

MEMORANDUM

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ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH SOUTHERN AFRICAN COUNTRIES ENTERS INTO EFFECT

Development-oriented agreement with five southern African countries ensures immediate duty- and quota-free access for their exports to the EU market.

Five southern African countries - Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland - and the EU today start a new chapter in their bilateral relations with the entry into effect of their Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA). As of today, the agreement will apply to trade between the EU and the five countries. Mozambique is in the process of ratifying the agreement and will join in as soon as the ratification procedure is completed.

Commissioner for Trade Cecilia **Malmström** said: *"When I visited Botswana in June for the signing ceremony, I saw first-hand how important it is to build a stable trade partnership between Europe and Africa. Today we're taking a crucial step towards making that a reality. The agreement that we're putting in place will support sustainable economic growth and regional integration in southern Africa and is designed to help lift people out of poverty in the years to come. Africa is the emerging continent and the Economic Partnership Agreements have been designed to maximise this dynamism."*

Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Neven **Mimica**, added: *"Jobs and sustainable economic growth, that is what the EPA can help deliver. Private sector development and trade are significant drivers to lift people out of poverty and implement the new global agenda of Sustainable Development Goals. The EPA can contribute to regional economic integration, an enabling business environment and improved competitiveness of the region."*

The EPA takes into account the different levels of development of the partners. It gives Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, and Swaziland duty-free, quota-free access to the European market. South Africa will also benefit from enhanced market access, going beyond its existing bilateral arrangement with the EU.

The southern African markets will open only partially to EU exports, gradually over time, providing their industries with the intermediary goods they need to support growth. It also provides for a number of protective measures in these countries, for instance for nascent, fragile industries or for food security reasons. Furthermore, the agreement increases the flexibility of southern African producers to put together products with components from various other countries, without the risk of losing their free access to the EU market.

Background

The SADC EPA Group consists of six out of 15 members of the Southern African Development Community (Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland and South Africa). Angola has observer status and may join the agreement in the future.

The EU is the largest trading partner of the SADC EPA group. In 2015, the EU imported goods worth almost €32 billion from the region, mostly minerals and metals. The EU exported goods of nearly the same value, consisting mostly of engineering, automotive and chemical products. Total trade between the EU and the SADC EPA Group (including Angola) amounts to €63 billion.

In signing the agreement, participants commit to act towards sustainable development, including upholding social and environmental standards. Civil society will have a special role in monitoring the impact of the agreement. The Agreement is also of a new species in that it is the first trade deal that directly supports the economic integration of a specific region, favouring closer links *within* the six Southern African nations involved.

The EPA creates joint institutions to support dialogue, smooth handling of all trade issues, and monitoring of the impact of the trade deal. The EU will work with its SADC partners to ensure smooth implementation of the agreement, together with regional and national development cooperation bodies. (EC 10-10-2016)

More information

[The text of the agreement](#)

[Economic Impact Study](#)

ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT (EPA) BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY (SADC) EPA GROUP

Today the SADC EPA enters into provisional application between the EU and Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland. Mozambique is in the process of ratifying the EPA and will start applying the EPA once procedures are completed. Angola is an observer.

How is the SADC EPA a development-oriented agreement?

Under the SADC EPA, the EU will grant Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, and Swaziland 100% free access to its market. The EU has also fully or partially removed customs duties on 98.7% of imports coming from South Africa. The SADC EPA states do not have to respond with the same level of market opening. Instead, they can keep tariffs on products sensitive to international competition. This is sometimes called *asymmetric liberalisation*. The Southern African Customs Union (SACU) removes customs duties on only around 86% of imports from the EU. Outside EPAs, the EU has never agreed before to such a degree of asymmetry in any free trade agreement.

The EPA also contains a large number of "safeguards" or *safety valves*. EPA countries can activate these and increase the import duty in case imports from the EU increase so much or so quickly that they threaten to disrupt domestic production. There are no less than five bilateral safeguards in the agreement, a number not replicated in any other EU trade agreement. In addition, should the EU apply a safeguard under WTO rules, the EU offers its EPA partners a renewable 5-year exemption from its application, so the SADC EPA countries will still be able to export.

The rules of origin determine which products can benefit from the trade preferences. In the SADC EPA they have been formulated in a way to make it much easier for SADC EPA countries to benefit from reduced EU customs duty rates. This will benefit for instance the textile industry in countries such as South Africa or Lesotho which depend on imported fabric. What is more, it is the first agreement that eliminate the possibility for the EU to use agricultural export subsidies.

How will the SADC EPA help the African countries diversify their economies?

For an economy to diversify, access to inputs such as fertilisers and seeds, machinery or industrial parts are essential. The EPA reduces the import duties on many of these intermediate goods. This makes it easier for southern African industries to diversify and add more value to their products.

The EPA also contains a clause that let SADC EPA partners protect their infant industries and let them grow longer in isolation from market forces. Whether a product can or cannot be exported to the EU with a reduced or zero duty rate always depends on its origin. In the SADC EPA, the rules defining the origin are formulated in a way to support development of new value chains in the region. The so-called *cumulation of origin* will, for example, make it possible to apply discount tariffs on the EU border for fruit harvested in one country of the region and then preserved and canned in another. This type of flexible rules of origin will benefit companies in agri-food, fishery and industrial sectors.

Will the EPA promote democracy and sustainable development?

Article 2 of the SADC EPA recalls that the agreement is based on the principles of respect for human rights, rule of law, and democracy. But the agreement goes further than just recalling these principles. It confirms that under the existing *Cotonou Agreement* "appropriate measures" can be taken if a Party fails to fulfil its obligations in respect of these fundamental principles. Suspension of trade benefits is one such measure, even if this would be an action of last resort.

The participants of the SADC EPA also confirm that any new or modified legislation on labour conditions or environmental practices that they may adopt will follow internationally recognised standards. It also means that they cannot weaken labour or environmental protection to attract trade or investment. To make sure the rules are respected, each participating country will also be able to request consultations on questions of sustainable development and involve representatives of civil society.

EPAs are based on the Cotonou Agreement of 2000. The provisions of the Cotonou Agreement on human rights, on sustainable development, and on dialogue including parliaments and civil society, continue to apply. As such, the EPA offers some of the most complete protection of human rights and sustainable development available in EU agreements.

How can the EPA help strengthen regional integration in southern Africa?

Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South-Africa and Swaziland form together the Southern African Customs Union. Established in 1910, it is the oldest existing customs union in the world. A customs union's principal characteristic is a common external tariff for imports. In the case of imports from the EU, however, the SACU members today do not all impose the same duty. In other words, the union is not functioning in an optimal way. The SADC EPA now harmonises the SACU tariffs imposed on imports

originating in the EU and consequently improves the functioning of the customs union – an objective that all participants wanted to achieve. In this way, the SADC EPA strengthens regional integration.

But the SADC EPA does more for regional integration. Each SADC EPA state has agreed that any advantage it has granted to the EU shall also be extended to the other SADC EPA states.

Is the agreement good for the EU?

Africa is a rising continent. African countries are climbing up the “Doing Business” rankings. New businesses are emerging and African countries are becoming less dependent on commodities. The EPA is one of the instruments that can help EU business benefit from this new African energy and potential. EPAs are essential in re-anchoring the trade bonds between Africa and the EU.

The EU already has a Trade, Development, and Cooperation Agreement with South Africa since 2000. In exchange for more market openings provided to South Africa, the preferential access to the South African market that the EU enjoys today will now be extended to include agricultural products such as wheat, barley, cheese and pork. The Southern African Customs Union as a whole will align itself to this market access regime.

More than 250 traditional product names – so called geographical indications or GIs – from the EU and more than 100 South African GIs will be protected. This means for instance that a producer in a country other than South Africa cannot market a tea processed from a plant from its own territory under the symbolically important name Rooibos. The same applies to EU traditional product names.

The EU's trade policy towards the SADC EPA region will now be fully in line with WTO rules. A solid and fully respected rules-based trading system is of crucial importance for the EU – a major international trader.

Degree of Trade Liberalisation by Trade Volume*

	Customs duties REMOVED	Current customs duties that REMAIN
EU opening towards countries of SADC EPA Group, except South Africa	100% with exception of arms and munitions	arms and munitions
EU opening towards South Africa	98.7%* (Fully for 96.2% & partially for 2.5%)	1.3%
SACU opening towards the EU products	86.2% (Fully for 74.1% & partially for 12.1%)	13.8%

* Updated on 10/10/2016 at 12:52, changing 8.7% to 98.7%

(EC10-10-2016)

ETHIOPIA DECLARES STATE OF EMERGENCY



People walk near a torched truck in the compound of a textile factory damaged by protests in the town of Sebeta, Oromia region, Ethiopia, on Saturday. Parts of the factory were razed.

Ethiopia declared a six-month state of emergency on Sunday following months of violent anti-government protests, according to an official statement released on state media.

"The state of emergency was declared following a thorough discussion by the Council of Ministers on the loss of lives and property damages occurring in the country," Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn said. The declaration marks a further hardening of the government's position after months of protests in different parts of Ethiopia.

These have been met with a strong security response that has left hundreds dead, according to human rights groups.

"We put our citizens' safety first. Besides, we want to put an end to the damage that is being carried out against infrastructure projects, health centres, administration and justice buildings," Hailemariam said on state media, adding the state of emergency was effective from October 8.

Hailemariam became prime minister in August 2012 at the age of 47 on the death of Meles Zenawi. He earns \$400 a month, the government has confirmed.

Ethiopia is facing its biggest anti-government unrest in a decade, from the majority Oromo and Amhara ethnic groups which feel marginalised by a minority-led government.

Internet access has been restricted in recent days to prevent protesters from organising gatherings.

In the wake of the state of emergency declaration, residents of the capital Addis Ababa and regional towns reported more police on the streets but little other change.

The protests threaten Ethiopia's reputation as an economic success story renowned for its stability, even as the government's authoritarian rule attracts criticism.

Last week protests also targeted foreign investors — regarded as supporting and being backed by the central government — with close to a dozen foreign-owned companies, including textile and plastic factories, set on fire.

Tensions have been rising since an Oromo festival last week ended in tragedy when police fired tear gas on anti-government protesters, sparking panic in the massive crowd and triggering a stampede that left more than 50 dead.

The declaration of a six-month state of emergency is unprecedented in the 25 years the current Ethiopian government has been in charge.

An opposition leader said the declaration was a ploy to allow the government to "consolidate their authority and squash any public, spontaneous protests".

"They are not giving any space for dialogue. They want total control on everything," said Beyene Petros, chairman of the Medrek opposition coalition.

"People will not sit and accept this. It will provoke more anger," he predicted, warning it "might well be the last straw".

The unrest began in November in the central Oromia region then spread to Amhara in the north.

Together, the Oromo and Amhara people make up 60% of the population. The protesters accuse the country's leaders, who largely hail from the northern Tigray region, of monopolising power.

International rights groups estimate at least 500 demonstrators have been killed in a bloody crackdown on protests over the past 10 months. (AFP 09-10-2016)

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN WEST AFRICA: EIB SUPPORTS WATER SUPPLY IN SENEGAL (100 M€)



On the side-lines of the World Bank Annual Meetings in Washington, the Republic of Senegal and the European Investment Bank (EIB) signed today a loan agreement of EUR 100 million to finance a project aiming to secure water supply in the city of Dakar.

The financing agreement and the project agreement for the Water supply loan were signed by Mr. Ambroise Fayolle, EIB Vice-President, and Mr. Amadou Ba, Minister of Economy, Finance and Planning and Mr. Charles Fall, Managing Director of the National Water Company (SONES).

The EIB's financing will be used for the construction of a drinking water treatment plant with a capacity of 100,000 m³ / day upgradeable to 200,000 m³ / day, and a transport pipe of about 210 km.

The project will serve a population of 3.9 million (28% of the national population) including over 3 million in the Dakar region, as well as the cities crossed by the new pipe (Thies, Tivaouane, Louga, etc.) It will contribute to solving the current water supply deficit in Senegal's capital, especially in the suburbs, to ensure water supply sustainability. The Société Nationale des Eaux du Sénégal (SONES), will be in charge of the implementation of the project.

EIB Vice-President Ambroise Fayolle said: *"This is a key financing operation for Senegal which will have a strong social and economic impact. Access to clean water is one of our priorities in the field of sustainable development because it also provides each citizen with optimal living and working conditions. In the EIB, we are proud of our partnership with the Senegalese government which is determinant to improve water supply in the country."*

This is the fourth project that the EIB will carry out in the Senegalese water supply sector, and the third with this public company since its establishment in 1996.

The European Investment Bank is the world's largest international public bank and over the last five years has provided EUR 12.8 billion for investment across Africa. (EIB 08-10-2016)

EIB-WB JOIN FORCES IN NEW BOOST FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA



An agreement to partner on a new joint initiative to support first time entrepreneurs, and in particular young people and women, was signed today in Washington DC by the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the World Bank Group (WBG). Roman Escolano, Vice President of the EIB, and Hafez Ghanem, World Bank Vice President for the Middle East and North Africa, signed a Letter of Intent to develop and support the *Boost MENA initiative* at the margins of the 2016 IMF/World Bank Group Annual Meetings. This agreement reaffirms the WBG and EIB's long-term partnership in the Mediterranean region. The objective of Boost MENA is to set up a new investment facility for countries in the Middle East and North Africa that combines financing for innovative start-ups and early-stage growth companies backed by significant technical assistance. It will also contribute to the international response to the refugee crisis. Boost MENA is the first initiative of its kind to provide financial support for innovation and entrepreneurship to promote job creation on an unprecedented scale across the region. In particular, the initiative's integrated approach will target support to the earliest and riskiest stages of entrepreneurship. The project design will provide long-term support to programmes targeting entrepreneurs, such as

business accelerators/incubators, seed funds, business angel networks, equity-crowd platforms, social impact funds and venture capital funds.

Roman Escolano Vice President of the EIB said, *“Boost MENA very much represents the new paradigm of financing when it comes to development. It represents a real scaling up of our efforts to encourage first-time entrepreneurs particularly among youth and women – not just by providing finance but also by offering vital technical assistance. The Partnership of the EIB and WBG is also crucial in this regard: by pooling our expertise we can ensure a far greater impact on the ground. Giving young entrepreneurs and women the chance to set up their own companies will boost the creation of quality jobs, help reverse the brain drain in the region while also helping to address some of the root causes of the migration of skilled and unskilled young people as well as responding to the current refugee crisis in the region”*

Hafez Ghanem, World Bank Vice President for MENA, said, *“The potential of youth in the MENA region remains largely untapped. It is more essential than ever to support young entrepreneurs, especially young women, and help them to become the drivers of growth and to ultimately lay the ground for prosperity and peace in the MENA region. Our partnership with the European Investment Bank will allow us to leverage our resources in support of the future of the region.”*

Background information:

Boost MENA is intended to draw lessons from the recently published joint report from the EBRD, the EIB and the WBG “What’s holding back the private sector in MENA?” based on the MENA Enterprise Survey (ES) of more than 6,000 firms in eight countries, identifying the private sector as a key driver for growth and rising prosperity, on the condition that effective business enabling policies, enhanced access to finance and support to entrepreneurship and innovation are ensured.

About the partners:

The **WBG** through its development and policy activities has invested over 100 million dollars in projects on access to financing for start-ups and early stage growth companies in the MENA region. As such the WBG has built an extensive network of experts and stakeholders from both the private sector and government. Combined with its multiple Global Practices (GPs), Cross-Cutting Solutions GPs, the IFC and MIGA, the WBG provides the capacity to convene policy decision makers, and devise technical and operational solutions across various development agendas.

The **EIB** is the European Union’s long-term lending institution and is owned by its 28 Member States. As the largest multilateral lender worldwide, it invests over EUR 1.4 billion yearly in the MENA region, to the benefit of public and private sector promoters. Thanks to the Facility for Euro-Mediterranean Investment and Partnership (FEMIP) risk-capital mandate, the EIB has developed a unique expertise and network of financial partners. Through its investments in funds, the EIB supports more than 150 companies employing more than 80.000 individuals. In line with EU priorities, the EIB supports sustainable investments in the MENA region, addressing key issues such as youth unemployment, financial inclusion and private sector development.(EIB 09-10-2016)

NEW UNDP, EIB ACCORD SIGNED TO BOOST COOPERATION TO REACH GLOBAL GOALS



The [United Nations Development Programme \(UNDP\)](#) and [European Investment Bank \(EIB\)](#) today signed a Memorandum of Understanding aimed at boosting collaboration toward achieving the new [Sustainable Development Goals](#) by 2030.

EIB President Werner Hoyer and [UNDP Administrator Helen Clark](#) signed the accord in Washington DC alongside the [World Bank-IMF Annual Meetings](#). The agreement envisages expanded cooperation in key thematic areas including addressing climate change, responding to challenges such as the ongoing migration and forced displacement crisis, and promoting inclusive markets and entrepreneurship—generating much-needed jobs, particularly for youth.

“Achieving the SDGs means tackling the world’s toughest challenges, often in fragile and conflict-affected contexts where people are most vulnerable and needs are most acute,” Helen Clark said in a statement.

“Scaling up our work with partners such as the EIB with its large-scale investment capacities, high leveraging abilities, and development finance expertise will ensure we finish the job and leave no one behind.”

Werner Hoyer said, “UNDP’s global presence, local knowledge, technical and policy expertise, as well as its high social and environmental standards make it an excellent partner for EIB.”

“As the European Union’s Bank, we welcome the opportunity for a long-term relationship with UNDP. The action plan defined for joint collaboration is an excellent way forward to build on and expand our highly successful existing collaboration in Western Balkans, Armenia, Moldova, Serbia, and Ukraine—and to build a more sustainable, peaceful, and resilient world.”

The Memorandum of Understanding signed today aims to streamline, enhance, and simplify UNDP-EIB cooperation. Combining EIB financial and technical expertise with UNDP in-depth country knowledge and capacity-building expertise is expected to expand outreach, achieve higher sustainable development impact, improve loan performance, reduce lending costs, and advance innovative, high-impact instruments and solutions. (EIB 07-10-2016)

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AFTER MERGER, MARRIOTT EXPANDS INTO AFRICA



The Kigali Marriott is Marriott International's first property in Sub-Saharan Africa. A little more than a week after becoming the largest hotel company in the world, Marriott International is already expanding internationally.

The company officially opened its first Marriott Hotel in Rwanda on Tuesday, the first time it has ventured into Sub-Saharan Africa in its 90-year history.

The 254-room Kigali Marriott is among Rwanda’s largest properties and will include meeting spaces to attract business travel.

Marriott just completed its purchase of Starwood Hotels and Resorts, a move that the company partly made to be able to expand its presence in regions such as the Middle East and Africa.

The acquisition has doubled Marriott’s presence in those areas. The combined company now has 229 total properties and 49,455 rooms in the Middle East and Africa. In Africa alone, the company has 125 properties and 15,907 rooms.

Starwood has “got a platform that is additive to what we’ve got,” Marriott International CEO Arne Sorenson said during an interview with USA TODAY. “I think what we’ll end up with is that much more local expertise and tremendous opportunity going forward.”

The new Marriott now operates or franchises more than 5,700 properties and 1.1 million rooms in more than 110 countries.

“There are about 30 countries that are brand new to us with the Starwood acquisition,” Sorenson said. “How many of those would we have gotten into without this? I would think as a theoretical matter, most

of them would be markets we would have had a shot at anyway but this obviously accelerates that global expansion which is one of the advantages of the deal.”

Sorenson says that Africa is an important market for Marriott because of its growing middle class, which is expected to drive tourism and business travel.

The company expects to add properties to Johannesburg and Cape Town in South Africa and to Nigeria, Ethiopia and Kenya. Other countries of interest are Mozambique and Ghana.

“These are all places that seem to have some opportunities available and some stability and capital and commerce that allows that development to happen,” Sorenson says.

This is not the first time Marriott has made a bold move into the African market. In 2013, Marriott purchased Protea Hospitality Holdings Ltd., one of the largest hotel companies on the continent that is based in South Africa.

Protea Hotels by Marriott will continue to operate in conjunction with other Marriott brands.

Africa has become a target for other major U.S. hotel chains.

Hilton Worldwide announced on Monday that it has struck a deal to bring a modular build hotel in Accra, the capital of Ghana. The process involves assembling portions of the hotel, including guest rooms and hallways in China, then transporting them to the final site for completion. The process is supposed to reduce the time taken for construction.

The Accra property will be a Hilton Garden Inn set to open in 2018.

Hilton also has deals to introduce a 255-room Hilton in Nairobi in Kenya in 2020 and a Curio, the Legend, at the Lagos Airport in Nigeria in 2017.

“We remain hugely committed to Africa across our portfolio of world-class brands, continuing to introduce our hotels to new markets across the whole of Sub-Saharan Africa in the coming years,” Patrick Fitzgibbon, senior vice president development for Hilton Worldwide said in a written statement.

Hilton plans to nearly double its footprint in Africa from its existing 39 hotels to more than 80 hotels in the next 3-5 years.

Marriott chose Rwanda as its first foray into Sub-Saharan Africa partly because of the country’s efforts to get past its troubled history of civil war, which ended 20 years ago.

“When you open a hotel like this in a country which has had as difficult and stark recent history as Rwanda has, it is among the most special things we do,” Sorenson said.

The hotel will employ about 500 locals. The company has partnered with local organizations to staff the jobs. For instance, it is working with the Akilah Institute for Women to recruit and train Rwandan women to be supervisors.

Marriott has ambitions to grow in other foreign lands.

It is in discussions with possible investors to take over or open six properties in Cuba. U.S. hotel companies have only recently been able to invest on the island, which only became a possible destination for a wider range of U.S. citizens in the last year. Starwood was the first to take over a hotel there, converting an existing property into a Four Points by Sheraton.

So far, Marriott has 250 properties in China. Over time, Sorenson said, he hopes to have 1,000 properties there. (USTODAY 04-10-2016)

L'ÉTAT DE DROIT DECLINE DRAMATIQUEMENT EN AFRIQUE

En Afrique, la gouvernance ne s'est pas améliorée ces dix dernières années, avec une nette détérioration de la sécurité et de l'état de droit.

Publié le 3 octobre, [l'indice Ibrahim sur la gouvernance en Afrique](#), [l'étude la plus complète](#) en son genre, couvre 37 des 54 États africains, soit 70 % de la population du continent. L'étude se penche notamment sur la sécurité, les droits de l'Homme, la stabilité économique et le développement humain, et révèle que depuis 2006, l'état de la gouvernance s'est détérioré en général.

La Mauritanie est première au classement, suivie par le Botswana, le Cap Vert, les Seychelles et la Namibie. Trois des dix premiers pays ont cependant vu leur score dégringoler ces dix dernières années, et tout particulièrement l'Afrique du Sud et le Ghana.

L'indice dévoile par ailleurs une tendance à la baisse inquiétante dans la catégorie de l'état de droit. Ainsi, dans 33 des 54 pays, l'état de droit s'est réduit, une baisse conséquente dans quinze d'entre eux. Des dix premiers pays du classement, six ont chuté dans cette catégorie, C'est l'Afrique du Sud qui enregistre le plus beau déclin. Le pays le plus industrialisé du continent est [à la limite de la récession](#), avec des pénuries chroniques d'électricité et un chômage élevé.

Le Zimbabwe, le Rwanda et l'Éthiopie, où le non-respect des droits de l'Homme et de la liberté d'expression continue d'inquiéter la communauté internationale, se sont néanmoins placés en haut de la liste des pays qui se sont le plus améliorés en termes de gouvernance générale depuis 2006, principalement grâce à des avancées dans le secteur agricole. Malgré cette amélioration, le Zimbabwe (9,7 points de plus qu'en 2006) se situe toujours à la 39ème place sur 54. Le Rwanda (plus 8,4 points) est le seul pays à figurer à la fois dans les dix plus nettes améliorations et dans les dix premiers pays de la liste globale.

La Côte d'Ivoire est l'État qui a le plus progressé en général, avec une amélioration de 13 points, suivie du Togo et du Zimbabwe (9,7). La liste des pays qui se sont le plus améliorés est donc composée de la Côte d'Ivoire, du Togo, du Zimbabwe, du Rwanda, du Libéria, de l'Éthiopie, du Niger, du Maroc, du Kenya et de l'Angola.

L'indice Ibrahim a été publié pour la première fois en 2007 et évalue tous les ans la gouvernance au sein du continent africain, grâce à différentes sources d'information, dans le but d'encourager les politiques efficaces.

[Mo Ibrahim](#), homme d'affaires spécialisé dans les télécoms et fondateur de la Fondation Mo Ibrahim, a indiqué que les progrès mesurés reflétaient une tendance positive pour les deux tiers des citoyens, mais que la sécurité restait le défi le plus difficile à relever. « Les quatre éléments de la catégorie sécurité et état de droit se sont détériorés [...], freinant le progrès du continent, et cela reste le plus grand défi pour l'avenir », a-t-il déclaré.

Le Professeur Ngaire Woods, doyen de l'école Blavatnik de gouvernance, a considéré qu'il était trop facile de dire que les améliorations étaient modestes. « Il y a des avancées, et dans des domaines où nous ne pensions pas qu'il pouvait y en avoir. Il y a dix ans, personne ne pensait que c'était possible », assure-t-il.

Les améliorations concernent notamment le secteur rural, ainsi que la démarginalisation des femmes, bien que cela ne touche pas encore leur pouvoir économique.

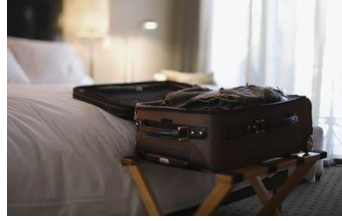
« Les deux tendances à la baisse s'inscrivent dans les secteurs de la sécurité nationale et de l'état de droit. Une grande partie de cette chute de sécurité nationale est liée à la Libye. L'implosion de la Libye a déchainé toute une série de conséquences pour le Mali, le Nigéria et le Niger », ajoute le professeur.

L'indice fournit un « tableau de bord » permettant aux gouvernements, citoyens, investisseurs et société civile de voir comment fonctionne leur pays, indique-t-il.

Les trois dégringolades les plus impressionnantes ont été réalisées par la Libye (moins 18 points depuis 2006), Madagascar (-7,6) et l'Érythrée (-5,6). Tout en bout de classement, on retrouve la Somalie, le Sud-Soudan, le Soudan, la République centrafricaine et la Libye (51ème des 54).

Autres tendances troublantes, l'Afrique dans son ensemble perd 10,6 points pour le trafic d'êtres humains et 8,7 points dans les indices de corruption et de bureaucratie. Ces derniers indicateurs sont fournis par la Banque mondiale et mesurent la probabilité de se voir confronté à des fonctionnaires corrompus, ainsi que le volume et le poids de la paperasserie dans les nations. Près de la moitié du continent – 24 pays – ont atteint leur plus bas depuis le lancement de l'indice, avec 15 États perdant plus de 20 points sur ce sujet depuis 2006. (EurActiv 05-10-2016)

MARRIOTT TO BUILD FIVE HOTELS IN SOUTH AFRICA FOR R3BN



Marriott International said on Thursday that it planned to spend R3bn on five new hotels in SA as the company looks to tap into Africa's growing middle class.

Marriott, which last month won the final clearance to buy rival Starwood Hotels and Resorts Worldwide, said three of the hotels would be built in Cape Town, while two are already under construction in Johannesburg.

"Africa is particularly important to Marriott International's expansion strategy because of the continent's rapid economic growth, expanding middle class and youth population," Marriott CEO Arne Sorenson said in a statement.

The owner of up-market chains such as Ritz Carlton and Sheraton says the developments will lift its number of hotels on the continent to just over 200, with more than 27,000 rooms.

The five hotels are expected to create 8,000 building-related jobs while under construction and over 700 long-term hospitality jobs, Marriott said.

Marriott is already Africa's biggest hotel operator, having bought leading chain Protea in 2014. The new hotels will be branded Marriott, it said. (Reuters 06-10-2016)

NIGERIA : LE GOUVERNEMENT POURSUIT LES GRANDS GROUPES PETROLIERS EN JUSTICE



Le budget du Nigeria dépend à 70 % des exportations de pétrole (ici, une plateforme de Total à Amenem, dans le delta du Niger).

Le gouvernement nigérian, qui accuse de grands groupes pétroliers d'avoir exporté illégalement pour 17 milliards de dollars de brut entre 2011 et 2014, a comparu vendredi devant la cour de Lagos, pour un premier procès contre ENI Agip (Italie), Total (France) et Chevron (Etats-Unis).

Ce premier procès concerne les exportations non déclarées, faites par Total E&P Nigeria Limited, Nigeria Agip Oil Company et Chevron vers les Etats-Unis, pour une somme de 12,7 milliards de dollars (57 millions de barils), selon le gouvernement.

« L'audience de ce (vendredi) matin s'est surtout concentrée sur les demandes de non-lieu de Total » et de Chevron, a expliqué Fabian Ajogwu, avocat du gouvernement d'Abuja, précisant que ces deux requêtes avaient été rejetées par le juge.

« Aujourd'hui (vendredi), nous voulons montrer que le procès est lancé et que (les compagnies) devront répondre à ces accusations », a déclaré l'avocat à l'AFP. Les audiences reprendront le 25 octobre. (JA) En juillet, le président Muhammadu Buhari, fraîchement élu sur la promesse d'éradiquer la corruption endémique du pays, avait bloqué 113 bateaux pétroliers des eaux territoriales nigérianes, les accusant d'exporter du pétrole non déclaré.

Son gouvernement a ensuite mandaté des sociétés d'audit américaines pour comparer le nombres de barils déclarés à l'exportation des côtes nigérianes avec les quantités déclarées à l'importation dans les ports américains, chinois et norvégiens.

L'enquête a conclu que « la baisse (remarquée dans les revenus de l'Etat) était en grande partie due à la non-déclaration ou la sous-évaluation des exportations de brut par les plus grandes compagnies d'hydrocarbures qui opèrent au Nigeria », selon les documents de l'accusation.

La justice se concentre dans un premier temps sur les exportations illégales de 57 millions de barils vers les Etats-Unis et qui concernent Total, ENI Agip et Chevron.

Shell (Grande-Bretagne/Pays-Bas) doit également comparaître dans les semaines à venir, ainsi que 11 autres compagnies dont le gouvernement n'a pas encore donné le nom. (JA 03-10-2016)

IMF WARNS ON UNPRECEDENTED GLOBAL DEBT

Eight years after the financial crisis, the world is suffering from a debt hangover of unprecedented proportions.

Gross debt in the non-financial sector has more than doubled in nominal terms since the turn of the century, reaching \$152-trillion last year, and it's still rising, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said on Wednesday. The figure includes debt held by governments, non-financial firms and households.

Current debt levels now sit at a record 225% of world gross domestic product (GDP), the IMF said Wednesday in its semi-annual Fiscal Monitor, noting that about two-thirds of the liabilities reside in the private sector. The rest of it is public debt, which has increased to 85% of GDP last year from below 70%.

Slow global growth is making it difficult to pay off the obligations, "setting the stage for a vicious feedback loop in which lower growth hampers deleveraging and the debt overhang exacerbates the slowdown", said the Washington-based fund.

"Excessive private debt is a major headwind against the global recovery and a risk to financial stability," IMF fiscal chief Vitor Gaspar said in prepared remarks. "History has taught us that it is very easy to underestimate the risks associated with private debt during the upswing."

Massive Load

The massive debt load complicates the task for global policy makers, who have been urged to use fiscal policy to boost growth amid the waning ability of central banks to stimulate the economy.

Finance chiefs and central bankers from the IMF's 189 member nations meet this week in Washington for the annual meeting of the fund, which was conceived during the Second World War to oversee the world monetary system.

Much of the borrowing dates back to the boom in private debt that preceded the 2008 financial crisis, according to the IMF. While households and companies in advanced economies started to retrench following the crisis, the deleveraging has been uneven and in some instances debts kept rising, Gaspar said. Bad debts have ended up on government balance sheets.

Meanwhile, low interest rates drove a surge in corporate debt in emerging markets. Levels of private debt are now high in both advanced nations and a few large emerging markets such as China and Brazil that are considered systemically important to the global financial system.

High Debt

There is no consensus on what levels of debt-to-GDP should be the considered alarming, the IMF said. However, financial crises tend to be associated with excessive private debt in both advanced and emerging economies, the fund said. In addition, research has shown that high debt is linked with lower growth, even when a crisis is avoided.

If companies postpone paying off debt, they could become "very sensitive to shocks, increasing the risk of an abrupt deleveraging process", the IMF said.

Depressed economies with weak banking systems should avoid premature tightening of fiscal policy, the fund said. Governments could speed "voluntary" restructuring of private debt through measures such as subsidising creditors to lengthen maturities.

The IMF flagged the eurozone and China as economies where it was particularly important for deleveraging to occur. (Bloomberg 05-10-2016)

KIGALI WASTE FIRM SEEKS TO EXPAND IN EAST AFRICA



A Kigali-based water firm is considering selling its waste-to-energy business model to cities across East Africa as it seeks to tap into the region's garbage disposal crisis. [Pivot Works Ltd](#), which runs its demonstration facility in Kigali, converts human waste into solid fuel then sells it to local manufacturing companies as a replacement for coal.

The plant uses a dewatering machine to transform toilet waste into sludge cakes, which are later dried to produce fuel for use in industrial boilers and kilns.

"We have a number of clients, including cement manufacturer Cimerwa, who are our biggest clients. There is Utexrwa, but we planning to get more when we put up plant," said Ashley Muspratt, founder and chief executive officer, adding that, "Negotiations with the government are still ongoing."

Waste in most cities in the region is dumped in landfills, posing a health and sanitation dangers. Increasing urbanisation has left cities in Rwanda, Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania without proper ways to manage the growing volume of waste.

Kigali, for instance, has no sewage or faecal sludge treatment facility and plans to install a central sewage management system are stalled because of lack of funding.

As a result, unsafe waste disposal constitutes a serious hindrance to the government's efforts to provide adequate, safe and sustainable sanitation. However, this is a common problem across the region where cities do not have adequate sewage systems.

A 2014 study published in the Journal of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for Development, showed that provision of adequate, safe and sustainable sanitation coverage is a growing challenge in sub-Saharan Africa.

Researchers said that while processing faecal sludge for industrial fuel would serve as a safe collection and treatment option, it hasn't been fully explored.

Experts warn that sludge, which ends up in rivers, ditches or is improperly handled, could compromise both public health and the environment in regional cities.

It is estimated that 2.4 billion users of on-site sanitation systems generate faecal sludge that goes untreated.

With Pivot seeking to commercialise its waste-to-energy business model, Mrs. Muspratt said this is an opportunity her company wants to tap into.

"We are organising an event in at least five major cities in East Africa in October, with a view to showcasing the concept prior to building plants in these cities," she said.

Pivot has already secured a two-year partnership with the Kigali City Authority to be extended upon successful demonstration of the fuel extraction and production technology.(Construction Review online 0210-2016)

AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK COMES TO NIGERIA'S AID



THE African Development Bank will help Nigeria to overcome its recession but the oil producer should increase taxes and lift hard currency curbs to ease the dollar shortages choking Africa's biggest economy, the bank's chairman says.

The country has been hammered after a plunge in oil revenues, which make up 70% of national income, eroded public finances and currency reserves needed to fund imports.

"Nigeria is too big to fail. The African Development Bank will rally strongly around Nigeria to overcome its recession," bank chairman Akinwumi Adesina said in an interview late on Monday in London.

In a first step the lender's board was expected to grant a \$1bn loan at a rate of around 1.2%, which Nigeria could use to plug its 2016 budget deficit of 2.2-trillion naira (\$7.1 bn).

Nigeria has been trying for months to borrow abroad to fund a record budget to get the economy back on track.

"They have a liquidity problem," said Adesina, a former Nigerian agriculture minister. "We want to make sure Nigeria gets resilient."

Nigeria had agreed on several reforms, such as increasing its value-added and corporation taxes to offset a loss of oil revenues, he said, adding that the tax-to-GDP ratio was 4% -5 %, less than other countries in the region at around 15 %.

But the government should also lift hard currency curbs imposed by the central bank, Adesina said.

The restrictions effectively ban the import of almost 700 goods Nigeria wants to make at home, such as cement or basic food. Dozens of factories across a variety of sectors have been forced to close as they cannot import raw materials.

"In our view it would be better to have gradual [customs] tariffs as opposed to [forex] restrictions," he said, adding that such a move would end the pressure on the naira.

Nigeria abandoned its currency peg in June hoping to attract more inflows. But with hard currency curbs still in place, few foreign investors are willing to put their money to work there, and those who need hard currency have to pay a 40 % premium on the black market.

Attracting investment was the only way for the central bank to lower its interest rates. "The interest rate is way too high," Adesina said. "You cannot drag the economy out of recession with those interest rates."

In September the central bank left its benchmark rate at 14 %, resisting government calls to lower borrowing costs.

The African Development Bank would also fund development projects for around \$750 m in the near future. The bank is expected to lend Nigeria a total of \$4.1bn over 2016 and 2017, and more than double that to about \$10 bn by 2019.

Adesina also said the bank was ready to release a loan of \$1.5 bn to Egypt once Cairo requested it.

Egypt had agreed in December 2015 to a \$1.5bn programme to be disbursed over three years. (Reuters 05-10-2016)

BP TO BUY MOZAMBICAN FIELD'S LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS OUTPUT FOR 20 YEARS



BP has agreed to buy the entire liquefied natural gas (LNG) production from a field off Mozambique over a period of 20 years.

The London-based company will purchase cargoes from the Coral South Floating LNG plant being developed by partners including Italy's Eni, which is due to get final approval by the end of this year, BP said in a statement on Tuesday.

The project is expected to have a capacity of more than 3.3-million tonnes a year, BP said, without disclosing the commercial terms of the deal. At current prices on the short-term Asian LNG market of about \$6 per million British thermal units, the agreement would be worth about \$1bn a year, according to Bloomberg calculations.

"I would suspect they have received pricing terms that they view as profitable for re-sale into their end markets," because of the current LNG glut, Jason Gammel, an analyst at Jefferies said by phone. "BP and others do offtake incremental volumes because they can make profit trading it."

As the world moves toward cleaner ways of producing and consuming energy, many major oil companies are increasing their focus on natural gas, which is considered a crucial bridge fuel in the transition to a low-carbon future. Royal Dutch Shell's \$54bn takeover of BG Group last year was a significant pivot toward gas, giving the company massive LNG projects in Australia.

"The agreement adds to the diversity of our natural gas portfolio beyond the end of the decade, further enhancing our ability to meet the needs of our customers," Paul Reed, CEO of BP's supply and trading business, said in the statement.

Production at Coral will start in late 2021 at the earliest, Filippo Gotti, vice-president of LNG Mozambique at Eni Gas & Power, said in September. Eni is the operator of the project, with a stake of about 50% held through a subsidiary.

China National Petroleum has an indirect holding of 20%, while Portugal's Galp Energia, Korea Gas and Mozambique's Empresa Nacional de Hidrocarbonetos each have 10%. (Bloomberg 05-10-2016)

L'AIDE AU DEVELOPPEMENT DE LA FRANCE REPART A LA HAUSSE

En baisse depuis 4 années consécutives, le budget français consacré à la solidarité internationale va augmenter de 5% en 2017, a annoncé le gouvernement. Une hausse qui risque d'être insuffisante pour honorer les engagements de Paris.

L'aide au développement française, mise à la diète depuis plusieurs exercices budgétaires, va cette année repartir à la hausse.

Lors de la présentation du projet de budget 2017, le gouvernement a annoncé que les crédits budgétaires de l'aide publique au développement (APD) seraient augmentés de 130 millions pour atteindre 2,62 milliards d'euros en 2017.

Une hausse timide, mais qui marque un tournant dans les choix budgétaires de François Hollande en matière de développement, marqués par une baisse ininterrompue de l'aide depuis 2012 dans un contexte de rigueur budgétaire.

« Malgré ce timide changement de tendance, le quinquennat de François Hollande restera marqué par une amputation de 20% des crédits budgétaires, soit près de 700 millions d'euros en moins pour lutter contre le changement climatique, contribuer à l'éradication de la pauvreté et de la faim, et favoriser l'accès à la santé et à l'éducation pour tous. », a dénoncé dans un communiqué Sandra Lhote-Fernandes, porte-parole d'Oxfam France.

« Cette coupe [depuis 2012] dans un budget vital pour les populations des pays les plus pauvres et les plus vulnérables du monde est équivalente à deux années d'aide de la France vers le Mali, le Niger et le Tchad, des pays pourtant prioritaires de l'aide de la France », a estimé Friederike Röder, directrice France de l'organisation ONE, dans un communiqué.

Une hausse attendue

La hausse du budget était attendue de pied ferme et avait été promise par le président en amont de la présentation du budget 2017. Dès le 30 août, le président Hollande avait affirmé devant les ambassadeurs français rassemblés à Paris que la France « devait être exemplaire sur le front de l'aide au développement ».

Après avoir présidé la conférence de Paris sur le climat (COP 21) et dans la foulée de l'adoption des nouveaux objectifs de développement durable (ODD) en 2015, la France avait promis un certain nombre de moyens de financement. Le président avait notamment annoncé le déblocage de 4 milliards d'euros supplémentaires d'ici à 2020.

[Selon le Projet de loi de finances](#), les 4 milliards devraient finalement provenir de l'augmentation de la capacité d'intervention de l'Agence française de développement, (AFD), tandis que 400 millions d'euros de dons seraient prévus à l'horizon 2020.

Pour l'heure, le projet de loi de finances ne précise pas les sources de financement de la hausse de 130 millions prévue pour 2017, mais la mise à contribution des recettes issues de la taxe sur les transactions financière, dont une partie finance déjà la solidarité internationale, est envisagée.

Avec ce nouveau budget, la France demeure encore très éloignée de ses objectifs internationaux en matière de solidarité internationale. En effet, les principaux pays donateurs, dont la France c'étaient engagés à consacrer 0,7% de leur revenu national brut au développement d'ici à ... 2015.

« En 2015, la France ne consacre que 0,37% de sa richesse nationale à l'APD, contre les 0,7% promis devant la communauté internationale à maintes reprises » a rappelé l'organisation Coopération Sud.

Pour autant, seul un poignée de pays ont dans les faits atteint cet objectif de dépenses, parmi lesquels le Royaume-Uni ou la Suède. (EurActiv 29-09-2016)

STANDARD BRINGS BUSINESS TOGETHER IN WEST AFRICA



Standard Bank's ambition to position itself as the go-to bank for businesses in Africa was underscored at the group's intra-Africa business conference in Ghana on Tuesday — the second meeting of its kind in 2016.

"We hope to build a collective of business people with an ambition of succeeding in West Africa," said Standard Bank Group chairman Thulani Gcabashe, speaking at the opening of the West Africa trans-regional conference.

Standard Bank, branded Stanbic Bank in some countries outside SA, held its inaugural transregional conference in Kenya in April, where it hosted clients from SA and East Africa in the hope of promoting partnerships among them. Now it is extending the initiative to West Africa, hosting business-banking clients from southern Africa, Kenya, Uganda, Angola, Ghana, Nigeria and China.

The conference focuses on the challenges and opportunities of doing business in the region — made up of 16 countries — with presentations from business and government leaders and a site visit to Standard Bank's business clients in Ghana.

"You can't talk about being involved in Africa and not have a plan for West Africa," said Andrew Robertson, head of business banking for Standard Bank Africa.

This particular conference was oversubscribed, Robertson said. "Our own research indicates that 42% of our existing commercial banking clients see growth opportunities outside SA. There's a lot of demand from South African-based companies wanting to learn more about how these markets operate and how they go about establishing themselves in these markets."

In 2015, Standard Bank helped 355 commercial clients in Africa to expand their businesses on the continent, which included companies from the rest of Africa growing into SA, Robertson said.

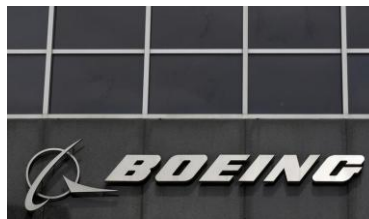
Ten businesses from SA are attending the conference, including Fujifilm and Ladismith Cheese Group. "These are clients who we know have a desire to expand into the rest of Africa but don't necessarily know how to," said Robertson.

One of the businesses, Rhino Energy, was not a client of Standard Bank but wanted to attend the conference. The business, banked by Absa, is attending as a guest of Standard Bank.

Two companies from China are attending the conference, which included a presentation on doing business with the Asian nation. Standard Bank hoped to strengthen trade between China and Africa, helping African clients navigate the China landscape, Robertson said.

The Industrial and Commercial Bank of China holds a 20% stake in Standard Bank, which it bought in 2008 for \$5.5bn, making it the largest investment of a Chinese enterprise into Africa at the time. (BD 05-10-2016)

MOROCCO SIGNS DEAL WITH BOEING TO ATTRACT SUPPLIERS



Morocco has signed an agreement that Boeing Co ([BA.N](#)) will seek to attract its suppliers to boost the kingdom's aeronautics industry.

The "Boeing ecosystem" project aims to bring around 120 suppliers of the company to help raise Morocco's aeronautics exports by \$1 billion and create 8,700 jobs.

Boeing already has a joint venture with France's Safran in Casablanca to build wire bundles and harnesses for aircraft makers, including Boeing and Airbus.

Tuesday's agreement was signed in the royal palace of Tangier by Moroccan trade and industry minister Moulay Hafid Elalamy and the chief executive of Boeing's airplane business, Raymond Conner. Moroccan King Mohammed attended the ceremony.

"Boeing will actively reach out to more than 120 suppliers in the near term to encourage this to happen," Conner said during the ceremony.

Conner and Moroccan officials declined to give details or to say whether some of the suppliers have already committed to open new plants in the kingdom.

Unlike some other countries in the region, Morocco has managed to avoid a big drop in foreign investments since the global financial crisis and the Arab Spring uprisings of 2011, partly by marketing itself as an export base for Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

It has attracted some big auto and aeronautics investors in recent years, including Delphi, Bombardier and Eaton Corp.

It has already exported 5.7 billion dirhams (\$590 million) of aircraft parts in the first eight months of 2016, which represent around of 3.5 percent of Moroccan exports. The aeronautics sector has been growing by around 7 percent annually.

Morocco expects auto industry exports to reach 100 billion dirhams a year by 2020 thanks to PSA Peugeot Citroen's decision last year to build a factory slated to produce 200,000 vehicles a year. It expects the Peugeot plant to raise industry to 20 percent of domestic product (GDP) from 16 percent. (Reuters 04-10-2016)

ENI CLINCHES GAS DEAL WITH MOZAMBIQUE



Mozambique and Italy's Eni have signed a 20-year deal to sell BP liquefied natural gas (LNG), an important step in getting a long-delayed project off the ground, state energy firm ENH said on Tuesday. Eni and Mozambique should reach a final investment decision by the end of 2016 on a project to build a floating offshore platform with a capacity to produce 3.3-million tonnes a year of LNG from gas in the Coral South field, ENH said.

The Coral field is part of the huge reserves discovered six years ago in the Area 4 concession off the Mozambican coast.

"Through this agreement, the partners of Area 4 have achieved another important milestone," ENH said. Eni met bankers in London last month about project financing to develop the Coral field.

Giant gas reserves offer Mozambique an opportunity to transform itself from one of the world's poorest countries into a middle-income state and a major global LNG exporter.

Meanwhile, Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) signed a memorandum of understanding on Tuesday for joint exploration and development of hydrocarbons in Lake Tanganyika.

The lake, which straddles the border between Tanzania, the DRC, Burundi and Zambia, is the world's second largest by volume and second deepest, according to officials.

"We have signed a memorandum of understanding to exchange experiences in exploration and exploitation of petroleum in Lake Tanganyika," Congolese President Joseph Kabila told a news conference in Dar es Salaam. That was after talks with Tanzania President John Magufuli.

"We believe that there is petroleum in Lake Tanganyika," he said. Kabila said the two countries had agreed to pursue joint oil and gas exploration activities in the lake.

He arrived in Tanzania on Monday for a three-day state visit. "We have also discussed mutual cooperation in the proposed crude oil pipeline project to be constructed from Uganda to Tanzania," Kabila said.

"Uganda is expected to start producing oil soon and Congo will also in the next few years begin its own oil production," Kabila said.

Landlocked Uganda announced in April it would build a pipeline for its oil through Tanzania rather than Kenya, which had wanted to secure the export route.

Kabila said the DRC wanted to use the same pipeline to export its future oil production from Lake Albert. France's Total, one of the oil firms developing Uganda's fields, is taking part in the construction of the crude oil pipeline with Britain's Tullow Oil and China's CNOOC.

Tanzanian officials said they expected construction of the pipeline to be completed in 2020 at an estimated cost of \$3.5bn.

Tanzania awarded oil and gas exploration rights for the northern side of Lake Tanganyika to a subsidiary of Total in 2011.

Interest in East Africa as a new hydrocarbon region has been heating up in recent years after major discoveries of oil in Uganda and natural gas in Tanzania and Mozambique.

Tanzania announced in February it had discovered an additional 2.17-trillion cubic feet of possible natural gas deposits in an onshore field, raising its total estimated recoverable natural gas reserves to more than 57-trillion cubic feet. East Africa's second-biggest economy is yet to make commercial discoveries of oil. (Reuters 05-10-2016)

The Memorandum is supported by the ACP-African, Caribbean, Pacific Secretariat, Chamber of Commerce Tenerife, AHEAD-GLOBAL, Business Council for Africa, Corporate Council on Africa, ELO - Portuguese Association for Economic Development and Cooperation, Hellenic-African Chamber of Commerce and Development, HTTC - Hungarian Trade & Cultural Centre, NABA - Norwegian-African Business Association, NABC- Netherlands Africa Business Council, SwissCham-Africa and other organisations.

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



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CONCEPT NOTES WELCOME FOR TRADE CAPACITY GRANTS UNDER ACP-EU TRADECOMII PROGRAM – DEADLINE 8 NOVEMBER



The ACP-EU TradeComII Programme is accepting concept papers from a wide range of actors who wish to carry out trade-related programmes, training, research and networking activities for the benefit of African, Caribbean and Pacific countries.

Trade research or training institutions, academic institutions with specific trade programmes, export promotion or agencies, private sector advocacy organisations; and certain international organisations are invited to make submissions.

At an information meeting held on Monday 26 September 2016 in the ACP Secretariat premises in Brussels, [video of the live stream available here: <https://youtu.be/etTKkYufjfo>]. Potential beneficiaries of the grant contracts were alerted that the deadline for submission of concept notes is 8 November 2016 at 4pm Brussels time. The

Information Meeting was held following the publication of a call for proposals for grants by the intra-ACP TradeCom II Programme, supported by the ACP Secretariat and the European Union.

The purpose of the TradeCom II programme is to enhance the capacity of ACP countries to formulate and implement suitable trade policies; assist ACP countries to implement EPAs, regional and international trade agreements to their benefit; and strengthen ACP Private Sector competitiveness by supporting trade facilitation and trade promotion.

The call aims at enhancing sustainable North-South, South-South and Intra-ACP trade research and capacity building actions. The priorities are to support:

- activities and actions of the ACP trade-related capacity-building organisations for implementation of the EPAs and WTO agreements;
- trade-related training and research activities in ACP countries;
- trade-related programmes of ACP business associations (such as chambers of commerce, Farmers' associations, confederation of industries, producers' associations, professional associations) in the area of trade; and
- networking activities of trade-related think-tanks and similar organisations.

A maximum budget of Euros 14.4 million is available for grants sizing between Euros 1 and 3 million. Cost sharing of at least 20% is required.

It is anticipated that through the programmes and projects that will be implemented under the grant, the ACP States will also be able to surmount various challenges related to the implementation of various commitments under the EPAs and of the complex outcome of the Ninth and Tenth WTO Ministerial Conferences as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This will be possible if capacitated to do so.

More information is available on the 'Announcements' section of the ACP Secretariat website:

<http://www.acp.int/content/call-proposals-appel-doffres-tradecom-ii-acp-trade-capacity-building-programme-programme-de->

and on the following link:

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?ADSSChck=1474444680021&do=publi.welcome&nbPubliList=15&orderby=upd&searchtype=RS&aofr=138266&orderbyad=Desc&userlanguage=en>

For information about the ACP-EU TradeComII programme in general visit: <http://www.tradecom-acpeu.org/>

ACP 10 October 2016

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