MEMORANDUM

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11 YEARS OF UNINTERRUPTED PUBLICATION
CCA's Africa Journal August/September edition on page 16

SUMMARY

THOUSANDS FLEE TO ZAMBIA TO ESCAPE VIOLENCE IN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Several thousand people have fled to Zambia in the past month to escape violence in Democratic Republic of Congo, the UN said on Tuesday.

The UN refugee agency said 3,360 people from Democratic Republic of Congo's conflict-wracked southeast had entered Zambia since August 30, the largest influx of its kind in the past five years.

People "are escaping inter-ethnic clashes, as well as fighting between Congolese security forces and militia groups," UNHCR spokesman Andrej Mahecic told reporters in Geneva.

Those arriving in Zambia described escaping "extreme brutality, with civilians being killed, women raped, property looted and houses set alight", he said.

Most of those fleeing come from the northern Katanga and Tanganyika regions.

In recent years, these have been the scene of multiple deadly clashes between the Pygmies and Bantus from the ethnic Luba group.

About 60% of those arriving in Zambia were children, including many showing signs of malnutrition, and suffering from malaria, respiratory problems, dysentery and skin infections, Mahecic said.

And many of the new refugees had already been displaced inside Democratic Republic of Congo by the violence before crossing the border.

"The lack of roads and the long distances … make it difficult to monitor the situation and provide them with assistance," he said.

The approaching rainy season was expected to worsen the plight of those on the move, Mahecic warned.

The new arrivals, who bring the number of Congolese refugees and asylum seekers in Zambia to about 27,300, are mostly being taken to the Kenani transit centre in Nchelenge district, 90km from the border.

But Mahecic said some were opting to remain close to the border, waiting for their families to join them.

The UNHCR was helping the Zambian government and the Zambian Red Cross to distribute hot meals and basic items like tents, plastic sheeting, mosquito nets and hygiene kits.

Aid workers were also providing psycho-social support to survivors of sexual violence.

Due to overcrowding, the UNHCR said it had begun work on a second transit facility and was helping develop a more permanent settlement for the refugees. *(*AFP 03-10-2017)

BRAZZAVILLE: ENNVIRONMENT, ECONOMY TOP AGENDA AS REGIONAL EXPERTS MEET

A meeting of experts on the environment and economy of the Economic Community of Central African States (CEEAS) and the East African Community (EAC) opened in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo on Tuesday.

It comes ahead of the Extraordinary Conference of Environment and Finance Ministers of the regional groupings, slated for the Congolese capital on Wednesday.

According to the Congo's Environment and Tourism Minister, Arlette Sudan Nonault, the meeting of experts must lead to the validation of the 2017-2018 Plan of Action of the climate commission for the Congo Basin and the validation of sectoral projects and programs for the development and promotion of blue economy.

The adoption of the agenda for the joint activities of CEEAS and EAC countries at COP23, as well as the draft operating budget for the Blue Fund and the Green Economy Fund for Central Africa, should also come out of the work of experts.

The Secretary General of CEEAS, Honore Tabuna said: "With this meeting, Brazzaville will be a turning point for the emergence of climate finance in Central Africa and will mark an important milestone in the transition from environmental conservation to environmental economics.
(APA 03-10-2017)

GRACE MUGABE BUYS A ROLLS TO ADD TO HER SOUTH AFRICAN ASSETS

Zimbabwe's first lady is said to have chosen to keep the car in SA to avoid bad press at home

Zimbabwe's first lady, Grace Mugabe, appears bent on making SA her second home, having acquired assets worth at least R70m in six months, despite plans to use the properties to leverage a civil lawsuit in an assault case.

Mugabe, who owns two mansions in Sandhurst, Johannesburg, has since bought a 2017 Rolls-Royce Ghost worth about R6m.

The car was paid for in cash and sources say it will be her official car when she is in the country.

"That car is armoured and the best in the Rolls range, in terms of comfort. She will be using it here [in SA] because back home she uses state-owned Mercedes-Benz cars," said a source close to her dealings.

Her son Russell Goreraza last month acquired two Rolls-Royce cars and his mother's car was bought from the same dealership a week later.

Another source said Mugabe decided to keep the car in SA to avoid bad press at home.

"When her son and a colleague imported two Rolls-Royce Wraith cars into Zimbabwe duty-free, there was a backlash that even spilt into parliament, with opposition politicians saying it was spending of state funds in reckless abandon, and not paying duty for the cars demonstrated abuse of power. That's why she decided to keep the car in SA as part of her property there," said the source.
The Zimbabwe Independent last week reported that the car is black with a white interior and was paid for in cash. It was reportedly yet to be collected and registered as a South African vehicle.

"Grace sent someone to pay R5.8m in cash for the car, a Rolls-Royce 2017 Ghost model. The car is currently parked in the basement of Rolls-Royce Motor Cars," the paper quoted a source.

Sources say one of Mugabe's Sandhurst houses is undergoing renovations.

"When renovations are finished, the property would be one of the most luxurious homes and most secure in the area," the source said.

Her spokesperson, Olga Bungu, was not available for comment.

Meanwhile, President Robert Mugabe is in SA for the SA-Zimbabwe Bi-National Commission (BNC) in Pretoria, but his wife did not make the trip to SA, avoiding a sideshow linked to her assault of model Gabriella Engels in August. (BD 03-10-2017)

GERMANY CONTRIBUTES €824,000 TOWARD PEACE IN MALI

Germany has made a new contribution of €824,000 to a trust fund in support of peace and security in Mali.

The United Nations Integrated Multi-Dimensional Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) confirmed this in a statement issued in Bamako on Tuesday.

“This support came to fruition during a ceremony at MINUSMA headquarters,” the statement said, adding that the funds will be used to build and equip the extension of the National Police School of Bamako and conduct training for Mali’s security forces.

Although intended for the Malian forces, the money is placed under MINUSMA’s supervision, the statement explained.
(APA 03-10-2017)

EBRD OPENS SECOND OFFICE IN MOROCCO

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) is strengthening its outreach in Morocco with the opening of a second office, in the city of Tangier in the north-west of the country. This is the first office of a multilateral development bank to open in the northern city. The office will target the local economy of the Tangier-Tétouan-Al Hoceima and Oriental regions.

Tangier is the capital of the Tangier-Tétouan-Al Hoceima region. The local economy is based on a network of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and manufacturing firms in the textile and leather, agribusiness and automotive industries. In addition, the port of Tangier Med is the second-largest in Africa and located 14 km from Europe.

The second EBRD office in Morocco was opened by EBRD Vice President, Banking, Alain Pilloux, in the presence of Philip Mikos, Head of Cooperation at the European Union Delegation to Morocco, Nezha El Ouafi, State Secretary at the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Sustainable Development, Janet Heckman, EBRD Managing Director for the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean region, and Marie-Alexandra Veilleux-Laborie, EBRD Director, Head of Morocco.

EBRD Vice President Pilloux said: *"The opening of our new office in Tangier confirms our determination to strengthen our activities in Morocco and specifically in the north of the country. One priority will be to promote regional inclusion and job creation." (*EBRD 29-09-2017*)*

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

ZIMBABWE: JOURNO DETAINED OVER REPORT ON FIRST LADY'S UNDERWEAR GIFT

Kenneth Nyangani, a Zimbabwe journalist with the NewsDay is being detained after reporting that First Lady Grace Mugabe had donated underwear to supporters of the ruling ZANU-PF.

Zimbabwe police issued a statement on Tuesday saying Nyangani would appear in court on Wednesday after being charged with criminal nuisance.
A previous charge of criminal defamation filed by the police against him was declared unconstitutional by a court in Harare.
He was arrested on Monday after he was linked with the report which said Mrs Mugabe had handed over to ZANU-PF party supporters some underwear.
The Committee to Protect Journalists has since issued a statement calling on the Zimbabwean authorities to immediately release the journalist and drop all charges against him.
CPJ Africa Program Coordinator Angela Quintal said: 'The fact that police had to fish for a new charge because their first accusation was unconstitutional shows that this arrest is aimed squarely at intimidating Zimbabwean journalists into self-censorship." (APA 03-10-2017)

LIBYA: EU RENEWS SANCTIONS FOR SIX MONTHS AGAINST THOSE OBSTRUCTING PEACE

In view of the continuing instability and gravity of the situation in Libya, the European Union has extended the duration of its sanctions against Libya, targeting three persons for a period of six months.

On 1 April 2016, the Council of the European Union imposed restrictive measures against Libya on three persons: Agila Saleh, president of the Libyan Council of Deputies in the House of Representatives; Khalifa Ghweil, prime minister and defence minister of the internationally unrecognised General National Congress; and Nuri Abu Sahmain, president of the internationally unrecognised General National Congress. These persons are viewed as **obstructing the implementation of the Libyan Political Agreement** of 17 December 2015 and the formation of a Government of National Accord in Libya.

The Council last adopted conclusions on Libya on 17 July 2017. The Council reiterated its firm support to the Libyan Political Agreement and to the Presidency Council and **Government of National Accord led by Prime Minister Fayez Sarraj** established under it as the **sole legitimate government authorities** in the country. (CEU 29-09-2017)

Council of the European Union

ILLEGAL GAS STATIONS IN CHADIAN CAPITAL DEMOLISHED

At least 62 filling stations and fuel joints, considered not up to security and technical standards in the Chadian capital Ndjamena have been demolished.

Tuesday's exercise which was under the supervision of Chad's Oil and Energy ministry was carried out by security personnel.

The authorities decry the poor quality of the fuel sold and the location of the gas stations, some of which have their storage tanks in concessions, causing fears over the safety of nearby communities.

According to the Minister of Oil and Energy, Bechir Madet, the filling stations in question have been warned severally over the past
few months to comply with state regulations, complaints that went unheeded.
Accordingly, it rejected authorization for the opening of gas stations for which licenses were previously granted.
It claimed that those licenses were provisional authorizations, which do not exempt their bearers from complying with the law.

According to the director-general of the regulatory authority for Chad's downstream oil sector (ARSAT), Idriss Abdel-Khalik Idriss, an audit conducted by his institution revealed that of the 214 gas stations identified in Ndjamena, only 42 had met administrative, legal, technical, security and environmental standards.

The oil industry, especially the fuel sector, has attracted many economic operators following the

installation of a refinery in the town of Djermaya, some 30 kilometers from Ndjamena.
(APA 03-10-2017)

SENEGAL : DPW INVESTIRA 30 MILLIONS DE DOLLARS DANS LE PORT DU FUTUR DE NDAYANE

Port autonome de Dakar. Zone de stockage, chargement et distribution de conteneurs, le 22 octobre 2014

En marge du Forum Investir en Afrique, co-organisé par la Banque chinoise de développement et la Banque mondiale du 25 au 27 septembre à Dakar, Ahmed Bin Sulayem, le président de Dubaï Ports World (DPW), a évoqué les investissements à consentir dans le Port du Futur de Ndayane, dont l'opérateur portuaire émirati sera le maître d'œuvre.

C'est au sortir de son entrevue, le 25 septembre dernier à Dakar, avec le chef de l'État Macky Sall, qu'Ahmed Ben Sulayem a fait l'annonce : l'opérateur portuaire émirati consentira un investissement d'un montant de 30 millions de dollars dans la réalisation du Port du Futur à Ndayane, à 50 km de Dakar.

Selon le gouvernement du Sénégal, le Port du Futur de Ndayane, d'un tirant d'eau de 20 mètres, aura une capacité d'accueil de 1,5 million de conteneurs par an.

DP World Dakar, la filiale sénégalaise du 3e opérateur portuaire mondial a par ailleurs annoncé la semaine dernière avoir réalisé en 2017 des investissements d'un montant d'environ 19 milliards de francs CFA (34,2 millions de dollars) pour l'acquisition de nouveaux équipements.

DPW Dakar est concessionnaire depuis janvier 2008 de l'exploitation du Terminal à conteneurs (TAC) du port de Dakar pour une durée de 25 ans.

Trois accords scellés

Par ailleurs, Dakar a scellé trois accords avec le gouvernement chinois et la Banque mondiale sur les treize paraphés en marge du 3e Forum Investir en Afrique.

Le premier porte sur de futurs investissements conjoints dans les énergies renouvelables, signé par Mouhamadou Makhtar Cissé, directeur général de la compagnie publique d'électricité, la Senelec, et la China General Nuclear Europe Energy (CGNEE).

Renforcement stratégique

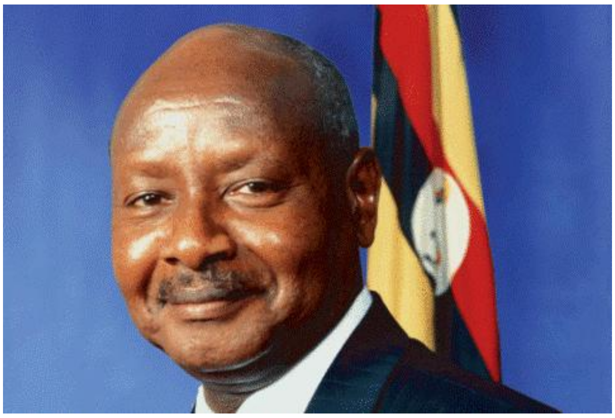
Un deuxième accord, dit de « renforcement stratégique », destiné au secteur agricole sénégalais, a été conclu entre le ministère sénégalais de l'Agriculture et de l'Équipement rural et son homologue chinois.

Enfin, un troisième document de coopération a été paraphé entre Amadou Ba, le ministre sénégalais de l'Économie, des Finances et du Plan et le vice-président directeur général de la Banque chinoise de développement.

Cette rencontre dont les principaux panels étaient axés autour de la place de l'innovation (surtout dans le numérique) dans le développement du continent africain, a été initiée en 2015 par la Banque chinoise de développement (CDB) en partenariat avec la Banque mondiale. La première édition avait eu lieu à Guangzhou en Chine en 2015 et la deuxième à Addis Abeba en Éthiopie en 2016. (JA 29-09-2017)

UGANDA: BILL TO REMOVE PRESIDENTIAL AGE LIMIT TABLED IN PARLIAMENT

Ugandan legislator Raphael Magyezi has presented a Constitution Amendment Bill 2017 to parliament, which seeks to remove the age limit for those intending to stand for the presidency.



The presidential age limit in Uganda is currently capped at 75 years.

The highly controversial bill was presented in the absence of opposition legislators, 24 of whom were suspended last week over orchestrating chaos to block the passing of a motion to table the bill.

Other opposition legislators consequently marched out of the house in solidarity with their suspended colleagues.

The opposition has vowed to contest the bill, which would allow President Yoweri Museveni to stay in power after 2021.

The bill has been sent to a committee of legal and parliamentary affairs for scrutiny and further consultations.

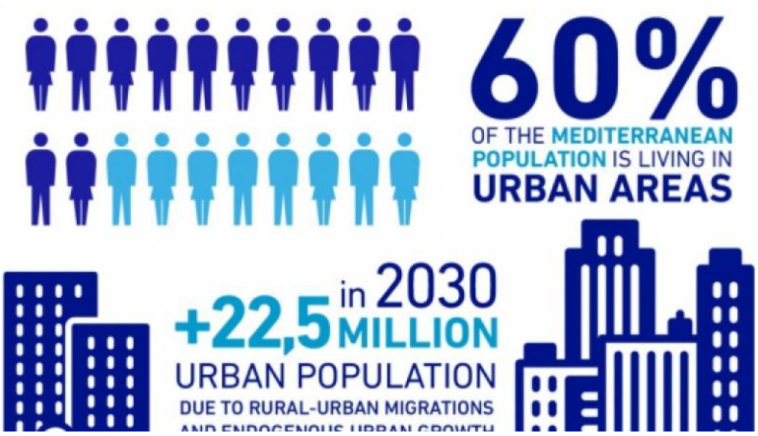
The committee has 45 days to consult with a number of stakeholders, and then issue a report which shall be discussed by the Parliament during the second reading of the Bill.

However, the Speaker of parliament Rebecca Kadaga has ordered the committee to ensure that the general public is consulted on the bill, since they have a stake.

President Yoweri Museveni could become the first direct beneficiary of the proposed amendment, should the upper age cap be removed.

At 73, the president is not eligible for re-election in 2021 as he will be above 75 years. (APA 03-10-2017)

UFM URBAN PROJECTS AIM TO RAISE LIVING STANDARDS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION



The Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) is promoting an action-oriented urban agenda in the southern Mediterranean region, the UfM said in a press release to mark World Habitat Day today. The UfM's urban agenda was agreed by Ministers in charge of housing, municipal affairs and urban development from the 43 Member States at the **2nd Ministerial Conference on Sustainable Urban Development** held in Cairo last May.

This conference also saw the launch of the UfM-labelled Imbaba Urban Upgrading Project, which aims to positively impact over 2 million people living in one of the most populated urban areas in the Giza Governorate in Egypt. Currently the UfM has a total of five urban development projects, including Imbaba's. All these projects are expected to improve the living conditions of over 7 million people in Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, Palestine and Turkey.

Currently 60% of the Mediterranean's population is living in urban areas. With one of the fastest urbanisation rates worldwide, the region's urban population is expected to increase by an additional 22.5 million by 2030 due to persistent rural-urban migrations and endogenous urban growth. Mediterranean cities are also experiencing high vulnerability to the effects of climate change such as water scarcity, droughts, forest fires and heat waves. (UfM 02-10-2017)

World Habitat Day

WB PROVIDES US$4B FOR EGYPT'S ENERGY SECTOR

The World Bank has provided funding worth US$4 billion for Egypt's energy sector, Egypt's Investment Minister Sahar Nasr announced on Tuesday.

The funding includes US$3 billion for supporting economic reforms in the sector, and USD 635 million worth of direct investments from the global and Egyptian private sector to establish the largest international zone for solar power generation in Aswan, Nasr added.

This is in addition to more than US$200 million worth of investment guarantees for the Aswan project provided by the World Bank's Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) and foreign direct investments worth US$150 million in the oil and gas sector.

Meanwhile, the volume of foreign investments in the Egyptian treasury bonds stood at USD 18 billion until the end of September, the deputy finance minister Ahmed Kogak announced on Tuesday.

An International Monetary Fund (IMF) mission in charge of following up on Egypt's economic reform programme is due in Cairo by the end of October. Kagok added that the IMF lauded Egypt's economic reform programme as the best being implemented by the fund.

The IMF has approved extending a US$12 billion loan in support of the Egyptian economic reform programme.

In July, the IMF approved the second tranche of the loan, worth US$1.25 billion, which followed disbursement of a USD 2.75 billion tranche in November 2016. (APA 03-10-2017)

TURKISH CONTRACTOR YAPI MERKEZI WINS $1.9BN TANZANIAN RAIL LINK


The Tazara line

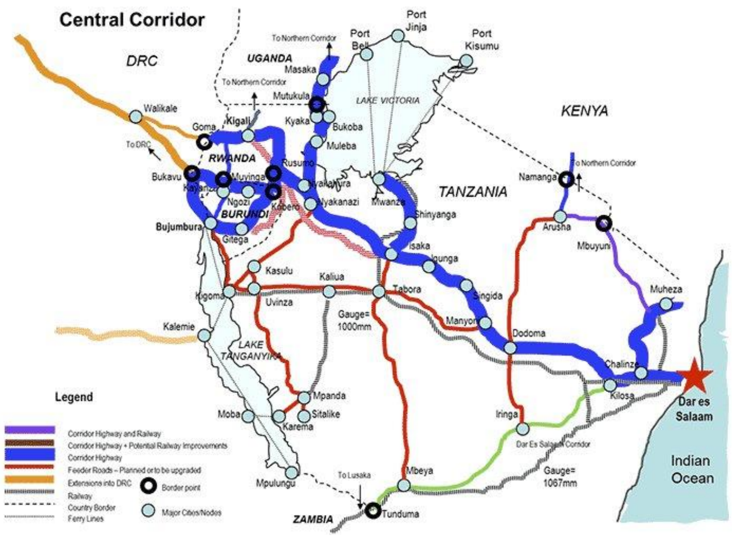
The government of Tanzania has awarded the second phase of its strategic medium-speed rail system to Turkish contractor Yapı Merkezi. The line will run 422km between the city of Morogoro and Makutupora, on the northern outskirts of Dodoma, Tanzania’s capital.
In February this year, the government also appointed the Istanbul-based firm, along with Mota-Engil of Portugal, to the $1.2bn first stage of the standard gauge link, which will run 207km east to west between the port of Dar es Salaam and Morogoro.

The design-and-build contract, which is worth $1.9bn, will replace the narrow gauge Tanzanian Railway line between Dar and Dodoma, built when Tanzania was part of German East Africa.

The appointment of Yapı Merkezi was made by the Reli Assets Holding Company (RAHCO). It issued a statement on Friday that the privately owned Turkish contractor had “met the technical and financial requirements”.

Speaking at a signing ceremony for the Morogoro-Makutopora deal, Masanja Kadogosa, RAHCO’s acting managing director, said the line would be built within 36 months. He added: “The project will involve construction of 336km of the main railway line, 86km of an interchange rail, eight passenger stations and six cargo stations.”

Fifteen companies entered bids for the second phase of the rail line after RAHCO issued the tender notice in November last year.



The plans for Tanzania’s standard gauge electrified railway

When the second stage is complete, the rail line will be about half-way to its destination on Tanzania's western border with Burundi, where it will join with the other railways being built through the Great Lake states of Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda.

Kenya has similar plans. There, Chinese firms and Chinese loans are building a standard-gauge railway to Uganda, hoping to turn Mombasa into the main export conduit for east Africa.

When complete the Tanzanian system will provide a 160km/h transport route for goods and people from these landlocked states to the world market, via the port of Dar es Salaam. As well as providing Tanzania – and Yapı Merkez – with a steady source of fees for freight transit, the project will require the redevelopment of Tanzania's ports and provide a development corridor for future manufacturing plants.

RAHCO plans to award three further tenders for around 700km of track over the coming months.

Altogether, Tanzania plans to spend $14.2bn over the next five years to build a 2,561km of standard gauge, electrified track.(GCR 02-10-2017)

ZIMBABWE, S/AFRICA TO ESTABLISH ONE-STOP BORDER POST

Zimbabwe and South Africa have agreed to set up a committee to spearhead the establishment of a one-stop border post at the main entry point between the neighbours, APA learnt here on Tuesday.

In a joint communique issued at the conclusion of the 2nd Session of the Bi-National Commission (BNC) held in Pretoria, South Africa on Tuesday, Presidents Robert Mugabe and his South African counterpart noted the need to establish a one-stop border post (OSBP) at the Beitbridge border.

"They welcomed the establishment of a Joint Technical Committee whose mandate, among other things, will be to develop the necessary legal framework for the project," the communique said.

The two heads of state reaffirmed the strategic importance of the OSBP "and directed the relevant ministers to fast-track its operationalisation."

Beitbridge Border Post is one of the busiest entry and exit points in Africa, serving more than 2,000 people daily.

It is the main gateway into South Africa for people travelling by road to and from the continent's most developed economy.

Beitbridge will become the second OSBP to be established by Zimbabwe following the Chirundu OSBP that was created with Zambia in 2009.

During the BNC, Presidents Mugabe and Zuma reviewed bilateral relations and expressed satisfaction with the state of the ties between the two countries.

They reaffirmed the strategic importance of the BNC mechanism in promoting political, economic, social, security, cultural, scientific and technical cooperation.

The two heads of state noted the existence of more than 40 bilateral agreements and memoranda of understanding between the two countries and directed that these be fully implemented.

They welcomed the signing of five agreements in the areas of energy, environment, information communications technologies, and sports and recreation during the 2nd Session of the BNC. (APA 03-10-2017)

MEDSTAT SUPPORTS MEDITERRANEAN PARTNER COUNTRIES TO TAKE PART IN OECD EXPERTS MEETING

The international meeting of the Group of Experts on Business Registers, which is organised every two years, was held on 27 to 29 September 2017 at OECD headquarters in Paris. The event was organised jointly by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), Eurostat and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

The meeting gathered a total of 105 participants from a number of countries, with a majority from Europe and Asia. For the first time, South Mediterranean countries were present, with the financial support of the MEDSTAT IV project (one participant per country).

The **MEDSTAT IV** project provides expertise and technical support to promote the harmonisation of statistics in line with EU and international standards in 6 domains: business register and business, trade and balance of payments, energy, labour market, migration and transport. It follows on the previous phase implemented over the period 2010-2013. (MEDSTAT IV 03-10-2017)

MEDSTAT IV website

ETHIOPIA VOWS TO EXPAND ACCESSIBILITY TO FINANCIAL SERVICES

Ethiopia on Tuesday has launched a National Financial Inclusion Strategy to expand access and usage of affordable and high quality financial products and services for all people.

According to the World Bank Survey (Findex2014), only 22 percent of adults have transaction accounts in regulated financial institutions in Ethiopia, lower than compared to Sub-Saharan Africa countries, which is at 34 percent on average.

The strategy, to be implemented over the coming five years, would mainly focus on expanding financial institutions in the rural parts of the country and increasing the number of transaction accounts from 22 percent now to 60 percent.

Teklewold Atnafu, Governor of the National Bank of Ethiopia (NEB), said usage of regulated financial service is at low level in Ethiopia due to lack of modern payment infrastructures, adequate service and access points, strong financial consumer protection framework and financial capability.

Atnafu attributed the low performance in the sector to lack of finance and related infrastructures, community awareness and financial security, low quality of products and services.

The financial strategy is expected to address the problems by expanding financial infrastructures, mobile banking, and money transfer technologies.

The Governor said the strategy is a turning point for realizing financial products and services nationally.

Deputy Prime Minister Demeke Mekonnen said it is difficult to think of universal change in financial inclusiveness without inclusive financial products and services in the country.

The strategy is paradigm shift in the financial sector as it is aimed at effectively addressing the gaps in quality financial product and services, he added.

The strategy approved by the Council of Ministers last year is prepared by the National Council for Financial Inclusion with the financial support of World Bank. (APA 03-10-2017)

INDIA’S CRACKDOWN ON MUSLIM-RUN LEATHER TRADE HURTS EXPORTS AND JOBS

A government crackdown on Muslim-dominated abattoirs and the trade of cattle dragged down India’s exports of leather shoes more than 13% in June, as leading global brands turned to China, Bangladesh, Indonesia and Pakistan to secure supplies.

The drop in exports of shoes and leather garments comes as a setback for Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who has sought to create millions of jobs by more than doubling the leather industry’s revenues to $27bn by 2020.

Emboldened by the victory of Modi’s Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the 2014 general election, Hindu hard-liners, who consider cows sacred, became more assertive in their calls for a clamp-down on both the meat and leather industries, run by Muslims, who make up 14% of India’s 1.3-billion people.

"The writing was already on the wall," Nazir Ahmed, CEO of shoemaker Park Exports, said by phone from Agra, a shoe-making hub and home to the Taj Mahal. "We have killed the goose that laid the golden egg."

India, the world’s second-biggest supplier of shoes and leather garments, exports nearly half its leather goods, with overseas sales estimated at $5.7bn in the 2016-17 financial year to March, down 3.2% from a year earlier. Footwear exports fell more than 4% in April-June, to $674m.

Informal sector

In March, after being appointed chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, India’s most populous state and a major leather exporter, Yogi Adityanath, a firebrand Hindu monk, ordered a closure of abattoirs operating without licenses.

Abattoir owners complain that much of India’s meat and leather trade takes place in the informal sector, and it is hard to get licences, especially for smaller units.

In May, citing cruelty to animals, the federal government banned the trade of cattle for slaughter, and restricted livestock sales only for agricultural purposes such as ploughing and dairy production.

But the country’s top court overturned that order, citing the hardship the ban had caused.

That has not brought relief, as repeated attacks on trucks carrying cattle still rankle the leather trade.

"The supreme court has allowed the resumption of trade for cattle, but the ground reality is that cow vigilante groups continue to be active and no one wants to risk his life by transporting cattle," Ahmed said.

Deterred by a clutch of measures that squeezed the supply of leather, a key raw material, brands like H&M, Inditex-owned Zara, and Clarks cut back their orders to India, said Rafeeque Ahmed, a leading shoe exporter from the southern city of Chennai and former president of the Federation of Indian Export Organisations.

"We lost orders because our buyers were sceptical of our ability to meet their requirements. Instead, most buyers moved to rival suppliers in Asia and southeast Asia," he said.

A spokesperson for India's trade ministry declined to comment.

Earlier in 2017, a finance ministry report noted that India should sign more free-trade agreements and make tax and labour reforms to drive leather exports, which offer "tremendous opportunities for [the] creation of jobs". The industry is also grappling with a goods and services tax, introduced in July, which has pushed up production costs 6%-7%, exporters said.

Nowhere to hide

The crackdown also hurt day-workers employed at shoe and garment making units and hit leather supplies, forcing manufacturers to import hides from the US, Australia and some European nations, raising the cost of production and squeezing margins.

Many tanneries, as a result, have run out of leather.

"My business has come to a standstill because I don't have any inventory at all. Most large shoemakers are importing hides now," said a tannery owner, who asked not to be named so as to avoid retaliation from cow vigilante groups.

Nearly a third of the roughly 3-million-strong workforce, mostly lowly paid casual workers employed in the leather sector, have lost their jobs in the past six months, according to six shoemakers and two tannery owners interviewed for this article.

Since most Indian states have outlawed cow slaughter, the supply of leather largely comes from the legal slaughter of buffaloes whose skins are used in many leather goods.

"Everyone must abide by the rule on cow slaughter and respect sentiments, but by choking the supply of other animal hides, we have nearly killed a thriving industry," said Ahmed of Park Exports. (Reuters 03-10-2017)

UNDERSTANDING CAMEROON'S LONG-RUNNING ANGLOPHONE CRISIS

Increasing tensions over the year have shaken Cameroon's English-speaking Northwest and Southwest region, creating an "Anglophone crisis" culminating in last Sunday's mass protest and clashes with law-enforcement troops that left dozens of deaths and several injuries.

Secessionists on Sunday announced the symbolic proclamation of the Republic of Ambazonia, which represents 16,364 square kilometers and some 5 million inhabitants in a country with a population of 24 million and over a total area of 475,442 square kilometers.

The announcement coincides with Cameroon's independence anniversary marking the unification of the country's French and English-speaking regions on October 1, 1961.

On November 7, 1959, part of the country under British rule, which had been under a legislative assembly since 1954 but administered as an integral part of Nigeria, nevertheless opted for the maintenance of the said trusteeship before being attached to that country on June 1, 1961.

On September 30, 1961, the first president of French-speaking Cameroon, which became independent on January 1, 1960, Ahmadou Ahidjo, went to Buea the capital of the English-speaking Southwest and obtained, from the British authorities, the transfer of sovereignty, leading to its unification with the Republic of Cameroon to form the Federal Republic of Cameroon.

After unification on October 1, 1961, Cameroon inherited in reality a federal structure which enshrines the unequal distribution of power between the two federated states at the level of the Federal Assembly and the government.

For secessionists, who still carrying out a “hold-up” in the English-speaking regions.

Since the 1960s, the English-speaking community has not stopped denouncing its political and economic marginalization.

Movements with identical aims have seen the advent of militants of which the most enigmatic, namely the Southern Cameroon National Congress (SCNC), was banned and prohibited from activities on Cameroon territory since 2001.

However, it regularly holds defiant actions aimed at "La Republic” the name attributed to French-speaking Cameroon.

In 2003, the leaders of the organization filed a complaint against the Cameroonian state to the African Union (AU) in order to assert the legitimacy of their struggle.

Their petition was dismissed in 2009 as fanning the flames of separatism, with the continental body rejecting accusations of discrimination and recommending them to drop their seperatist agenda and form a political party.

However, no political party, civil society organization want to entertain the secessionists’ demands, most of whom prefer a federal form of government, or the introduction of a Decentralization Act, which was virtually passed in July 2004 but still not applied.

But the SCNC itself seems to be facing tough competition from other groups, whose leaders are recruited mainly within the Diaspora but without a charismatic leader, being now the most active, especially on social media. (APA 03-10-2017)

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THE CORPORATE COUNCIL ON AFRICA

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It has been a busy and very productive few months here at CCA. We were in Lomé, Togo in early August for the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) Forum. We jetted off to Kigali, Rwanda for the first Africa Travel Association (ATA) World Tourism Conference under CCA leadership and finally, we just returned from New York, where we hosted several key events on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). As I reflect on the discussions and interactions I have had these past two months, there has been a recurring theme on the importance of the diversification of African economies.

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ATA's 41st ANNUAL WORLD TOURISM CONFERENCE SHOWCASES AFRICAN TOURISM

The Africa Travel Association (ATA) hosted the 41st Annual World Tourism Conference in Kigali, Rwanda from August 28-31, 2017. The conference, which was developed to promote tourism as an engine for economic growth across Africa, was attended by H.E. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda, who delivered the keynote address.

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OVERVIEW OF THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION'S TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENT

On Monday, July 31, 2017, Corporate Council on Africa held a working group focused on the World Trade Organization's (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) with Christina Kopitopoulos, USTR Director for Customs and Trade Affairs, WTO and Multilateral Affairs, United States Trade Representative.

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AGOA FORUM PRIVATE SECTOR DIALOGUE ON AGOA SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES

On Tuesday, August 8, 2017, Corporate Council on Africa hosted the 2017 AGOA Forum Private Sector Dialogue in Lome, Togo. The panelists identified and discussed the challenges and successes of AGOA.

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AGOA FORUM PRIVATE SECTOR DIALOGUE ON LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT OPERATIONS AND THE GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAIN

The second panel at the 2017 AGOA Forum Private Sector Dialogue in Lome, Togo included Mr. Tewolde GreMariam, Group CEO, Ethiopian Airlines, Mr. Ade Ayeyemi, Group CEO, Ecobank, Mr. Thomas Hardy, Acting Director, USTDA and Mr. Cory O'Hara, Team Leader, Regional Trade & Investment, USAID Africa.

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PRESIDENTIAL DIALOGUE ON THE FUTURE OF U.S-AFICA BUSINESS RELATIONS

On September 19, 2017, CCA hosted the Presidential Dialogue on the Future of U.S.-Africa Business Relations on the sidelines of the 72nd session of the UN General Assembly in New York. The dialogue emphasized the importance of infrastructure financing on economic growth in Africa.

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FORUM ON ADVANCING HEALTH PRIORITIES IN AFRICA

On September 20, 2017, CCA sponsored a health forum in New York during the week of the United Nationals General Assembly (UNGA) meetings. Among the objectives was to

discuss ways to accelerate new solutions for health improvement in Africa, by examining ways to make health a greater financial priority for African countries.
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AFRICAN FINANCE FORUM: FROM REFORMS TO INVESTMENTS
On September 20, 2017, CCA hosted the Africa Finance Forum on the theme Reforming African Economies, on the sideline of the 72nd session of the UNGA, in New York. The Forum stressed the important role reforms play in creating a good business environment and increasing investments.
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CCA HOSTS THREE UNGA ROUNDTABLES
CCA held special by-invitation CEO investor roundtables with Heads of State and senior government officials of Equatorial Guinea, Nigeria and Gabon.
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New CCA Members

Upcoming Events at CCA

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