

MEMORANDUM

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HUMANITARIAN AID: EU RELEASES €68 MILLION FOR SUDAN AND SOUTH SUDAN

The Commission has announced today €68 million in humanitarian assistance for vulnerable communities in Sudan and South Sudan.

The funding comes as millions of people across both countries are in need of assistance, with the conflict in South Sudan triggering an influx of refugees into neighbouring Sudan.

"The EU is stepping up its support as many people in Sudan and South Sudan face massive humanitarian needs. Our aid will provide essential supplies such as food and healthcare and allow our partners to continue their lifesaving work on the ground. Above all, it is crucial that humanitarian workers can deliver aid safely so they can help those most in need. Aid workers are not a target." said Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management Christos **Stylianides**.

In **South Sudan**, €45 million will primarily target internally displaced persons and host communities, providing emergency food assistance, health, nutrition, shelter, water and sanitation as well as protection from gender based violence. Funding will also support measures to protect aid workers.

In **Sudan**, €23 million will ensure protection of displaced communities, treatment of undernutrition in the most affected areas, as well as food assistance and improved access to basic services such as health, shelter, water and sanitation.

To date, the Commission has mobilised more than €412 million in humanitarian aid for South Sudan since fighting erupted in December 2013. Since 2011, the EU has provided almost €450 million in humanitarian aid in Sudan for those affected by conflict, natural disasters, food insecurity and malnutrition in the country.

Background

Five years of conflict in **South Sudan** has left 70% of the population in need of assistance, and subject of horrendous levels of violence. The conflict is characterised by wide-scale human rights abuses against civilians, in particular women and children, including rape and sexual violence, recruitment of child soldiers, destruction of hospitals, schools and food stocks. Among the 7 million people estimated to be severely food insecure, already several thousands of people may be facing famine conditions, according to a report issued by the Famine Early Warning Systems Network. At least 101 aid workers have been killed since the conflict started in December 2013, and violent attacks on humanitarian workers are on the rise. Despite increasing impediments on the delivery of humanitarian assistance, the EU is among the biggest donors of humanitarian aid in South Sudan.

Sudan has millions of internally displaced people and the country is now hosting more than 1 million refugees. Most of them are South Sudanese who have fled conflict and famine. This is not the only humanitarian crisis affecting Sudan. Unfortunately millions are still displaced in the country after several years. Undernutrition rates in Sudan are also among the highest in Africa. 1 in 6 children suffers from acute undernutrition, and 1 in 20 from its most severe form which is likely to cause death. This year is marked by a further deterioration due to the socioeconomic crisis, localised drought and new conflict related displacement. More than 7 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance.

Whilst Sudan has eased travel procedures for humanitarian organisations important obstacles remain for a timely provision of humanitarian assistance due to heavy administrative procedures and undue interferences. Emergency response can then be delayed or inadequate. On top of addressing the most pressing humanitarian needs in the country, the EU has been strengthening coordination with development programmes in Sudan to better tackle protracted crises linked to forced displacement and undernutrition. (EC 19-06-2018)

EU-MOROCCO PARTNERSHIP

First investments in Morocco under the European External Investment Plan to increase business opportunities, enhancing job creation, private sector development and inclusive growth

The European Union and Morocco have launched today the EU External Investment Plan (EIP) in the country to pave the way to a better business environment and foster economic development.

The European Union is strongly committed to supporting Morocco in building a sound, inclusive and sustainable economy. Launched in September 2017 to help boost investment in partner countries in Africa and the European Neighbourhood, the EIP will now encourage investments promoting an inclusive growth, job creation and sustainable development also in Morocco.

Commissioner for Enlargement Negotiations and European Neighbourhood Policy Johannes **Hahn** commented: *"The European External Investment Plan will help leverage significant private funds into key sectors of Morocco's economy. The plan will in turn empower local entrepreneurs and create jobs in the country. This new and innovative approach will also help carry out big sustainable development projects, which otherwise would not have been possible at all or would have been significantly smaller."*

The EU External Investment Plan will build on three pillars:

The new **European Fund for Sustainable Development: €4.1 billion** in grants will be made available to support sustainable development in countries in sub-Saharan Africa and the European Neighbourhood, as well as allowing public and private operators to leverage each other's strengths.

Technical assistance. This will help improve the quality of projects and mobilise investment from financial institutions, public institutions and private investors.

Additional assistance. This will be given to public authorities to foster a more favourable overall business environment through better policy making and legislation, in dialogue with the private sector. The package was announced today at an [EU External Investment Plan](#) (EIP) launching conference in Morocco, in the presence of Michael Köhler, European Commission Director for Neighbourhood South, and Minister of Economy and Finance of Morocco, Mohamed Boussaid. The conference brought together national authorities, private sector companies, International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and other stakeholders to discuss investment opportunities and ways to overcome remaining barriers in accessing funds.

Background

Bilateral Support

Between 2014 and 2017, the EU has allocated €807 million in bilateral assistance to Morocco. EU support focuses mainly on equitable access to social services, democratic governance, the rule of law and mobility, as well as employability and sustainable and inclusive growth. Complementary support for capacity development and civil society is also provided.

External Investment Plan (EIP)

The EU's [External Investment Plan](#) is an innovative and ambitious EU plan that encourages investment in the EU's partner countries in Africa and the European neighbourhood region. It promotes inclusive growth, job creation and sustainable development, so as to tackle some of the root causes of irregular migration. The EIP has been adapted to the specific needs of partner countries and builds on the successful model used within the EU, where the 'Juncker Plan' has already triggered more than €240 billion of investment.

The EIP encourages private investors to contribute to sustainable development in countries outside of Europe. It integrates a new generation of financial instruments - namely guarantees, risk sharing instruments, as well as the blending of grants and loans - into the more traditional forms of assistance such as grants. It also includes a guarantee mechanism to crowd in private investments, where viable business proposals meet social needs, and where limited public funds can attract private money.

Overall, about €44 billion are expected to be mobilised under the EIP from 2017 until 2020 for Africa and the European Neighbourhood. (EC 19-06-2018)

[European Neighbourhood Policy - Morocco](#)

CHINA FUNDS CONSTRUCTION OF INDUSTRIAL WOOD PROCESSING PARK IN MOZAMBIQUE

The government of China plans to finance the construction in Mozambique of an Industrial Wood Processing Park under a memorandum of understanding recently signed in Maputo by representatives of the two governments, according to Mozambican daily newspaper O País.

The industrial park, resulting from the recognition by the Chinese government of the efforts made by its Mozambican counterpart to ensure the sustainable exploration of this forest resource, is intended to add value to the product and encourage the development of local industry.

The Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Mozambican Minister for Land, Environment and Rural Development Celso Correia includes the development of a bilateral coordination platform to transfer technology, offer institutional training and improve the business climate in the timber sector.

The same document provides Mozambique with reliable information on the amount of timber leaving the country for China and for the two countries to collaborate in the exploration, transport, sale and export of timber.

The signing of this memorandum of understanding consolidates the initiatives of the Mozambican government to combat the illegal timber trade, which is thought to have led to state losses of many hundreds of millions of dollars over the last 10 years. (19-06-2018)

AFRICA-EUROPE TIES NEED A RESET – BUT NOT JUST BECAUSE OF MIGRATION

Europe and Africa need a partnership which should focus on the new realities in both regions. Europe can become the region's main partner during its transformative revolution if it listens to civil society representatives, writes Shada Islam.

Shada Islam is the director of Europe & Geopolitics at Friends of Europe. This opinion piece was first posted on that organisation's [website](#).

Europe and Africa are engaged in a brave attempt to reset relations. The partnership is out of touch with new realities in both regions and in desperate need of modernisation.

Efforts to update ties should not be dominated by Europe's "migrant crisis", however. Nor should the focus only be on new "Marshall Plans" and aid packages for the continent.

Instead, Europe and Africa must thrash out a new way of working together as partners with one common aim: investing in jobs, sustainable growth and inclusive development.

Easier said than done? Not really. Africa is changing fast, challenging out-dated European perceptions of the continent.

With its youthful population, access to technology, improvements in infrastructure, health and education, the continent has embarked on a new, more dynamic, era.

Europe needs to pay attention. Change and transformation are being driven from within Africa, not by outsiders. Still, with the right policies and an emphasis on good governance, Europeans can help speed up the transition.

Here are some key developments which demand more careful European attention.

Agenda 2063, adopted by the African Union in 2013, foresees "an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the international arena". The AU vision and meetings such as the recent one in Brussels between the European Commission and the AU Commission are important in cementing the Europe-Africa partnership.

But EU policymakers must listen equally carefully to the voice of African civil society representatives, including business leaders, parliamentarians, local authorities, young people and women.

Africa is in the throes of an amazing and transformative technological revolution, as its youthful population drives massive digital innovation, creating more employment and growth and leapfrogging computers in favour of internet connections through mobile phones.

As it changes the way people live and work, digitalisation is expected to bring an additional \$300 billion to Africa by 2026 and also ensure government accountability, transparency and good governance.

Africa leads the world in the number of women starting businesses and in many countries the national economy is dependent on the success of women entrepreneurs. However, women entrepreneurs in Africa face barriers – including unequal access to finance – that threaten to stifle innovation and slow the growth needed to propel their businesses and local economies.

The agreement on setting up an African Continental Free Trade Area (ACFTA) last March in Kigali may seem like so much wishful thinking given the lack of progress so far in dismantling intra-African trade barriers but the plan is a potential game-changer and deserves more attention and support.

The EU can provide help and expertise as African countries seek to reduce duties and tariffs, ease the movement of people, goods, and services and harmonise trade policies with the hopes of expediting regional integration, boosting intra-African trade, and, ultimately, increasing Africa's share of global trade.

It's time European policymakers start walking the talk on ending discrimination and capitalising on the African diaspora's talent and expertise in boosting Africa's development. Europeans of Africa descent are only just getting serious attention, however.

As highlighted by the recent EU Week for People of African Descent held at the European Parliament, the struggle for equality and inclusion is by no means over.

Much has changed in both regions since the first Europe-Africa summit was held in Cairo in 2000.

Europe has lost its once predominant role as the continent's number one partner, with its influence increasingly challenged by China, Japan, India, Turkey, Brazil and Korea.

Competing strategies and projects may make good headlines but aren't really in Africa's interest. As such, Europe must work with the new actors as they invest in Africa's natural resources and build large infrastructure and connectivity projects across the continent.

Modernising Europe-Africa relations requires that Europeans think more creatively about making the partnership more relevant to the needs of Africans.

That means listening to African governments but also to those who represent the interests of the dynamic young people, entrepreneurial women, visionary business leaders and local authorities that are really driving Africa's growth and development (EurAct 06-06-2018)

ANADARKO PETROLEUM SELLS MORE NATURAL GAS TO BE EXTRACTED IN MOZAMBIQUE

Mozambique LNG1 Company Pte. Ltd., the company set up to trade the natural gas to be extracted in the Area 1 block of the Rovuma basin, northern Mozambique, has entered into a non-binding agreement with Tokyo Gas Co., Ltd. and Centrica LNG Company Ltd. for the long-term supply of liquefied natural gas (LNG), US group Anadarko Petroleum reported.

The group, whose Mozambican subsidiary is the operator of that block, also reported that the joint purchase agreement involves 2.6 million tons of liquefied natural gas per year from the start of production until the early 2040s.

Mitch Ingram, executive vice president of the group, said in a statement that the signing of this agreement represents the commitment of those two companies to the development of the project in Mozambique and adds that the main aim at the moment is to transform all non-binding contracts into firm contracts, so that it is possible to proceed with the final investment decision.

The Area 1 block is operated by Anadarko Mozambique Area 1, Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Anadarko Petroleum group, with a 26.5% stake, ENH Rovuma Area One, a subsidiary of state-owned Empresa Nacional de Hidrocarbonetos (ENH), with 15%, Mitsui E&P Mozambique Area1 Ltd. (20%), ONGC Videsh Ltd. (10%), Beas Rovuma Energy Mozambique Limited (10%), BPRL Ventures Mozambique BV (10%), and PTTEP Mozambique Area 1 Limited (8.5%). (19-06-2018)

BENIN : FORT REBOND DE LA PRODUCTION DE COTON EN 2017-2018

Au Bénin, la production de coton a augmenté de 32 % en 2017-2018 par rapport à la campagne précédente, le gouvernement se félicitant de la « renaissance de la filière ».

C'est un envol. Le secteur cotonnier a connu une croissance de 222 % en volume par rapport à la campagne 2015-2016, où la production s'établissait à 269 222 tonnes. Les surfaces emblavées sont

également en hausse, passant de 306 808 hectares il y a deux ans à 530 145 hectares cette année. Le rendement à l'hectare a progressé de 4,6 % cette année pour s'établir à 1 128 kg à l'hectare. Selon le gouvernement, ces chiffres illustrent le succès des « [réformes engagées dans le secteur](#), des mesures d'assainissement prises aux fins de la relance de la filière de même que la formation des producteurs sur les technologies d'amélioration de la fertilité des sols ».



Un exploitant de coton béninois et son champs

236,3 millions d'euros pour l'économie béninoise

La production de coton a permis de générer un revenu de 155 milliards de francs CFA (236,3 millions d'euros), dont 92 milliards directement versés aux producteurs et autres prestataires de services du secteur.

Les transporteurs ont perçu plus de 47 milliards de francs CFA, tandis que les manutentionnaires, transitaires et autres contrôleurs ont touché 9,5 milliards de francs CFA. Subventionnant fortement le secteur [depuis l'élection de Patrice Talon](#), l'État béninois a même levé 11 milliards de FCFA en taxant la production cotonnière.

La « renaissance de la filière »

Le Conseil des ministres, réuni en session hebdomadaire mercredi 6 juin, s'est félicité de la « renaissance de la filière ». Avec les sommes perçues, « les producteurs arrivent à s'approvisionner en engrais pour les cultures vivrières. De ce fait, il est noté un accroissement concomitant de la production vivrière, toutes choses qui vont se bonifier davantage avec l'augmentation annoncée du prix d'achat du coton graine aux producteurs dès la campagne 2018-2019 », précise le compte rendu du Conseil des ministres.

Avec ses 19 usines d'égrenage, la capacité annuelle totale du pays s'élève à 600 000 tonnes. Le gouvernement se dit conscient de la « possibilité d'un dépassement du niveau d'égrenage actuel ». En conséquence, le ministre de l'Industrie et du Commerce a demandé l'autorisation de l'implantation d'une 20e usine d'égrenage dans le pays. (JA 08-06-2018)

BRAZIL'S EXPERIENCE IN THE OIL AND GAS SECTOR IS IMPORTANT FOR MOZAMBIQUE

The Deputy Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy of Mozambique, Augusto de Sousa Fernando, said in Maputo that the best use of investments in the oil and gas sector in Mozambique is to gain from the experience of other countries, such as Brazil, that have operated in the sector for some time.

Speaking at the 1st Oil and Gas Seminar between Brazil and Mozambique, the minister highlighted the importance of Mozambican human resources and staff training.

“The local content was, is, and will always be a concern of the government because the Oil Law, in force since 2014, includes commands on the acquisition of goods and services, establishing partnerships between foreigners and Mozambicans,” said the minister quoted by Angolan news agency AIM.

Sousa Fernando said that Brazil’s experience in human resources and training is extremely important for Mozambique.

“In the case of oil and gas, Brazil is the right choice,” he said.

The Chairman of the Board of Directors of Empresa Nacional de Hidrocarbonetos (ENH), Omar Mithá, underlined the minister’s words by saying that “it is a great opportunity to gather experience from our Brazilian partners that have been in the industry for over 60 years.”

During the seminar, the Brazilian Ambassador to Mozambique, Rodrigo Soares, said that Mozambique has the potential to be the third largest exporter of gas in the world, exploring the huge reserves it has in the Rovuma Basin. (15-06-2018)

KENYA LOSES OUT ON US \$2BN LAMU COAL PLANT DEAL

Kenyan banks have lost out on the lucrative financing deal for the US \$2bn Lamu coal plant project due to lack of depth from the local lenders to finance mega projects over a long period.

According to Amu Power Company, the consortium that won the tender to construct the plant the project will instead be financed through debt which accounts for three quarters , US \$1.5bn per quarter, along with shareholders’ equity of US \$500m.

“The local market does not have the depth in terms of quantum and the tenor. We need 15-year money or more. The local commercial banks would struggle to do 15-year money,” said Amu Power CEO Francis Njogu.

Regulation limits

Central Bank of Kenya regulations limit the value of loans that banks can lend to a single individual based on their capital strength. The Kenyan energy sector regulator has however announced plans to start denominating tariffs for power projects in shillings, which is expected to raise project financing by local banks.

The project developers received a US \$1.2 bn finance package from the Industrial Commercial Bank of China in February 2015, and said it was looking for the more debt funding. The African Development Bank, AfDB is also expected to provide a partial risk guarantee for the coal plant, the first in the region.

“We will be looking at environmental and human concerns surrounding the project before we make our commitment to it,” said Gabriel Negatu, the AfDB regional director-general.

LAPPSSET

The coal plant is part of the planned Lamu Port South Sudan-Ethiopia Transport (Lapsset) corridor and is set to place Kenya among African nations that use coal energy such as South Africa. Its electricity will be priced in the same range as geothermal power at 7.52 US cents per unit, almost a third of what diesel-fired plants charge on average. Construction has, however, suffered delays since 2015.

The Energy ministry reckons that the coal plant would help diversify Kenya’s power mix and drive growth. At 1,050 MW, the proposed coal plant is equivalent to 44 % of Kenya’s current installed capacity of 2,400MW. (BD 14-06-2018)

ETHIOPIA SIGNS US \$489.2 M ROAD PROJECTS AGREEMENT

The [Ethiopian Roads Authority](#) (ERA) has signed US \$489.2 m agreement for the construction of 9 road projects totalling to 749 km across the country.

Speaking during the contract signing ceremony, ERA Director General Araya Girmay said that the cost for the construction of the 9 projects will be covered by the government. Once completed, the projects will contribute a lot in creating employment opportunity, as well as boosting the economy growth and improve people's livelihood.

Over the last three years about 7,910 km asphalt roads have been constructed. This accounts to 2,700 km of roads every year. So far the authority has been undertaking the construction of several road projects to meet the set target plan in the Second Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP-II) period that focused on ensuring the accessibility of road infrastructure in the country.

More projects

Since the launch of GTP-II, construction of 89 road projects have been completed, whereas the progress of 215 road projects, which cover 15,771.9 km in all parts of the country, are still under construction. Moreover, the construction of 107 projects with a total length of 6,048 km have already been started including the current signed projects.

According to the Authority Director, the authority is currently conducting feasibility study for the construction and maintenance of over 180 road projects.

The Authority calls for all contractors, who signed the agreements, to finalize their projects timely and in good quality. Meanwhile, the construction companies have assured that they will work responsibly based on the agreements they made with the authority. (CRO 12-06-2018)

SONANGOL JOINS ENI TO INCREASE GASOLINE OUTPUT IN ANGOLA

The chief executive of the Luanda Refinery, Custódio Gonçalves, said in Luanda that of the 5,000 cubic metres of gasoline that Angola consumes daily, it produces just 330 cubic metres/day (280 tons/day), corresponding to 6.6% of the total.

Gonçalves, speaking during the signing of an agreement that Sonangol signed with ENI Angola, an Italian oil company, said that as a result of the document signed the company expects to produce 1,200 tons of fuel per day within three years.

The agreement signed on Friday between Sonangol and ENI Angola involves provision of technical and financial assistance services to Sonangol, over a period of 30 to 36 months.

The first agreement, worth US\$60 million, is related to the planning, organisation of the general maintenance stoppage at the Luanda Refinery, preparation and development of an economic and operational model to improve the entire operational area and its sustainability.

The second agreement, worth US\$120 million, is intended to install a new unit that will allow increased production of gasoline.

During the ceremony it was also announced that the Luanda Refinery will carry out a 40 to 60 day stoppage, for maintenance, which has not happened for eight years. (15-06-2018)

NIGERIA PROBES SLUM REDESIGN, PASSES NEW BUILDING CODE



The Makoko slum in Lagos

The Nigerian Building and Roads Research Institute (NBRRI) has conducted research into ways of building decent affordable housing in the midst of the country's slums.

Nigeria's *Guardian* newspaper [reports](#) that studies in the states of Abuja, Nasarawa, Niger and Plateau have been completed.

Local materials such as "glue laminated bamboo panels processed from waste scaffolds" were tested, according to Danladi Matawal, the NBRRI's director-general.

Matawal said: "The built environment could catalyse opportunities for a wide range of global and local challenges such as climate change, land-use, demographic shift, water and other resource scarcities."

Elsewhere in the country, the Ministry of Power, Works and Housing has created a national building code designed to improve safety on sites.

[According](#) to the *African Review of Business and Technology*, the building code will increase the standard of education and regulate activity for the Architect Registration Council of Nigeria.

The revised code has been introduced in response to fatalities caused by faulty construction planning. (GCR 18-06-2018)

GUINEA-BISSAU LOSES BETWEEN 60,000 AND 80,000 HECTARES OF FOREST PER YEAR

Between 60,000 and 80,000 hectares of Guinea-Bissau forest is lost every year due to deforestation, illegal logging and uncontrolled forest fires, the Guinean Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Nicolau dos Santos said on Thursday in Bissau.

The minister pointed out, however, that despite this situation, Guinea-Bissau continues to have huge agricultural and forestry potential, including arable land estimated at about 1.5 million hectares, of which 80% is on plateaus, 200,000 in freshwater valleys, 106,000 in salt water valleys and more than 100,000 square metres of areas with industrial wood.

According to Nicolau dos Santos, as a result of deforestation, Guinea-Bissau faces significant losses of forest and wildlife reserves, erosion and consequent loss of arable land, destruction of animal habitats, reduction of biodiversity, river flow and precipitation, as well as rising temperatures.

The minister did not specify the value of the losses, but said that they were "large amounts" that could improve the economic and financial difficulties Guinea-Bissau is facing at the moment.

Dos Santos, speaking on the World Day to Combat Drought and Desertification, said reforestation is still possible if each citizen undertakes to plant at least one tree per year, which would help to create new forests and would have direct implications for the economy and finances of Guinea-Bissau.

(15-06-2018)

ZIMBABWE'S OPPOSITION STILL HAS NO ELECTRONIC COPY OF THE VOTERS ROLL

Despite repeated requests, the Movement for Democratic Change says it has been rebuffed daily by the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission

Zimbabwe's main opposition party, the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC), has not been given an electronic copy of the voters roll despite repeated requests, a party official said.

The MDC has been trying to obtain an electronic copy for two weeks, but has been rebuffed on a daily basis, senator David Coltart said in a telephone interview from Zimbabwe's second biggest city, Bulawayo, on Monday.

"I'm apoplectic. How come the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission has handed a copy to the British embassy, but not to the main political party contesting the election, when we're the one entitled to it?" Coltart said. "We have 210 constituencies to check and we've not even been able to begin."

Access to the voters roll is one of 10 conditions the opposition has laid out as a requirement for fair elections, which are due to be held at the end of July. While the ruling Zanu-PF has agreed to one of the demands — international election observers — demands for legislative changes on press freedom and an insistence that the military commit to respecting the outcome have not been heeded.

The British Embassy in the capital, Harare, tweeted that it "advised patience" and that it had paid for a copy of the voters roll after having queued for a long time. Coltart, a former education minister, said he had confirmed at 4.30pm Zimbabwe time that the request to obtain a copy had again been denied. He was advised to "come back another time", he said.

Neither the British Embassy nor the electoral commission answered phone calls for comment that were made after hours.

The electoral commission has registered 5.6-million voters for the first poll of the post-Robert Mugabe era, which is set to be held on July 30, it said on June 15. (Bloomberg 19-06-2018)

DRC READY TO PUSH AHEAD WITH INGA 3 PROJECT

The Democratic Republic of Congo plans to start work in 2018 on the frequently delayed Inga 3 hydropower project, after receiving a joint bid from two previously competing groups of investors.

A treaty signed in 2013 provided for the Inga 3 plant to export 2,500MW of the 4,800MW of the power produced to SA. About 1,300MW is expected to go to the DRC mining sector while the remaining 1,000MW will go towards meeting domestic demand.

Only 15% of the DRC's population has access to electricity.

The plant would form part of a larger Grand Inga hydropower complex spanning the Congo River and produce as much as 50,000MW when complete.

One group led by China Three Gorges Corporation and another including Actividades de Construcción y Servicios of Spain submitted a joint bid on June 6 for the \$13.9bn project, Bruno Kapandji, director of the Agency for the Development and Promotion of the Grand Inga Project, said on Wednesday.

Collaboration contract

"Our aim is to start Inga this year," he said in Lubumbashi.

"The two consortia have given us a document in which they committed to creating a single consortium. We are in the process of preparing and negotiating the exclusive collaboration contract, which will allow the single candidate to go to the market to find the financing."

Africa's biggest copper producer and the world's largest source of cobalt has been considering building Inga 3 for more than a decade to tackle a power shortage that has curbed growth in the mining industry. The project has been deferred a number of times for a number of reasons. Chief among these were the issues of funding and governance.

In July 2016 the World Bank suspended financing to the Inga3 project following the government's decision to take the project in a different direction to that agreed between the World Bank and the government in 2014. (Bloomberg 14-06-2018)

NEARLY 40 PEOPLE HAVE BEEN MURDERED BY ARMED GROUPS IN MOZAMBIQUE SINCE MAY

Attacks by armed groups in northern Mozambique, where huge gas reserves are being developed, have killed at least 39 people and displaced more than 1,000 since May, Human Rights Watch said on Tuesday.

Violence first broke out in Mozambique's northern province of Cabo Delgado in October, with local residents reporting gangs armed with machetes attacking police stations, torching villages and executing religious leaders.

The US embassy last week advised its citizens to leave the province after attacks increased in a region where Anadarko Petroleum is beginning to develop a \$15bn liquefied natural gas project.

Britain has also advised against travelling to the area.

The group implicated is known locally as Al-Sunna wa Jama'a and Al-Shabab, although there are no known links to the Somali group of the same name or any other Islamist movement.

Residents told Human Rights Watch attackers had burnt a mosque and beheaded an Islamic leader in a June 5 attack where hundreds of homes and dozens of cattle were burned.

"Armed groups should immediately cease attacking villages and executing people," Dewa Mavhinga, Southern Africa director at Human Rights Watch, said in a report.

"Mozambican authorities should assist those displaced and establish conditions that will allow them to return home voluntarily, in safety and with dignity."

Mozambique has not been a focal point of Islamist militant activity in the past and police have been reluctant to ascribe the attacks to Islamists. About 30% of Mozambique's 30-million people are Roman Catholics and about 18% are Muslim. (Reuters 19-06-2018)

IVORY COAST AND GHANA TO CO-ORDINATE COCOA SALES TO BETTER INFLUENCE THE MARKET

The two countries supply about 60% of the world's cocoa and want more leverage on global prices; the deal will also set a 'decent' floor price for farmers

Ivory Coast and Ghana, which together supply about 60% of the world's cocoa, will start co-ordinating their sales of the beans as part of efforts to exert more influence on the market.

The West African neighbours want to harmonise their marketing systems and officials from each country will visit the other to exchange information, Joseph Boahen Aidoo, CEO of Ghana's cocoa regulator, told reporters in Abidjan, Ivory Coast's commercial capital, on Wednesday.

"So once we're able to harmonise, then the two countries can decide when to go to the market," Aidoo said. "Once that decision is taken and what amount or volumes of cocoa that can go to the market, then we can regulate."

The countries will also work on setting a "decent" floor price for their farmers and will announce the rate at the same time before each harvest from next season, they said in a statement.

Ivory Coast and Ghana have been discussing plans for co-operation to strengthen the West African cocoa sector and exert more influence over global prices, which plunged in the previous two years after harvests were bigger than expected, hurting both economies. Ivory Coast, the biggest grower, was forced to cut the price for its estimated 800,000 farmers by more than a third last year.

The announcement with details of the co-operation plans is unlikely to have much impact on cocoa prices for now, said Carlos Mera, an analyst at Rabobank International. "There were talks already and the countries were already announcing price changes at more or less the same time."

The two nations agreed to expand and speed up efforts to protect forests, Mariam Coulibaly Dagnogo, a spokesperson for Ivorian industry regulator Le Conseil du Café-Cacao, told reporters as she read out the statement issued after two days of meetings in Abidjan. This could have implications for cocoa output as growers in Ivory Coast have significantly expanded illegal plantations in protected forest areas in recent years.

Ghana will also start pulling up as much as 400,00ha of cocoa farms infected by the swollen shoot disease, Aidoo said.

The two countries will make sure that programmes initiated by private companies to boost production are in line with their joint strategies, Dagnogo said. Earlier this year, Ivory Coast suspended existing programmes aimed at improving farmers' productivity.

Cocoa for September delivery dropped 2.2% on ICE Futures US in New York on Wednesday, to \$2,391 a tonne. Prices are up 26% this year. (Bloomberg 14-06-2018)

SOUTH AFRICA: PARLIAMENT STARTS RATIFICATION OF 26-COUNTRY AFRICAN FREE-TRADE AREA

Parliament has begun the ratification process of the Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA) agreement, which will create an integrated market between 26 African countries.

Parliament's trade and industry committee was briefed on the agreement on Wednesday by Department of Trade and Industry chief director Wamkele Mene, who said ratification by SA would send a strong signal of its commitment to regional integration.

SA is also engaged in negotiations on the Continental Africa Free Trade Area and the department's director-general, Lionel October, told the committee that it was now ready to sign it.

SA signed the TFTA agreement in July 2017. It will enter into force once it has been ratified by 14 member states. So far only Egypt, Uganda and Kenya have ratified it.

The TFTA will include members of the Southern African Development Community (Sadc), the Common Market for Eastern and Southern African States (Comesa) and the East African Community.

These countries have a combined gross domestic product of \$1.2-trillion and a combined population of about 626-million people.

Some TFTA countries, such as Rwanda, Ethiopia and Tanzania, are among the fastest-growing economies on the continent.

SA's trade with TFTA countries represents about 16% of its total trade with the world. In 2017 SA's total trade with TFTA countries amounted to \$27.6bn.

"SA will build on its current share of the African market and have access to a larger, more integrated and growing regional market. This has the potential to stimulate industrial development, investment and job creation," Mene said.

He said the TFTA would facilitate the harmonisation of trade regimes between member countries; the free movement of business persons; development of regional value chains; and legal and institutional arrangements for regional co-operation.

Phase one of the negotiations dealt with trade in goods. Phase two would address investment, trade in services, intellectual property and competition policy.(BD 13-06-2018)

The Memorandum is supported by the ACP-African, Caribbean, Pacific Secretariat, Chamber of Commerce Tenerife, Corporate Council on Africa, CIP-Confederation of Portuguese Enterprises, Hellenic-African Chamber of Commerce and Development, HTTC - Hungarian Trade & Cultural Centre, NABC- Netherlands-African 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), CIP,HTTC,NABC (by posting selected news) and SwissCham-Africa to their Members.



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