

MEMORANDUM

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THE EUROPEAN UNION STEPS UP ITS SUPPORT TO SOMALIA WITH €200 MILLION AT THE LONDON CONFERENCE

The European Commission has announced new support today worth €200 million at the London Conference on Somalia where partners agreed on a Security Pact for the country.

High Representative / Vice-President Federica **Mogherini** who represented the EU at today's conference in London said: *"Somalia's future matters to Europe and our support matters to Somalia. The €200 million we have announced today strengthens the EU's leading role in supporting the country's development, stability and security. We already play a major role for peace in the country through the three active missions in the country as well as our support to the African Union peacekeeping mission AMISOM. We believe that the people of Somalia can and should shape the future of their country. We want Somalia to rise again – and today we demonstrate it in very practical terms."*

The development funding announced today will be channelled through the European Union Trust Fund for Africa, which aims to address the root causes of destabilization, forced displacement and irregular migration.

Neven **Mimica**, Commissioner in charge of International Cooperation and Development, added: *"Today's support package of €200 million is new and additional to what we already do in Somalia. It will focus on building effective and sustainable responses to security challenges, on creating economic opportunities and on building state legitimacy and democratic governance. We are also concerned by the severe drought in Somalia and the humanitarian challenges this brings. Together with EU Member States, we have already allocated than €460 million humanitarian and development assistance for that purpose. We call on other partners to stand up to the level of the challenge as well."*

The EU's support will help to accelerate Somalia's economic recovery. This will be done by supporting the reforms needed to ensure Somalia full re-engagement with the International Financial Institutions, access to multilateral finance and debt relief. This will also help laying the foundations for more inclusive, stable politics including a roadmap to a more inclusive electoral process in 2020.

The EU is a long standing partner to Somalia in development aid, peacekeeping operations and humanitarian aid. For the period 2015-2020, the EU and its Member States cooperation including development, humanitarian aid and peacekeeping operations amounts to €3.4 billion.

Background:

The Somalia Conference took place today in London, co-chaired by the Federal Government of Somalia, the United Nations and the United Kingdom. The Conference aims to agree a Security Pact which sets the foundations for Somalia long-term security and on a New Partnership for Somalia between the International Community and Somalia based on principles of mutual accountability. The Conference is also the opportunity to take stock of the response to the humanitarian crisis affecting Somalia.

Today's support package comes on top of the €286 million, which the European Commission has allocated under the 11th European Development Fund (for the period 2014-2020), which focusses on strengthening state functions, improving food security and resilience as well as education for young people. EU financing is implemented mostly through grants implemented by UN agencies and international NGOs, or contributions to Trust Funds. (EC 11-05-2017)

EU SUPPORT FOR SOMALIA

Political relations

The EU is engaged in Somalia through a comprehensive approach based on active diplomacy, support for political change, improving security, development assistance and humanitarian aid.

For the period 2015-2020, the EU and EU Member States cooperation including development aid, humanitarian aid and peacekeeping operations amounts to €3.4 billion.

Somalia undertook political reforms in line with the [New Deal principles for fragile states](#), which were agreed in 2011. The New Deal (2013-2016) has guided relations between Somalia and the EU and other international partners. A New Accountability and Partnership principles are expected to be renewed

when a new Somali government will be in place in 2017.

At the 2013 EU-Somalia summit, both parties endorsed the [Somali Compact](#). The agreement provided a strategy for collaboration between the EU and Somalia. It sets out the five most important peace and state-building goals (PSGs) for the country: 1. Building inclusive politics, 2. Security, 3. Justice, 4. Economic foundations, 5. Revenue and services

EU support and funding for these and other development goals are guided by the [National Indicative Programme for Somalia \(2014-2020\)](#).

Peace and security

The EU plays a leading role in supporting Somalia's efforts to become a peaceful, stable and democratic country, while tackling piracy and other international crimes.

The EU Naval Force ([EU NAVFOR](#)) has made a significant contribution to the reduction in piracy: In 2011, 174 merchant vessels were attacked and 25 ships pirated with 736 seafarers held hostage. In 2013, 7 ships were attacked, none pirated. In 2014 two ships were attacked. There were no attacks in 2015 and one in 2016. In March 2017 a ship was pirated and held for 4 days.

The EU has three security and defence missions:

The Military Training Mission ([EUTM](#)), which supports Somali security forces.

The EU Naval Force ([EU NAVFOR](#)), which fights piracy, and

[EUCAP](#), which aims to improve regional maritime security.

The EU is one of the main financial contributors to the African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM) having committed more than €1.3 billion between March 2007 and March 2017.

Through the [National Indicative Programme](#) the EU is also providing €100 million for state and peace-building initiatives between 2014 and 2020.

Development cooperation

The EU is one of Somalia's key development partners. Between 2014 and 2020, the EU's [National Indicative Programme for Somalia](#) provides €286 million to help the country achieve its development goals. The programme has been drawn up to reflect the priorities of the Somali Compact.

Funds from the indicative programme have therefore been allocated as follows:

State-building and peace-building - €100 million

Food security and building resilience - €86 million

Education - €60 million

Measure in favour of civil society - €14 million

Support measures - €26 million.

This funding is complemented by other allocations from the EU budget, covering specific issues such as: democracy and human rights, boosting local government, training, food security, and energy and water supplies.

A further €200 million was announced at the London conference.

Humanitarian aid

The EU has supported humanitarian aid operations in Somalia since 1994. The help is much needed as the country has struggled with internal conflict and natural disasters for decades.

In 2016, the EU spent €46.5 million to support aid operations in the country, helping more than two million people. Support covers issues such as emergency preparedness and response, improving food security and health, raising levels of nutrition, and providing shelter, sanitation and water. For the current drought affecting Somalia, €78.5 million have been provided in humanitarian aid by the EU in 2017. The total EU and Member States response to drought in Somalia reaches more than €450 million.

Economic relations

The EU is committed to helping Somalia develop a strong, sustainable economy which can support the country's state and peace-building processes. Relations in this area are guided by the Somali Compact, New Deal process and the National Indicative Programme. Objectives, priorities and actions are also closely linked to the Somali government's [Economic Recovery Plan](#).

EU engagement therefore aims to revitalise and expand the Somali economy with a focus on improving livelihoods, generating employment, and encouraging inclusive growth. Special attention will be paid to improving economic opportunities for women and young people, ensuring they have greater access to profitable, income-generating activities.

Trade relations

The EU does not have a lot of formal or direct trade with Somalia. The country's main trading partners are the Gulf States and Yemen.

To help Somalia expand its trading horizons, the EU's [National Indicative Programme](#) is being deployed to improve productivity in the agricultural, livestock and fisheries sector. Programme interventions also seek to support growth by nurturing Somalia's private sector and business environment. (EC 11-05-2017)

GOVERNMENT OF SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE GRANTS ENTRY VISA TO CITIZENS OF CHINA

The government of São Tomé and Príncipe has decided to grant entry visas to all Chinese citizens wishing to visit the archipelago and exempt all Chinese holders of diplomatic and service passports from entry and stay visas, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) said on Wednesday in São Tomé.

A statement signed by the MNE spokesman, Ambassador Francisco Fernandes, sent to Macauhub in São Tomé, said “citizens of the People’s Republic of China, holders of ordinary or common passports, are guaranteed entry visas on arriving in the national territory.”

The document adds that “Chinese citizens holding diplomatic and special service passports are exempt from visas for entry and stay in the national territory for a period of 15 days.”

This decision comes less than a month after the signing in Beijing of the general and sector-based Sino-Sao-Tomean cooperation agreement following the re-establishment in December of diplomatic relations between the People’s Republic of China and São Tomé and Príncipe, to the detriment of Taiwan.

The Government of São Tomé and Príncipe has advocated the promotion of tourism as a way to deepen cooperation with China, namely by granting facilities to the Chinese who travel to the archipelago, as well as by investing in tourism infrastructures, such as expanding São Tomé International Airport (11-05-2017)

SURVEY REVEALS AFRICA MORE COSTLY FOR DEVELOPING INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

A survey by The Benchmark for Investing in African Infrastructure Project Development (I4PD Benchmark) has revealed that Africa compared to all the other regions is more costly for doing infrastructure [projects development](#).

I4PD Benchmark said that the risk premium attached to African projects was extensively higher than that of other developing country regions such as Latin America, Asia, emerging Europe and the Middle East.

[Also read: Africa’s Infrastructure spending drops, says Deloitte](#)

Africa is the only region where the survey participants put the required internal rate of return at 16% to 20% for securing local partners, strategic investors, and international finance partners considering that they are faced with a high perceived risk and cost of capital. It is between 11% and 15% in other developing country regions.

The survey which was initiated by the Advisory Board of the African Investors African Project Developers Forum with technical support from Africa Investor (Ai) Capital and the Global Clearinghouse of Development Finance (GlobalID) showed that an immense amount of political support is needed for a project to go ahead.

GlobalID executive director Barbara Samuels, told the [International Federation of Consulting Engineers](#) (Fidic)-Group of African Member Associations (Gama) conference on African infrastructure, in Cape Town, that the benchmark was intended at identifying the obstacles to scaling up infrastructure in Africa.

"In Africa, it's extremely important to have political support and greater support is needed from development institutions, while more investment incentives and funding for non-economic infrastructure for a project, are essential to reach full closure. It's off the charts in Africa compared to other regions," said Samuels.

It is also much harder to secure qualified professionals in Africa, particularly qualified local project developers as there is a shortage of qualified professionals.

The reported success rate of African infrastructure projects, gauged by those reaching financial close and able to provide services, is on average only about 20%.

This compares to 25% in Latin America, 27% in Asia and 40% in the Middle East. The project success rate for the advanced economies is reported at 46%.

The Fidic-Gama conference is the largest annual networking event for consulting engineers in Africa. (CRO 10-05-2017)

GOVERNMENT OF MOZAMBIQUE CREATES PLATFORM FOR COORDINATING TOURISM POLICIES

The Mozambican government has decided to create the Tourism Forum (Fortur), a platform to coordinate the sector's policies as well as the regulatory framework for the implementation of the tourism industry in the country, said on Tuesday in Maputo the spokesman of the Council of Ministers.

Mouzinho Saíde also said that Fortur will be the subject of a bill to be presented to members of the Mozambican parliament, "in order to provide a platform that can respond to the challenges of the dynamics of the tourism sector."

The ministers also approved new licensing regulations for telecommunications services, which introduce the possibility of an operator being able to provide various services based on a single license, according to Mozambican news agency AIM.

Under the current regulations, telecom operators, including radio and television broadcasters, fixed-line and mobile telephony operators, must apply for a license for each type of service to be provided. (11-05-2017)

MUGABE IS NOT SLEEPING — HE IS SIMPLY RESTING HIS EYES

Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe, 93, is not asleep when he closes his eyes for long periods in public events but is resting his eyes from bright lights, his spokesman said on Thursday.

Mugabe has regularly had his eyes closed at recent appearances, including when he appeared on a discussion panel at last week's World Economic Forum meeting in SA.

"I feel like a failure when there is this reading that the president is sleeping in conferences, no," his spokesman George Charamba was quoted as saying in the state-run Herald newspaper. "At 93, there is something that happens to the eyes and the president cannot suffer bright lights. If you look at his poise, he looks down, avoids direct lighting."

Charamba compared Mugabe to Nelson Mandela, whose eyes were sensitive to flash photography after years of working in a limestone quarry when he was imprisoned on Robben Island: "You were not allowed to even use flashes whenever he was in the room."

Mugabe, who has trouble walking unaided, is in Singapore on one of his regular medical trips.

Charamba said the president was receiving specialised treatment for his eyes and that his general health was good.

Mugabe's foreign medical trips are often criticised in Zimbabwe, where healthcare has collapsed due to the country's economic troubles. Charamba said that Mugabe's medical care is supervised in Harare by a "very, very, very black" Zimbabwean doctor — and that he only flies abroad for specialist attention.

(AFP 11-05-2017)

TREASURY WANTS AIR NAMIBIA TO CULL DIRECT FLIGHTS ON LOSS-MAKING FRANKFURT ROUTE

Finance Minister Calle Schlettwein said the Namibian Treasury has made “a serious request” to the Ministry of Works and Transport for the scrapping of Air Namibia’s direct route to Frankfurt to save money.



According to the state-owned New Era newspaper, the minister said the route was unprofitable and was bleeding the national flag carrier of N\$30 million (about US\$2.2 million) annually and comes with the additional financial risks of leasing a costly long-haul aircraft and associated expenses.

“We had a look at the budget, at the perpetual huge subsidies given to Air Namibia, and looked at where those losses are. And most of the financial risks are associated with the Frankfurt route,” the minister is quoted as saying on Thursday.

He added: “Secondly, Air Namibia defaulted twice on the long lease aircraft and added costs last year. They didn’t have the money, in fact they were negligent not to pay the financial risks for default are very serious.”

The paper said the Treasury believes that the increase in airlines landing at Hosea Kutako International Airport in the capital Windhoek would continue to bring in German tourists and travellers in the absence of Air Namibia’s own flights to Frankfurt.

Since April 2017, Air Namibia has been operating seven flights per week with the two leased A330-200 aircraft.

However, Air Namibia has described the proposal to cull the Frankfurt route as “dangerous for Namibia”. Air Namibia spokesperson Paul Nakawa told New Era that there have been a lot of developments on the Frankfurt route, aimed at reducing the losses incurred.

“The benefits of the recently signed Codeshare Agreement with Condor Airline will also go a long way in improving financial performance of the Frankfurt route.”

“One of the items contributing to the losses on the route is the high cost of the leases of the two airbus A330-200 aircraft used on the route. Air Namibia already started the process of engaging relevant stakeholders to re-structure these leases in order to reduce the cost,” he said. (APA 11-05-2017)

ROBERT MUGABE GOES TO SINGAPORE FOR ‘ROUTINE MEDICAL CHECK-UP’

Zimbabwe’s 93-year-old president, Robert Mugabe, has flown to Singapore for a “routine medical check-up”, state media reported on Tuesday.

“President Mugabe yesterday [Monday] left Zimbabwe for Singapore for his routine medical check-up,” the Herald newspaper reported.

“He is expected back in Zimbabwe at the weekend.” The leader, who has been in power since 1980, regularly travels to the city state for health check-ups and private holidays, and his last medical trip was in March.

The leader, who now walks with difficulty and sometimes dozes off during meetings, made his last public appearance at the World Economic Forum on Africa in Durban last week.

There he addressed delegates in a slurred tone while slumped in his seat.

His health has been the subject of increased speculation in recent years and in March, authorities arrested two journalists over a report alleging that he was “in bad shape”.

In 2016, the government had to deny that he had died abroad during his annual vacation.

Mugabe has declined to name a successor and his ruling Zanu (PF) party has been riven by factionalism for years.

Despite Mugabe's advanced age, in 2016, the party endorsed him as its candidate for the 2018 general elections. (AFP 09-05-2017)

MOZAMBIQUE TO LAUNCH COAL TERMINAL AT NACALA

Mozambique's Integrated Logistics Corridor of the North (CLN), says President Filipe Nyusi, will launch the coal terminal at Nacala-a-Velha Port in the northern province of Nampula on Friday.



It will mark the start of a new phase in the exploitation of the resources extracted in the Moatize basin in resource-rich western Tete province, APA can report on Thursday.

The newly-built 912 km line, which links Vale's Moatize coal mine in Tete in the north of Mozambique to the Nacala port on the east coast, and crosses over into Malawi, will also be used to move general freight and passengers as the southern African nation recovers after decades of civil war.

CLN says, in a media statement emailed to APA on Thursday, the terminal is vital to enhancing access to global markets, and that the project has an initial capacity of transporting up to 22 million tonnes a year, of which 18 million will be allotted to Brazil's global miner, Vale's Moatize mine.

"Refurbishment of the 900-kilometre railway line connecting Nacala-a-Velha to the Moatize coal-mining area began in 2012 at a cost of about US\$ 4.5 billion, and included the construction of new sections and the rehabilitation of others, both in Mozambique and in neighbouring Malawi", stated the document.

The line is owned by CLN with the participation of Mozambique Railways (CFM), Vale Moçambique and Japan's Mitsui. It involves the resettlement of nearly 1,600 families along its route.

From Friday, at least 21 trains a day will circulate on the line, at intervals of one to two hours, and CLN managers are busy ensuring coal trains will not interfere with the movement of other freight and passenger trains using the same infrastructure.

In its preliminary implementation phase, the project employed just over 10,000 mostly Mozambican workers, and at full operation approximately 4,000 additional workers, 90 percent of them nationals, will be employed on the railway line and at the Nacala-a-Velha coal terminal.

The metallurgical and thermal coal mined at the Moatize mines is destined for Brazil, China and Japan, and about 8.5 million tonnes have already been exported. (APA 11-05-2017)

WEST AFRICAN NATIONS VOW TO ASSEMBLE ANTI-ISLAMIST MILITARY FORCE

A surge in attacks prompts five nations in the region to commit to a 4,000-member fighting force, but only by year-end

West African nations are preparing to deploy a military force to counter a surge in ambushes and bombings by Islamist militants that more than 15,000 international troops have failed to contain.

Militants are targeting not only UN peacekeepers in Mali but increasingly carrying out assaults across its borders. That has prompted five nations in the arid region south of the Sahara desert known as the G-5 Sahel to agree to assemble a 4,000-member force by the end of the year, Malian Defence Minister Tiena Coulibaly said in an interview. Niger, Burkina Faso, Chad and Mauritania will also contribute soldiers.

"The frequency of attacks is certainly increasing in both Mali and northern Burkina Faso," Sean Smith, a West Africa analyst at Verisk Maplecroft, said in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso's capital. "The good thing is that the countries are cooperating better than they've ever cooperated before, but the reality is that the number of attacks has risen every year since 2013 and there's no sign of them abating."

Mali has been gripped by violence since ethnic Tuareg rebels began a separatist insurgency and joined forces with Islamist militants, seizing control of the vast north in 2012. A French military intervention in 2013 pushed out most militants but ushered in an era of hit-and-run attacks and bombings. Despite several peace deals granting some separatists a degree of autonomy, groups linked to al-Qaeda have vowed to press their campaign until all foreign troops leave West Africa.

"The terrorists want to create permanent insecurity," Coulibaly said. "Their business is well co-ordinated, well thought out. I don't think the attacks are planned only when the opportunity presents itself: they're calculated to undermine the morale of our troops."

The UN has deployed more than 10,000 soldiers to try to help restore Malian state authority in the north, while a French military force moves across the region to hunt down militants. France last week said its soldiers killed scores of suspected fighters hiding in a forest on the border between Mali and Burkina Faso.

While the Malian government has so far failed to persuade the UN Security Council to give the peacekeeping mission a "more robust" mandate, Coulibaly said the UN force, like the French, should be able to engage in combat with militants. "They need helicopters, they need armoured vehicles and they need a mandate to fight terrorism," he said.

Seeing the conflict in Mali solely from a military perspective is a mistake, said Yvan Guichaoua, a lecturer in international conflict at the University of Kent in England.

'Civil War'

"The Malian crisis has the characteristics of a civil war; most jihadist fighters are Malians," he said. "If there is no substantial effort from the administration to try to restore some kind of legitimate authority, the fight against terrorism will be counterproductive."

Attacks have become almost a weekly occurrence since the beginning of the year. An ambush on May 2 that killed nine Malian soldiers was followed a day later by a mortar attack on a UN military base in the desert city of Timbuktu that left one peacekeeper dead and eight others seriously injured.

On Sunday, seven Malian troops died when an army post in the Gao region was attacked with rockets. They are also becoming more destructive.

Militants drove a vehicle laden with explosives into a military camp in Gao in January, killing at least 80 people, the deadliest attack since the 2012 insurgency began. The UN says its peacekeeping mission in Mali has the highest casualty rate of all current UN operations globally.

Factional fighting and constantly shifting alliances between insurgents have complicated the crisis even more. Four militant groups merged into an organisation called the Support Group for Islam and Muslims and led by a Tuareg chief from Mali, the Mauritanian news agency al-Akhbar reported in March.

The violence spilled over into Burkina Faso this year, where militants on motorbikes have attacked several border posts near Mali. In the northern Djibo region, officials say primary school teachers have been told to start teaching in Arabic by men believed to be loyal to a radical Muslim preacher who spent two years in a Malian prison on terrorism charges before being released in 2015.

State of Emergency

In March, Niger declared a state of emergency in two western regions near Mali following a series of cross-border raids that killed more than 20 Nigerian soldiers.

The immediate benefits of introducing a new West African force into the mix are unclear, given that the threats are "complex" and that the UN is already struggling to contain the violence, the International Crisis Group said in a statement last month.

"Their deployment risks aggravating what amounts to a security traffic jam," the Brussels-based research group said. "Militants are capitalizing on local disputes and the state's absence and lack of legitimacy." (Bloomberg 10-05-2017)

ECONOMIC ACTIVITY IN SENEGAL SHOWS 12 PERCENT RISE IN MARCH 2017

Domestic economic activity in Senegal (excluding agriculture and forestry) on a monthly basis rose by 11.5% in March 2017 in comparison to the previous month, APA learned from the Directorate of Forecasting and Economic Studies DPEE).



"This performance is due to the good performance of the tertiary sector (+ 16.1%), primary (+ 11.4%) and secondary (+ 2.1%) to a lesser extent," the DPEE emphasized.

However, on an annual basis, a 4% growth in economic activity was observed in the secondary sector (+ 4.8%), in the tertiary sector (+ 2%) and in public administration (plus 10.7%). (APA 06-05-2017)

ANGOLAN COMPANY PLANS TO EXPORT 1,500 CUBIC METRES OF LIMESTONE BLOCKS

Marmogranitos, a company dedicated to the exploration and transformation of ornamental rocks, plans to produce at least 1,500 cubic meters of limestone blocks this year at its quarry in Sumbe, Kwanza Sul province, said the managing director.

Sérgio Lamas also said the company already has interested customers in the main import markets of the product in Europe, including in Spain, Portugal and Italy, as well as in the United States of America, according to Angolan news agency Angop.

The quarry managed by the company under a five-year operating license, which has been in operation since last year, after an initial investment of US\$20 million, was inaugurated last Friday by the Minister of Geology and Mines, Francisco Queiroz.

The administrative director said the project will be executed in four phases, with a total investment of US\$100 million, after the first one began three years ago with the exploration, land clearing and creation of the conditions for the beginning of the exploration of the mine and the second, when it started production, over the past year.

Lamas said that in a third phase the company will produce 150 tonnes of granite and limestone for agricultural purposes, in order to correct soil acidity and increase farmers' incomes.

Marmogranitos Lda. changed its name from Hiper máquinas Angola, part of the HM group, which is dedicated to the exploration and transformation of ornamental rock, as well as its import and export. (08-05-2017)

TOGO : LA FIBRE OPTIQUE EST INAUGUREE DANS LES ADMINISTRATIONS



Ministère de la ville de Lomé, le 10 mai 2014

Au terme de trois ans de travaux, le projet e-gouvernement qui relie par le fibre optique les bâtiments publics de Lomé et Kara (au nord) a été officiellement inauguré lundi.

« La route a été longue », témoigne presque soulagé un des responsables du projet e-gouvernement après la coupure du ruban symbolique du centre d'opération du réseau (NOC), qui servira de centre de gestion de données, lundi 24 avril par le chef de l'État togolais, Faure Gnassingbé.

Le réseau eGouv, dont les travaux ont été lancés en juin 2014, met à disposition de l'administration les outils nécessaires pour se moderniser. Le réseau déploie 250 km de fibre optique desservant 560 bâtiments publics dans les deux principales villes du pays (Lomé et Kara).

Tous les bâtiments des ministères sont raccordés ainsi que les institutions de la République (Cour des comptes, Assemblée nationale, Cour constitutionnelle), 35 % des établissements publics d'enseignement secondaire à Lomé et tous les centres hospitaliers universitaires. Il s'agit donc d'un internet haut débit (100 MBPS) apporté par la fibre optique jusqu'à chacun des bâtiments publics.

Le réseau veut donner aux administrations les moyens de communiquer, d'échanger, et de partager des informations entre elles et avec les citoyens à travers les sites web dédiés et une messagerie gouvernementale plus sécurisée.

Sur un prêt de China Exim Bank

Le projet a été financé par un prêt de China Exim Bank pour un montant de 15 milliards de francs CFA (22,8 millions d'euros). « Le réseau eGouv est l'infrastructure de base nécessaire au développement ultérieur d'une multitude d'applications de e-administration, e-santé, e-sécurité, e-commerce, etc. », a indiqué Cina Lawson, la ministre en charge des Postes et de l'Économie numérique.

En janvier, l'exécutif togolais s'est doté de plusieurs outils sur internet : togo.gouv.tg, le portail du pays qui contient des informations relatives aux institutions, aux régions du pays ; service-public.gouv.tg qui recense les démarches administratives ; data.gouv.tg, le site regroupant des données administratives mises à disposition du public ; ou encore jo.gouv.tg, le journal officiel.

Le réseau eGouv s'ajoute à ces outils. En attendant la prochaine étape : l'archivage numérique et la dématérialisation des procédures administratives. (JA 25-04-2017)

SUDAN TO PLANT OVER 800 THOUSAND HECTARES OF COTTON

Government of Sudan said on Saturday it is planning to plant more than 800,000 hectares of cash cotton to take advantage of the ever-increasing global cotton prices.

The Agricultural Research Authority in the Ministry of Agriculture announced that "the indicative plan for the cultivation of the cotton crop in irrigated and rain-fed cotton in Sudan aims at planting 800 thousand acres, of which 600 thousand in the irrigated sector and 200 thousand in the rain-fed sector."

As much as "95% of the total area of genetically-modified cotton will be grown by Chinese and Indian

species, and 5% by traditional species, especially Barkat species," said Ahmed Al-Tijani, national coordinator for cotton research at the Agricultural Research Authority.



Al-Tijani acknowledged the continuous rise in cotton prices, which prompted the farmer to plant it after he abandoned it, attributed to the increase in productivity in the cotton sector and the high prices. He pointed to the need for state intervention to provide funding and inputs to the production of farms so that Sudan can start its agricultural operations early to make the success of cotton, which will start in mid-June.

He stressed the importance of price fixing to be useful to encourage farmers to cultivate cotton and hand it over to the sponsors, as well as the commitment of farmers and institutions to the recommended agricultural technologies to improve productivity.

Al-Tijani said "the largest cotton exports in Sudan in 1975 amounted to one million and 97 thousand bales, while the lowest exported cotton in the seasons of 2011-2012 was down by about 60 thousand bales."

Cotton export earnings declined significantly, with cotton contributing 188 million dollars to the national product in 1990, and in 2013 and 2014 it yielded \$24 million dollars.

The decline in cotton production in previous years led to the cessation of 14 cotton shops built by the British colonizer in the 1930s in the areas of Maranjan and Alhasahisa and Albager in Al-Jazeera state, south of Sudan's capital Khartoum, in addition to the work of three huge mills for spinning and weaving, which were dismantled and sold as scrap.

However, China has recently started cotton cultivation on the Al-Jazeera project in experimental areas, and has recently built a cotton and textile mill in Marangan, 6 km south of Wad Madani, the state capital. (APA 06-05-2017)

RWANDA-DJIBOUTI : KAGAME AIMERAIT FAIRE PROFITER SON PAYS DU NOUVEAU PORT DE DORALEH



Paul Kagame et Ismaïl Omar Guelleh, le 18 avril

Le président rwandais Paul Kagame aimerait que son pays ne dépende plus seulement du port de Mombasa, au Kenya.

Accord d'exemption de visa entre les deux pays, convention de protection des investissements, mais surtout possibilité pour les importations rwandaises d'utiliser les services du nouveau port polyvalent de

Doraleh : telles sont les principales conclusions de la première visite officielle de Paul Kagame à Djibouti, les 18 et 19 avril (une visite qui répondait à celle que son homologue djiboutien Ismaïl Omar Guelleh avait effectuée à Kigali en 2016).

Président d'un État enclavé, Kagame ne veut pas dépendre du seul port de Mombasa, au Kenya – lequel devrait être relié à Kigali [par le train](#) à l'horizon 2025 dans le cadre de l'East African Railway Masterplan. Il s'intéresse donc beaucoup à un autre mégaprojet de voie ferrée ([Djibouti - Addis-Abeba - Djouba - Kampala - Kigali](#)), également construit par les Chinois. En attendant, la compagnie aérienne Rwandair envisage de desservir Djibouti « dès que possible ». (JA 26-05-2017)

SPANISH FIRM INVESTS US\$46.3M TO RENEW FLEET IN MOZAMBIQUE AND NAMIBIA

The chief executive officer of Spanish vertically-integrated firm Grupo Nueva Pescanovam, Ignacio Gonzalez Hernandez, says his firm will invest \$46.3 million to renew its fleet in Africa, with a particular focus on building seven to nine vessels in Namibia and Mozambique, APA has learned.



According to media reports monitored by APA on Saturday, this comes as part of its 2020 strategic plan, which also foresees expanding sales in the US retail market.

“This company hasn't built vessels for the last 30 years or more, and the fact that we are returning to build vessels is a clear sign that Pescanova is back, problems are behind us and the firm is looking at the future with its new strategic plan,” Gonzalez reportedly said.

Following the capital increase approved last month, the firm plans to invest a total of €125 million in capital expenditure, which includes its new research and development center called Pescanova Biomarine

Center, a new IT integrated system, for maintenance and fleet renewal.

The capital expenditure will be made in line with the firm's 2017-2020 strategic plan.

Gonzalez added that the investment to renew Pescanova's fleet totals €42.5 million and, depending on the agreements with shipyards, the firm will build seven to nine vessels in Namibia and Mozambique.

Nueva Pescanova's vertical integration, strong brand and operations across both wild catch and aquaculture give it a strong business model, said the CEO.

“We will launch the project in June. We have talked to four to give shipyards so far, but we will talk with more companies,” Gonzalez said in an apparent reference to the firm's fleet renewal.

He added that the group will ideally prefer to commission Spanish shipyards, if possible.

Pescanova's turnover in the US totals about \$100m, which accounts for 10 percent of the firm's total revenue.

According to its strategic plan for 2020, Pescanova plans to sharply increase its business in the North American market, with a particular focus on rising sales in retail and investing more in its brand.

The company can grow in the US because of the size of the country and its strong activity in several Latin American countries, Gonzalez said.

“At present we do a lot of trading and operations where the brand doesn't have a value, so we intend to step up our efforts in the retail sector,” Gonzalez said. So far the firm has sold its products to wholesaler Costco in the US, and is in process of expanding sales to other supermarket chains, he said.

He highlighted that in order to achieve this objective, the firm would invest in its exports of mahi mahi

from Peru, toofish from Argentina and farmed shrimp from Latin America, particularly Guatemala and Ecuador.

Nueva Pescanova farms 20,000 tons of shrimp in Guatemala, Ecuador, Honduras and Nicaragua. It owns 18 fishing vessels in Argentina, which fish shrimp, Illex squid and toot fish and sources mahi mahi in Peru. (APA 06-05-2017)

UGANDA: \$900M NEEDED TO BOOST COFFEE

President Museveni has called for more research into how to increase coffee production in the country.

“By 1986, National Agriculture Research Institute in Kawanda had already developed clonal coffee, which had the ability to raise our yield by five times,” he said.

In a ceremony to mark the Uganda Coffee Development Authority’s 25th anniversary, the president said he was unhappy that the country’s yield had been allowed to drop from second largest in the world in 1984 to far below former minnows such as Vietnam, which is now the second largest producer in the world.

“I have been told that our coffee is now used to blend other varieties like the one of Vietnam ... this is not acceptable,” he added. “I understand there has been some trouble with clonal coffee since the farmers prefer the older Robusta variety... we need to find out whether we can go back to the older variety.”

He was responding to a request from a research team in the office of the prime minister (OPM) for more funding to raise coffee yields to a 20 million bags per annum target set for the year 2020.

In his presentation, Prof Ezra Suruma, who heads the delivery unit in the Office of the Prime Minister, explained that the government needed to spend \$900 (about Shs 3.2bn) over the next five years to increase yields.

“The move to increase yields will be done in a five-pronged approach that will see Uganda march the progress made by Vietnam,” he said.



Under the approach, Suruma hopes the sector would work to improve structured demand since already China is importing a chunk of our coffee and improving it from there as value addition,” he explained.

He added that the sector would also spend extensively to enhance Uganda’s brand overseas. Prof Suruma’s plan also includes three strategies to production.

“We plan to set coffee farmers up in organized groups to see a 20 per cent increase in yields ... eliminate fake seedlings and other inputs,” he said.

Suruma also wants government to work towards lowering the cost of money (lowering interest rates) as they render Uganda uncompetitive on the international coffee market. To sweeten the deal, he proposed that the \$900m investment would guarantee Uganda an annual \$2bn return at current exchange rates.

COMMITMENT

In his remarks, the president said he was committed to increasing coffee yields, and meeting the 20 million bags target by 2020.

“The reason we are promoting coffee production is that Uganda is the least cost producer in the world,” he said. “Even with the low international prices, Ugandans are still making a profit. Also, coffee has the ability to lift people out of poverty.”

He called for more support towards the researchers at Naro in Kawanda, and also “to resolve the production issues around coffee, including eliminating clonal coffee if it is not as good as we had hoped.” He also directed UCDA to develop modern methods to support private coffee processors to develop the appropriate package for roasting and grinding coffee to international standards.

“We need to expand our focus on research, production, processing and export of coffee,” he concluded. He finally directed the agriculture minister to issue a directive banning the importation of fake pesticides and other farm implements.

“It is unfortunate that you are all mourning about this when the minister is here with full constitutional power to ban the importation of fake drugs and seeds,” he said. “The next five years must be dynamic as the solutions are there.” (The observer 26-04-2017)

MAROC : PLUS DE 420 TONNES DE SACS PLASTIQUE SAISIES EN MOINS D'UN AN



Un sac en plastique met entre 100 et 400 ans pour se dissoudre dans la nature

Plus de 421 tonnes de sacs en plastique ont été saisies par les autorités marocaines depuis l'entrée en vigueur il y a un an d'une loi interdisant ces sacs dans le pays, a-t-on appris mercredi de source officielle.

En un an, « plus de 421 tonnes de sacs en plastique, 70 machines de fabrication, 16 véhicules » ont été saisies et 55 personnes interpellées lors d'opérations de démantèlement de plusieurs unités clandestines de fabrication, indique un communiqué du ministère de l'Intérieur, mercredi 26 avril.

Depuis son entrée en vigueur, [la législation baptisée « zéro mika » \(« zéro plastique » en arabe\)](#) est appliquée scrupuleusement, dans les boutiques et supermarchés, notamment dans les grandes villes. Elle contribue manifestement à la lutte contre la pollution au quotidien au Maroc, alors que ces sacs plastique sont un fléau dans de nombreux pays africains.

Sacs de substitution

Les Marocains utilisent désormais des sacs de substitution en tissu. Un fonds de 20 millions d'euros a par ailleurs été mis en place par le ministère de l'Industrie pour accompagner les entreprises touchées par la loi.

Début 2017, le gouvernement avait salué les « résultats encourageants » de l'opération, estimant que l'utilisation des sacs plastique était « quasiment éradiquée » dans le pays.

Pays pionnier

Avec cette législation, le royaume était devenu l'un des premiers pays africains, aux côtés du Rwanda, à bannir totalement les sacs plastique.

En octobre 2016, [le pays a accueilli la conférence internationale sur le climat COP22](#), et a engagé ces dernières années une stratégie volontariste en matière d'énergies « vertes » et de développement durable. (JA 26-04-2017)

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