

MEMORANDUM

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The Memorandum is issued daily, with the sole purpose to provide updated basic business and economic information on Africa, to more than 4,000 European Companies, as well as their business parties in Africa.

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WORLD BANK USD 500 MILLION GREEN BONDS SUPPORT GLOBAL CLIMATE ACTION



The World Bank (International Bank for Reconstruction and Development – IBRD) announced today that it has raised USD 500 million with World Bank green bonds to support the financing of global climate action. This comes at a time when global leaders are preparing for COP22, and implementing the December 2015 Paris Climate Agreement that will enter into force on November 4, 2016.

The lead order of USD 250 million for this transaction was from the Maryland State Treasurer’s Office. The remainder of the bonds were placed with US institutional investors, including Blackrock and PIMCO.

“This is the State’s first investment in green bonds, and builds on the State’s efforts to increase awareness for climate finance and carbon disclosure,” said **Maryland State Treasurer Nancy Kopp**. *“By buying World Bank green bonds, the State is investing in a high-quality product that meets the objectives of maximum security and highest investment returns, while at the same time supporting global climate action. It is also a message to our citizens, that the State of Maryland supports climate policies in all areas of government.”*

“PIMCO views the World Bank’s green bonds as an opportunity to help our clients achieve their investment objectives while also supporting the World Bank’s important global sustainability efforts,” said **PIMCO’s Scott Mather, Chief Investment Officer U.S. Core Strategies**.

“We welcome the efforts of the international community to tackle our generation’s most pressing challenge of climate change through the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement that enters into force tomorrow. Mobilizing financing through the capital markets is a key part of the solution that the World Bank Treasury has been leading since 2008, with its green bond transactions and other capital market activities. We’re very pleased that the State of Maryland and other institutional investors are supporting these climate finance efforts with their investments in high-quality, liquid World Bank bonds,” said **World Bank Vice President and Treasurer, Arunma Oteh**.

Since the World Bank’s first green bond launched in 2008, the World Bank has issued 127 green bonds in 18 currencies, totaling approximately USD 9.6 billion equivalent. World Bank green bonds offer investors an opportunity to support environmental solutions while benefiting from the triple-A credit strength of the World Bank. World Bank green bonds support the financing of projects in member countries that meet specific criteria for low carbon and climate resilient growth, seeking to mitigate climate change or help affected people adapt to it. The types of eligible projects include renewable energy installations, energy efficiency projects, and new technologies in waste management and agriculture that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help finance the transition to a low carbon economy. They also include financing for forest and watershed management and infrastructure to prevent climate-related flood damage and build climate resilience.

Summary Terms:

Issuer:	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)
Rating:	Aaa/AAA
Amount:	USD 500 million
Settlement date:	November 22, 2016
Maturity date:	November 22, 2021
Issue price and redemption amount:	100%

(WB 03-11-2016)

SENEGAL: PHOSPHATE PRODUCTION INCREASES BY 67% AT END OF AUGUST 2016

Senegal's phosphate production rose by 66.9% in the first eight months of 2016 compared to the same period in 2015, APA learns Thursday from the Direction of Forecasting and Economic Studies (DPEE).

The combination of this production totaled 1.2 million tons against 720,900 tons in 2015, that being an increase of 482, 600 tons in absolute terms.

This is mainly due to the production of calcium phosphate which increased by 83.6% to 1.1 million tons against 599, 000 tons in the first eight months of 2015.

For its part, the production of attapulgitite fell by 15.1% to 103, 500 tons against 121; 900 tons in 2015.(APA 27-10-2016)

ANGOLA TO EXPORT MORE THAN 35,000 CUBIC METRES OF ORNAMENTAL STONE IN 2016

Angola should extract nearly 60,000 cubic metres of ornamental stone and export 35,000 cubic metres by the end of this year, said Geology and Mines Minister Francisco Queiroz in Luanda.

Forecasts also indicate that 65,000 cubic metres will be extracted in 2017, of which 38,000 cubic metres will be exported, Queiroz added in his speech to participants in the Geoformando seminar for journalists and opinion-makers.

The ornamental stone subsector currently counts 14 operational companies, which should be joined by 9 more this year, reports Angop news agency.

Pig iron projects in Cassinga and in Cuando Cubango province should get under way by 2018 and produce 1.7 million tons of iron ore, the minister stated.

Other projects involve iron ore projects in Kassala Kitungo and Cerca in Kwanza Norte province and phosphates in Cabinda and Zaire provinces.

The training seminar for journalists was organised bearing in mind the geology sector's eventual impact on the changing base of the Angolan economy. (31-10-2016)

ANTI-BRIBERY POLICY AND COMPLIANCE GUIDANCE FOR AFRICAN COMPANIES

Corruption is detrimental to economic, political and social development. It distorts market competition, undermines productivity and ultimately impedes sustainable economic growth. This can be measured in Africa. Indeed, while sub-Saharan Africa has become a commercially significant market, bribery and corruption risks are deterring higher rates of investment and the ability of companies to conduct business fairly on a level playing field. The African Development Bank estimates that USD 148 billion is lost to corruption in Africa every year. The bribery risks confronting both African and foreign companies in Africa, including small and medium-sized enterprises, can be attributed to multiple factors.

The [Anti-Bribery Policy and Compliance Guidance for African Companies](#) is a practical, concise guide to help African companies set up measures to stop the supply side of bribes to public officials in business transactions and support both the public and private sectors in their efforts to prevent bribery and improve the quality of corporate compliance and bribery prevention measures.

The Guidance has been developed by the [OECD/AfDB Joint Initiative to Support Business Integrity and Anti-Bribery Efforts in Africa](#). It draws on best practices from the OECD, the AfDB, the African Union, the UN, Joint Initiative member countries, international business associations and civil society.

It also complements broader and more comprehensive anti-corruption compliance tools developed by the OECD, UNODC and the World Bank. (OECD 27-10-2016)

[Download the guidance](#) | [Version française](#)

MOZAMBIQUE DROUGHT VICTIMS NEED \$200M FOR RELIEF AID

The United Nations Special Envoy for the El Nino phenomenon and climate change, Macharia Kamau, has appealed for some \$200 million to immediately respond to the drought situation in southern and central Mozambique.

Kamau ended a four-day visit after touring drought-stricken districts besides speaking with senior Mozambican officials, including President Filipe Nyusi.

About 1.5 million people are affected by the drought, which is linked to the El Nino weather phenomenon, an anomalous warming of the surface waters in parts of the Pacific Ocean which disrupts weather patterns across the globe and is particularly linked with dry conditions in southern Africa.

Kamau said in a statement as he left Mozambique on Friday said “humanitarian assistance needs to be urgently expanded and we need robust plans to reach those who are in need”.

The UN official noted that, of the \$200 million needed, only 57 percent has so far been guaranteed.

“We need more, so that we can provide food, water, health care, nutrition and other emergency services for Mozambicans”, he said.

“But we have to understand that the climate is rapidly changing, and we must change with it and we cannot go back to business as usual when this emergency passes. We cannot solve today’s problems with yesterday’s solutions” he added.

He called for “long term and sustainable solutions in a context in which weather events such as El Nino are increasing in frequency and seriousness”.

Unlike floods or cyclones, said Kamau, “the trail of devastation left by drought can last for years. Some districts in Mozambique have not had rain for three years”.

He said his visit to Magude district, in Maputo province “was a real wake-up call”.

He had seen the dry and withered fields, carcasses of animals, and desolate people.

“The people are suffering from lack of food and water, lack of education and lack of prospects”, he said.

“We must do better for them” the UN official pointed out.

The drought has hit much of the southern African region including the maize belt in South Africa, the continent’s most advanced economy and the top producer of the staple grain.

In South Africa, Lesotho, Swaziland, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia and Zimbabwe, last year’s poor rains were followed by an El Nino-driven drought that has delayed planting and stunted crops.

The United Nations World Food Programme, WFP says an estimated 31.6 million people across the region are struggling to feed themselves, (APA 28-10-2016)

FITCH MAINTAINS MOZAMBIQUE'S CC RISK RATING

The Fitch Ratings agency has maintained Mozambique's long-term risk rating at CC in both local and foreign currency, indicates a statement issued on Friday.

The CC rating implies that the so-defined debt is speculative, i.e. without quality for investment, and that the respective country is close to or already failing to meet its financial obligations.

The short-term debt, in both local and foreign currency, was rated at C, one level below CC.

The agency states in its report that Mozambique's debt-servicing capacity is under severe distress. The government has announced that in 2017 it will have to pay out USD 803.8 million on public and publicly guaranteed external debt.

Mozambique's government officially admitted last week that the state would be unable to make the next payments on debt of public companies and called for servicing to be restructured and further financial assistance from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

A 20-page document presented to investors by the Finance Ministry states that "the profile of public debt guaranteed by the State of Mozambique is not sustainable."

The Finance Ministry indicates in the document that public debt should reach 130 percent of GDP in 2016. It also lowers to 3.7 percent the country's forecasted economic growth.

The current crisis associated to the debt and lower commodity prices has dented confidence in Mozambique and its currency, causing the value of the metical to fall nearly 40 against the US dollar and 45 percent against the South African rand.

Devaluation vis-à-vis the rand has led to a sharp rise in prices, since most consumer products are imported from South Africa. Fitch Ratings expects the inflation rate to hit 20 percent this year, the highest in two decades, before beginning to drop slightly in 2017/2018 due to more rigid monetary policy. Mozambique should thus grow 3.5 percent this year, the lowest rate in the last 15 years, owing to the slowdown in economic activity across all sectors. (31-10-2016)

COMMISSIONER HAHN AT MEDITERRANEAN ECONOMIC WEEK: DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY CAN HELP PROMOTE GROWTH AND EMPLOYMENT

As part of the Mediterranean Economic Week in Marseille, ANIMA Investment Network and their partners organised the EMEA (Europe-Middle East, Africa) Business Forum on 2 and 3 November in Marseille on the theme of Digital Technology for a connected Mediterranean. Targeted at business and economic decision-makers in the region, the Forum addressed the opportunities brought by the digital revolution and the new frontiers of cooperation between Europe and the Mediterranean.

In his speech during the event, European Commissioner for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Johannes Hahn reminded that job creation was the biggest challenge in the region and a top priority of the European Neighbourhood Policy: "*at least 5 million new jobs need to be created every year to employ a growing workforce and to ensure social inclusion.*" To reach this target, economic growth in the region should accelerate to above 6%.

He pointed to another key issue, support for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), especially in terms of access to finance. "*In fact, the 6 million MSMEs in the region represent the largest opportunity for economic growth and job creation, since they account for 90% of total employment.*"

Commissioner Hahn also stressed the importance of developing trade among Southern partners and encouraging foreign direct investment to the Southern Neighbourhood Region. He believes that digital technology, which is now part of everybody's daily life, can help promote private sector-led growth and employment.

Finally, the Commissioner reminded that the EU had invested EUR 1 billion in economic development since 2011, added to the 2 billion Euros per year that are provided within the Neighbourhood Investment Facility for project financing in the Southern Neighbourhood.

“Support for economic stabilisation and development has been an important pillar of the Euro Mediterranean Partnership in the past and remains a key priority for the future,” he concluded. (EC 04-11-2016)

MOZAMBIQUE INAUGURATES BIGGEST HOSPITAL SINCE INDEPENDENCE

President Filipe Nyusi of Mozambique has inaugurated the largest hospital to be built in the country since independence.

The health facility is located in Quelimane, capital of central province of Zambezia.

Unveiled late on Thursday, it is the fourth health unit to enjoy the status of “central hospital” after those in Maputo, Beira and Nampula.

Built at a cost of \$55 million provided by South Korea, via its Exim Bank, the hospital has a workforce of 3,000.

At the inauguration ceremony, Nyusi declared that the new hospital is a symbol of inclusion where all Mozambicans have a right to be treated, regardless of race, ethnicity or party political affiliation.

“This hospital doesn’t belong to anybody young, adult, old, white, black and all should benefit equally from it hospital.

“Whether you’re a member of Frelimo, or Renamo, the Mozambique Democratic Movement, (MDM), or any other party, this is your hospital”, he said.

President Nyusi said he was impressed by the services provided at the hospital, and believed these would ensure that Mozambicans from other parts of the country would seek medical care in Quelimane.

But a major challenge like other infrastructures would be to guarantee maintenance of the hospital. (APA 28-10-2016)

NORWAY HELPS PAY FOR EXPANSION OF THERMAL POWER PLANT IN MOZAMBIQUE

Norway will provide 49 million kroner (USD 3.5 million) to help finance expansion of the Maputo Thermal Power Plant, said the project’s coordinator, João Manuel, cited by the Maputo-based daily Notícias. Manuel made his comments as he and visiting Norwegian Foreign Minister Børge Brende toured the power station, where the expansion work will soon begin. The aim is to improve the quality of the energy produced and to increase output.

Contacts are currently under way with Germany and the European Development Bank with a view to obtaining funds to cover the remaining USD 6.6 million needed for the project, he added.

The newspaper reported that besides the Maputo Thermal Power Plant project, plans call for expanding distribution networks in the cities of Tete, Beira and Matola.

Brende began a visit to Mozambique on Sunday, accompanied by a business delegation representing the sectors of energy, finance and agriculture, whose members will take part in a forum dedicated to the theme of ‘Partners for Employment: how the public and private sectors can contribute to job creation’. (31-10-2016)

MOGHERINI IN TUNISIA: EU AND TUNISIA SHARE THE SAME REGION, THE SAME VALUES, THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE

EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini travelled to Tunis this week where she met with Tunisian President Béji Caïd Essebsi, Prime Minister Youssef Chahed and Foreign Minister Khemaies Jhinaoui. The visit signals the growing ties between Tunisia and the EU in many sectors.

"We share the same region, the same values, the present and the future. The success of Tunisia is extremely important for the European Union," said Mogherini. The High Representative stressed how important it is for the EU *"to invest in the present and the future of Tunisia"* especially in Tunisian youth.

The European Union will raise its financial support to Tunisia to EUR 300 million for 2017 and is committed to keeping the same level of support until 2020. *"Our partnership goes beyond financial support and touches upon cooperation for the environment, the creation of jobs, economic development, security and foreign policy,"* stressed Mogherini.

At her meeting with President Essebsi, who is expected in Brussels next month, the High Representative also discussed the situation in Libya: *"It's very important to work together for the stability of the Mediterranean, which is also a European sea"*.

Mogherini and Prime Minister Chahed also launched together a new project for the environmental clean-up of Lake Bizerte and the depollution of the Mediterranean. (EEAS 04-11-2016)

[EU cooperation with Tunisia](#)

RWANDA VENTURES INTO BEEF PRODUCTION

Rwanda has leased out about 5000 hectares of land to a consortium of 12 local investors to carry out modern commercial cattle farming and beef production.

The 5,000 hectares of land, according to the minutes of a Cabinet meeting seen by APA on Friday was leased out to the investors in the quest to scale up beef production in Rwanda.

The meeting held earlier this month was chaired by President Paul Kagame.

According to officials the investors have already started preparing pasture through planting fodder before the cows can be brought in.

Dr Théogène Rutagwenda, the Director-General of Animal Resources at the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources said the farmland is expected to have at least 1200 cows slaughtered per year in each of the 13 blocks in which they will be kept.

Each cow is expected to produce an average of 160 kilogrammes, while the annual harvest will be over 2.4 million tonnes from the entire project.

Once it kicks off, the project is expected to surpass, by far the initial target set by the government for meat production, which was 230,000 tonnes by 2018.

The current production of meat in the country, according to figures from the Rwanda Agriculture Board, is at 86,000 tonnes per year, going by the 2015 production.

Officials say, under the envisaged intensive beef production project, the cattle will be taken into feedlots and intensively fed such that after 120 days, they would be ready for slaughter.

"The cattle will not be sent to graze, rather, they will be provided with feeds and they will not do anything

else apart from eating and drinking, which increases weight,” Dr Rutagwenda said.

Speaking about how the government will benefit from the project, Rutagwenda said the project will result in increased meat production and the availability of beef on the local market.

He said the plan is to boost beef exports and help reduce the trade deficit the country is currently faced with.

According to Rutagwenda, the project's proximity to the planned Bugesera International Airport, whose construction has already started, will ease the process.(APA 28-10-2016)

MOZAMBIQUE TO HAVE SOLAR POWER PLANT IN 2017

The company Scatec Solar and the Norwegian Development Fund (Norfund) signed on Monday in Maputo a contract guaranteeing the sale of solar power to the state-held Electricidade de Moçambique (EdM) for a 25-year period, the company announced in a statement.

The contract was signed at a ceremony attended by visiting Norwegian Foreign Minister Børge Brende and Mozambican Mineral Resources and Energy Minister Letícia Klemens.

The project comprises the first large-scale solar energy production plant in Mozambique, located in the city of Mocuba in Zambézia province. With an installed capacity of 40 megawatts it is expected to supply 77,000 megawatt-hours per year to about 175,000 homes.

A shareholders agreement was also signed between KLP Norfund Investments AS (22.5 percent), Scatec Solar (52.5 percent) and Electricidade de Moçambique (25 percent), involving an estimated cost of USD 84 million.

The project will be financed with USD 64 million (76 percent) from the International Finance Corporation of the World Bank group. The remainder will be guaranteed by the shareholders; EdM's part will be borne by the Norwegian government by means of a donation.

Scatec Solar also reported that the financial part of the project is nearly concluded. Construction of the solar power installation should begin in the first quarter of 2017 and be finished in December of the same year. (01-11-2016)

ETHIOPIA SUSPENDS 12 CHARITY ORGANIZATIONS

The Ethiopian Charities and Civil Societies Agency on Friday announced that it has suspended 12 charity organizations during the past three months.

The charity organizations were suspended for failing to present report on time and misusing funds, according to Fantaye Gezahegn, deputy director general of the agency. In the reported period, the agency also issued permits for 40 organizations as well as renewed licenses of 105 organizations. Six organizations were also given first and last warning, she added.

Organizations which violated the civil society and charity law will face justice, Fanatye indicated.

More than 3,000 charity organizations are currently operating in Ethiopia.(APA 28-10-2016)

GREEN JOBS TRAINING: EU SUPPORTS EUROMED UNIVERSITY IN MOROCCO



The head of the EU Delegation to Morocco Rupert Joy and the President of the Euro-Mediterranean University of Fez, Morocco, (UEMF) have signed a memorandum of understanding granting UEMF EUR 5 million. The objective of the memorandum is to grant scholarships to students from low-income backgrounds, and particularly those choosing green pathways.

This memorandum of understanding is the outcome of a series of contacts and technical meetings that started in 2015. The EU support will be provided in the framework of a larger programme worth EUR 105 million devoted to the reinforcement of competitiveness and green growth in Morocco in the period 2016-2020. The EU aims to accompany the reforms and projects of the Moroccan government to favour the country's transition to a green economy. This support also includes efforts related to innovation, research and green jobs training such as those offered by UEMF and labelled by the UfM.

The EU and UEMF agree to maintain and promote high-level intercultural dialogue as well as academic and scientific cooperation between both shores of the Mediterranean. (EEAS 03-11-2016)

IMF EXPECTED TO SUPPORT MOZAMBIQUE ONCE AGAIN IN 2017



The International Monetary Fund will resume aid to Mozambique by the end of the second quarter of 2017 after the country started taking its first steps to take public debt to sustainable values, the permanent IMF representative in Mozambique said in Maputo.

"The exact date is not set, but I think it will be between the end of the first quarter and the beginning of the second quarter," said Ari Aisen, during a conference organised by the Financial Times in the Mozambican capital.

Aisen said there was daily dialogue between the institution and the government to resume support to Mozambique and added that it would likely not involve the programme that was suspended this year due to the hidden debt scandal, "and a new programme should now be approved."

The IMF representative stressed that Mozambique is taking "certain steps" in the three elements that the Fund believes are crucial for its return to the country, according to Portuguese news agency Lusa.

"There has been an important step taken to restructure the debt, macroeconomic policies are being adjusted in the right direction and for the audit, which is a fundamental issue, there was very intense work with the Attorney General [of the Republic]," he said.

Aisen recalled that the disclosure of US\$1.4 billion of loans guaranteed by the state, without the knowledge of international partners and the parliament, raised a "trust issue" but said he had no reason to believe that there are more hidden debts.

Stressing that the international audit will independently produce transparent information and noting that the terms of reference for the audit were discussed by the Director-General of the IMF, Christine Lagarde, and the Mozambican President, when Filipe Nyusi visited Washington last September. (03-11-2016)

NIGERIA TO COMMENCE EXPORT OF FARM PRODUCE TO EUROPE SOON

The Comptroller of the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) in charge of Kano and Jigawa States in northern Nigeria, Mr. Abutu Mathias has said that the export of farm produce to Europe will commence soon from some northern states of the country.

Mathias said on Thursday in Kano at the quarterly stakeholders' forum that the export programme would complement the efforts of the Federal Government towards boosting the non-oil sector to revive the nation's economy.

The report of a local newspaper, the Vanguard said that the project would take off during the November and December harvest season and that some of the produce to be exported include sesame and gum arabic among other types of exportable grains.

It added that the comptroller appealed for support of all the agencies involved in the project so that it would achieve the desired goals.

Speaking on the achievements recorded by the command this year, Mathias said that the revenues collected every month this year exceeded the revenues generated in the corresponding months of last year.

He assured that the command would maintain the tempo in order to meet up with the 2016 revenue target. (APA 28-10-2016)

AIR LINK BETWEEN ANGOLA AND CABO VERDE DEPENDS ON SUBSIDIES

TAAG Angola Airlines will have to suspend flights between Luanda and Praia, Cabo Verde, if it does not receive incentives or subsidies to keep the loss-making route operational, says Peter Hill, the airline's Emirates-appointed British executive chairman.

Hill told the Angolan newspaper Valor Económico that the Cabo Verde connection is one of TAAG's least profitable routes, "costing the company USD 2.5 million per year to transport an average of only 20 persons per flight, a luxury we cannot afford."

The final decision rests with the Angolan government, which may manifest interest in keeping the flights between Luanda and Praia and be ready to subsidise it, he said.

The Cabo Verdean government's interest must also be considered and could lead to lower landing fees or fuel-related costs, he added.

"If it is possible to reach an understanding on these issues we will keep the route as a public service," Hill said, recalling that the company he manages "has to earn money."

TAAG Angola Airlines is managed by a team appointed by Emirates under a cooperation agreement signed with the Angolan government in 2014. (01-11-2016)

DANGOTE DECRIES HIGH POVERTY RATE IN NIGERIA

The President of the Dangote Group, Alhaki Aliko Dangote, has expressed dismay that more than 100 million Nigerians out of an estimated population of 187 million are wallowing in poverty.

Speaking at the Executive Course No. 38, 2016 of the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies, Kuru, near Jos in Plateau State, Dangote said that the situation was unacceptable in view of Nigeria's abundant resources.

Local media reports said that a statement released on Sunday by the company said that it was a curious paradox that Nigeria, Africa's largest oil producer, and the largest economy on the continent, also has one of the highest levels of poverty.

It is estimated that more than 100 million out of a population of 187 million Nigerians live below the poverty line, he said.

Quoting a United Nations report, Dangote said youth unemployment had risen to 42 percent this year, with many graduates roaming the streets of major cities such as Lagos, Kano, Abuja and Port Harcourt in search of elusive white-collar jobs, while for some who were employed, their situation could best be described as under-employment, as they were being under utilised and poorly paid.

This development, according to him, has serious security implications, as evidenced by the high rate of social ills plaguing the nation.

The spate of kidnappings, intermittent vandalism of petroleum pipelines in the Niger Delta, and the protracted insurgency in the North-East are all fuelled, to a large extent, by the high level of endemic poverty in the country, he said.

Dangote pointed out that the current economic recession had further worsened the situation, as the government continued to record dwindling revenues, thus making it increasingly difficult for it to fulfil some of its obligations to the people. (APA 31-10-2016)

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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ACP Press Clubs come together to launch milestone federation



Kigali, Rwanda, 26 October 2016: Leaders of press clubs and press centres from across Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific gathered in Kigali on 20 and 21 October during a pioneering congress, which culminated in the adoption of a charter officially founding the ACP Press Clubs Federation (ACP-PCF).

The ACP-PCF aims to establish a network of national press clubs or press centres, working in collaboration to strengthen the viability and professionalism of media bodies in ACP regions, and to foster intra-ACP communication, cooperation, and networking with similar international bodies around the world.

Co-organised by the ACP Secretariat, the Kigali Press Club and the Brussels EU Press Club, the ACP Congress of Press Clubs was opened by the CEO of the Rwanda Governance Board (RGB) Prof. Anastase Shyaka, with the EU Ambassador to Rwanda H.E Michael Ryan, Acting Sub-Regional Director for Eastern Africa at the UN's Economic Commission for Africa Mr. Andrew Mold, and Secretary General of the International Association of Press Clubs Mr. Jaroslaw Wlodarczyk delivering opening statements.



In his keynote address, the **Head of the RGB Prof. Anastase Shyaka** stressed the “shared responsibility for all ACP member states to strengthen the media sector in order to enhance its contribution towards the achievement of our intended developmental goals.”

“The media remains unarguably a vital driver of sustainable development and a major pillar of democracy and good governance... On the other hand, the weakness of media in Africa and in other developing countries is neither a legacy nor a fatality. It is time for the media in the ACP regions to wake up and position itself in the global landscape to accurately tell our own story.”

It is expected that the network will also be a key platform through which the ACP Group, as an organisation, engages with the media in member countries, in facilitating public awareness on ACP and ACP-EU development issues.



According to the **Chef de Cabinet of the ACP Secretariat, Amb. Mamour Alieu Jagne**, who represented the ACP Secretary General H.E. Dr. Patrick Gomes at the event, “The ACP Group has been taking concrete steps to reinforce its working relations with non-state actors. These include establishing a Civil Society Forum from ACP countries, as well as platforms for interface with the private sector. To date however, no comparable forum exists in relation to the press and media from ACP countries; hence the need for a Federation of ACP Press Clubs”.

Over the course of two days, more than 40 congress participants, made up largely of Presidents and Directors of national press clubs or press associations in all six regions of the ACP Group, held lively discussions about their experiences on the ground, including challenges, opportunities and best practices.

Participants brainstormed on the governance structure, funding mechanisms and activities for the ACP-PCF, seeking out those which would make it most effective and sustainable. They concluded by adopted a founding charter which outlines the general aims, methods of working, and basic structures of the Federation.

Interim Executive Board

An interim Executive Board, constituted of regional representatives from Eastern, Southern Central and West Africa as well as the Pacific and Caribbean, was elected to work intensely in the coming months to push the initiative forward. Coordination and support of the ACP-PCF activities shall be based in Brussels for the first two years beginning 2017.

Members of the board include:



President of the Kigali Press Club Mr. Gaspard Safari (Chair)

President of the Bahamas Press Club Mr. Anthony Newbold

President of the Barbados Media Association and Representative of the Caribbean Media Workers Association Ms. Jewel Forde

President of the Journalists' Association of Samoa Mr. Lance Polu

President of the Media Association of the Solomon Islands Mr. Leni Dalavera

Group Editor-in-Chief at Nation Media Group (Kenya) Mr. Tom Mshindi

President of the Malagasy Press Centre Ms. Anny Andrianaivonirina

President of the National Press Club of South Africa Mr. Josias Chale

President of the Press Club of Senegal Mr. Abdou Gningue

Secretary General of the Ghana Journalists Association Mr. Dave Agbenu

President of the Maison des Médias du Tchad Mr. Mahamat Abderamane Souleymane

Secretary General of the Fédération Syndicale des Travailleurs de la Communication de la République de Congo (Brazzaville) Mr. Edouard Adzotsa

“The purpose of this Congress is to bring together National Press Clubs of African, Caribbean and Pacific countries in the first ever congress of its kind, with a view to establishing a dynamic and sustainable umbrella Federation of ACP Press Clubs... We leave this Congress with a clear message of what we intend to be and demand our place in international arena,” added the elected Chairman of the Interim Executive Board and President of the Kigali Press Club **Mr. Gaspard Safari**.

The interim Executive Board was charged with putting together proposals that would be submitted to the next General Assembly, anticipated to take place in 2018.

(Photos from top: Group photo of participants and speakers; CEO of the Rwanda Governance Board Prof. Anastase Shyaka addresses the meeting, seated alongside the EU Ambassador Michael Ryan, the ACP Chef de Cabinet Amb. Mamour Alieu Jagne and the President of the Kigali Press Club Mr. Gaspard Safari; President of the Malagasy Press Centre Ms. Anny Adrianaivonirina and other participants during the meeting)

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