MEMORANDUM

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SUMMARY

EU CHILDREN OF PEACE INITIATIVE: €1 MILLION TO ASSIST CHILDREN AFFECTED BY EBOLA

Children orphaned and affected by Ebola will receive education and psychosocial support via humanitarian projects implemented by UNICEF and Save the Children in Guinea and Sierra Leone.

The European Commission is providing an additional €1 million in funding so that children orphaned and affected by Ebola receive education and psychosocial support. The amount is part of the overall funding of €11 million allocated this year for educational projects in conflict areas under the EU Children of Peace initiative.

"We must give hope to the children affected by the devastating consequences of the Ebola epidemic. Around 6 million boys and girls have missed school. By investing in their education, we are investing in their future to give them the building blocks for life beyond Ebola", said Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management, Christos **Stylianides**.

This additional EU funding will support the re-opening of schools, currently closed due to the epidemic. It will be channelled through UNICEF and Save the Children - with each organisation receiving €500,000 - to develop educational projects in Guinea and Sierra Leone.

In addition, the European Union will train children and teachers in Ebola prevention, it will support measures to increase hygiene and sanitation in schools, provide psychosocial support, reintegrate children into their communities and strengthen the resilience of populations in the event of future health crises.

The EU's total financial contribution to date to fight the Ebola epidemic is over €1.8 billion. This amount includes funding from the Member States and the European Commission.

The Ebola outbreak is threatening to reverse years of progress in education. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), over 9.4 million children are living in the affected areas of West Africa. Out of this number, around 6 million have been forced to leave school because of the crisis. Many have been traumatised by the consequences of the disease, and some are experiencing stigmatisation and are being discriminated against and even threatened by their communities. More than 16,000 children have lost one or both parents or carers in this crisis.

The EU Children of Peace initiative is supporting a severely underfunded humanitarian sector: education in emergencies. Since the initiative was launched in 2012 as a legacy of the EU Nobel Peace Prize, every year it has funded humanitarian projects for children in conflict areas, providing them with access to schools where they can learn in a safe environment and receive psychosocial support to deal with traumatic experiences.

From the initial €2 million provided in 2012, the European Union has been scaling up its funding each year. To date, the European Union has allocated €23 712 500 for EU Children of Peace projects, including the contributions of €500 000 from Luxembourg and €250 000 from Austria in 2014. Around 263 000 boys and girls in 19 countries have benefited from the initiative so far. The additional €11 million released this year is expected to benefit over 1 250 000 children. By the end of 2015, more than 1 500 000 children will have been helped in 26 countries. The aim is to increase this further and dedicate 4% of the total humanitarian aid budget of the European Union, in the course of this Commission's mandate, to help with the provision of education in emergencies.(EC 07-09-2015)

EU BANK APPOINTS MIKOŁAJ DOWGIELEWICZ AS NEW EIB REPRESENTATIVE TO THE EU INSTITUTIONS AND HEAD OF BRUSSELS OFFICE

The European Investment Bank has appointed Mikołaj Dowgielewicz (43) as the bank's Brussels Representative with a rank of Director General, to strengthen engagement with institutional and political partners. Mikołaj Dowgielewicz´s previous experience covering foreign affairs, European policymaking and multilateral development will make a significant contribution to reinforcing the effective engagement of the European Investment Bank as Europe's long-term lending institution.

"The EIB is delighted to have Mikołaj Dowgielewicz join as Head of its Brussels Office and Representative to the EU institutions. Mikołaj brings extensive experience of European politics and a wide-ranging network within the EU institutions to his new role and will make a valuable contribution to our cooperation with EU institutions. This appointment reflects the increased commitment of the EU bank to provide additional input to the European economy as part of the ´Investment Plan for Europe`. My colleagues and I look forward to working closely with Mikołaj in this new role", said European Investment Bank President Werner Hoyer.

"Throughout my professional life, I have been a committed European who strongly believes in the added value of the European project. In these tough times for European integration, the EIB brings real added value to the EU economy and economic and social development. I am honoured to help achieve this by strengthening the EIB´s cooperation with the other EU institutions, Member States, European partners, business groups and key stakeholders. I very much look forward to working with my new colleagues in ensuring that long-term investment creates innovation, jobs and growth in Europe and beyond", said Mikołaj Dowgielewicz.

Mikołaj Dowgielewicz (Polish citizenship) graduated in law and politics from the University of Hull and in Advanced European Studies from the College of Europe.

From 1998 to 2000, he worked in the Cabinet of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Bronisław Geremek. In 2003, he began to work in Brussels as an adviser on enlargement to Pat Cox, President of the European Parliament. In 2004, he became European Commission spokesman for Institutional Relations and Communication Strategy and in 2007 entered the Cabinet of the Vice-President of the European Commission, Margot Wallström.

In December 2007, he was appointed Secretary of State in the Office of the Committee for European Integration (OCEI). As of July 2008, he was appointed to the position of Government Plenipotentiary for the Presidency of the EU Council. In January 2010, after the OCEI and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs were merged, he became Secretary of State for European Affairs and Economic Policy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Between 2007 and 2012, he chaired the Polish Government's Committee for European Affairs. While in government, Mikołaj Dowgielewicz represented Poland on the EU General Affairs Council, which he chaired in the second half of 2011 during the Polish Presidency of the Council. In March 2012, he was unanimously elected Vice-Governor of the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB) by the Bank's 40 Member States.

Mikołaj Dowgielewicz will start his new post as EIB´s Representative to the EU and Head of the Brussels office as of today. He succeeds Ben Knapen, who returned to the Netherlands, where he became a member of the Senate.(EIB 01-09-2015)

AUSTRALIA'S LUCAPA DIAMOND FINDS "SPECIAL" DIAMONDS IN ANGOLA

The Lucapa Diamond Company has extracted more large diamonds described as "special" at its Lulo mining project in Angola, according to a market filing published by the Australian Stock Exchange.

The Australian company said it had extracted nine "special" diamonds of over 10.8 carats each in the first two weeks of operation of that mining concession.

Amongst the stones extracted there are four large ones, of 37.28, 17.15, 14.69 and 11 carats, as well as a pink diamond.

In August the company extracted five large diamonds of over 50 carats each at this concession.

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

The Lulo concession lies 150 kilometres from the Catoca diamond mine, which has the largest kimberlite in Angola and the fourth largest in the world, and both are located in the same geological area. (04-09-2015)

ARAB LENDERS IN LIBERIA TO ASSESS ROAD PROJECT

Delegates from the Arab Lenders are in Liberia to assess the Gbarnga-Mendikorma road connecting Lofa County with the rest of the country.
According to a statement seen by APA on Thursday, the Finance and Development Minister had hosted the delegation which comprises OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID), the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa, the Saudi Fund for Development(SFD), Abu Dabi Fund for Development and the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED).

Quoting Minister Konneh, the statement said the delegation is expected to tour the road ahead of the signing of the various financial agreements later this year.

Konneh put the cost of the road project at $430 million, adding that it will be implemented in two phases beginning with work on Lot 1 which runs from Gbarnga to Konia at $184.7 million.

Minister Konneh said he has so far secured a financial commitment of $72 million for financing of Lot 1 of the project.

He said pavement of the road from Gbarnga to Mendikorma, considered Liberia's agriculture belt, will improve accessibility of roads all year round plus connectivity of roads and bridges between the two counties thus reducing transportation costs.

He added that the project would increase economic activities with emphasis on agribusiness that would ease access to markets, and would also significantly improve access to other social service facilities including basic healthcare centers and schools, support gender development and ultimately reduce poverty.

While in the country, the Arab Fund for Development and the Arab Bank for Economic Development delegates will also hold talks with the government on preparatory works for the full rehabilitation of the Roberts International Airport.(APA 03-09-2015)

MORE THAN 300 ANGOLA INVESTE PROJECTS RECEIVE PUBLIC GUARANTEE

Three hundred and three projects funded by commercial banks under the Angola Investe programme have received public guarantees, said Wednesday in Luanda the chief executive of the Credit Guarantee Fund, Manuel Passos.
The chief executive said that those projects, which have been approved since 2013, obtained funding of 59 billion kwanzas (US$466.7 million) and credit guarantees of 30 billion kwanzas.
“The Fund provides guarantees with coverage of up to 70 percent of capital, hence the difference between the amount financed and the amounts guaranteed by the Credit Guarantee Fund,” said Passos cited by Angolan state news agency Angop.
The Fund’s chief executive, who was visiting Imprimarte, a printing company that has benefited from investment from Angola Investe said that to date no guarantees had been activated, “which is a good sign.”
The chairman of Imprimarte, a subsidiary of the Cecaso group, Carlos Cunha, said Angola Investe had granted a loan of US$5 million (630 million kwanzas) to complete the project valued at US$12 million (1.512 billion kwanzas).
The company specialises in graphic arts and has production lines for books, magazines, packaging and labels, and ended 2014 with a turnover of 355.9 million kwanzas, which is expected to increase to 794 million kwanzas this year.
Angola’s Credit Guarantee Fund is part of the Ministry of Economy that works with public resources, to facilitate access to bank credit for micro, small and medium enterprises. (04-09-2015)

MALAWI TRIMS PRINCIPAL SECRETARIES TO 41

Malawi’s Vice President, Saulos Chilima has confirmed a government move to trim its Principal Secretaries (PS) in the civil service from 96 to currently 41 as part of its general public sector reforms program.
He was on Thursday quoted by several newspapers as saying that the number will go further down given that some officials are poised for retirement while others are being redeployed.

"There will be no more hiring of the PS's positions as part of the streamlining structures in the public service Chilima declared.

We have taken a deliberate move not to recruit any more of them," he maintained.

In his opinion, through the program, the Malawian government has conducted an effective a cleaning up exercise of the public service by leaving a sizable number of Principal Secretaries.

The Vice President also said the downsizing of top positions in the civil service will help government save a lot of money thereby channeling them to some important areas such as health and road maintenance.(APA 03-09-2015)

PORT OF QUELIMANE IN MOZAMBIQUE UNDERGOES DREDGING

The dredging of the port of Quelimane, in Mozambique’s Zambézia province, is due to begin this month and will last until January 2016. Once the work is completed around 320,000 cubic metres of sediment are expected to have been removed, Mozambique’s Minister of Transport and Communications said.
Minister Carlos Mesquita, who was speaking in the city of Beira, said dredging had not taken place for at least five years in the port and that following the work the port should have an overall depth of 5 metres.
Mesquita said the port of Maputo had increased from 9 to 14 metres deep, while the port of Beira, which is tidal, had reasonable conditions for berthing ships, with an average depth of 8 metres along its access channel.
Cited by Mozambican daily newspaper Notícias, the minister stressed that because of discharges from the Pungué river, dredging at the port of Beira totals 2.5 million cubic metres per year and in the first half of the year Empresa Moçambicana de Dragagem (Emodraga) removed 1.25 million cubic metres of sediment.
The 22 buoys set up along the access channel to the port of Beira undergo maintenance on a fortnightly basis and ships of up to 60,00 gross registered tons can now move around the port at night, compared to ships of up to 30,000 tons previously. (04-09-2015)

CAMEROON REVEALS AMBITION FOR 100,000 TONS OF COCOA YEARLY

Cameroon has revealed an ambitious plan to triple cocoa production to 100,000 tons a year in the short-term, the Inter-professional Council on Cocoa and Coffee (CICC) said.
The country's current cocoa yield is estimated at 33,000 tons a year.

Achieving this goal will depend mainly on securing some investments.

Firstly, the Sic Cocoa Corporation, a subsidiary of the French group Barry Callebault, a leader in local processing, will invest up to CFA5 billion francs.

The Dutch company SNV will proceed with the construction of two processing units in Cameroon in partnership with local groups in Ayos in the centre and Konyè in the southwest.

Through the local empowerment program of processing cocoa, the government aims to create 10 cocoa processing units throughout the country, to enhance the local volume of processing.

The Cameroonian cocoa production which reached 230,000 tons in 2015 could be 260,000 tons in 2016, according to estimates by the National Office for Cocoa and Coffee (ONCC).

By 2020, Cameroon forecasts an annual production of 600,000 tons including 50 percent of locally transformed cocoa beans. (APA 03-09-2015)

SOUTH AFRICAN COMPANY AWARDED TENDER FOR CONSTRUCTION OF WAREHOUSE IN MOZAMBIQUE

South African company Resolve Capacity has been awarded a tender for the design and construction of a regional warehouse for pharmaceutical products in the city of Nampula, northern Mozambique, said the Imperial Holdings group.
In a statement released Wednesday, the group said the tender was launched by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and the project had an implementation period of 18 months and a value of US$7.6 million for a warehouse of over 3,000 square metres.
This project will be managed by Resolve Capacity in partnership with Pasqa, but the building itself will be sub-contracted to a Mozambican company.
Resolve Capacity is a subsidiary of the Imperial Holdings group, which is one of the 40 main listed companies on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange. (04-09-2015)

MOZAMBIQUE: MAIN HOSPITAL DECRIES SHORTAGE OF NURSES

The Maputo Central Hospital (HCM) Wednesday warned that it is already facing an acute shortage of nurses which is adversely affecting its function as the largest health facility in Mozambique.
The nursing director of the health facility, Felizarda Djedje said the HCM needs an additional 2,024 nurses to boost the current figure which is at 704.

Djedje, says that one of the major problems being faced is the dwindling quality and humanization of health services.

According to her, the specialization in nursing is seen as a major challenge faced by the institution which operates with a workforce of just 7.5 percent of that specialty.

Djedje revealed that a nurse in Mozambique takes care of 50,000 patients.

These figures contrast with the ratio recommended by the World Health Organization, WHO which lays a benchmark of 20 nurses for every 100, 000 inhabitants.(APA 03-09-2015)

GUINEA-BISSAU INTRODUCES NEW NUMBERING FOR FIXED AND MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS

Fixed and mobile telephone numbers in Guinea-Bissau will be changed from seven to nine digits from 1 November, said Wednesday in Bissau the President of the National Numbering Planning Committee, Luis Seabra.
“The change in the numbering plan is essentially based on increasing the digits increase from seven to nine and a change in the codes for mobile and fixed-line networks,” said the president of committee set up within the National Regulatory Authority of Information and Communication Technologies (ARN).

As part of this change, mobile phone company Orange Bissau will use the 95 code and its counterpart, MTN, will use 96, state company Guinetel will use 97 and the fixed line network will use 44.
Users' numbers will not be changed but will now be preceded by the new codes noted the ARN president.
Guinea-Bissau has a fixed-line network, which was disabled due to Guinea Telecom's bankruptcy, and three companies providing mobile services, two private companies and a public company that has also been out of operation in the last few years.
The international dialling code for access to fixed and mobile networks in Guinea-Bissau is 245. (04-09-2015)

MOZAMBIQUE MOBILE PHONE OPERATOR SEES GROWTH IN CLIENT BASE

A unit of South Africa mobile phone company, Vodacom says its client base has now reached over a million clients, and that its M-pesa transactions have reached about $750,000, APA observes here on Thursday.
The mobile phone operator says that M-pesa is more useful for many Mozambicans than conventional banks, and that its operations are encouraging financial inclusion.

The chairperson of Vodacom-Mozambique, Lucas Chachine, announced M-pesa's success after signing an agreement with the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Maputo's Eduardo Mondlane University or UEM, Angelo Miguel, under which UEM students will be able to pay for their rent and meals using the M-pesa platform, free of any banking charges.

"We are concerned with creating solutions that are genuinely useful for products or services", he said.

Vodacom competes with state-run Mocambique Cellular, Mcel and Vietnam's Movitel in the country's mobile phone industry.(APA 03-09-2015)

GUINEA-BISSAU'S CUSTOMS SERVICE EXPECTS TO RAISE US$65 MILLION IN 2015

Guinea-Bissau's Directorate-General for Customs expects to raise 38 billion CFA francs (US$65 million) in fees charged by December, its Director-General said in Bissau.
Rosa Cá said that between January and august Customs had collected, 30 billion CFA francs and added that the forecast for the entire year exceeds the amount collected in 2014 of 27 billion CFA francs (US$46.2 million).
The Director-General of Customs also said that the political crisis experienced in August had no impact on revenue, which reached 3 billion CFA francs against 2 billion CFA francs in the same month of 2014.
Rosa Cá also gave assurances that the Customs services were in "good health" in terms of their key role of revenue collection. (04-09-2015)

BOA BENIN SUFFERS OVER 11 PERCENT DROP IN PROFIT

The profit of the Bank of Africa (BOA) Benin, a subsidiary of the banking group with the same name, witnessed a drop of 11.89 percent in the first half of 2015, APA learnt from the bank based in Cotonou. This profit was estimated at CFA7.624 billion francs on June 30 against CFA8.649 billion francs in the same period in 2014 (CFA1 francs is equal to $0.0016).

BOA Benin scored during this period a net banking income (equivalent to a turnover of a normal corporation) of CFA20.988 billion francs compared to CFA17.204 billion francs in the first half of 2014, representing an increase estimated at 21.99 percent.

According to officials of the BOA Benin, this result is drawn by the revenue growth of the secondary market of securities.

Concerning general costs, they increased at 9.23 percent, about CFA8.035 Billion francs.

The gross operating income is rising sharply to 35.14 percent.

The cost of the bank risk significantly increased at 280.33 percent, representing about CFA4.621 billion francs compared to only CFA1.215 billion francs in 2014.

The reason given by the leaders of BOA Benin is that some clients did not honour their undertakings in due time prompting a monitoring of those undertakings.(APA 04-09-2015)

TRADE BETWEEN CHINA AND PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING COUNTRIES FALLS 24.2 PCT FROM JANUARY TO JULY

Trade between China and Portuguese-speaking countries fell 24.20 percent year on year to US$58.687 billion from January to July 2015, according to Chinese official figures published in Macau.

In the first seven months of the year China imported goods worth US$35.893 billion (-32.01 percent) from the eight Portuguese-speaking countries and sold them goods in the amount of US$22.794 billion (-7.44 percent), taking on a trade deficit of US$13.099 billion.

With Brazil, its main trading partner globally, China registered bilateral trade of US$42.185 billion (-18.35 percent) – about 72 percent of the total with the Portuguese-speaking countries – with imports worth US$24.663 billion (-23.61 percent) and exports reaching US$17.522 billion (-9.59 percent).

Second in importance comes Angola, with two-way trade of US$12.45 billion (-43.01 percent), with China having exported goods worth US$2.395 billion (-7.97 percent) and importing goods whose value reached US$10.054 billion (-47.75 percent).

Portugal, in turn, traded goods and services with China worth US$2.55 billion (-6.71 percent), of which US$1.657 billion (-6.68% billion) was Chinese exports and US$802 million (-6.77 percent) was Portuguese exports.

Mozambique appears in fourth place with trade of US$1.4 billion (+30.63 percent), with exports from China worth US$1.136 billion (+41.81 percent) and imports of Mozambican products in the amount of US$264 million (-2.45 percent).

China’s trade with other Portuguese-speaking countries reached US$101 million in the first seven months of the year.

During the reporting period Brazil and Angola accounted for US$54.635 billion or 93 percent of China’s trade with the eight Portuguese-speaking countries. (07-09-2015)

S/LEONE EMBARKS ON POWER DISTRIBUTION SURVEY

The Electricity Supply and Distribution Authority (EDSA) in Sierra Leone has warned of punitive measures against consumers failing to take part in its survey aimed at verifying the number of subscribers to the national grid.

The survey commenced on Tuesday September 1.

EDSA came into being after the National Power Authority was declared defunct at the beginning of the year.

The aim of the government was to partially privatise the power sector.

EDSA said Friday the ongoing survey was designed to inform on the exact number of customers using either pre-paid or post-paid meters.

Sierra Leone recently switched to the pre-paid meter system as part of efforts to cut down on losses, which is a common place in the case of the post-paid meter system.

But ineffective previous administrations meant there was no accurate official data.

This has also left the system prone to abuse by corrupt employees of the authority.

Forms have been lodged at strategic points, like gas stations.

EDSA staff will also embark on door-to-door distribution of the forms for consumers to fill and return.

Whoever doesn't fill and return the form on time may face difficulty in recharging their meters when the deadline elapses, said Sahr Daniel Nepor, EDSA's Public Relations Officer.(APA 04-09-2015)

MOZAMBIQUE WILL HAVE JUST THREE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS

The international airports in Mozambique will be reduced to three and the southern region will be served only by Maputo international Airport, the central region by Beira Airport and the northern region by Nacala Airport, said the chairman of state airport manager Aeroportos de Moçambique (AdM).

Emanuel Chaves, cited by Diario de Mozambique, a newspaper published in Beira, Sofala province, also said that the remaining airports – Nampula, Pemba and Vilankulos – will no longer receive international traffic.

The main aim of this measure is to transform Nacala International Airport, in the north, which opened in 2014, into an international centre for passenger distribution, which will compete in the market with the airports of Johannesburg, South Africa, and Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital, in addition to airports in Nairobi (Kenya) and Dar es Salaam (Tanzania).

Speaking at a seminar to publicise Nacala Airport, during the Maputo International Fair (Facim) in Marracuene, the southern province of Maputo, Chaves stressed he was not the only one to make a similar decision, citing the cases of South Africa and Ethiopia, which “saw long ago the economic benefits of reducing the points of entry and international air outlets in their territory.”

South Africa, for example, despite being a much larger territory than Mozambique and having much more international air traffic than Mozambique only has three international airports and Ethiopia has a single point of entry and exit by air. (07-09-2015)

NAMIBIA COURT GROUNDS FLYAFRICA OPERATIONS

National airliner, Air Namibia seems to have prevailed in its attempt to stave off competition from Namibia FlyAfrica, after the High Court in Windhoek on Friday ruled that the low budget airliner has not been licensed to operate in the country.

The court had ruled that FlyAfrica does not have the valid licence to fly passengers between Windhoek and Johannesburg in South Africa.

The ruling is a result of an urgent court application lodged by Air Namibia to keep the budget airliner out of the local air travel market.

Air Namibia has accused FlyAfrica of using a local shell company as a front for its South Africa-based operations, a serious violation of Namibia's sovereign airspace, according to a New Era report seen by the African Press Agency on Friday.

Namibia FlyAfrica is a joint venture between Mauritius based aviation group FlyAfrica Ltd and Nomad Aviation, a local company.

Nomad Aviation is the owner of the air services licence, which FlyAfrica launched its Windhoek-Johannesburg route on Wednesday.

New Era said FlyAfrica has faced similar accusations of using front or shell companies in other countries where they operate, while running the actual operations from their head office in South Africa and Mauritius, where its private equity fund shareholder is based.

Nonetheless, Air Namibia has been censured for its conduct, with critics claiming that the company was afraid of competition from the low cost airliner which promised return ticket fares from as little as N799 ($58) compared to its exorbitant charges. (APA 04-09-2015)

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