



## MEMORANDUM

N° 242/2014 | 23/12/2014

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## EU RELEASES EMERGENCY FUNDS FOR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO LIBYA

The European Commission is giving €2 million in emergency funding to assist scores of Libyans who have been forced to flee their homes because of worsening violence in the country.

The funding will provide essential humanitarian assistance and protection to the most vulnerable people affected by the conflict. It will be used to provide food, shelter, medical assistance and psycho-social support. The approaching winter will also increase the need for warm clothing, heaters and insulated shelter.

*"It is clear that there are huge needs and the emergency aid we are providing can be a lifeline to some of the most vulnerable families caught up in the conflict,"* said the EU Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management Christos Stylianides.

*"The fighting has had a severe impact on the lives of civilians, with houses and infrastructure destroyed, basic services severely disrupted and shortages of medical supplies. People forced to leave areas of conflict are finding it hard to access food and basic needs – which is why the aid we are providing now is so crucial."*

It is estimated that nearly 400000 people have been displaced due to fighting in Libya since May this year. The country's political crisis has continued to deepen, despite repeated calls for a ceasefire. Clashes have occurred in both the east and west of the country, spreading to the south in October and November.

The worsening security situation has hampered humanitarian access. Most international aid workers have left the country, leaving local personnel to cope with an increased workload and a rapidly deteriorating humanitarian environment.

### Background

Libya's security situation has seriously deteriorated over the last four months and remains highly volatile. Since the fall of Colonel Muammar Gaddafi in 2011, no central government has been able to take charge and the country has been plagued by instability and infighting.

Intense violence in Tripoli, Benghazi and other Libyan cities in recent months has resulted in grave violations of human rights abuses, including indiscriminate attacks against civilians and the forced displacement of around 290 000 people within the country and around 100000 more forced to flee into neighbouring countries.

The Ministry of Health has warned of the need to prevent a collapse in the health system after thousands of foreign health workers were evacuated from the country.

Food supplies in Tripoli, parts of Benghazi and other reception towns are facing problems because stocks are low, banks are closed and cash has become a rare commodity. There are also concerns about ensuring water supplies and electricity.

The constraints on humanitarian access mean that it is difficult to accurately assess the numbers of displaced and in need of assistance. (EC 22-12-2014)

## BOND COINS JUST A CHANGE STOPGAP, SAYS ZIMBABWE GOVERNMENT

Zimbabwe's new "bond coins" are trickling onto the market — but locals are still suspicious that they represent a stealthy return to the old Zimbabwe dollar.

Tills in Harare's central Avondale supermarket were dispensing bond coins on Sunday, although a day earlier they were not available in a supermarket in Sam Nujoma Street, also in the centre of the Zimbabwean capital, where shoppers were still being offered lollipops or credit notes as change.

Customers were seen eagerly examining the new coins in Avondale.

"Yes, these are the new ones," a cashier at Bon Marche explained. Shoppers in the eastern city of Mutare also reported seeing bond coins on Monday.

The coins — in denominations of one, five, 10 and 25 cents — were released on December 18. They are minted in South Africa.

President Robert Mugabe's government has been at pains to insist that these are merely to plug a small change gap which is driving up prices. Zimbabwe's local dollar was dropped in 2009 after years of hyper-inflation rendered it worthless.

Central bank chief John Mangudya has assured Zimbabweans he too "fears" the return of the local currency and has no intention of bringing it back now.

But a growing cash crisis is making some Zimbabweans fearful. The authorities announced on Sunday that they would not be able to pay teachers' and nurses' annual bonuses before Christmas, even though Finance Minister Patrick Chinamasa had earlier promised the eagerly awaited payments would be made this month.

The Zimbabwe Teachers' Union claims this is the first time since independence in 1980 that teachers have not had their bonuses paid before the festive season, according to the Bulawayo-based Chronicle newspaper on Monday.

"The long and short of it is there is no money. Unless you want to be paid in bond coins," Chronicle reader "Seles" wrote in the comments section of the online paper, echoing the fears of some Zimbabweans on social media.

The central bank says it will not release more than \$50m worth of bond coins onto the market in the next three years. (Sapa 22-12-2014)

## **IRELAND CONTRIBUTES US\$ 3M TO SUDAN HUMANITARIAN FUND**

The government of Ireland has donated over US\$ 3 million to help address the growing humanitarian needs in the Sudan, the UN said in a press statement Tuesday. The press statement, received by PANA here, said the Government of Ireland contributed an additional US\$ 1,891,551 to the Sudan Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF), following an earlier contribution this year of US\$1,362,200, bringing to US\$ 3.25 million its contributions so far this year.

"The Irish funding will help the UN and its partners to respond effectively to the immense humanitarian needs in Sudan, including by improving nutrition, ensuring greater access to clean water and to healthcare, and addressing other critical humanitarian gaps," Seán Sherlock, Ireland's Minister for Development, Trade Promotion, and North-South Co-operation, was quoted by the release as saying Tuesday.

The release said funds will, in particular, be utilized by national and international non-governmental organizations, as they constitute 50 per cent of CHF recipients. In addition, funds will ensure that life-saving projects continue to provide assistance to those in need.

"Timely CHF allocations, such as Ireland's, constitute a key source of support for the numerous activities in Sudan, in addition to what is provided by the relevant local and international partners working in the field," said Ali Al-Za'tari, the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator.

Since the inception of the Sudan CHF in 2006, Ireland has been a committed donor, to date committing over US\$ 30 million. (Pana 17/12/2014)

## **ECOWAS MOVES TO CORRECT IMBALANCE IN WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN POLITICS**

Determined to correct the imbalance in women participation in democratic elections and good governance, the ECOWAS Commission has mounted a technical workshop here towards the development of an ECOWAS Gender and Elections Strategy, and a pilot Fellowship Programme for Women in Peace and Security.

The workshop, which started Monday, is also aimed at harnessing women's involvement in conflict management and peace building processes.

Addressing the opening session of the meeting, on behalf of the ECOWAS Commissioner for Social Affairs and Gender, Dr. Fatimata Dia Sow, the Director for Gender, Youth and Sports, Civil Society Organizations, Employment and Drug Control, Dr. Sintiki Tarfa Ugbe, said the workshop is within the context of the two main activities of the 2014 Women, Peace and Security Work Plan, funded by the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA).

The development of a Gender and Election Strategy is key to advancing gender equality and women's empowerment, particularly with respect to the electoral processes, in parliaments and in political parties, and within electoral management bodies, and the provision of pilot Fellowships to train West African women to develop a better understanding of African Peace and Security issues in order to increase their participation in conflict management and peace processes in West Africa.

These activities will involve a research study in five ECOWAS Member States organizing major elections in 2015 namely Nigeria, Togo, Cote d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso and Guinea, with a critical analysis and subsequent validation that will result in the development of country specific and regional strategies, and a roadmap to effective participation of women in democratic elections and good governance in West Africa.

The workshop will also document best practices and success stories of women's involvement in politics and conflict management in the region, as well as challenges and obstacles to women's involvement in democratic elections from a gender perspective, for pre-election, during and post-election periods in the five countries.

While the pilot Fellowships is aimed at increasing the expertise of women in gender, peace and security, it will focus on providing training women in West Africa to develop a better understanding of the African Peace and Security issues in order to play more informed roles in conflict management and peace processes in line with relevant ECOWAS Protocols and UN Security Council Resolutions relating to gender equality and women's empowerment. (Pana 17/12/2014)

## **ECOWAS SEEKS PEACE, STABILITY IN TROUBLED MEMBER STATES**

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) is pushing for the restoration of peace and stability in several of its member states which are facing political instability and terrorism or are in the throes of transition to democratic governance, especially Mali, Burkina Faso, Guinea Bissau, Nigeria and Niger.

In a communiqué issued at the end of its one-day Summit in Nigeria's capital city of Abuja on Monday, ECOWAS leaders also indicated that they were eager to sign the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with the EU.

They also called for the involvement of all member states in next year's celebration of the 40th anniversary of the founding of ECOWAS, a regional group of 15 member states dedicated to promoting economic integration of the region.

With Burkina Faso's interim President Michel Kafando attending the Summit for the first time since his appointment, the regional bloc welcomed the consensus reached in the country by all the stakeholders and the establishment of transitional organs, while commending political parties, civil society and the armed forces for their contribution to resolving the crisis.

'The Authority urges the transitional authorities to comply with the provisions of the Transitional Charter, particularly the provisions relating to the duration of the transition and to the ineligibility rules contained in the Charter. More importantly, it urges them to strictly comply with the deadline for holding democratic elections by November 2015,' it said

The Summit urged the Transitional Authorities to ensure, at all times, inclusiveness in the process and

consensus-building in the implementation of the transition programmes, and urged them to respect the Constitution, adhere to the rule of law and to guarantee individual freedom and the safety of all political leaders.

On Mali, the communiqué expressed deep concern over the security situation in the northern part of the country and strongly condemned the continued terrorist attacks on civilian populations and international troops.

The leaders reiterated their call on all the armed groups in northern Mali signatories to the Ouagadougou Agreement of 18 June 2013 to distance themselves from the terrorist groups.

They commended the progress recorded in the Algiers Talks to end the crisis and urged all the parties, in particular the general secretaries of the armed groups, to be personally involved in the process with a view to reaching an Agreement as soon as possible on the basis of the Draft submitted to the Parties by the Mediation, as a solid ground for negotiation.

The Summit expressed deep concern over the continuing terrorist attacks of the insurgent group, Boko Haram, in Nigeria, and expressed its sympathy with the Government and people of Nigeria as well as to the families of victims of the recent terrorist attacks in the north of the country

'The Authority appeals to the International Community to support Niger in order to enable this country to deal with the effects of refugees inflow due to Boko Haram attacks in Northern Nigeria,' the communiqué said.

The Nigerian insurgency has spurned 142,000 refugees and returnees in Niger and Chad.

On Guinea Bissau, the Heads of State and Government reaffirmed their firm commitment to support the country in the pursuit of reforms aimed at consolidating peace, stability and security in the country, and promoting sustainable development.

'In that regard, they encouraged the Government of Guinea Bissau to be fully involved in the conduct of the reforms and the implementation of defined programmes.

'The Authority underscores the need to mobilise sufficient financial resources to support Guinea Bissau in its post-transition consolidation efforts. In that regard, and in view of the Donors' Roundtable scheduled for March 2015, the Authority appeals to all ECOWAS bilateral and multilateral partners to participate in the roundtable and take due account of Guinea Bissau's medium and long term development prospects in designing their support to the country,' the communiqué said.

The leaders decided to extend the mandate of the ECOWAS Mission in Guinea-Bissau beyond 31 Dec. 2014 for another six months with the retention of the existing force strength.

On the EPA, the communiqué urged the West African Chief Negotiators to expedite actions to organise, as soon as possible, the signing of the Agreement and its ratification by all member states.

PANA reports that the text of the Agreement was signed on 12 December 2014 by the European Council of Ministers

On the 40th anniversary of ECOWAS, the Authority said it had taken note of the programme of activities for 2015, both in member states and the headquarters of the Commission, welcoming, in particular, the cultural and sporting events planned to that effect as well as the publication of a book on the achievements and the stakes in the deepening of the integration process in West Africa.

'The Authority urges all Member States to fully get involved in the celebration of this anniversary. It requests the Commission to work closely with Nigerian authorities in the preparation of this important event in Abuja,' the communiqué said.

PANA reports that the meeting was attended by Presidents of nine out of the 15 member states, while

the remaining six countries were represented by the Foreign Ministers or other top government officials.

The leaders who attended included Presidents Thomas Boni Yayi of Benin Republic; Michel Kafando of Burkina Faso; Alassane Ouattara of Côte d'Ivoire; John Dramani Mahama of Ghana; José Mario Vaz of Guinea Bissau; Ibrahim Boubacar Keita of the Republic of Mali; Mahamadou Issoufou of Niger; Goodluck Ebele Jonathan of Nigeria and Faure Essozimna Gnassingbe of Togo.

Cabo Verde; Gambia, Guinea, Liberia, Senegal and Sierra Leone were represented.

The 47th Ordinary Summit of the regional bloc will also be held in Abuja, Nigeria, in May 2015 (Pana 17/12/2014)

## **KENYA'S ECONOMY SEES GROWTH AT TOP BUT NO 'TRICKLE-DOWN'**

David Kamau is a small-scale maize farmer in Nyeri, Central Kenya, some 153 kms from the capital Nairobi. He recently diversified into carrot farming but is still not making a profit. He says that inputs cost too much and if this trend continues he will sub-divide and sell his five hectares. This is the story of many small-scale farmers in this East African nation, where agriculture accounts for about one-quarter of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). But small-scale farmers – accounting for about 75 percent of total agricultural produce – barely break even.

"A 150 kg bag of carrot is now going for about 27 dollars, up from 22 dollars, but as prices go up, so does the cost of inputs," says Kamau.

"The growth of both urban and rural slums is an indication that more people are falling on hard times" – Dinah Mukami of the Bunge la Mwananchi pro-poor social movement

According to the Ministry of Agriculture, an estimated five million out of about eight million Kenyan households depend directly on agriculture for their livelihoods. Yet agriculture fails to provide an adequate return to farmers because their sector is significantly underfunded, explains Jason Braganza, an economic analyst based in Nairobi.

The percentage of the budget for the agricultural sector is 2.4 percent, down 0.6 percent from the 3 percent in the 2012/2013 budget and well below the threshold of the 2003 African Union [Maputo Declaration](#) on Agriculture and Food Security, which mandated that at least 10 percent the national budget should be allocated to agriculture.

The result, says Kamau, is that "farmers are slowly moving out of the farms and trying other economic ventures, Central Kenya used to be a breadbasket but farmlands are being replaced by residential and commercial complexes."

Farming is not the only sector feeling an economic downslide. Small businesses in Kenya are faced with a lack of essential business support services, especially financial services. Two-thirds of Kenyans do not have access to basic financial services such as banking accounts.

"The growth of both urban and rural slums is an indication that more people are falling on hard times," according to Dinah Mukami of the [Bunge la Mwananchi](#) [People's Parliament] pro-poor social movement. She says that the group is planning to hold the government responsible regarding the use of the information in the 'Socio-Economic Atlas of Kenya' which the government [released](#) last month. The report exposes significant disparities in poverty levels across the country.

"The Atlas is a powerful tool, but whether the government will use the information to change lives and improve living standards remains to be seen," she says.

Felix Omondi, a resident of Kibera, a division of Nairobi considered the largest slum in Africa, and a member of the Unga Revolution, a local activist group, is one of those who believes that the Atlas is doing some good.

He told IPS that that a programme is under way to upgrade slums and said that this is "one of the ways that the government is using the Atlas to improve the lives of people in the slums."

In the last three months, the government has been working with residents of the slums to establish income-generating projects and provide basic amenities such as toilets, lighting and drainage.



At least 3,000 youths in Kibera will benefit from these projects. Omondi, a beneficiary, says that he is running one of the posho (corn meal) mills set up by the government to generate income.

### **Kenya now officially a “middle-income country”**

Meanwhile, in autumn the news came out that Kenya had seen its economy grow 25 percent after statistical revision and is now officially a “middle-income country”. A few months ago, a similar type of revision brought Nigeria’s economy to the top of African countries in terms of the size of the economy, surpassing South Africa for the first time.

A growing middle class population is an important driver of this growth, but what does that middle class look like? The recently revised Kenyan figures indicate that the Gross National Income (GNI) per capita is 1,160 dollars against the World Bank’s “middle income” threshold of 1,036 dollars.

The latest income-distribution indicators for Kenya (which date back to 2005) show the following:

- 45.9 percent of the population was at the national poverty line;
- The income share held by the top 10 percent was 38 percent.

This out-of-date, official information excludes the informal economy, observes Africa Arino, professor of strategic management at the IESE Business School in Spain.

“A taxi driver makes KES 15,000 a month (about 178 dollars or 132 euro), and pays KES 3,500 (close to 25 percent of his income) to rent a room where he lives with his wife and two children,” Arino explains.

“They don’t have a kitchen or a bathroom: these are facilities shared with others in the same building lot. His income is pretty much the average salary of a driver, according to the Kenya Economic Survey 2014. Is he middle class?”

According to Braganza, one of the main challenges facing Kenya is that while the country’s economic growth is real and sustainable, the structure of the economy has remained unchanged. Resources have not shifted into the most productive sectors of the economy which would increase overall productivity and an increase in remunerative employment.

Braganza says that for people to feel the trickledown effect of the economic growth, there must also be structural transformation. “There is a need for more investment in the more productive sectors, as well as investment in emerging sectors. This will contribute towards a reduction in unemployment and poverty.” (IPS 17-12-2014)

### **ECOWAS COMMON EXTERNAL TARIFF LAUNCHED**

The ECOWAS Common External Tariff (CET), one of the key integration objectives of the 15-member regional body, was finally launched in Abuja Monday.

ECOWAS Commission President Kadre Desire Ouedraogo officially launched the CET, on the sidelines of the ongoing 46th Ordinary Session of the Authority of ECOWAS heads of state and government in the Nigerian capital.

He said the launch was the culmination of nine years of 'sustained work, dialogue, consultations and intra-community negotiations'.

The Commission President said CET, which is due to take off 1 Jan. 2015, would promote industrialisation, boost exports and protect nascent industries.

The launch followed the endorsement of the CET by regional leaders who met in Dakar, Senegal, Oct. 2013.

PANA reports that CET, basic feature of the Customs Union as a form of economic integration, entails all ECOWAS member countries abandoning their individual tariff structure with which they trade with other countries and adopting a common external tariff in trade with third countries.

After the formal launch of the CET, President Ouedraogo presented copies of the CET document to heads of state/government or their representatives at the summit, to intermittent applause from those present. (Pana 17/12/2014)

## **GEOGRAPHY, ECONOMICS AND SECURITY: AN ATLAS OF THE SAHARA-SAHEL**

The Sahara-Sahel has seen recurrent episodes of instability. However, the recent Libyan and Malian crises have intensified the level of violence. These episodes have restructured the geopolitical and geographical dynamics of the region. Cross-border or regional, these contemporary crises require new institutional responses. Historically, the Sahara plays an intermediary role between North Africa and sub-Saharan Africa. Commercial and human exchanges are intense and based on social networks that now include trafficking. Understanding their structure, geographical and organisational mobility of criminal groups and migratory movements represents a strategic challenge. This OECD book hopes to address this challenge and stimulate strategies for the Sahel of the European Union, the United Nations, the African Union or ECOWAS (Economic Community of the States of West Africa) in order to foster lasting peace. The book was launched at this week's annual [Sahel and West Africa Week](#).

## **TRADE RELATIONS WITH KENYA**

The Council did not raise any objection to a Commission delegated act proposing to add Kenya to the list of countries benefitting from the so-called market access regulation, a temporary unilateral scheme before the conclusion and application of the revised Economic Partnership Agreements.

## **FOURTEEN CULTURAL AND CREATIVE INDUSTRY CLUSTERS SELECTED TO TAKE PART IN SOUTHERN MEDITERRANEAN PROGRAMME**

A regional project on the "[Development of cultural and creative industries and clusters in the Southern Mediterranean](#)", labelled by the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and funded by the European Union (EU) with a financial contribution from the Italian Development Cooperation, held its first regional Project Approval Committee (PAC) in Barcelona last week, during which 14 high-potential Cultural and Creative Industries clusters were selected to take part in pilot initiatives.

Selected clusters will receive technical assistance over a period of three years, worth an estimated €250,000 per cluster to improve its competitiveness and its products, to modernise and innovate, as well as to access new markets, including financial support for the acquisition and maintenance of new or improved equipment or services.

Most of the clusters identified are in the design-based industries that include clothing and footwear, jewellery, furniture and home decoration, crafts and textile. The other cultural and creative industries – cultural transmedia, live culture and professional creative services – are very present in the countries of the Southern Mediterranean, yet they are seldom geographically concentrated (or "clusterized") as they are rather spread across the national territory.

In Algeria, the jewellery cluster in Batna and the brass (in French "dinanderie") cluster in Constantine were selected; in Jordan, two Amman-based clusters were selected, namely the garment and ceramic clusters; in Lebanon, the jewellery cluster in Beirut and the furniture cluster in Tripoli were chosen; in Morocco, the garment/fashion cluster in Casablanca and the homeware cluster in Marrakesh were selected; in Palestine, the handicrafts cluster in Bethlehem and the furniture cluster in Nablus were



picked by the National Steering Committee (NSC); and in Tunisia, the Nabeul arts de la table cluster and the mosaic cluster in El Djem were selected.

As the host of the PAC, Claudio Cortese, Senior Deputy Secretary General of the UfM, expressed the Committee's satisfaction with the results achieved so far: *"We are very happy that over 140 clusters and over 70 other (non-cluster) economic realities were identified during the mapping exercise; this reflects both the tremendous cultural wealth of the Southern Mediterranean and the potential for job creation based on cultural heritage in the countries of the region"*.

As the Chair of the PAC and as the project's main donor, Vladimir Rojanski from the European Union further stated: *"The European Neighborhood Policy Instrument (ENPI) and the Euro-Med charter provide the framework for enhanced cooperation between both sides of the Mediterranean; the European Union continues to support the inclusive and sustainable development of the Southern Mediterranean, also through innovative approaches such as applying the methodology of clusters on the cultural and creative industries"*.

Gerardo Pataconi, Project Manager for the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), which implements the EU-funded project, and co-chair of the PAC said: *"We have witnessed great enthusiasm throughout the region for our project, which is at the nexus of industry and creativity. We are looking forward to working with both selected and non-selected clusters, and to develop partnerships with potential buyers, experts and institutions"*. He added: *"The challenge is to transform working as individual companies into SME clustering/networking, and to transform the region's cultural heritage and creativity into new products, business opportunities and jobs; this is the core objective of the EU-funded project"*.

The objective of the project, implemented in the framework of the **Private sector Development in the Southern Mediterranean** Programme, is to foster entrepreneurial co-operation in the cultural and creative industry notably through the promotion of promising pilot initiatives demonstrating contribution to inclusive growth. The project then aims at demonstrating the potential for the national and regional development of cultural and creative industries in the Southern Mediterranean, thus opening the possibility through adequate replication and larger scale support from financial institutions to promote new employment opportunities and inclusive growth in the region. (EU Neighbourhood 18-12-2014)

## UNIDO DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE GAINS MOMENTUM IN ACP NATIONS

The inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID) initiative of the U.N. Industrial Development Organisation to promote industrial development for poverty reduction, inclusive globalisation and environmental sustainability is gaining momentum in the countries of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) group.

A concrete sign of this trend came on the occasion of last week's ACP Council of Ministers meeting in the Belgian capital where UNIDO Director-General Li Yong met with ACP representatives to explore how to further promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation in their countries and possible ways of scaling up investment in developing countries.

During the opening session of the ministers' meeting, outgoing ACP Secretary-General Alhaji Muhammad Mumuni had already highlighted the key role of the ISID programme in promoting investment and stimulating competitive industries in African, Caribbean and Pacific countries.

In December last year in Lima, Peru, the 172 countries belonging to UNIDO – including ACP countries – unanimously approved the [Lima Declaration](#) calling for "inclusive and sustainable industrial development".

The Lima Declaration clearly acknowledged that industrialisation is an important landmark on the global agenda and, for the first time, the spectacular industrial successes of several countries in the last 40 years, particularly in Asia, was globally recognised.

According to UNIDO statistics, industrialised countries add 70% of value to their products and recent research by the organisation shows how industrial development is intrinsically correlated with improvements in sectors such as poverty reduction, health, education and food security.

“We need to move away from traditional models of industrialisation, which have had serious effects on the environment and the health of people” – UNIDO Director-General Li Yong

One major issue that the concept of ISID addresses is the environmental sustainability of industrial development. “We need to move away from traditional models of industrialisation, which have had serious effects on the environment and the health of people,” said Li.

Economic growth objectives should be pursued while protecting the environment and health, and by making business more environmentally sustainable, they become more profitable and societies more resilient.

### **ISID in the Post-2015 Agenda**

“For ISID to be achieved,” said Li, “appropriate policies are essential as well as partnerships among all stakeholders involved.” This highlights the importance of including ISID in major development frameworks, particularly in the post-2015 development agenda that will guide international development in the coming decades.

With strong and solid support from the ACP countries, ISID has already been recognised as one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) proposed by the U.N. Open Working Group on SDGs – to take the place of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) whose deadline is December 2015 – and confirmed last week by U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in ‘The Road to Dignity By 2030’, his [synthesis report](#) on the post-2015 agenda.

In fact, goal 9 is specifically devoted to “building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and fostering innovation.”

In this context, Mumuni told the Brussels meeting of ACP ministers that “in building the competitiveness of our industries and facilitating the access of ACP brands to regional and international markets, UNIDO is regarded by ACP Secretariat as a strategic ally.”

### **ACP-UNIDO – A Strategic Partnership**

A Memorandum of Understanding approved in March 2011 and a Relationship Agreement signed in November 2011 represent the solid strategic framework underlying the strategic partnership between ACP and UNIDO, and highlight how the two partners can work together to support the implementation of ISID in ACP countries.

Key is the establishment and reinforcement of the capacity of the public and private sectors in ACP countries and regions for the development of inclusive, competitive, transparent and environmentally-friendly industries in line with national and regional development strategies.

On the basis of these agreements, ACP and UNIDO have intensified their policy dialogue and concrete cooperation. One example reported during the ministers’ meeting was the development of a pilot programme entitled “Investment Monitoring Platform” (IMP), funded under the intra-ACP envelope of the 9th European Development Fund (EDF) with the support of other donors.

This programme is aimed at managing the impact of foreign direct investments (FDI) on development, combining investment promotion with private sector development, designing and reforming policies that attract quality investment, and enhancing coordination between the public and private sector, among others.

This programme has already reinforced the capacity of investment promotion agencies and statistical offices in more than 20 African countries, which have been trained on methodologies to assess the private sector at country level.

### **Implementing ISID in ACP Countries**

In Africa, the strategy for the Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa (AIDA) prepared with UNIDO expertise, is a key priority of [Agenda 2063](#) – a “global strategy to optimise use of Africa’s resources for the benefit of all Africans” – and of the Joint Africa-European Union Strategy.

In the Caribbean, high priority is being given to private sector development, climate change, renewable energy and energy efficiency, and value addition in agri-business value chains, trade and tourism.

The CARIFORUM-EU Business Forum in London in 2013 clearly articulated the need for more innovation, reliable markets and private sector information, access to markets through quality and the improvement of agro-processing and creative industries.

In the Pacific, the 2nd Pacific-EU Business Forum held in Vanuatu in June this year called for stronger engagement in supporting the private sector and ensuring that innovation would produce tangible socio-economic benefits.

Finally, in all three ACP regions, interventions related to quality and value chain development are being backed in view of supporting the private sector and commodity strategies. (IPS 17-12-2014)

## **UN CHIEF CALLS FOR MORE GLOBAL ACTION IN 2015**

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Wednesday stressed the need for more global action in 2015 to deal with the myriad of challenges facing the world. Speaking at his year-end press conference in New York, Ban highlighted several imperatives for the organization in 2015, noting that the world must keep ambition high to forge a new development agenda and secure a climate agreement, in order to accelerate growth and development.

He reiterated his call for 'inclusive, agile and coordinated action to usher in an era of sustainable development for all', noting that he had presented to the UN General Assembly an advance version of his 'synthesis report', which will guide negotiations for a new global agenda centred on people and the planet, and underpinned by human rights.

The report, entitled: 'The Road to Dignity by 2030: Ending Poverty, Transforming All Lives and Protecting the Planet', called on UN member states to be 'innovative, inclusive, agile, determined and coordinated' in negotiating the agenda that will succeed the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015.

The UN chief said 2015 must be the year in which the international community ends what he called 'the nightmare in Syria', as well as other conflicts affecting some African countries, and further avert the escalation of worrying situations around the world.

'In my travels this year, I have seen so much suffering, from Bangui to Gaza to the Dadaab refugee camp. I have met so many people who are struggling to build better lives for themselves and their families.

'As we mark the 70th anniversary of the United Nations next year, we have a duty to answer the call of the people across the world for shared prosperity and a sustainable future for all,' Ban stressed.

The Secretary-General added that in 2014 the UN mobilized its first-ever system-wide emergency health mission, the UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER), to fight the Ebola outbreak.

'I want to see the response for myself, and therefore I am leaving on Wednesday to visit the four countries affected by the disease in West Africa,' he said. (Pana 18/12/2014)

## **MALI WINNING FIGHT AGAINST EBOLA DISEASE**

Health authorities in Mali confirmed Wednesday that the Ebola disease outbreak in the country has died down, but the West African nation must wait for three weeks without a new case before it can be declared free of the deadly disease in accordance with regulations of the World Health Organization (WHO).

No new case has been reported of late and all contacts who were placed under quarantine have been discharged, Mali's Health and Public Hygiene Minister Ousmane Koné said at a news briefing, which

was attended by Mali's Coordinator for the Emergency Operational Centre, Professor Samba Sow, and WHO Resident Representative in Mali, Dr Ibrahima Socé Fall.

Though the epidemic was under control, Koné stressed that vigilance remains essential in order to avert a resurgence of the disease in the country.

According to the minister, Mali recorded two cases of the disease, the first being a two-year-old girl who got infected in Guinea and the second was a Guinean patient.

The girl died in Kayes while the second case was admitted to Pasteur private hospital on 25 October and died two days later.

Urging vigilance of the population in order to avoid risks of infection, Koné underlined the need for strong preventive measures, including notification to health authorities about any suspected case of Ebola disease.

Professor Sow said that control remains the main challenge in view of the long border between Mali and Guinea. 'We must make sure that suspected cases from that country are stopped by the surveillance teams at the Malian side of the border,' he said.

According to Sow, it is possible to eradicate Ebola in Africa but the task is complicated by the virus's reserve in wild animals.

Meanwhile, the WHO representative praised the commitment of the Malian government and all teams working on the ground which led to encouraging results in containing the epidemic. (Pana 18/12/2014)

## **FAO, OTHERS LAUNCH BOOK ON FAMILY MICRO GARDENS IN ANGOLA**

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), in partnership with the Angolan Government and other development partners, have launched a manual on urban and peri-urban horticulture, known as "Family Micro-gardens".

The manual seeks to promote good practices against malnutrition and poverty in the southern African country.

A statement from the FAO, on Wednesday, said other partners include the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Spanish International Cooperation (AECID).

The manual promotes family micro gardens techniques in a simple and practical way that is accessible to families and communities.

Authored by a Colombian agronomist, César Herman Marulanda, the manual shares experiences of the most recent years in fast growing cities of most Latin American countries, Africa and in the world.

'FAO is proposing to integrate Urban Horticulture development as a means to combat urban poverty and malnutrition. In Angola, urban agriculture is assessed as a key activity for the survival of the population of Luanda in the context of the post-conflict situation,' Angola's FAO representative, Mamoudou Diallo, said in the manual.

Angolan Secretary of State for Agriculture, Mr. José Amaro Tati, announced the intention of Government to disseminate a Portuguese version of the manual, for a wider use by decision-makers, extension workers, and in the provinces.

With the population of Luanda reaching nearly 6 million, the demand for safe and quality fruit and vegetable farms is extremely high.

Angola, is a contributor to the Africa Solidarity Trust Fund and is one of the four focus countries the FAO African Regional Initiative will be working on to end hunger in 2015. Other countries are Malawi, Niger and Ethiopia. (Pana 18/12/2014)

## **MEDIA WORKERS IN NIGERIA BEGIN STRIKE**

Less than 24 hours after unveiling a media code of ethics for the coverage of the 2015 general elections, the two main public media workers union, the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) and the Radio Television Theatres and Arts Workers Union of Nigeria (RATTAWU), Wednesday began a three-day warning strike.

The largely public media workers unions are pressing for the payment of unpaid salaries and outstanding allowances.

According to the RATTAWU president, Mr. Yemisi Bamgose, "Salaries in the health sector, for instance, are by far bigger than what media practitioners get."

He warned: 'If the conditions are not met after three days, our members will embark on an indefinitely industrial action.'

The RATTAWU president called on members of the union whose weigh-in allowances have not been paid in some states of the federation, to embark on indefinitely strike action from Wednesday to press home their demands.

The two main media workers unions said they have notified the government about their action, saying, however, there has not been any response from the government.

More than 200 public-owned Radio and Television stations controlled by the state and federal governments, including the Voice of Nigeria, are affected by the strike.

PANA reports that the stations now provide skeletal services in News and Programming, with transmission period drastically reduced to less than 3 to 4 hours daily.

The private owned Radio and Television are not affected by this strike.

Nigerian oil workers went on strike Monday and sources say health workers Wednesday threatened to embark on a fresh strike to press home their demands for better working conditions. (Pana 18/12/2014)

## **NIGERIA'S PETROLEUM MINISTER BAGS ANOTHER INT'L APPOINTMENT**

A few weeks after the Nigerian Minister of Petroleum Resources, Mrs. Diezani Alison-Madueke, emerged the first female President of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), she was Tuesday appointed the President of the Ministerial Meeting of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF) in Doha, Qatar, according to local media reports.

Also at its 16th ministerial meeting the same day, the member countries of GECF appointed the Minister of Oil and Gas of Libya, Mr. Mashala SA Said, as the Alternate President.

The meeting of GECF, an equivalent of OPEC, was attended by ministers from Algeria, Iran, Libya, Qatar, Russia and United Arab Emirate, while the Heads of Delegations from Bolivia, Equatorial Guinea, Egypt, Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela were observers.



Alison-Madueke, who, until then, was the Alternate President, was, however, absent at the meeting but Nigeria's Ambassador to Qatar, Ambassador Shuaibu Ahmed, and the Group Executive Director in charge of Gas and Power at the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), Dr. David Ige, were in attendance. (Pana 18/12/2014)

## EXPORTATIONS DE DIAMANTS PAR LA CÔTE D'IVOIRE

La Belgique va former des experts ivoiriens pour la surveillance des exportations de diamants par la Côte d'Ivoire - Trois Ivoiriens experts en diamants seront formés par le Centre mondial du diamant d'Anvers (Awdc- acronyme flamand), pour la surveillance des exportations des diamants de Côte d'Ivoire afin de permettre à ce pays d'exporter légalement des diamants sur le marché international, a-t-on appris de source officielle.

Mme Margeaux Donker, porte-parole de l'Awdc, a expliqué à la presse, que depuis 2003, l'ONU a placé la Côte d'Ivoire sur la black-list des pays interdits d'exporter les diamants, parce que, à l'époque, les groupes rebelles ivoiriens exportaient les pierres précieuses pour se pourvoir en armements, système de commerce illégal, baptisé 'diamants du sang'.

Maintenant que la situation politique s'est stabilisée dans ce pays, a-t-elle dit, il est temps que les exportations de diamants par la Côte d'Ivoire répondent au Processus de Kimberley (Pk), système de certification des diamants, instauré par l'ONU et auxquels ont adhéré près de 100 pays et organisations internationales.

La Belgique est heureuse de pouvoir aider la Côte d'Ivoire à mettre sur le marché international des diamants équitables pour le développement de ce pays.

Elle a estimé que le Côte d'Ivoire pourrait mettre sur le marché international entre 150 et 200.000 carats de diamants pouvant rapporter annuellement à ce pays 25 millions de dollars, a-t-elle précisé. (Pana 17/12/2014)

## EU BETS ON SUCCESS OF TUNISIA'S DEMOCRATIC TRANSITION AND INCREASES FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IN 2014

Throughout 2014, the EU has strengthened its cooperation with Tunisia, aware of the importance of the success of its democratic transition. After having granted €135 million in 2013, the EU stepped up its support in 2014 bringing its total assistance to Tunisia to €204 million (€169 million to 2014 action programme and €35 million from the Neighbourhood Investment Facility).

Ambassador Laura Baeza, Head of the EU Delegation to Tunisia, welcomed the unrivalled scale of EU support to Tunisia in 2014, underlining that this support *“reflects the remarkable progress accomplished in terms of democratic governance with the adoption of a consensual constitution and the organisation of transparent and pluralistic legislative elections.”*

The seven major programmes adopted in 2014 are facing up to the main challenges: in the economic sector, the EU is supporting the Tunisian authorities to consolidate their reforms with the “support programme to recovery” (€100 million). Efforts are being made in the sectors of justice (€15 million) and audiovisual media (€10 million). As for social issues, gender equality (€7 million) and the rehabilitation of poor neighbourhoods (€28 million) are at the centre of the EU's new programmes. Aware of the risks linked to the geopolitical situation of Tunisia's neighbours, the EU is also helping the Tunisian government in the integrated management of its borders and the protection to bring to people affected by these regional crises. The EU has also allocated a specific budget for institutional support actions (€6



million) to work on rapprochement between Tunisian and European standards, the exchange of good practices and know-how between administrations.

Moreover, in the framework of the Neighbourhood Investment Facility (NIF), the EU supports the initiatives undertaken by the European development banks – the European Investment Bank and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) for an amount of €35 million in 2014, contributing to the development of projects that need heavy investments.

Thanks to this support, major projects have been carried out in 2014, such as the integrated depollution of Lake Bizerte (€15 million) with the EBRD, or a schools rehabilitation programme (€20 million) with the EIB. (EU Neighbourhood 18-12-2014)



**EBCAM NEWS**

*The Memorandum will not be published during the end of the year period, as the EU and other Institutions will be officially closed.*

*We take the opportunity to wish all our numerous readers Season's Greetings and a Successful 2015.*



*Season's Greetings and the best wishes for  
a successful 2015*

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