

MEMORANDUM

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GREEN LIGHT TO 8 NEW INITIATIVES UNDER THE EU'S PARTNERSHIP INSTRUMENT

The European Commission has approved eight new projects totalling more than €32 million under the Partnership Instrument (PI) to boost cooperation with partner countries in priority areas.

These actions will support the European Union's strategic objectives in external relations through enhancing partnerships with third countries worldwide on issues of significance such as climate change, sustainability, the international digital agenda and civil aviation.

The new package of projects includes an ambitious flagship programme framed within the external dimension of the **EU's Digital Single Market Strategy** (€8 million), aiming to strengthen cooperation with key partners on personal data protection, trust and security in cyberspace, cross border access to electronic evidence and ICT standardisation. The greening of economies, sustainable environmental practices and the fight against climate change will be promoted through several targeted initiatives such as reducing black carbon emissions in **the Arctic** (€1.5 million), supporting the countries of the **Gulf Cooperation Council** (€3 million) to diversify their economies away from a nearly-exclusive reliance on hydrocarbon extraction, furthering **Carbon Capture & Storage** (€1 million) technology in China as a means to reduce CO² emissions from coal fired power plants. These actions will contribute to the implementation of the first-ever universal, legally binding climate agreement, signed in Paris in December 2015 and having entered into force on 4 November 2016 following the [recent ratification by the European Union](#).

Furthermore, the Partnership Instrument will boost the European Union's cooperation with China through new initiatives designed to promote **greener environmental policies and legislation** (€3 million) based on the EU's best practice and to **fight illegal wildlife trafficking**.

Striving to promote the European standards on aviation and to reduce the impact on environment and climate change caused by air transport, the PI will continue fostering political, economic and environmental partnerships in the domain of **civil aviation**. Building upon the ongoing cooperation with China and India launched in 2014 and 2015, the PI will now extend its action to **Latin America** (€7 million) and to **South East Asia** (€7.5 million).

Finally, €1.2 Million will be devoted to reinforce **policy dialogues** with the EU's strategic partners and beyond on a wide range of policy areas, including democratic governance, consumer protection, climate change, environmental protection and economic growth and sustainability. This will increase our ability to define and implement common approaches and responses to global challenges.

Background

The [Partnership Instrument](#) funds projects that enable the European Union to take part in shaping global change and promote its fundamental values. It is one of several instruments included in the EU's budget for 2014-2020 allocated for the financing of the EU's External Action. Through the PI, the EU cooperates with partners around the world to address global challenges and find joint solutions to issues of mutual interest. The PI funds activities that carry forward the EU's priorities, translating political commitments into concrete measures. This programme builds upon the [previous annual action plans adopted by the Commission](#). The overall contribution in support of the EU's strategic interests in the last 2.5 years amounts **to over €315 million**.

The partner countries for PI-funded projects with a digital market focus include Brazil, China, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, and the United States. Increased cooperation and further initiatives in the area of civil aviation will happen at a region level with South America and South East Asia, as well as bilaterally with Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia and Mexico, Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.(EC 15-11-2016)

GROWTH RATE IN MOZAMBIQUE EXPECTED TO INCREASE FROM 2017



The growth rate of the Mozambican economy is expected to increase from 2017, after ending 2016 with the lowest value in the last 15 years, of just 3.6%, according to the latest forecasts from the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) .

However, with an average rate of 4.4% in 2017/2018 and 5.3% in 2019/2021, growth of Mozambique's economy will still be far from the average of 7.3% that was achieved in the period between 2005 and 2015.

The EIU said Mozambique's economy has been undermined this year by a lack of foreign exchange, the exponential increase in inflation and reduced public spending, along with the perception among the leaders of the banking sector and private companies of high incidence of political risks.

The report said that coal production will be one of the economic drivers, due to rising international prices and robust demand from India, one of the main importers of this product, along with the efforts of mining companies to reduce production costs.

Agriculture will contribute to economic recovery, with the weakening of the effects of El Niño, but this will offer limited growth due to low productivity achieved by small farmers.

The reduction in public spending, which is expected to fall by 16.4% in 2017, will limit the growth of the construction and services sectors, which historically has been supported by government contracts, but the EIU expects that some private investments will restore business confidence.

Public spending should grow again in 2019, at a rate of 4.8%, and at higher rates in the following years, of between 8.3% and 7.8%.

Inflation, which accelerated to 24.9% in September – the highest in more than a dozen years – is expected to remain high in the near future, fueled by the combined effect of the rapid devaluation of the currency, particularly against the South African rand from where most of the products purchased by Mozambique originate and a drop in agricultural production, particularly in the south of the country.

The issue of borrowing by public enterprises will make public debt, which in 2012 was 37.8% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and in 2015 was 75.8%, reach 127% of GDP at the end of this year. The EIU expects debt to begin to decline in 2017 and 2018, with values of 122% and 111% of GDP, respectively. (15-11-2016)

PUBLIC DEBT IN MOZAMBIQUE WILL BE CLARIFIED, SAYS HEAD OF IMF

The Deputy Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for Africa, David Owen, said on Monday in Maputo that the measures already taken by the government of Mozambique will enable clarification of the conditions under which a State guarantee was granted on loans worth hundreds of millions of dollars taken on by state-owned companies.

At the end of a courtesy meeting with the Mozambican Prime Minister Carlos Agostinho do Rosario, Owen said positive steps had been taken by the government for the rapid clarification of debt with a view to restoring confidence among lenders and recovery of funding to the country.

Among the measures is the selection of consulting firm Kroll, which within 90 days will audit the accounts of the companies that took on the loans, in particular tuna company Ematum (US\$850 million), Proindicus (US\$622 million) and Mozambique Asset Management (US\$535 million).

These three public companies took on loans in the amount of US\$2 billion, and those relating to the latter two companies, which were contracted between 2013 and 2014, were kept secret from both the Mozambican parliament and the country's cooperation partners.

Owen, quoted by Mozambican news agency AIM, also said that these audit processes required time and added that he was convinced that Mozambique's current situation "will be overcome." (15-09-2016)

FUTURE OF ICC IN DOUBT AFTER AFRICAN COUNTRIES WITHDRAW



The recent decision by South Africa, Burundi and Gambia to withdraw from the International Criminal Court has elicited mixed reactions while highlighting the relevance of the court in the wake of growing perceived marginalisation by African leaders.

While the three countries had unique and specific reasons of rescinding membership of the court, their actions have sent jitters across the continent with analysts fearing that their move would inspire more withdrawals among countries that feel ostracised by what has been referred to as a biased court that is only keen in advancing the interests of Western regimes and trying people of colour.

This is further supported by the fact that of the ten cases the court is currently investigating, and the three under preliminary investigations, nine are from Africa. Waning African support is cause for alarm, considering that out of the [124 signatories to the Rome Statute](#) that created the court, 34 are from Africa, making the largest regional membership.

While [Burundi cited exercising its sovereign powers](#) by pulling out of the court, it is believed the office of the prosecutor of the court's decision to investigate atrocities meted on civilians and human rights violation during last year's political violence could have triggered its withdrawal.

South Africa, which has projected itself as a self-styled beacon of human rights in the continent, has caught the world by surprise with its intent to quit the court. It cited a conflict of the ICC's Rome statutes with its domestic laws that grant leaders diplomatic immunity.

Its defiance was conspicuously displayed when it snubbed arresting Sudanese President Omar Bashir who has been charged with war crimes and genocide and has an arrest warrant out for him.

He would leave South Africa despite a local court ordering the government to exercise its fiduciary duty and hand him over to the ICC. South Africa then argued that its municipal laws gives leaders immunity from prosecution.

Gambia's decision to leave is perhaps the biggest blow and mockery to the court and the principle of upholding human rights. The headquarters of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights are located in the country, and the ICC chief prosecutor Fatou Bensouda, hailing from the country.

Gambian information Minister Sheriff Bojang in a statement on the withdrawal said this had been "warranted by the fact that the ICC, despite being called international criminal court, is, in fact, an international Caucasian court for the persecution and humiliation of people of colour, especially Africans."

The perceived obsession of the court to go after sitting African leaders, analysts say, will inspire a mass withdrawal with other countries like Kenya, Namibia, Chad and Uganda having sent signals to that effect. "There is the general feeling among African leaders that they have willingly volunteered to be members of the court but are the ones who are heavily targeted. Again the perceived feeling of double standards by the court is igniting the discontent among the continental leaders.

The countries with veto powers in the UN including US, Russia and China have refused to ratify the Rome Statutes yet they lord it over the Africans. Then there is the feeling that atrocities committed in Syria haven't been pursued by the court, although Syria is not a member of the ICC," said Professor Murumbu Kiania who teaches International Studies and Diplomacy at the University of Nairobi Institute of Diplomacy and International Studies.

This is corroborated by Gambia's unsuccessful attempts to have the EU prosecuted for the deaths of thousands of African migrants trying to access its shores. It has also insisted that former UK prime Minister should face trial for his role in the Iraq war.

"These withdrawals are a massive blow to the many victims of especially state-sponsored violence in the continent. Africa still needs the International Criminal Court as a court of last resort and any institution upholding the law and human rights should have nothing to fear.

Instead of focusing its attention and discontent on the court, it should direct its universal justice campaign to the international community through the right institutions like the United Nations," said Benjamin Aluka, an international law scholar based in Tanzania.

Professor Kiania agrees, insisting that a mass walk-out by African countries would not only see African countries lose the moral ground on international justice discourses but would be a betrayal to its people. "Instead of leaving the court, African countries should leverage on the power of their numbers as a bloc to push for changes to the court from within while making sure that justice is applied across the board," he said.

While a sizeable number of African countries have insisted they have faith in the court and support its operations going forward, the marked exit of the three countries, happening for the first time since the court's 18 years of existence, is rekindling African nations' quest for pan Africanism and stamping out neocolonialism and the court, analysts say, has become the scapegoat.

"It is a tough time for the court. And even though a good number of African countries have expressed confidence in it, the official position by the African Union calling for alternative dispute resolution mechanisms and African mechanisms of dealing with African problems puts the future of the court in a precarious situation, and this is a huge loss for victims of the many African conflicts especially those that are state-sponsored," said Dr Dorothy Mulato a Kenyan career diplomat. (EurActiv 09-11-2016)

BOTSWANA, KENYA HOLD INVESTMENT, TRADE TALKS

Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Vincent Seretse is leading a high-powered Botswana investment and trade mission to Kenya.

The Botswana government said in a statement on Monday that Seretse was leading a delegation of 14 private sector executives and seven representatives from parastatal organisations and government departments.

It said the three-day visit to Kenya, which is scheduled to end on Wednesday, is a follow-up on commitments made by President Ian Khama on the occasion of the state visit by Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta to Botswana in June.

According to the statement, Seretse and his Kenyan counterpart Adan Mohamed on Monday concluded the opening ceremony by signing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Trade between Botswana and Kenya to demonstrate the commitments of the two governments to support trade and investment between the two countries.

The two ministers also witnessed the signing of a business-to-business MoU between Motswedi Securities of Botswana and Kenya Commercial Bank Capital.

The MoU is aimed at promoting broker collaboration between the two entities to take advantage of investment opportunities in both countries and the African continent at large. (APA 07-11-2016)

TANZANIA RECEIVES SUPPORT FROM GERMANY FOR REFUGEES



The government of Germany has given 11 million Euros to assist Tanzania cope with the continued arrival of refugees from Burundi and DR Congo; two countries that are currently facing political instability.

The additional funds will help support ongoing operations of the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) as well as a number of NGOs helping with the refugees' situation in the country.

The German ambassador to Tanzania, Egon Kochanke said on Monday when speaking to journalists in Dar es Salaam that they have decided to make the funds available from the Emergency Relief Fund of the Federal Foreign Office as a sign of its solidarity with the government of Tanzania.

"Our additional assistance comes in full recognition of Tanzania's humanitarian leadership-role in providing a safe-haven for thousands of refugees who have fled conflict in Burundi and Congo" he said

Kochanke said out of that amount 6.5 million Euro will go to the WFP to directly provide food for the refugees and about 3 million Euro will be given to the UNHCR to benefit refugees while 1.5 million Euro will be contributed to the operations of NGOs working with refugees, such as Oxfam, Plan International and Save the Children.

He noted that Tanzania's open door policy is important to every single refugee that passes it and that it is also an important contribution towards the overall stability of the Great Lakes Region.

"We do not even want to imagine how tensions might have escalated over the past 18 months of the conflict if those in fear were not able to cross the Tanzanian border into safety. But let me also say quite clearly without a third term for President Piere Nkurunziza the situation would be different," he stressed

For his part WFP Country Representative Michael Dunford said per month they need over \$6 million for food, adding that more support is needed from development partners like Germany as the numbers of refugees entering Tanzania increase day after day.

Ms Chansa Kapaya, UNHCR Country Representative said currently there are over 245,083 refugees from the two countries and at the end of this year Tanzania will be hosting more than 210,000 refugees from Burundi alone.

"The situations in camps at Nyarugusu and others are worse as currently there is congestion of refugees, lack of toilets, water and most of children are not going to school due to shortage of qualified teachers and other school materials," she noted.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs Hassan Yahaya thanked the government of Germany for their assistance, expressing the hope that humanitarian assistance will make a difference to refugees in the country.

"We believe under former President Benjamin Mkapa who led the negotiations in Burundi, it will reach a conclusion and the refugees would return back home," he said (APA 14-11-2016)

RDC : LA FAMILLE BLATTNER DECIDE DE DISSOUDRE LA BIAC



La Banque internationale pour l'Afrique au Congo (Biac), la quatrième banque congolaise, contrôlée par le groupe Elwyn Blattner, a annoncé mardi dans un communiqué sa liquidation volontaire - décision prise en Assemblée générale extraordinaire le 4 novembre selon les informations de JA. La Biac était en grandes difficultés depuis plusieurs mois.

La banque avait été placée sous administration provisoire le 30 mai dernier, en raison d'[une grave crise de liquidité](#) dont les causes restent délicates à déterminer, entre la sous-capitalisation chronique de la banque et la décision de la Banque centrale de [stopper une ligne de financement](#).

Dans un communiqué daté du 8 novembre, et dont *Jeune Afrique* s'est fait confirmé l'authenticité et la teneur auprès des actionnaires de la Biac, la quatrième banque congolaise a précisé que « les actionnaires, réunis en assemblée générale extraordinaire et présidée par un mandataire ad-hoc désigné par le président du tribunal de Commerce de Kinshasa-Gombe, ont décidé de dissoudre volontairement la Biac et de désigner un liquidateur. » D'après nos informations, l'assemblée générale extraordinaire (AGE) s'est déroulée le 4 novembre dernier.

Quelques semaines plus tôt, le 11 octobre, une précédente AGE avait demandé la mise en place de plusieurs éléments permettant d'assurer la continuité de l'activité bancaire et la participation plus active de l'actionnaire [le groupe d'Elwyn Blattner est actionnaire à 100%] dans le redressement de la Biac, notamment dans la recherche d'un repreneur. « Aucune suite favorable n'a été apportée à cette préoccupation légitime », indique le communiqué de la banque congolaise.

Nous avons décidé qu'il était préférable d'opter pour une dissolution volontaire.

Joint au téléphone par *Jeune Afrique*, [Elwyn Blattner](#) précise que « la gestion provisoire se terminait le 30 novembre prochain avec une probable mise en liquidation forcée de la Biac. Nous avons décidé qu'il était préférable d'opter pour une dissolution volontaire ». Aucun repreneur, [malgré les échos médiatiques](#), n'aurait notamment été présenté aux actionnaires.

Les difficultés de la Biac ont eu une forte résonance politique, la gestion provisoire ayant notamment provoqué plusieurs [passes d'armes entre la Primature et la Banque centrale](#).

La banque congolaise, contrôlée à 100 % par Elwin Blattner et sa famille, est la quatrième du pays par le total des actifs, avec plus de 400 000 comptes fin 2015, un total de bilan de 511 milliards de francs congolais (environ 498 millions d'euros) et un total des dépôts de 399,7 milliards de francs congolais dont 245,3 milliards détenus par de petits épargnants. Avec plus de 150 agences, elle possède un des réseaux les plus vastes du pays. (JA- 08-11-2016)

BOTSWANA LAUNCHES WAR ON ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

Botswana's Minister of Nationality, Immigration and Gender Affairs, Edwin Batshu, he has begun a serious fight against illegal immigrants, state-run Daily News reported here Monday.

Speaking in Oodi village in southern Botswana, Batshu said the laws were clear on procedures of entering the country through gazetted areas and being allowed to live in the country.

The minister further said any person who contravened subsection 1 of the Immigration Act committed an offense and was liable to a fine not exceeding 400 US dollars or to an imprisonment for a term not exceeding four years, or both. He said illegal immigrants continued to commit crimes in the communities while others accrue goods which government uses a lot of money to deport.

Minister Batshu warned all illegal immigrants to leave the country immediately before they are caught and those who have accommodated them to report the matter to the police.

He blamed the influx of illegal immigrants on some Batswana, whom he said encouraged illegal aliens by giving them accommodation and employing them as labourers in their homes and farms without following the right procedures.(APA 07-11-2016)

CATOCA MINING SOCIETY RESPONSIBLE FOR 75% OF THE DIAMONDS MINED IN ANGOLA

Sociedade Mineira de Catoca (Catoca Mining Society), the largest diamond company of Angola, is responsible for 75% of the diamonds mined in the country, the Deputy Director-General for the financial area, António Galiano Celestino recently said in Saurimo, capital of Lunda Sul province,.

He added that with the achievement of independence and effective peace in 1975 and 2002, respectively, Angola became one of the world benchmarks for open cast diamond exploration, where the Catoca Mining Society, the fourth largest kimberlite on the planet, has stood out.

Sociedade Mineira de Catoca Lda is a diamond mining, exploration, recovery and sale company, made up of Endiama (Angola), Alrosa (Russia), LLV (China) and Odebrecht (Brazil).

In addition to the Catoca kimberlite, which operates in Lunda Sul, the company has a majority stake in concessions such as the ones at Luemba, Gango, Quitúbia, Luangue, Vulege, Tcháfua and Luaxe.

Meanwhile, Australia's Lucapa Diamond Company announced that it had reached a record with the latest sale of diamonds mined in the Lulo concession, which has as partners the Endiama and private enterprise Rosas & Pétalas.

According to the statement released, the company earned US\$8.3 million from the sale of 1,864 carats of rough diamonds, or US\$4,452 per carat, the highest obtained to date from the sale of diamonds mined in that concession, except for a diamond with 404.2 carats sold for US\$16 million last February. The Lulo concession, owned by Sociedade Mineira do Lulo, in which the Lucapa Diamond Company controls 40%, is located about 150 kilometres from the Catoca mine, the fourth largest in the world. (08-11-2016)

ZAMBIA TO CONSTRUCT US\$175M MOTOR VEHICLE ASSEMBLING PLANT



The construction of a US\$175m motor vehicle assembling plant is set to commence soon in Zambia following approval by the Zambia Environmental Management Agency (ZEMA) in September.

[Gonow Zambia Limited](#) which is a firm in Zambia is projected to start on the construction works soon. It recently submitted an environmental impact assessment to ZEMA for review in regards to the proposed development of a motor vehicle-assembling plant at Lusaka South, Zambia multi-facility economic zone (LS-MFEZ).

Gonow Zambia Limited Director, Mr. Gerald Makungu confirmed the reports and said that the plant will sit on 2.5 hectares of land and is expected to open up many opportunities including business, partnership prospects, job creation and will further improve the livelihood of the citizens.

He added that the construction of the assembly plant will also help spearhead industrialization in Zambia and further enhance competition and wealth creation.

“We are very happy that we will soon start the construction of the assembly plant soon after the ground-breaking ceremony which will be conducted anytime from now. Our partners, Forland from China are currently in the country to witness the ground-breaking ceremony,” Mr. Makungu said.

“We are confident that the creation of the plant will help steer the economic growth in the country. We have already engaged a contractor, Wah Kong Enterprises Limited, which is expected to employ about 70 locals in the construction phase and building will take approximately six month,” he pointed out.

According to the projections, the new plant is expected to assemble 20 vehicles a day for distribution within the [Southern African Development Community](#) (SADC).

Establishment of the plant is a milestone in the development of the motor industry in Zambia, and in the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, SADC and the [East African Community](#).

Gonow Zambia Ltd boasts a flexible business mechanism of a private enterprise. At the company’s plant facilities imported Semi-Knock- Down (SKD1) Vehicles will be assembled into finished vehicle units by a compliment of Zambian personnel. (CRO 09-11-2016)

MOZAMBIQUE: OCTOBER INFLATION SLOWS TO 2.58 PERCENT

Mozambique's National Institute of Statistics, (INE) says the country's inflation in October raced to 2.58 percent as measured in the three biggest cities of Maputo, Nampula and Beira which accounted for the jump in food prices.

An INE statement to APA on Friday says the most significant of these price increases were for groundnuts 12.6 percent, coconuts, 11.4 percent, tomatoes 9.8 percent, frozen fish 5.4 percent, rice 2.2 percent, and maize flour 2.4 percent.

According to INE, over the past year in the period spanning 1 November 2015 to 31 October 2016 inflation was 25.53 percent.

The agency says the fuel price rises decreed by the government at the beginning of October also pushed up the inflation rate.

Of particular importance was the 23.9 percent rise in the price of diesel, it adds.

Over the past year (1 November 2015 to 31 October 2016) inflation was 25.53 percent.

Meanwhile the Bank of Mozambique has warned that, by the end of the year, the annual inflation rate could reach 30 percent or higher.(APA 11-11-2016)

EU PROVIDES €78M TO MITIGATE S/SUDAN CRISIS

The European Union has announced a €78 million relief aid package to mitigate the crisis in South Sudan.

In a statement issued to APA on Friday the EU said the allocation will go towards helping displaced people affected by the South Sudanese crisis both in and out of the country.

According to the EU statement €40 million of the relief package would go to humanitarian organizations in South Sudan, €30 million to helping displaced South Sudanese in Uganda, while a further €8million is

being allocated to refugees in neighbouring Sudan.

Of the funds allocated to Uganda, €10 million will come from the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa.

The funding will contribute to life-saving activities in South Sudan, and to meet urgent needs of the displaced population in the neighbouring countries in terms of shelter, nutrition, healthcare, sanitation and protection, especially of children.

The EU is among the biggest donors for the South Sudanese crisis, providing at least half a billion Euros since fighting erupted in December 2013.

Tens of thousands have died since the first shots were fired in the capital Juba following reports of a foiled coup.

Some three million people have fled the violence as the world's newest country face the worst food security crisis since its independence from the rest of Sudan five years ago.

Despite a 2015 peace agreement brokered by the regional Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) hostilities between troops loyal to President Salva Kiir and those backing former vice-president Riek Machar, fighting has spread around the country and intensified in 2016, especially since July. (APA 11-11-2016)

LE SOUDANAIS ABDALLA HAMDOK REMPLACE CARLOS LOPES A LA TETE DE LA CEA



Carlos Lopes, lorsqu'il était Secrétaire exécutif de la Commission économique des Nations unies pour l'Afrique, à Paris le 18 novembre 2015. © Vincent Fournier/JA

À la suite du départ de Carlos Lopes le 31 octobre, Abdalla Hamdok occupera le poste de Secrétaire exécutif par intérim de la Commission économique pour l'Afrique (CEA) à compter du 1er novembre.

Le Secrétaire général des Nations Unies Ban Ki-moon a désigné le Soudanais Abdalla Hamdok au poste de Secrétaire exécutif par intérim de la Commission économique pour l'Afrique (CEA).

« M. Hamdok a servi comme Économiste en chef et Secrétaire exécutif adjoint de la CEA depuis 2011. Avant cela, il a dirigé avec succès les portefeuilles d'activités de la CEA sur la gestion de l'élaboration des politiques, le NEPAD et l'intégration régionale, la gouvernance et l'administration publique », rapporte un communiqué de la CEA en date du 31 octobre.

Carlos Lopes planche sur l'avenir de l'Union africaine

Après 28 années passées aux Nations Unies, dont quatre au poste de Secrétaire général de la commission économique pour l'Afrique des Nations Unies (CEA), l'économiste bissau-guinéen Carlos Lopes avait annoncé le 30 septembre qu'il quittait ses fonctions.

La semaine dernière, il a été désigné par le président rwandais Paul Kagame – [avec huit autres personnalités africaines](#) – pour réfléchir à la réforme institutionnelle de l'Union africaine. (JA 31-10-2016)

MOZAMBIQUE HIKES CEMENT PRICES



Mozambique's biggest cement firm, Cimentos de Mocambique (CM), has increased the price of cement by 10 percent as of Monday on the grounds that some of its raw materials, such as clinker, are imported, and their prices have risen because of the depreciation of the country's currency, the metical, APA can report.

According to private daily newspaper, O Pais, the lowest percentage rise was in the company's two plants in the southern city of Matola where the price of a 50 kilo sack of cement rose to \$04.60 from \$04.40, an increase of just under five per cent.

In the two factories in the northern port of Nacala, the price of a sack rose to \$05.50 from \$05.00, a 10 percent rise and there is also a 10 per cent rise at the cement plant in the central town of Dondo in Sofala province.

The company management says that the repeated price rises this year still do not compensate for the rise in the costs of producing cement and between September 2015 and September 2016, the costs of production rose by 50 per cent, but the price of cement only increased by 32 per cent.

Most consumers buy their cement, not from the CM factory door, but from retailers whose prices are often much higher. (APA 07-11-2012)

EMIRATES GROUP PROFIT DECLINES SHARPLY



The Emirates group's net profit dropped by 64 percent to \$364 million at the end of the first half of the fiscal year 2016-2017, the Dubai-based airline has announced. The turnover rose slightly by 1 percent to \$12.7 billion from \$12.5 billion during the first six months of the previous year.

The Group's cash position at September 30, 2016 was \$4.1 billion against \$6.4 billion as of March 31, 2016.

The company's managers explained this decline by ongoing investments, and primarily the purchase of new aircraft, infrastructure projects and business acquisitions, as well as repayments of \$1.1 billion of real estate loans and liabilities.

"Our performance in the first half of 2016-2017 continues to be affected by the high dollar rate against the major currencies," said Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, CEO of the Emirates Group.

According to him, increased competitions as well as the sustained economic and political uncertainty in many countries of the world have accelerated the decline in prices and the fall in travel. (APA 12-11-2016)

PORTUGAL'S GUTERRES READIES TO FILL UN CHIEF ROLE

António Guterres is quietly readying to lead the United Nations as its new secretary-general, a post he will formally be sworn into in mid-December.

The transition from one U.N. chief to another, following Ban Ki-moon's two, five-year terms, is complicated. There are the bureaucratic, hiring matters to consider, and then also the expansive crises and conflicts — Syria, Yemen, the U.N.'s responsibility for the cholera outbreak in Haiti, sexual abuse by U.N. peacekeepers — that will land on Guterres' desk the first day he assumes office on Jan. 1, 2017.

Yet the switch over is well-underway, without any of the commotion that has characterized the office transition of another recently selected high-profile politician: Donald Trump. Guterres, the former chief of the U.N. refugee agency and prime minister of Portugal, is already spending most of his time in New York, hunkering down for long meetings, policy briefings and work lunches, said Melissa Fleming, Guterres' spokeswoman and a senior adviser for his transition team.

Devex spoke with Fleming about what's involved with the secretary-general transition process, meeting with her in the transition team's temporary, still largely empty midtown Manhattan office, just down the street from the U.N. headquarters.

Press requests have been flying in worldwide for meetings with 67-year-old Guterres, a charismatic orator who is fluent in three of the U.N.'s official languages — English, French and Spanish — in addition to Portuguese. So far, Guterres' public relations message is clear in his silence.

"He is gathering information, he is not projecting and there is a secretary-general who is still in office," Fleming said. "He is going to wait to be active in the media."

His priorities, she says, are already cemented, outlined in the [vision statement](#) that circulated earlier this year during the secretary-general race. The document touches on implementing the 2030 development agenda, combatting terrorism, reforming the United Nations and working toward gender equality — in and outside of the U.N. system.

Guterres recently committed to gender parity throughout the U.N., including at top levels, as [Devex reported](#). This announcement followed a campaign for select a female secretary-general, ending the long line of male U.N. leaders.

"He pretty much knows the priorities, but also the backgrounds of some of the key areas that... really have been a major concern like Haiti, and the sexual violence issue in peacekeeping," Fleming said. "These are areas that are a big focus for him. He wants to know everything possible about what happened, what was the official reaction. He is going to inherit this and he wants to make sure he gets it right."

Guterres announced a five-person transition team at the end of October, naming Kyung-wha Kang, transition team chief, who now serves as deputy emergency relief coordinator for U.N. Office of Humanitarian Affairs. It also included Radhouane Nouicer, a UNHCR veteran now working as a regional adviser for the Yemen humanitarian crisis.

Michelle Gyles-McDonnough, the U.N.'s deputy assistant administrator for Asia and the Pacific, and João Madureira, the minister counselor at Portugal's permanent mission to the U.N., are also senior advisers on the transition team.

These people are working to understand the big issues and the major players Guterres will have to confront and persuade. They are joined by the support of other experts, including some from outside the U.N. system, who tasked with briefing and consulting Guterres. He has also been meeting with various country representatives, who have been filing his days in New York.

"We're bringing people together, convening, hearing views and then coming out with recommendations on each of the crisis areas — Syria, South Sudan, Yemen, Iraq and maybe brewing ones, emerging ones that he needs to pay attention to," said Fleming, who is now on loan from UNHCR as their head of communications in Geneva.

“The first part of this — and it is not really a long period of time, [is] absorbing information and hearing different views, seeing presentations,” Fleming continued. “So we are looking at everything from different sides and hearing different views.”

Guterres has also traveled to Colombia and Brazil — two countries he had previously arranged to visit — and will conduct additional travel before the end of the year. In Brazil he attended the Community of Portuguese Language Countries meeting, and spoke at the Iberoamerican Summit in Cartagena, Colombia.

Fleming described the incoming U.N. chief as an avid history reader and detail-oriented thinker, who “absorbs information very quickly, and has the ability to make links and connections and just puts pieces of the puzzle together.”

Guterres’ transition team is also working closely with Ban’s office, which has its own transition team and is consulting on protocol. The members of Guterres’ team, though, will not necessarily follow him when he assumes office.

Other areas of the U.N. system, such as the budget, are already set, at least through 2017, though Guterres has also been briefed on funding. He is also aware of the perpetual underfunding that has plagued almost all U.N. agencies, Fleming says.

Guterres will make his first speech as the newly elected secretary-general, following his selection by the U.N. Security Council, Dec. 12, at U.N. headquarters in New York. The General Assembly approved Guterres’ candidacy in mid-October, following the [Security Council’s](#) final selection of the candidate in earlier that month.(DEVEX 09-11-2016)

PRIVATE INVESTMENT APPROVAL TAKES JUST 45 DAYS IN ANGOLA

The process of making a private investment in Angola takes a maximum of 45 days to be approved, unlike in previous years, when investors waited months to see their projects approved, said Monday in Luanda the director of the Technical Unit got Private Investment (UTIP).

Norberto Garcia said this was due to the efforts of the government to avoid bureaucracy in analysing investment projects in the country and giving more opportunities to domestic and foreign businesspeople.

Garcia said eight or nine deals had been closed under the Angola – China Investment Forum, amounting to US\$1.3 billion, and estimated that the meeting will end with business worth US\$2 billion.

The Technical Unit for Private Investment (UTIP) of the President’s Civil House of the Republic of Angola has been around for 12 months, in which time it has approved 43 projects across the country attracting investment of US\$9 billion.

UTIP provides a specialist service of continued support to the President, and is responsible for the preparation, conduct, evaluation and negotiation of private investment projects, whose approval under the Private Investment Law and its regulations is the responsibility of the President of the Republic. (08-11-2016)

CHEVRON PARTNERS NIGER TO IMPROVE RICE PRODUCTION



Oil giant, Chevron Nigeria Limited (CNL), has entered into partnership with the Niger State Government for the training of graduates of agriculture for the purpose of improving rice cultivation and production in the 25 local government areas of the state.

Chevron and its affiliates under the arrangement are providing the technical knowhow and capacity building for fresh graduates across the local government areas to attract them to the farms and the use of modern method of rice cultivation and production.

Apart from reducing the massive unemployment facing graduates in the state, the partnership would also “enhance the performance of the agricultural sector in the state to meet the food and employment needs of the people of the state and the country as a whole,”

The programme has already brought on board 200 private extension agents all of them graduates and acquired 300 units of small scale equipment including power tillers and threshers.

Speaking at the launch of the programme in Minna last week, the Niger State Governor, Alhaji Abubakar Sani Bello, expressed delight that Chevron and its partners had chosen the state to pilot the programme, saying that the decision was not unconnected with the policy of the administration which has made youth employment one of its priority projects.

Governor Bello, who was represented by the Secretary to the State Government Alhaji Jibrin Isah Ladan, said the partnership would check rural urban migration and promote poverty alleviation and youth empowerment.

“Niger state is naturally endowed with one of the largest land area in the country of which more than 70 per cent is arable, in addition to the rich commercial deposits of viable solid minerals. It is therefore no doubt that we continue to attract partnership from different corporate organisations in this direction,”

He disclosed that not less than 9500 people in the state were already directly or indirectly benefiting from the International Funds for Agricultural Development IFAD programme while the Agricultural Transformation Agenda Support Programme of the African Development Bank (AFDB), was already operating in seven of the 25 local government (Guardian 01-11-2016)

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



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