

MEMORANDUM

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11 YEARS OF UNINTERRUPTED PUBLICATION
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EU SCALES-UP ITS RESPONSE TO FAMINE AND DROUGHT AFFECTED COUNTRIES IN HORN OF AFRICA WITH AN ADDITIONAL €165 MILLION

Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Neven Mimica announced today additional EU support to respond to the crises in South Sudan, Somalia and its neighbouring countries, during an official visit to the African Union.

On the occasion of an official visit to the African Union in Addis Ababa, Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development Neven **Mimica**, announced a support package of €165 million to address the multiple crises in the Horn of Africa region.

Commissioner **Mimica** said: *"The sooner we act, the more lives we can save. This package of €165 million will support the urgent needs of South Sudanese people in the country and the region but also the millions of people at risk of famine in the Horn of Africa. With this additional support, the EU shows the way to other members of the international community to also respond urgently."*

Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management Christos **Stylianides** said: *"The European Union is responding immediately to the needs arising from the severe famine in South Sudan and the dire droughts in Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya. With this new assistance, we will do our utmost to contain the effects of these extremely challenging circumstances in the Horn of Africa."*

South Sudan crisis

From this package of support, €100 million will be allocated to respond to the humanitarian crisis caused by the violent conflict in South Sudan. Out of this, €30 million will provide lifesaving assistance to vulnerable people in South Sudan. Assistance will offer protection to women and children at risk, or victims, of human rights abuses, as well as support to treat alarming levels of malnutrition, diseases and water and sanitation. The remaining amount of €70 million will support South Sudan's neighbouring countries, notably Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya and Sudan, to continue providing protection and addressing the needs of South Sudanese fleeing conflict and seeking shelter in their territories.

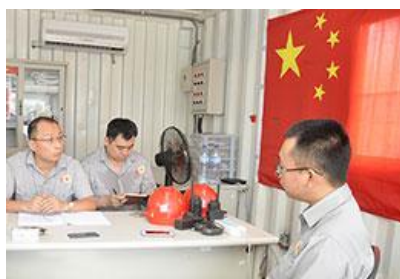
Droughts in Somalia, Ethiopia, Kenya

The second part of the package, in the amount of €65 million, is planned to respond to the serious droughts in Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya. Changing climatic conditions and successive failed rains during the past three years are triggering a humanitarian crisis of huge proportions. The negative effects of the droughts are likely to intensify in 2017, as rains are projected to be below average during the next rain season. The situation is particularly dire in Somalia, where the number of people in need has increased drastically to 6.2 million, that is half the population, and where there is a real risk of famine later in 2017. A pre-famine alert has already been issued in February of this year.

Background

This new package will also scale up and strengthen over €400 million that the EU allocated in 2016 to address the humanitarian crises and the effects of El Niño in the region. It will also complement the €200 million which the EU approved in February this year to support the new Government of Somalia to continue transitioning out of fragility and building a resilience society. (EU 17-03-2017)

CHINESE COOPERATION IS ALREADY WORKING IN SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE



Four technical teams of Chinese aid workers are already active in Sao Tome and Principe, taking advantage of the experience of some team members in other Portuguese-speaking African countries and Macau to meet the many needs of the archipelago.

About a month after signing the cooperation agreement between Sao Tome and Principe and China in Beijing, which will resume a relationship that was interrupted for almost two decades, with teams in the areas of agriculture, energy, health and malaria control.

At the Santo Amaro power station, the main one in the country, the head of the Chinese energy mission, Huang Tao, and his team, are working side by side with employees from Sao Tome's state utility company Empresa de Água e Electricidade.

Two of the five generators were at a standstill when they arrived on 20 January, and they managed to repair one of them in less than 24 hours. The second will resume operation as soon as the parts arrive, significantly increasing production in Santo Amaro, which provides more than half of the electricity to Sao Tome, a city that suffers from sporadic blackouts.

"We are in the initial stage and I think that in future we will have more results. In our area of intervention we intend to discuss with the government the increase of production capacity, particularly through renewable energy, which will lower costs and be more environmentally friendly. The current plant uses only fuel, and thus has high operating costs," Huang told Macauhub.

There are also already five doctors and three support staff in Sao Tome, as part of a team led by Jingqiang Wang, who liaises with the Ministry of Health to assess the country's needs.

Young medical sciences researcher Li Mingqiang, of the Medical University of Guangzhou, known for his expertise in prevention and treatment of malaria is currently carrying out a needs assessment.

Upon completion of the assessment phase, the next step is to import laboratory equipment from China. Hou Xiaoping, head of the agricultural technical team also intends to introduce Chinese technology and experience. In initial assessment the products of greatest potential were identified as cocoa, coffee and pepper, all products that may have a market in China in the future, he said.

By introducing new seeds and techniques, food safety and animal husbandry can help improve people's livelihood, which should also benefit from the introduction of biogas production techniques from animal waste, which can also be used to produce fertilizers. (20-03-2017)

TRUMP'S 'AMERICA FIRST' BUDGET SLASHES FOREIGN AID, MULTILATERAL FUNDING

President Donald Trump's first budget proposes 28 percent cuts to the [United States Agency for International Development](#) and the [State Department](#) and recommends slashing funding to the [United Nations](#).

The [draft budget](#), which was released Thursday morning, reveals plans to stop U.S. funding for U.N. climate change deals, but will preserve support for the [President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief](#) and meet commitments made to the [Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria](#), and to [Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance](#).

The budget also proposes scrapping a number of independent agencies, including the [U.S. African Development Foundation](#), the [U.S. Trade and Development Agency](#), the [Overseas Private Investment Corporation](#) and the [United States Institute of Peace](#).

There is likely to be fierce debate in Congress about the level of the cuts to foreign aid, which many observers believe means the budget is unlikely to pass in its proposed form. Before firm details were announced, Trump's cuts to State and USAID had already sparked opposition, including from senior Republicans such as Senator Lindsey Graham, a Republican from South Carolina, who said a rumored 37 percent cut would be "dead on arrival," and Senator Marco Rubio, a Republican from Florida, who gave a [speech on the Senate floor](#) outlining his arguments for foreign aid.

Secretary-General António Guterres has called the proposed budget "complex and lengthy." It aims to cut U.S. support to U.N. agencies and peacekeeping operations, fulfilling a pledge of President Donald Trump to decrease foreign aid.

Trump asks for a \$54 billion increase in defense spending in his draft budget, which is called "America First: A Budget Blueprint to Make America Great Again." This budget is an outline of his policy priorities and are recommendations for Congress, which ultimately makes decisions about government spending. This proposed budget would take effect October 1, only after approval by Congress.

"It is time to prioritize the security and well-being of Americans, and to ask the rest of the world to step up and pay its fair share," Trump said in a statement included in the budget, justifying what he described as "deep cuts" to foreign aid.

The 2018 budget requests \$25.6 billion in funding for the Department of State and USAID, a \$10.1 billion reduction from the previous year. The draft budget includes language indicating a closer relationship between the two departments, saying the budget "recognizes the need for State and USAID to pursue greater efficiencies through reorganization and consolidation in order to enable effective diplomacy and development."

The document also calls for an \$803 million, or 35 percent reduction, in funding for Treasury International Programs, which includes multilateral institutions, and international funds. Funding to multilateral development banks, including the [World Bank](#), would be cut by approximately \$650 million over three years.

U.N. agencies would see their funding cut and are expected to "rein in costs," according to the budget. The U.S. also plans to cap contributions to U.N. peacekeeping to no more than 25 percent. The budget does allow for "significant funding of humanitarian assistance, including food aid, disaster, and refugee program funding," but no specific numbers are given. The budget proposes eliminating the Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance account.

The budget also calls for the U.S. to withdraw from all U.N. climate change programs, including the [Green Climate Fund](#) and [Climate Investment Funds](#).

Global health programs including Gavi, PEPFAR, and the Global Fund escaped cuts and their funding is to be preserved at current commitment levels under the budget. However, the [Fogarty International Center](#) at the [National Institutes of Health](#), which focuses on global health, is also earmarked for elimination.

Cuts to the State Department's Educational and Cultural Exchange budget could see funding for the programs such as the Young African Leaders Initiative cut — while maintaining funding for the Fulbright Program.

The budget also includes \$3.1 billion for "ensuring that Israel has the ability to defend itself from threats and maintain its Qualitative Military Edge." (Dev 16-03-2017)

PORTUGUESE-CHINESE CONSORTIUM BUILDS RAILWAY AND PORT IN MOZAMBIQUE



A contract to build a railroad and a deepwater port in Mozambique has been awarded to a 50/50 consortium made up of Portuguese group Mota-Engil and China Civil Engineering Construction (CCEC), said the chief executive of the concession company.

José Pires da Fonseca, CEO of TML – Thai Mozambique Logistics, told Portuguese weekly newspaper Expresso the contract was worth US\$2.3 billion and had been "awarded in a tender by the first Portuguese-Chinese consortium set up to carry out an international project."

This work will take 36 months to build a 500-kilometre railway, linking the coal mines of Moatize to the port of Macuse, in Zambezia province, located 1,600 kilometres north of Maputo.

“The railway line should start operating in 2021,” said Pires da Fonseca, admitting that “initially the port of Macuse should process about 30 million tonnes of coal, increasing to 100 million tonnes in the fourth phase.”

Pires da Fonseca told the newspaper that customers buying this coal from Moatize are steel mills in India, Japan and China and others, which are companies that manage thermal power plants, are located in India, Thailand and China.

The consortium of Mota-Engil with CCEC won this tender against competing proposals from Brazilian construction company Andrade Gutierrez, the China Railway Construction Corporation (CRCC) and China Harbour Engineering Company, and from Turkish company Yapi and Korea's GS.

The shareholders of TML – Thai Mozambique Logistics are Italian Thai Development, with 60% of the capital, Mozambican port and rail company CFM with 20% and the Zambeze Integrated Development Corridor (Codiza), with the remaining 20%. (16-03-2017)

SAMSUNG CLAIMS TOP SPOT AS THE MOST ADMIRER BRAND IN AFRICA; MTN FALLS EIGHT PLACES BUT STILL REMAINS AFRICA'S MOST ADMIRER AND MOST VALUABLE BRAND.

African Business magazine in partnership with Brand Africa, Brand Finance, GeoPoll and Kantar TNS have released the results of the Top 100 brands in Africa.

Samsung has unseated MTN as Africa's most admired brand. Despite its recent crisis with its Galaxy Note 7 model, which notably was never launched in Africa, Samsung takes the #1 spot as the Most Admired Brand in Africa. However, MTN has retained its ranking as the Most Admired African Brand despite challenges particularly in Nigeria, which have knocked some shine off Africa's leading brand.

The big story in this year's ranking is the fall in the number of African brands in the Top 100. Only 16 African brands are represented a fall from 25 two years ago. This shows that African brands need to work much harder at becoming mainstream and building brand awareness. African brands, accounts for only 0.75% of the value of the Top 100 Most Valuable brands. That is in line with Africa having a mere 0.6% share of trademarks filed globally and where investments in R&D is less than 1% against of distribution of between 2-5% in developed markets. Among the 19 markets surveyed, non-African brands dominate the Top 3 in each market.

Because of the categories transformational impact in Africa, Brand Africa also conducted a separate parallel survey to determine the Most Admired Brands in Media and the Most Admired Brands in Financial Services. In the financial services category, Nigeria's GTBank leads the overall rankings in Africa and Barclays retains its position as the number 1 non-African financial services brand. In the media category, BBC and DSTV retain their positions as the top non-African and African media brands respectively.

Africa's Top Brands full results and analysis will be available in the March issue of ***African Business***, which will be on sale globally from Monday 6th March.

CABO VERDE'S ECONOMY GROWS 3.5% IN 201

The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of Cabo Verde (Cape Verde) grew by 3.6% in 2016, more than doubling the rate of 1.5% recorded in 2015, according to provisional data released by the archipelago's government on Tuesday.

Finance Minister Olavo Correia said during a meeting with senior government officials that public debt increased from 127.8% of GDP in 2015 to 128.6% in 2016 and the budget deficit fell from 4.6% of GDP in 2015 to 3.5% in 2016.

As it was an election year, Cabo Verde (Cape Verde) organised its spending on a monthly basis until August 2016 and the state budget was introduced from September.

Correia was quoted by Portuguese news agency Lusa as saying the figures were positive and pointed to a trend for economic growth, a reduction of the budget deficit and of external financing.

Reduction of operating costs and state investment, increased tax collection capacity and restructuring of loss-making public enterprises are areas where, according to the minister, it is necessary to act quickly to contain the “potential risks” of the deficit and State debt.

“We are growing three times more than the average of recent years and we are lowering the budget deficit, but the country still has huge challenges ahead in terms of fiscal consolidation,” said Correia. (15-03-2017)

SOUTH AFRICAN LENDER BOOSTS CONSTRUCTION OF KENYA’S LAMU-ISIOLO ROAD

Work on Lamu-Isiolo road in Kenya is set to kick off after South African lender [Development Bank of Southern Africa](#) (DBSA) agreed with the ministry of Transport to finance the project.

According to the government officials the 580km road which is currently on the bitumen standards is part of the [Lamu Port South Sudan Ethiopia Transport](#) (Lapsset) project.

Transport PS Irungu Nyakera said in Mombasa that detailed designs of the road had been completed.

“We have been sourcing for companies that will fund the project and we are happy that has finally come to pass and we believe it will kick off and end on time” he added

Irungu added that the of the Lamu-Isiolo road will tune of Sh60 billion. Sh5 billion has already been earmarked for the initial stages of the road construction.

The PS added that they expect to start the early stage of the project like bush clearing in May and hence this will pave way for the construction of the road.

State House had announced last October during the State visit of South African President Jacob Zuma that a consortium of international investors led by the DBSA was ready to invest \$1.9 billion (Sh196 billion) in the Lapsset project.

According to a brief by State House spokesperson Manoah Esipisu on October 16, \$1.2 billion (Sh124 billion) would go towards three additional berths at Lamu port and \$700 million (Sh72.5 billion) to the Lamu-Garissa-Isiolo road under the annuity programme.

The DBSA is wholly owned by the Government of South Africa, and has arranged funding for projects in transport, energy, water and ICT sectors across Africa.

Mr. Nyakera said the road is key to the Lapsset project since it would connect the proposed Lamu port to Addis Ababa in Ethiopia, boosting trade between the two countries.

“Ethiopia is building a railway line to connect to the country through Moyale, while on our part we are constructing the road from Lamu to Isiolo,” he said.

The Lamu corridor project, which was commissioned by former President Mwai Kibaki in 2012, is expected to open up Kenya’s northern frontier for more trade and investment, and has been identified as the long term conduit for Kenya’s oil exports through a crude pipeline linking Lamu to the oilfields in Turkana. (CRO 02-03-2017)

JAPAN AND MOZAMBIQUE SIGN COOPERATION AGREEMENTS

Mozambique and Japan on Wednesday in Tokyo signed two bilateral cooperation agreements focused on the development of infrastructure, as part of an official visit by President Filipe Nyusi to the country that began on Monday and is due to end on Thursday.

One of the agreements concerns the construction of roads and bridges in the province of Cabo Delgado, northern Mozambique.

Under the agreement, Japan will finance the construction of three bridges over the Messalo basin in regions known as Messalo One, Messalo Two and Maduede along National Highway 380, which connects the city of Pemba to the Palma district.

The second agreement is a memorandum of understanding and cooperation for the development of urban transport in the city of Maputo, Mozambican news agency AIM reported.

This memorandum involves the Mozambican Ministry of Transport and Communications (MTC) and the Municipal Council of Maputo together with the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry and the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan.

The signing of two cooperation agreements was preceded by a meeting between Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Filipe Nyusi who, leading teams from their respective governments, discussed bilateral cooperation. (16-03-2017)

SHARE OF AFRICAN BRANDS DECLINES IN NEW SURVEY OF AFRICA'S 100 BEST BRANDS

The share of African brands declined in the newly released 2016-2017 annual Brand Africa 100: Africa's Best Brands – an annual survey and valuation of the Top 100 brands in Africa, according to a GeoPoll press release.

Proof that bad news isn't always bad for business, Samsung took the No. 1 spot as the Most Admired Brand in Africa despite its recent crisis with its exploding Galaxy Note 7 model, which never launched in Africa.

Samsung displaced South African mobile service provider MTN as Most Admired Brand in Africa. MTN has led in this category for years. However, MTN retained its ranking as the Most Admired African Brand despite challenges — particularly in Nigeria, where it faced a multi-billion dollar fine for violating regulations.

This may have tarnished the image of Africa's leading brand, according to a press release by U.S.-based mobile market research firm GeoPoll.

GeoPoll used text messaging technology to identify the most admired brands in Africa in what it says is a representative sample of African consumers in 19 African countries. Consumers themselves generated the list of 100 most admired brands, according to Geopoll. These countries collectively represent an estimated 74 percent of Africa's population, according to a prepared statement.

GeoPoll, which has offices in Denver, Washington, D.C. and Nairobi, partnered with London-based market research firm Kantar TNS and Brand Finance Africa to find Africa's best 100 brands.

Kantar collated and analysed data to create a weighted consumer-admiration score that reduced over 11,000 brand mentions to the Top 100 Most Admired Brands in Africa.

Hoping to inspire a brand-led African renaissance, South Africa-based [Brand Africa](#) launched in 2010 following the FIFA World Cup. Brand Africa promotes a positive image of Africa, celebrating its diversity and driving its competitiveness. It sees itself as a brand-led movement which recognizes that in the 21st century, brands are "an asset and a vector of image, reputation and competitiveness of nations."

MTN dropped from No. 1 spot to No. 9 overall, but retained its top ranking as Most Admired African Brand.

African brands' share among most admired brands dropped from 23 percent to 16 percent.

Non-African brands have strengthened their positions in Africa, growing their share of the Top 100 Admired brands from 77 percent in 2014-2015 to 84 percent in 2016-2017. In a country-by-country review, non-African brands ranked the Top 3 brands in every market, except in Nigeria (with Glo at No. 3), Kenya (with Safaricom/Mpesa No. 2 and Tusker No. 3) and Tanzania (with Azam No. 2).

Samsung ranked the No. 1 brand in eight of the 19 countries polled. Nike ranked No. 1 in four countries, Coke in three countries, Adidas in three countries and Airtel in one country. Non-African brands represent a 99.25-percent share of the value of the Top 100 Valuable brands in Africa.

The U.S. led all countries with 25 out of 100 most admired brands. Of the Top 100, 42 came from Europe. South Africa led Africa with six out of the 100 most admired brands.

The single biggest gain for a brand was Lacoste (up 52). Levi's lost the most ground (down 68).

Most valuable brands in Africa

African brands represent less than 1 percent of the share of the value of the Top 100, according to Geopoll.

Google, valued at \$109 billion, displaced Apple to become the No. 1 Most Valuable Brand in Africa 100. MTN, valued at \$2.975 million, is the Most Valuable African brand.

Among the Top 100 Most Admired Brands in Africa, Europe led all regions with 42 out of 100, followed by North America (25 out of 100), Asia (17 out of 100) and Africa (16 out of 100). The U.S. was the top country of origin with 25 out of 100, followed by the U.K. (8 out of 100), Japan (6 out of 100), Germany (6 out of 100), South Africa (6 out of 100), France (5 out of 100) and China (5 out of 100), Italy (4 out of 100), Nigeria (3 out of 100), Ireland (3 out of 100), Netherlands (3 out of 100) and Spain (3 out of 100).

MOST-ADMIRED BRANDS IN AFRICA					
2016/7 RANK	2015 RANK	BRAND	CATEGORY	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	CHANGE
1	2	Samsung	Electronics / Computers	South Korea	+1
2	4	Nike	Sport and Fitness	USA	+2
3	5	Adidas	Sport and Fitness	Germany	+2
4	3	Coca-Cola	Non-alcoholic Beverages	USA	-1
5	11	Apple	Electronics / Computers	USA	+6
6	9	LG	Electronics / Computers	South Korea	+3
7	6	Nokia	Electronics / Computers	Finland	-1
8	8	Toyota	Auto Manufacturers	Japan	-
9	1	MTN	Telecommunications	South Africa	-8
10	7	Airtel	Telecommunications	India	-3

Most Admired African Brands

	OVERALL 2016/7 RANK	BRAND	CATEGORY	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN
1	9	MTN	Telecommunications	South Africa
2	16	Glo/Globacom	Telecommunications	Nigeria
3	24	Dangote Group	Consumer, Non-Cyclical	Nigeria
4	26	Anbessa Shoes	Apparel	Ethiopia
5	28	Safaricom/Mpesa	Telecommunications	Kenya
6	38	Tuskier	Alcoholic Beverages	Kenya
7	45	Mukwano Products	Consumer, Non-Cyclical	Uganda
8	47	DStv/GoTv/Multichoice	Media	South Africa
9	53	Shoprite	Retail	South Africa
10	55	Tiger Brands	Consumer, Non-Cyclical	South Africa

Most Valuable African Brands

	OVERALL BRAND VALUE RANK	2016/7 ADMIRATION RANK	BRAND	CATEGORY	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	RV 2017 (US\$ M)	BRAND STRENGTH RATING 2017
1	47	9	MTN	Telecommunications	South Africa	2,973	AA+
2	67	33	Shoprite	Retail	South Africa	999	AA+
3	69	55	Tiger Brands	Consumer, Non-Cyclical	South Africa	883	AA-
4	72	28	Safaricom/Mpesa	Telecommunications	Kenya	691	AA
5	73	47	DStv/GoTv/Multichoice	Media	South Africa	623	A+
6	74	93	Pick n Pay	Retail	South Africa	576	A+
7	76	24	Dangote	Consumer, Non-Cyclical	Nigeria	491	AA-
8	77	16	Glo/Globacom	Telecommunications	Nigeria	427	A-
9	79	38	Tuskier	Alcoholic Beverages	Kenya	201	A+
10	82	89	Sasko	Food	South Africa	154	A+

“It is a great concern that the share of African brands is so low and even declining,” said Thebe Ikalafeng, founder and chairman of Brand Africa and chairman of Brand Finance Africa, in a prepared statement. “African entrepreneurs ought to know their consumers better than anyone. It is a wake-up call for African governments to create enabling environments to support these entrepreneurs to build Made-in-Africa brands which in turn will enable the governments to fund and drive their own development agenda.”

Here are a few more notable results from the surveys about brands in Africa:

The Top 100 Admired brands are distributed among 11 categories across apparel (19 percent), consumers (13 percent), electronics (13 percent), telecommunications (12 percent), auto manufacturers (11 percent), alcoholic beverages (10 percent), food (6 percent), non-alcoholic beverages (5 percent), media (4 percent), sports and fitness (4 percent), retail (2 percent) and cosmetics (1 percent).

In the 2016-2017 survey period, 31 new brands entered the Top 100 in compared to 34 between 2014-2015. These include South Africa’s Shoprite and Pick n Pay, Morocco’s Marwa, Ethiopia’s Anbessa Shoes and Nigeria’s Lady Care.

Brand Africa also conducted a separate parallel survey to determine the Most Admired Brands in Media and the Most Admired Brands in Financial Services. In the financial services category, Nigeria's GTB Bank led the overall rankings in Africa. Barclays retained its position as the No. 1 non-African financial services brand. In the media category, BBC and DSTV retained their positions as the top non-African and African media brands respectively.

GeoPoll's data-collection method through mobile surveys demonstrates the power and reach of mobile technology in its delivery of real-time, actionable data, said Steve Gutterman, CEO of GeoPoll. (AFKI 04-03-2017)

NIGERIA TO CREATE INDUSTRIAL COUNCIL TO STIMULATE GROWTH



The Federal Executive Council (FEC) has approved the creation of an industrial council that will stimulate the activities of the industrial sector. Nigeria's Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment, Mr. Okechukwu Enelamah, told journalists on Wednesday in Abuja that the industrial council, which will be chaired by Vice President Yemi Osinbajo, would engage other stakeholders, particularly the private sector to come up with a policy for the sector.

Enelamah said that the industrial council would have two vice presidents from both the government and the private sector with membership drawn from relevant ministries.

According to the minister, the main objective of the council is to assist the government in formulating policies and strategies that would enhance the performance of the industrial sector. (APA 16-03-2017)

EU PROJECT TO HOLD ACADEMY ON WOMEN IN BUSINESS SUPPORT ORGANISATIONS IN THE SOUTH MEDITERRANEAN



The EU-funded EUROMED Invest project is holding a training workshop on "Fostering Women Leaders - Women in Business Support Organisations (BSOs)" in Marrakesh, Morocco, on 6-7 March 2017. The EUROMED Invest Academy will bring together participants from South Mediterranean countries, mainly active women entrepreneurs, members of Confederation of Enterprises and CCIs contributing to the economic, social and political sphere.

During one day and a half, this training will gather BSOs from the MENA region, entrepreneurs, and several stakeholders from the private sector in order to discuss the role of women in the economic and social development of their countries. It will also offer the opportunity to share best practices among BSOs in supporting women entrepreneurs and improving services provided.

The aim of the EUROMED Invest project is to boost private business and investment within the Euro-Mediterranean region to contribute to inclusive economic development. The project's activities aim to empower Euro-Med business and investment networks to implement targeted strategies in support of SME development in specific sectors: agri-food, water and alternative energies, tourism, transport and logistics, cultural and creative industries. (EuroMed 03-03-2017)

[EUROMED INVEST \(EU Support to business and investment partnerships in Southern Mediterranean](#)

SENEGAL AND REGIONAL AIRPORT MANAGERS' UNION SEAL HQ DEAL



Central, West African airport managers have sealed a deal with Senegal to host their headquarters.

The Senegalese government, represented by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Senegalese Living Abroad, Mankeur Ndiaye and the Union of Airport Managers of Central and West Africa (UGAACO), represented by its president, Gilles Darriau, signed the hosting agreement in Dakar on Thursday.

"It is with great pleasure that we have signed this protocol and I welcome the choice of Senegal to host the UGAACO headquarters" Mr. Ndiaye said at the end of the signing ceremony.

He added: "Your choice of Senegal is in line with the government's desire to make the nation's capital a platform, with the opening of the Blaise Diagne International Airport, the strengthening of regional airports, and the launch of a new airline".

He said UGAACO must maintain the trust of its partners and work in airport security.

"I therefore appeal to the airport platform of Senegal to earn the trust of UGAACO. Senegal will provide UGAACO with the necessary support to achieve its objectives," Mr. Ndiaye emphasised.

Senegal was selected to host the permanent headquarters of the Union of Airport Managers in Central and West Africa (UGAACO), in conformity with one of the resolutions adopted at the tenth General Assembly of the union held in Abidjan on June 22-23, 2016.

UGAACO, which groups together 17 countries in French-speaking Africa, aims at strengthening cooperation between civilian airports in the Central and West Africa sub-regions, the exchange of information on the improvement of airport management, and the setting up of mechanisms to assist member airports in ensuring safe, secure and efficient

operation of their infrastructure.

According to its president, Gilles Darriau, the union wants African air transport to meet the aspirations of the people, which he said will be done through the consolidation of safety, performance and quality of service.

“Senegal’s desire to boost its airport sector is undeniable, and in this sense, it is about to start the activities of the Blaise Diagne International Airport in Diass” he said, adding that Senegal is a strategic partner for the development of UGAACO activities for the common good.

Before the signing of the headquarters agreement with the Senegalese government, Gilles Darriau and the Director of the Senegal Airport Agency, Pape Mael Diop, visited the site of the future headquarters of the union under construction within the premises of the Leopold Sedar Senghor International Airport in Dakar.

The building will be completed and delivered by the end of April 2017, at the latest. (APA 16-03-2017)

13 DIE IN FAILED ASSAULT ON ETHIOPIA’S GRAND RENAISSANCE DAM



Ethiopia has said 13 members of a separatist rebel group were killed by its army during a failed attack on the site of Africa’s largest hydropower project, the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD). Zadig Abraha, Ethiopia’s minister for government communications, said on 1 March the assault was launched by 20 members of the Benishangul Gumez People’s Liberation Movement, but that they were intercepted before they could reach the site of the Nile dam, which is nearing completion near the Sudan border.

“We are preparing discussions with the governments of Sudan and Egypt to ensure the dam doesn’t cause any significant harm on the lower riparian countries”— Debrestion Gebremical, Ethiopian minister of IT

He added that seven assailants who fled to Sudanese territory were later apprehended by that country’s security forces and delivered to the Ethiopian authorities, reports Ethiopia’s state broadcaster, [Fana](#).

Abraha pointed the finger at Eritrea, Ethiopia’s arch-enemy, as the organiser of the attack, however other officials have claimed in the past that the Egyptian government was financing armed groups on its territory and encouraging them to sabotage the project.

Egypt has long made its opposition to the GERD clear, on the grounds that it will reduce water flow in the river. The Blue Nile, which begins in the Ethiopian highlands, is the source of 85% of the lower Nile’s water, which Egypt’s 80 million people depend on for drinking, industry and agriculture.

However, the \$5bn, 6.5GW dam, which is being built by Italian company Salini Impregilo, is seen as essential to the national development of Ethiopia, both as a source of power and as a symbol of what the country can achieve out of its own financial resources.

Debrezion Gebremical, minister for IT, [told](#) journalists last week that work on the dam was nearing completion, and that it would soon be generating 750MW of power.

He said: “Construction of power receiver and transmission stations as well as the installation of power transmission lines have been fully completed. The only thing left is fixing the two turbines that generate 375MW each.”

He said the next step would be to enable the dam to hold water, after which the filling of its reservoir would take place, adding: “We are preparing discussions with the governments of Sudan and Egypt to ensure the dam doesn’t cause any significant harm on the lower riparian countries.” (CGR 03-03-2017)

CONGO: GOVT MAKES 300,000 OIL BPD PROJECTIONS FOR 2018



Congo will produce around 300,000 barrels of oil per day in 2018, more than its current 250,000 bpd, according to projections published by the Ministry of Hydrocarbons in Brazzaville on Thursday.

The ministry justified these projections in oil production by the French company Total on Wednesday announcement about the output from the Moho Nord offshore oilfield, some 75 km off Pointe-Noire.

The project, in which Total holds a 53.5 percent stake, Chevron Overseas Limited (31.5 percent) and the National Oil Company of Congo (SNPC) (15 percent) was started by Total E&P in 2008.

Moho Nord, the largest oil project ever in the Republic of Congo, has a production capacity of 100,000 barrels per day.

According to the ministry, output from this oilfield augurs well for Congo’s prospects given that the sector is a mainstay for the economy. (APA 16-03-2017)

LOBBYING EFFORTS RAMP UP IN THE WAKE OF PROPOSED CUTS TO US AID

Months ago, the [ONE Campaign](#) set Feb. 28 as the day for the ONE Power Summit, a day of advocacy in Washington, D.C. The group couldn’t have known at the time that just one day before its event, reports would surface that President Donald Trump was to propose a massive 37 percent reduction in foreign aid spending.

In some ways, the news became a rallying cry for the group of 200 advocates who had descended on the nation’s capital to meet with lawmakers — meetings that several lawmakers referenced as they spoke out against the proposed cuts this week.

“We’re feeling very good that we’ve created a sense of urgency around this and need to continue to rally support to block it,” said Tom Hart, the ONE Campaign’s North America executive director. The ONE Campaign will be looking to “point out as loudly and as often as we can” the disconnect between what the president is proposing as a security budget and making cuts to foreign aid or “soft power — counter to what our own defense leaders say,” he said.

Groups such as the ONE Campaign, development organizations and lobbyists who support foreign aid are gearing up for a fight, and while they are in agreement that the proposed cuts are alarming and dangerous, they are also quick to say that the budget, in its current form, is unlikely to succeed.

And that isn’t particularly surprising: A president’s budget is always a starting point, a set of recommendations for negotiations. The official budget has yet to even be released, and there is a slight chance that when the “skinny budget” — which gives agency-level budget recommendations but doesn’t get into specifics — is released around mid-March, the projections may change.

What’s unusual is that the reports of the budget slash are based on communications between the Office of Management and Budget and the [State Department](#) or the [U.S. Agency for International Development](#), which are typically a private part of the budget process.

The U.S. Agency for International Development says it is working with the White House on reviewing budget priorities as President Donald Trump’s first budget proposal looks likely to include steep cuts to foreign aid.

And advocates are now questioning whether or how much the process can be influenced before the “skinny budget” is released. That may be hard to do at this point because it’s difficult to know who to work with and what the process is, so the strategy most are employing is to go to Congress and try to shore up support among the decision makers who have the final say on budget issues.

Early signals, based on the communications with the OMB, are that the proposed cuts wouldn’t be spread equally among the individual accounts within the foreign aid budget, a Republican lobbyist, who asked for anonymity in order to speak freely, told Devex. The global health and humanitarian budgets are likely to be spared the deepest cuts, whereas other areas — including support to multilateral institutions, climate funds and family planning funds — could all see significant cuts, he said.

There might also be challenges to the Overseas Contingency Operations fund, which is a pool of funding operated by the State Department and the Department of Defense and is used as a vehicle for supplemental emergency funding in response to disasters. Mick Mulvaney, the newly installed chief of the OMB, reportedly is not a fan of the OCO fund, the lobbyist said.

Key arguments

Aid support has evolved over the years and those changing perceptions help inform the arguments that advocates will make as they try to protect foreign assistance.

The argument that many lobbyists make is multi-pronged: foreign aid is important for U.S. economic interests; it’s key for U.S. national security interests and it’s the right thing to do and is important as a reflection of U.S. values.

The national security argument was front and center this week, in part due to a letter signed by more than 120 retired military leaders cautioning that dramatic cuts to development and diplomacy funding would be harmful to America’s national security efforts and urging congressional and administration leaders to continue support. And while efforts to improve economic conditions and prevent disease and hunger help to stabilize countries and limit the number of people who are targets for extremists, making a cogent global security argument can still be complicated.

Linking development with national security has long been a great concern, particularly among humanitarian organizations. [CARE](#), for example, does not support withholding aid based on national security objectives and its policy is not to take sides in conflicts. But the organization does talk about the importance of meeting basic needs — such as food, water and shelter — in promoting stability, said Liz Marcey, CARE’s senior policy advocate.

The national security argument is an important one, but it might not always be the best one to make, the Republican lobbyist told Devex. It’s often too abstract or can seem a bit hollow coming from development advocates, he said, adding that from the right military officials, it does have weight.

“A lot of advocates over the years have made a somewhat lazy connection between poverty and terrorism,” he said. “If you give the lazy argument, Republicans don’t buy into it.”

With national security, as with making the case for development aid in general, specificity is critical, he said. So, for example, Bill Gates’ remarks at the Munich Security Conference in February about the threat of bioweapons and global vulnerability — which address a specific, clear problem — are more likely to draw attention and elicit a response.

Those details shouldn't be formulaic — for example, outlining how many lives that \$1 million could save. Instead, laying out a specific situation in a particular country, explaining a real situation on the ground, and articulating that there are lives at risk can be quite effective, he said.

Another key argument that may resonate particularly well, and that advocates should be considering, is to not only focus on the foreign aid cuts, but on the nondefense discretionary spending more broadly. Foreign aid advocates should join with others from agriculture, health or transportation to coordinate a unified strategy that says that a budget cannot be balanced on the back of 12 percent of government spending, the lobbyist said.

The strategy ahead

President Donald Trump denounced U.S. foreign spending in his address to Congress Tuesday night even as his proposed deep budget cuts to foreign aid began drawing fierce criticism from Democrats, senior figures in his own party and international development groups.

Different organizations will look to play different parts in the push to protect foreign aid dollars, and advocates will work closely in the weeks and months ahead as some accelerate and others figure out the specifics of their strategies.

Even as individual strategies unfold, one thing is clear: The organizations working to advocate on foreign assistance cooperate regularly and often work in coalition, which they will do here. That doesn't mean the occasional meeting — most of them are on the phone on a near daily basis working to coordinate efforts and messaging.

"It's a very cohesive and collaborative community," ONE's Hart said. "That was true before the cuts and remains so now."

Those conversations have picked up in the past month, Marcey said. Advocates have been talking about the strengths of different organizations and determining who is best suited for which task in order to best coordinate on a variety of issues, she added.

One of the decisions they have made — and a point where they will speak with a unified voice — is calling for no cuts to the foreign budget and asking legislators to maintain the same levels of funding as were approved for the 2017 fiscal year.

The reason organizations are asking for the equivalent level of funding is the expected humanitarian needs in the year ahead, with, among other challenges, [one famine already declared in South Sudan](#) and three countries on the brink.

"The need won't stop or slow down for the U.S. budget process," Marcey said.

While CARE works within that coalition, it is still working to determine its precise strategy. Budget issues have not generally been a core focus for CARE in its advocacy efforts; it has focused on women and girls, food security, maternal and child health and humanitarian situations. But the recent signals indicate a need to get more heavily involved in those issues, she said.

In the near term, the organization's advocacy work will focus on making sure that aid champions have the information they need. A lot of what staffers have been asking for so far is about the impacts of the cuts. Unfortunately, until more details are available, the specifics about impacts will be hard to provide, Marcey said. So to that end, and in preparation of more details, CARE is doing what Marcey described as groundwork — running scenarios and ensuring that they know what programs are doing and have data on impacts.

CARE will also be ramping up its work to educate new members of Congress on foreign aid issues, which began long before this announcement, Marcey said.

The ONE campaign will continue engaging with legislators on Capitol Hill and working on grassroots mobilizing, particular in key congressional districts so that representatives "feel the wind at their backs," Hart said.

The organization has reached out to supporters online and through social media, asking them to call their elected officials and sign an online letter opposing the cuts. In addition to the 230 meetings those advocates had in D.C. on Tuesday, more than 100 meetings are planned at state and district offices next week to talk about the budget, and in particular, its impact on women and girls. Those meetings will be part of an effort to generate support not only in D.C. but at the local level, he said.

But there are some real challenges.

"The first and obvious one is it's never easy to be running a campaign against a presidential priority and time will tell how hard the White House will push on this," Hart said.

The other critical challenge is that there are still many misperceptions among the U.S. public about how much of the budget is spent on foreign aid. Polls show that most people believe it is more than 20 percent of the budget, when in reality it is about 1 percent. The other harmful misconception is that aid

comes in the form of a blank check to foreign governments. Educating people about the way foreign aid works and communicating the issue to the public is a critical part of tackling the issue, he said. And that's where organizations such as [Global Citizen](#), which works to mobilize millennials around social change and ending poverty, may choose to step in with what they're often known for: celebrity-driven campaigns that look to bring attention to issues.

"Obviously with scarce resources, like many organizations, we will be assessing where we can create the greatest impact," said Michael Sheldrick, the global director of policy and advocacy at Global Citizen. "We need to make sure we don't create echo chamber."

But getting stories out there, sharing impacts and shattering misconceptions can create change, he said. (Dev. 13-03-2017)

SENEGAL'S BUSINESS CLIMATE IMPROVES SHARPLY IN Q4 2016



The business climate in Senegal improved markedly at the end of the fourth quarter of 2016 compared to the previous one, the Directorate of Forecasting and Economic Studies (DPEE) said on Thursday.

The indicator which synthesizes the opinions of business leaders was up by 30 percentage points quarterly to stand at 117 points against 87 points in the third quarter of 2016.

On a disaggregated basis, the indicator gained 12 points in the industry, 14 points in building and public works, 15 points in services and 19 points in trade, the Dakar-based body added.

Compared to the same period in 2015, the overall business climate index went up by two points in Q4 2016. (APA 16-03-2017)

CLEANER AND ENERGY SAVING MEDITERRANEAN CITIES: SEVENTH PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN AGADIR



The EU-funded CES-MED project, promoting clean and energy saving cities, held its seventh Steering Committee Meeting (PSC) on 21- 22 February in the Moroccan city of Agadir, bringing together representatives of the European Commission, the project's National Focal Points of the eight beneficiary countries, eight mayors, and many other project stakeholders.

The CES-MED team gave several presentations covering: the project progress and work plans for the last period; funding opportunities; applied methodology to change from Sustainable Energy Action Plans (SEAP) to Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (SECAP); collaboration with the European Joint Research Centre (JRC); gender equality within CES-MED; awareness actions and use of training tools; in addition to an overview of the post COP22 actions and the development of SEAP/SECAP Support Mechanisms.

Through two special debate sessions, participants engaged in constructive discussions, expressing their future needs, the importance of sustaining the CES-MED actions, building of a momentum reached through of the SEAP/SECAP preparation actions and towards the tangible implementation of priority projects.

Ms. Maya Aherdan, Director of the Department for Observation, Cooperation and Communication at the Moroccan Ministry of Energy, Mines, Water and Environment (MoEMWE) and CES-MED's National Focal Point, emphasised the importance of the project's actions and the meeting, noting its crucial timing, as steps are being taken to consolidate and move ahead with the National Energy Transition in Morocco.

Mr. Maxime La Tella, Programme Manager for Energy and Infrastructure, representing the Delegation of the European Union to the Kingdom of Morocco noted the importance of partnership with the EU, namely regarding Sustainable Energy and Energy Efficiency.

Mr. Benito Marin-Herrero, Programme Manager, EU DG Neighborhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR), pointed out to some EU initiatives, commitments and priorities given to climate change such as promoting political dialogue, through the Union for Mediterranean (UFM) and the Covenant of Mayors (COM), providing technical assistance via bilateral and regional projects, and support to promote investments in partner countries.

The "Cleaner and Energy Saving Mediterranean Cities" (CES-MED) project is an EU-funded regional initiative set up to provide training and technical assistance support to local and national authorities in the southern Mediterranean region, with a view to helping them respond more actively to sustainable policy challenges.

CES-MED ensures that the actions proposed match with the objectives of the Covenant of Mayors: to reach and even go beyond the European objective to reduce CO2 emissions by 20% thanks to the improvement of energy efficiency and the increased use of sustainable energy.(CES-MED 03-03-2017)

[CES MED - Cleaner Energy-Saving Mediterranean Cities](#)

SIERRA LEONE ANNOUNCES DISCOVERY OF LARGEST DIAMOND SINCE 1972



Sierra Leone has announced the discovery of 706 carats of diamond, which officials say is the largest diamond discovery in the country in over 40 years.

The diamond was presented to President Ernest Bai Koroma on Wednesday, a day after it was discovered by an artisanal miner in the eastern diamond rich Kono District.

It is ranked the third largest diamond ever discovered in the country.

The largest diamond in record to have been discovered in the country in 1972 was also from Kono and it weighed 968.9 carats and was sold for US\$2.5m.

In a brief ceremony at the State House in Freetown, President Koroma assured the owners of the latest find of fair play in the sale of the gemstone.

He said the precious stone would be sold in the country and in a transparent manner.

"I believe a diamond like this should be publicly sold in the country so that the value will be known, who bought it and what the owners get from it," he said, adding: "It will be a terrible thing if anyone is dissatisfied."

The President also thanked the owners of the diamond for not smuggling it out of the country. (APA 16-03-2017)

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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At the end of 2016, we organised the fantastic *Africa Works!* conference and NABC's flagship African Ambassadors Dinner, two events that provided unparalleled high-level business networking platforms. The Africa Insights Forum will again take networking to the next level by giving you the chance to meet highly specialized Africa-experts on-site. Through a unique Expert Matchmaking Session NABC's associated experts will be ready to share their insights with you.

This platform will also be an excellent chance to find out what your fellow Dutch entrepreneurs are doing in Africa and to fine-tune your own Africa strategy to become even more successful on the continent. Learn more about the HR challenges in Africa, common financial, tax, and accounting bottlenecks and how to acquire in-depth market knowledge by joining Per van Swaay, Vice President of TCX, the famous Colourful Radio host and director, Henry Bonsu, and the former Managing Director of UNAIDS, Franklyn Lisk, in Rotterdam on March 30th!

During the breaks and networking reception, several companies will showcase their business, check out the [Exhibition Partners Here](#).

For a €50 entry fee (free for NABC Members!), you can join us inside the beautiful Wereld Museum from 14h00 till late to be inspired by high-level speakers and Africa experts, and enjoy some wonderful Chivas whisky cocktails as well as delicious food provided by our hosts. To register, please visit our website, www.nabc.nl. You can also find a detailed overview of the event there if you'd like to know more.

We very much hope to see you on March 30th!

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