives. The killing sparked violence that has escalated, including alleged gross violations of human rights such as rapes, torture and the use of child soldiers.

In less than a year, the violence has claimed more than 3,300 lives, according to a tally by the influential Roman Catholic Church, and displaced 1.4-million people. About 80 mass graves have been uncovered in the region.

Kabila's reluctance to organise elections has heightened tensions across the country, while the UN rights office has blasted his government for not mounting serious investigations into the Kasai crisis. (AFP 04-08-2017)

BAD LOANS INCREASE IN ANGOLA OVER THE LAST THREE YEARS

Failure to pay loans has been increasing in Angola over the last three years due to the country's macroeconomic environment, the president of asset management company Recredit – Gestão de Activos said on Wednesday in Luanda.

Recredit, founded on 11 June, 2016, in which the rights and obligations of the State, as a shareholder, are exercised by the Ministry of Finance, has been involved in the acquisition of bad loans from public banks, and can acquire problematic loans from all banks in Angola, provided they are related to processes focused on the Angolan economy.

The chairman of the company, Vicente Leitão, said in a meeting with the trade press that Recredit is not a "bad bank", which is to say, it does not buy assets to sell, but rather to recover them in terms that are of the interest to the national economy and not just of financial interest.

Leitão said that Recredit is in the process of negotiating the loans of five commercial banks: Banco de Poupança e Crédito, Banco de Comércio e Indústria, Banco Angolano de Investimentos, Banco Keve and Banco de Negócios Internacional.

The chief executive Filipe Duarte, asked about the mechanisms to be adopted in the process of charging borrowers, said that the company will always try to negotiate a solution with the borrowers, given that they end up owing to Recredit once their loan is transferred.

This negotiation, executive director Angélica Paquete said, is intended to assess the project in question, determining if an additional investment could make it feasible and whether Recredit will intervene directly or indirectly in its management. (03-08-2017)

GHANA'S AGOA STRATEGY AIMS TO BOOST JOBS, PRIVATE SECTOR GROWTH

U.S. Ambassador to Ghana Robert P. Jackson joined officials from the Ministry of Trade and Industry at a validation workshop on Ghana's African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) Strategy. The meeting brought producers, processors and exporters together with customs and government officials to discuss the implementation of Ghana's AGOA Strategy, which aims to helps Ghanaian companies take advantage of AGOA, a trade preference provided by the U.S. government to African countries allowing duty-free access to certain goods.

Ghana began developing the AGOA Strategy last year, following the renewal of AGOA for a 10-year period (2015 to 2025) by the U.S. Congress. The strategy builds on Ghana's National Export Strategy, which seeks to double the country's non-traditional export earnings to $5 billion per year. The AGOA Strategy aims to enable Ghana to make maximum use of opportunities under AGOA, with an emphasis on intensifying export development and diversification, a key initiative of the Government of Ghana's 10-point Integrated Industrial Transformation Agenda. It identifies Ghanaian industries with the greatest potential to benefit from AGOA. These industries include apparel, fisheries, horticulture, tropical fruits, specialty vegetables, root crops, vegetable fats (palm oil and shea butter), cocoa, handicrafts, and jewelry.

Successful implementation of the strategy will require collaboration between the Ministry of Trade and Industry and its agencies, notably the Ghana Export Promotion Authority, the Free Zones Board and Ghana Standards Authority. Collaboration is also required with the Customs Division of the Ghana Revenue Authority under the Ministry of Finance; Food and Drugs Authority; and the Plant Protection and Regulatory Services Directorate of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture. The Ghana Investment Promotion Centre will play a key role in attracting foreign direct investment and implementing the strategy.

"I sincerely hope that after this validation event, companies will do more to take advantage of AGOA, and that the Government of Ghana will set forth additional policies that will enable the private sector to flourish," said Ambassador Jackson at the event. "The United States is ready to work together with you to create an enabling business environment — one that will build upon Ghana's stable economic and political foundation, and create jobs for citizens of both our countries."

USAID works with the Ghanaian government and private sector to target key barriers to trade and investment and promote regional integration and trade competitiveness. It seeks to increase intra-regional African trade and exports to the United States and reduce the time it takes to import or export from ports to land-locked interiors on the continent. (US Embassy 04-08-2017)

SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE RECEIVES NEW MEDICAL TEAM FROM CHINA

São Tomé and Príncipe's Minister of Health, Maria de Jesus Trovoada, welcomed the second medical team sent by China to the West African archipelago on Wednesday and thanked the members of the first team for the support provided to the population as well as the knowledge passed on to the local medical sector staff.

The reception of the second medical team, which replaced the first one that stayed in the archipelago for six months, took place in a ceremony held in São Tomé, which was attended by the Chinese ambassador Wang Wei.

The new Chinese medical mission includes seven specialists in the fields of cardiology, stomatology, dermatology and general surgery, and now includes an acupuncture specialist.

In addition to providing services in the largest health centre in São Tomé, Ayres de Menezes Hospital, the Chinese team also provided assistance in other health centres in the archipelago.

Chinese cooperation in the health sector also includes the intervention of a Chinese team specialising in malaria action, replacing a team from Taiwan, which spent about US$1 million a year on this project.

Cooperation between São Tomé and Príncipe and China covers, in addition to health, the agriculture, energy and infrastructure sectors, tourism, fisheries and technical assistance. (03-08-2017)

ELEVATING AFRICA'S BANKABLE PROJECTS

The establishment of a regional information hub is being advocated by the NEPAD Infrastructure Project Preparation Facility (NEPAD-IPPF).

NEPAD believes this development should be used to advertise bankable projects in Africa, and has proposed that each country have a window, or channel, that is linked to its centralised information hub. They say this could help unlock bankable investment opportunities throughout the continent.

Addressing delegates at recent programming session, Shem Simuyemba, coordinator for NEPAD-IPPF, said: "It would be both a 'project hub' and a 'help desk' – a centralised IT platform for bankable projects which potential investors can access. Such a hub could be housed by the African Development Bank (AfDB) to ensure credibility and confidence by both project owners (governments) and potential investors."

The assessment and programming session was held at the AfDB Headquarters in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire on last week.

Services and bankable opportunities

Simuyemba explained that the 'one-stop-shop' initiative would not just be a listing of projects, but a differentiation of the 'financial-readiness' of the projects in terms of all the key returns that investors look for. These include assurance of transparent procurement practices, tenure, risk, returns, availability of co-financing, depth of local capital markets, among others.

"The important point to remember is that projects need to be bankable from the point of view of the person who will provide the risk capital to make the project happen," Simuyemba said. "While bankability is about figures, it is also about risk and reality and these factors all go together in making an investment decision."

He stressed the need for bankable investment opportunities in Africa and said they needed to be unlocked in order to attract regional and international investors.

Unlike other regions such as North America, Europe, Asia and Latin America which have strong private sector project developers and sponsors, the emergence of an indigenous class of trans-continental investors such as Dangote was just the beginning for Africa.

This may be attributed to a number of factors, among which is a history of state monopoly companies which crowded out the private sector and stifled its growth, heavily controlled and regulated sectors, particularly in infrastructure.

Here, infrastructure did not have the necessary enabling environment and incentives for private sector participation, and also had weak capital markets.

Unlocking investment opportunities

Unlocking investment opportunities in Africa require a number of measures to be undertaken as a matter of policy priority, Simuyemba said. He outlined three other measures to achieve this.

The first is the liberalisation of sectors which are still dominated by government. He gave examples of the information, communications and technology (ICT) sector whose liberalisation a few decades ago opened massive investment opportunities for the private sector.

He observed how African countries which had recently opened up their energy-power sectors witnessed major investments by independent power producers (IPP) and even smaller players in off-grid green energy investments.

“The transport sector for both road freight and passengers is now vibrant because it is predominantly private sector driven,” he said. “However, the same cannot be said about railways where governments still need to provide clear guidelines on an ‘open access rules’ for railway operations. Equally, despite the Yamoussoukro Decision (of an open African air transport market), investments in airport infrastructure, safety and industry have remained relatively limited.”

Simuyemba said the key to unlocking investments in these sectors was clear market rules.

Scaling up capacity

The second measure was the need to scale-up capacity for project preparation and development as Simuyemba said this was the only means to assess, package and structure the projects in such a way that there is a ‘rolling pipeline’ of bankable projects.

Speaking at a NEPAD-IPPF Project Financing Roundtable in May, investors stressed the absence of bankable-investment-ready projects tailored to the needs of public financiers, concessionaires (public-private partnerships) and the private sector.

Investors noted that the appetite to invest depended on risk considerations which were very different depending on whether the investor was a Development Finance Institution (DFI), a project developer or a private investor.

“To achieve this requires considerable scaling-up of capacities and resources for project preparation and development,” Simuyemba said. “This is a space largely neglected in terms of resources even though it has been demonstrated that US$1 committed to project preparation and development unlocks between US$80-100 in investment financing. Thus, a project with US$10 million in preparation costs can unlock between US$800 million to US$1 billion in financing depending on the sector and project location,” he explained.

He also spoke on the importance of regional markets which he said need to be created through deliberate policy reforms, enabling environment, incentives and strengthened partnerships.

Most African countries are too small to be attractive markets for major infrastructure investments or even major industries. While there was a lot of debate related to the lack of political will in the past, African countries have more recently shown a new resolve by undertaking bold reforms and also reaching consensus on major African Union (AU) continental initiatives such as the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA), the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) and the AfDB’s High 5’s.

For instance, major investments in power generation and transmission lines currently going on in Africa will achieve a greater economic impact if they are accompanied by policies to create a vibrant continental energy market whose elements are already in place through the regional power pools.

Simuyemba said that to spur industrialisation in Africa, there is need to create inter-connected trade and transport corridors to enhance efficiency and reduce transaction costs to make African industries, as well as imports and exports competitive within African, intra-regional markets and international-global markets.

While Africa has huge potential particularly in the infrastructure sector, bankable investment opportunities in Africa must be unlocked, Simuyemba stressed.

He said while there has been much talk about Sovereign Wealth Funds, Pension and Insurance Funds, and other institutional investors investing in infrastructure in Africa, this has not happened to the scale envisaged.

“These institutional investors have not been guided towards the right types of projects tailored to their specific profiles and financing needs and given the massive resources in these institutions,” Simuyemba said. “This gap needs to be bridged as a matter of urgency to unlock these funds for the much needed infrastructure investments on the continent.”(IFAT AFRICA 26-07-2017)

TUNISIA FORMALLY JOINS CREATIVE EUROPE AFTER ASSEMBLY RATIFIES AGREEMENT

Tunisia has become the first country in the Southern neighbourhood to join the EU’s Creative Europe programme, after the Assembly of the Representatives of the People last week ratified the Agreement for the country’s accession.

Accession enables Tunisian cultural and audio-visual operators to participate fully in Creative Europe's Culture sub-programme, and partially in the MEDIA sub-programme (participation limited to training, film festivals, film education and market access activities).

Tunisia now becomes the first country in the Southern Neighborhood to join this programme, which brings together 35 other countries, and has a budget of €1.46 billion for the period 2014-2020.

Creative Europe is the EU programme supporting cultural diversity and the competitiveness of the European cultural and creative sectors, and foresees the participation of countries covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP). (EEAS 03-08-2017)

Creative Europe website

UNWTO PROPOSES JOINT RESEARCHES WITH UNIVERSITY OF BOTSWANA

The United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) wants to partner with the University of Botswana in conducting joint research, especially in the tourism area, APA learnt here Thursday.

In a statement on Thursday, the university said UNWTO secretary general Taleb Rifai made the proposal during a courtesy call on University of Botswana acting vice chancellor Kgomotso Moahi on July 26.

Rifai told Moahi that the UNWTO was ready and open for joint research with University of Botswana.

"We have a fantastic reservoir of knowledge that we can tap into for this exercise," said Rifai.

He said University of Botswana could also take advantage of the tourism sector's potential to carve a niche and become a training centre of excellence in the sector. That, said Rifai, could be achieved by creating training programmes that were attractive to young people.

In response, the statement said, Moahi appreciated the idea of advancing training in the tourism sector, arguing that it would not only put UB on the map, but generate the resources Botswana needed as well.

Moahi also acknowledged the need to undertake joint researches with UNWTO. (APA 03-08-2017)

PREPARING MOROCCO'S INDUSTRY FOR THE EUROPEAN SINGLE MARKET FOR GREEN PRODUCTS

With over 500 million potential consumers, developments in the EU Single Market, such as the new EU green label framework for products, will become decisive for producers – including those in the Moroccan export industry. As part of its objective of facilitating the switch to a greener economy, the EU-funded SwitchMed project has been working with UNIDO to prepare Moroccan industries for this development.

As part of the SwitchMed programme, UNIDO organised in Rabat on 18-20 July a series of information and training days on the new EU Product Environmental Footprint (PEF) framework, attracting over 100 interested stakeholders from the Moroccan export industry, academia, government institutions and industrial federations.

Together with companies from important Moroccan export manufacturing sectors (textile, car, paper, olive oil), UNIDO will proceed with a pilot study that will measure the impacts on participating companies of the EU PEF methodology as developed so far, with findings providing a feedback to the EU in the final revision phase of the methodology.

The introduction of the PEF methodology for Moroccan companies also enables producers to compete on what needs to be improved in order to reach a similar competitiveness compared to European companies.

The EU common label and methodology for green products will enable exporters to maintain a competitive advantage on the European Single Market and to communicate this consistently to the market on same and equal terms as European companies over one label.

The **SwitchMed** sustainable consumption and production programme aims to promote a switch by the Mediterranean economies towards sustainable consumption and production patterns and green economy, including low-emission development, through demonstration and dissemination of methods that improve resource and energy efficiency. It also seeks to minimise the environmental impacts associated with the life cycle of products and services and, where possible, to promote renewable energy. (SwitchMed 02-08-2017)

ETHIOPIA, UK SIGN ENERGY COMPACT DEAL

Ethiopia's Minister of Water, Irrigation and Electricity, Dr. Engineer Sileshi Bekele on Wednesday signed an Energy Compact with British Ambassador to the East African country, Susanna Moorehead.

The compact, which is part of the UK's Energy Africa campaign, will support the acceleration of the off-grid solar market in Ethiopia by creating business and job opportunities and helping improve access to electricity for poor rural people.

The UK's Energy Africa campaign was launched in October 2015 and focuses on developing the household solar market as one of the cheapest and most effective ways of accelerating universal energy access in Africa.

With this agreement, the UK will help the government of Ethiopia achieve its ambitious energy access targets by developing partnerships with the private sector, according to a press release issued by the UK Embassy in Ethiopia.

The UK will provide support to build delivery capacity within the Government, and support businesses that wish to work in and expand this market.

Speaking following the signing ceremony Ambassador Moorehead said “this compact will support the development of the off-grid energy sector in Ethiopia. The partnership will bring together British companies, British technology and Ethiopian demand to support innovative ways of supplying clean energy to poor people in rural areas.” (APA 03-08-2017)

WORLD BANK TO FUND CONSTRUCTION OF US$ 30M COMPLEX IN KENYA

The World Bank is set to fund the construction of a US$ 30m complex in Nairobi, Kenya that will be developed by Chinese firm, Aviation Industry Corporation of China (AVIC).

The mega complex which is being overseen by the Kenya National Highways Authority (KeNHA) will house KeNHA, the Kenya Urban Roads Authority (Kura), the Kenya Rural Roads Authority (KeRRA), the Engineers Board of Kenya, the National Construction Authority (NCA) and the National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA).

The construction will see the setting up of four office blocks covering 35,000 square metres, a 500-seater auditorium and a service building.

Avic, through its subsidiary, China National Aero-Technology International Engineering Corporation (Catic), was last year declared the best and lowest bidder in a pool of 19 contractors, having offered to do all the works for that amount.

KeNHA given Green Light

KeNHA has now been given the go ahead for the works following the Public Procurement Administrative and Review Board’s (PPARB) dismissal of an application in court by local contractor, Parbat Siyani Construction Ltd.

No specifications have been given yet of where the complex will be located in Nairobi but the tender documents indicate that Catic will be required to complete works in 15 months.

KeNHA will then have 12 months after occupation to notify the Chinese company of any defects.

About AVIC

(AVIC) is a Chinese state-owned aerospace and defense company, ranked 159th place in the Fortune Global 500 lists.

The company is centered on aviation and provides complete services to customers in many sectors – from research and development to operation, manufacturing and financing. Their business units cover defense, transport aircrafts, helicopters, avionics and systems, general aviation, research and development, flight testing, trade and logistics, assets management, finance services, engineering and construction, automobiles and more.

The World Bank Group is a unique global partnership fighting poverty worldwide through sustainable solutions.(CRO 01-08-2017)

US FIRM INKS NATURAL GAS EXPLORATION DEALS WITH MOZAMBICAN GOV’T

US group Anadarko Petroleum says it has signed two agreements with the Mozambican government authorising the design, construction and operation of offshore facilities for a natural gas project in the north of the southern African country.

In a statement on Thursday, the group's vice-president Mitch Ingram said the two agreements are a milestone on the road to a final investment decision for the project "as it marks the completion of the key parts of the framework agreement with the Mozambican government."

He said "the group can start the process of re-housing the population to allow for construction of the natural gas processing unit to begin."

Ingram revealed that at the same time contacts would be made to secure sales agreements for liquefied natural gas "and efforts will be intensified to ensure the necessary funding for the project to go ahead."

"We must make a final investment decision as soon as the sales contracts and the necessary financing have been guaranteed," Ingram said.

Mozambique made one of the world's biggest gas finds in a decade in 2010 but negotiations with Anadarko and Italian firm Eni have dragged on for years due to disputes over terms and concerns about falling energy prices.

The Anadarko Petroleum group is the main operator of the Rovuma Basin Area 1 Block where it owns a 26.5 percent stake, with the remaining partners being Mozambican state-owned Empresa Nacional de Hidrocarbonetos, Mitsui E & P Mozambique Area 1 Ltd, ONGC Videsh Ltd, Bharat PetroResources Ltd, Thailand's PTT Exploration & Production Plc, and Oil India Ltd. (APA 03-08-2017)

TANZANIA PORTS AUTHORITY TO CONSTRUCT EXTENSIVE DRY PORT AT KATOSHO

Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) has plans to construct an extensive dry port at Katosho, Kigoma. The port will be termed as one among the biggest investment made by the authority in modern times.

The project plan

According to Moris Nchindiuza, Kigoma Acting Ports Manager, TPA has finalized plans for the enormous forthcoming project to be constructed. However, the dry port will not only serve Tanzania, but also the East African countries as well as the Great Lake region.

The port will be of great significance particularly to the land locked countries of Uganda, Burundi and Rwanda. Other countries that will benefit from the project as well include Zaire and Zambia.

The compensation

Currently, TPA has disbursed US$5.4mn for compensation directed to 1228 affected people. The affected people are those whose lands have been taken over by the government at Katosho and Kigoma to pave way for the construction of the port.

Out of the 1228 affected people 1196 have already received their money. The remaining31 are yet to collect the compensation.

Development transformation

The completion of the project will enhance the development of Kigoma through job creation opportunities, hence transform it into a modern port.

The Tanzanian Ports Authority wants to ensure that the proposed dry inland port development near Kigoma has a robust plan, since it will play a significant role in the logistics chain of the country.

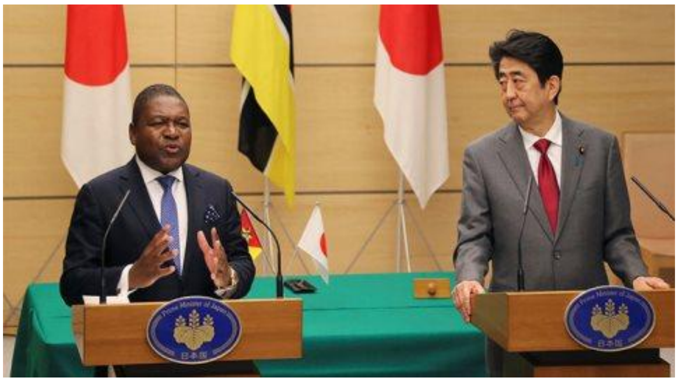
Royal HaskoningDHV was appointed to carry out a feasibility study for the new dry port.

Tanzania Ports Authority

Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) regulates and licenses port and marine services and facilities. The authority also manages vessel traffic in the port as well as ensuring safety and security.
TPA operates a system of ports serving the Tanzania hinterland and the landlocked countries of Malawi, Zimbabwe,Zambia, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda. (CRO 02-08-2017)

MOZAMBIQUE TO HOST AFRICA-JAPAN BUSINESS AND INVESTMENT FORUM

The Mozambican capital, Maputo, will host the Africa-Japan Business and Investment Forum on 24 August, APA can report on Friday.



The Japanese ambassador to Mozambique, Toshio Ikeda, announced that the event will bring together key players from the business circles in Africa and Japan, and there will be room for some interventions by African ministers.
The focus will be on agribusiness, finance, industry, energy and technology.
Ikeda made the announcement during a courtesy visit to the Maputo offices of Mozambique's Federation of Business Association (CTA) on Friday, where he held an extended meeting with the governing board of the organization.
The directorate of the CTA and the ambassador of Japan exchanged ideas and experiences on public-private dialogue.

"Cooperation with Japan will continue and my country intends to create jobs and transfer technologies; hence the aim of the forum is to strengthen ties between Japan and Africa, in particular Mozambique, and to share good business practices and opportunities," Toshio Ikeda said.

CTA vice president Khabir Ibrahimo said the ambassador of Japan has assured them that Japan will continue to support the Mozambican private sector., and will establish mechanisms for certification of the domestic fresh products to be exported to Japan.
"The African continent, in particular Mozambique, has much to give to Japan and vice versa", Ibrahimo said.
The forum will bring together key players in the business circles in Africa and Japan. (APA 04-08-2017)

KENYA RAILWAYS CORPORATION RECEIVES NEW LOCOMOTIVES AND ROLLING STOCK FOR SGR SHIPMENT SERVICE

Kenya Railways Corporation (KRC) has received more shipment locomotives and wagons for the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) cargo service operations.

Atanas Maina, the Corporation's Managing Director, graced the offloading ceremony at the Port of Mombasa.
Speaking during the offloading exercise, Mr. Maina said that the corporation was working round the clock to have the shipment transport services commence.
"Construction of the Inland Container Depot (ICD) at Embakasi is at an advanced stage and is due for completion in the month of September," he added.
ICD will play a major role at the port of Mombasa by holding freight which will be cleared at the Port.
According to Maina, KRC has been receiving locomotives and other rolling stock over the course of the year.
Presently, the Corporation has received additional freight locomotives and more importantly the X2k series wagons.
The wagons will allow double stacking of containers during transportation. This is to allow transportation of huge amounts of cargo on one train.
Kenya bets on railway transport sector to play a big role in decongesting the Port of Mombasa and even the roads.
The Ship, Vessel Da Qing Xia, docked at berth 11 of the Port, delivering 18 freight locomotives and 60 wagons designed for double-stacking of containers.
To date Kenya Railways has received 940 wagons out of the 1620 on order. They include the passenger, freight and shunting locomotives and the passenger coaches.
About Kenya Railways Corporation

Kenya Railways Corporation (KRC), also Kenya Railways (KR) is the national railway of Kenya established in 1977. It is a state corporation. (CRO 03-08-2017)

CABO VERDE GOVERNMENT APPROVES DECREE FOR PRIVATISATION OF TACV AIRLINE

The Cape Verdean government has approved the law that establishes the legal framework for the privatisation of the international arm of flagship air carrier TACV, which this week stopped operating domestic flights, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Defence said on Thursday.

Luís Filipe Tavares, announcing the decisions made at a cabinet meeting, said negotiations to find a strategic partner to manage and take a stake in the airline are in the final phase and said additional information would be available when the decree-law is published in the Official Gazette.

Finance Minister Olavo Correia said recently that the Cape Verdean state may keep a stake in TACV International, but ruled out the possibility of using taxpayers' money to buy shares in the company.

The privatisation of the international arm of the airline is part of the restructuring of the Cape Verdean carrier. The airline struck a deal with Binter Cabo Verde, which since Tuesday has been the only carrier offering flights between the islands of the archipelago.

Binter Cabo Verde, 100% owned by Hesperia Inversiones Aéreas, a group of investors in the Canary Islands, currently operates two ATR aircraft, and is waiting for delivery of a third. (04-08-2017)

SATELLITE IMAGES AID ANTISLAVERY RESEARCH

Antislavery activists welcome the use of detailed satellite imagery to help identify brick kilns notorious for using millions of slaves, including children
Researchers in England are hoping to help root out slavery in northern India by using detailed satellite imagery to locate brick kilns — sites that are notorious for using millions of slaves, including children.

A team of geospatial experts at the University of Nottingham use Google Maps and dozens of volunteers to identify potential sites of exploitation and report them to authorities.

"The key thing … is to get those statistics right and to get the locations of the brick kilns sorted," said Doreen Boyd, researcher on the Slavery from Space project.

"There are certainly activists on the ground that will help us in terms of getting the statistics and the locations of these brick kilns to [government] officials."

Antislavery activists said the project could be useful in identifying remote kilns or mines that would otherwise escape public or official scrutiny. "But there are other, more pressing challenges such as tackling problematic practices including withheld wages, lack of transparent accounting … no enforcement of existing labour laws," said Jakub Sobik, spokesman at Anti-Slavery, a nongovernmental organisation in London.

Millions of people in India are believed to be living in slavery. Despite a 1976 ban on bonded labour, the practice remains widespread at brick kilns, rice mills and brothels. Most victims belong to low-income families or marginalised castes such as the Dalits, or "untouchables".

Nearly 70% of brick kiln workers in southern Asia are estimated to be working in bonded and forced labour, according to a 2016 report by the International Labour Organisation. About a fifth are under age.

The project relies on "citizen science" or "crowdsourcing", a process in which volunteers sift through thousands of satellite images to identify possible locations of kilns. Each image is shown to multiple volunteers who mark kilns independently.

The team is focused on a 2,600km² area in the desert state of Rajasthan — teeming with brick-making sites — and plans to scale up the project.

Researchers are in talks with satellite companies to get access to more detailed images, rather than having to rely on publicly available Google Maps. (Reuters 04-08-2017)

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

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