MEMORANDUM

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JOHANNES HAHN APPOINTED NEXT COMMISSIONER FOR EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICY AND ENLARGEMENT NEGOTIATIONS

Current European Commissioner for Regional Policy Johannes Hahn has been appointed as the next European Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, succeeding Štefan Füle, who is due to step down when the term of the current Commission ends on 31 October 2014.

"The EU's relations with its neighbours to the East and south are more important than ever – and more challenging – and I am looking forward to working closely with the future High Representative Federica Mogherini on this," said Commissioner Hahn. *"Neighbourhood policy is close to my heart. It is in many ways a natural progression from the work I have been doing as Regional Policy Commissioner. Building connections, helping regions to stand on their own feet, and through concrete action delivering to promote security and prosperity and communicating European values – I look forward to the hearing at the European Parliament and starting work as soon as possible."*

Johannes Hahn is an Austrian national. He has served as European Commissioner for Regional Policy since 2010.

The new college of Commissioners was announced today by European Commission President-Elect Jean-Claude Juncker.

The European Parliament has to give its consent to the entire College of Commissioners, including the President and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission. This is preceded by hearings of the Commissioners-designate in the relevant parliamentary committees. Once the European Parliament has given its consent, the European Council formally appoints the European Commission. (Neighbourhood Info 10-09-2014)

GOVERNMENT OF MOZAMBIQUE REVISES NATURAL GAS RESERVES OF THE ROVUMA BASIN UPWARDS

The government of Mozambique has its projection for the amount of natural gas contained in the Rovuma Basin from 170 billion to 200 billion cubic feet, according to figures presented Tuesday in Maputo by the Mozambican President.

Pointing out some of developments over the past two years in the country's natural resources sector, Armando Guebuza said that natural gas had been discovered in Areas 1 and 4 of the sedimentary basin, whose concessions are led by US group Anadarko and Italy's ENI, respectively, without specifying the amounts contained in each project.

Guebuza, who was speaking at the launch of the 2nd Mozambique Geology Congress, also said that the amount of taxes from production and surface work paid by companies that explore natural resources in Mozambique rose from US$1.44 million in 2012 to US$15.8 million in 2014.

"We found world-class graphite in Balama in the province of Cabo Delgado, and confirmed commercial reserves of iron and palladium, in Tete, and heavy minerals in Inhambane," said the Mozambican President, adding that a review of the Mining and Oil laws, approved Tuesday, would promote Mozambique "as a safe destination for investments."

In terms of oil and gas projects in the Rovuma area Natural Resources Minister Esperanca Bias, pointed to a minimum investment of US$5 billion for their launch, which, "will increase with the planned factories [for liquefaction of natural gas] in Palma. "

Bias also said that the Mozambican government was studying the development project for a floating natural gas liquefaction platform that ENI presented for its concession and said she believes that this would interfere with the planned LNG units in the province of Cabo Delgado.

"It is probably better to have a floating rig for those deposits [in deep water] that are a great distance [from the mainland] and that may make their exploration unfeasible," Bias said.

Apart from Anadarko Petroleum (26 percent), Area-1′s concession is in the hands of Mozambican state company ENH (15 percent), Indian groups ONGC Videsh (20 percent) and BRPL Ventures (10 percent), Japan's Mitsui & Co (20 percent) and Thai group PTT Exploration and Production (8.5 percent).
The consortium led by Eni (50 percent) also includes the China National Petroleum Corporation (20 percent), Korea Gas, Galp Energia of Portugal and ENH, with 10 percent each. (10-09-2014)

NEIGHBORHOOD: CIVIL PROTECTION PROJECT HOLDS FIRST REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON RISK MAPPING AS A TOOL IN DISASTER PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

The EU-funded Civil Protection PPRD South II project (Prevention, Preparedness, and Response to natural and human Disasters), in cooperation with the Spanish civil protection, is holding its first regional workshop on risk mapping, today and tomorrow in Madrid.

Risk mapping was established in the previous phase of the PPRD South programme as an essential tool in the chain of prevention and response to disasters. Today's workshop builds on on that and intends to strengthen existing elements to make it a decision tool for partner countries.

A map is a digitised document that presents several data elements in which identified and located risks like flooding, earthquakes and others are included. All this information allows anticipation and a more effective mobilisation of human and material resources.

The workshop, which aims to develop an action plan for each country, will offer:
- A presentation of the methodology used by PPRD SOUTH 1
- A presentation of the relevant tools for data collection
- A networking opportunity

Several representatives of Civil Protection/ Defence of Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia will take part in the workshop. Presentations will be given by two Algerian experts, a Belgian expert, three French experts and two Italian experts.

PPRD South II is a three-year programme with a €5 million budget which aims at reducing vulnerability to, and the social, economic and environmental costs of, natural and man-made disasters, thereby enhancing regional and national sustainable development and climate adaptation. (Neighbourhood Info 08-09-2014)

CHINESE-OWNED COMPANY GRANTED FISHING LICENSE IN MOZAMBIQUE

Chinese-owned company Yi Nuo Ltd, which operates in the district of Angoche, Mozambique, has been granted two licenses for semi-industrial fishing by the Fisheries Administration of Nampula province, said the provincial fisheries delegate.
Momade Juízo told Mozambican daily newspaper Notícias, that the company, in business since the beginning of the year using two wooden boats, now proposes to build a total of ten boats for development of semi-industrial fishing, four of which have already been finished.
The provincial delegate of the Fisheries Administration also said that two 20-metre long and 5-metre wide vessels capable of carrying 10 tons of cold-stored cargo, were already operating.
Two other vessels will start operating soon as the request to issue a fishing license was endorsed by the Ministry of Fisheries, Juízo said.
Juízo also told the newspaper that Pesca Norte, another semi-industrial fishing company based in the district of Angoche, had imported four new vessels from China, which means the six new units launched in the coming days will provide employment for around 180 people.

Shrimp, squid, octopus and fish species such as grouper, tuna and other fish are the main focus for fishing companies as those products are also intended for export to EU countries and South Africa. (10-09-2014)

EU SETS OUT COOPERATION PRIORITIES FOR EASTERN AND SOUTHERN NEIGHBOURHOOD FOR COMING YEARS

Following consultation with partner countries, EU member States and the European Parliament, the European Commission has taken decisions providing important EU funding to the partners in the EU Neighbourhood in the coming years. This package includes programming documents for Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia, as well as for regional cooperation in both the Eastern and Southern Neighbourhood and for European Neighbourhood-Wide programmes. The total amount of these programmes is over €5,5 billion.

"Our relationship with the countries in our Neighbourhood has always been one of my priorities. We have strong links with these countries and an important role to play in helping them deal with the political and economic challenges they face. We are committed to accompany them on their path to peace, democracy and socio-economic development," said EU High Representative Catherine Ashton Catherine Ashton

Štefan Füle, European Commissioner for Enlargement and Neighbourhood Policy, said: *"Ambition and commitment to reforms will guide the massive EU funding for our neighbours for the coming years. Priorities for support have been established through close dialogue with our partners, involving all the relevant stakeholders, in the spirit of ownership and partnership. The funding will help them address key challenges their societies are facing".*

Following the adoption of programming documents for Georgia and Moldova in June 2014, in July the EU Commission adopted a package of bilateral and multi-country programming documents that will chart EU support to the partners for the coming years. These funds will come from the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) that will provide the bulk of EU assistance to partners over coming years.

Bilateral programming documents

Eastern Neighbourhood:

Armenia: the indicative allocation for the period 2014-2017 is between €140,000,000 – €170,000,000. The three priority sectors of intervention to be financed through this envelope are the following:
· Private sector development (indicative 35%)
· Public administration reform (indicative 25%)
· Justice sector reform (indicative 20%)

Azerbaijan: the indicative allocation for the period 2014-2017 is between €77,000,000 – €94,000,000. The three priority sectors of intervention to be financed through this envelope are the following:
· Regional and rural development (indicative 40%)
· Justice sector reform (indicative 20%)
· Education and skills development (indicative 20%)

Belarus: the indicative allocation for the period 2014-2017 is between €71,000,000 – €89,000,000. The three priority sectors of intervention to be financed through this envelope are the following:
· Social inclusion (indicative 30%)
· Environment (indicative 25%)
· Local and regional economic development (indicative 25%)

Southern Neighbourhood:

Algeria: the indicative allocation for the period 2014-2017 is between €121,000,000 – €148,000,000. The three priority sectors of intervention to be financed through this envelope are the following:
· Justice reform and strengthening of citizen participation in public life (indicative 25%)
· Labour market reform and employment creation (indicative 30%)
· Support to the management and diversification of the economy (indicative 30%)

Jordan: the indicative allocation for the period 2014-2017 is between €312,000,000 - €382,000,000. The three priority sectors of intervention to be financed through this envelope are the following:
· Reinforcing the rule of law for enhanced accountability and equity in public delivery (indicative 25%)
· Employment and private sector development (indicative 30%)
· Renewable energy and energy efficiency (indicative 30%)

Lebanon: the indicative allocation for the period 2014-2016 is between €130,000,000 – €159,000,000. The three priority sectors of intervention to be financed through this envelope are the following:
· Justice and security system reform (indicative 15%)
· Reinforcing social cohesion, promoting sustainable economic development and protecting vulnerable groups (indicative 40%)
· Promotion of sustainable and transparent management of energy and natural resources (indicative 20%)

Libya: the indicative allocation for the period 2014-2015 is between €36,000,000 – €44,000,000. The three priority sectors of intervention to be financed through this envelope are the following:
· Democratic governance (indicative 45%)
· Youth: active citizenship and socioeconomic integration (indicative 28%)
· Health (indicative 16%)
Depending on the evolution of the political and security situation in Libya, the content of the priority sectors could however be readjusted to meet the needs of the Libyan population and institutions.

Morocco: the indicative allocation for the period 2014-2017 is between €728,000,000 – €890,000,000. The three priority sectors of intervention to be financed through this envelope are the following:
· Equitable access to basic social services (indicative 30%)
· Support to democratic governance, the Rule of Law and mobility (indicative 25%)
· Jobs, sustainable and inclusive growth (indicative 25%)
Further support to the Action Plan and Civil Society (indicative 20%)

Tunisia: the indicative allocation for the period 2014-2015 is between €202,000,000 - €246,000,000. The three priority sectors of intervention to be financed through this envelope are the following:

- Socio-Economic reforms for inclusive growth, competitiveness and integration (indicative 40%)
- Strengthening fundamental elements of democracy (indicative 15%)
- Sustainable regional and local development (indicative 30%)

Multi-country programming documents

Regional East: the indicative allocation for the period 2014-2017 is between €418,000,000 - €511,000,000. The four priority sectors of intervention to be financed through this envelope are the following:

- Eastern Partnership including Flagship Initiatives (indicative 75%)
- Regional cooperation frameworks (indicative 10%)
- Energy and transport initiatives involving the wider region (indicative 5%)
- Horizontal and sectoral support for multilateral cooperation (indicative 10%)

Regional South: the indicative allocation for the period 2014-2017 is between €371,000,000-€453,000,000. The four priority sectors of intervention to be financed through this envelope are the following:

- Building a partnership for liberty, democracy and security (indicative 20%)
- Building a partnership for inclusive and sustainable economic development (indicative 20%)
- Building a partnership between the people (indicative 25%)
- Support regional and sub-regional institutional cooperation (indicative 15%)

European Neighbourhood-wide programme: the indicative allocation for the period 2014-2017 is between €1,675,000,000 to €1,876,000,000 of which €770,000,000 for specific support ("Umbrella programmes") for countries progressing further towards deep and sustainable democracy and implementing agreed reforms contributing to that goal. The other three priority sectors of intervention to be financed through this envelope are the following:

- Building a partnership for inclusive and sustainable economic development and integration (indicative 55%), notably support to the Neighbourhood Investment Facility.
- Building a partnership between people: Erasmus+ in the Neighbourhood and Russia (indicative 40%)
- Building capacity for European Neighbourhood countries (indicative 5%)

Programming is done only for the first years of the Multi-annual Financial Framework period (MFF 2014-2020) to allow adaptation of EU support to evolving situations in each country/region. In the spirit of differentiation, the timeframes of the programming documents differ and take into account the specificity of the country situation and/or programmes concerned.

The programming priorities have been developed in close cooperation with the national authorities of partner countries, civil society and other relevant stakeholders, and in coordination with EU Member States.

In addition, a specific financial envelope in bilateral programming documents will allow notably for complementary support for capacity development and Civil Society. In principle, support to civil society will be also mainstreamed throughout all three sectors of intervention, with the ultimate goal of ensuring effective and inclusive policies at the national level. Efforts will be made to support civil society capacities and engagement, in the development, implementation and monitoring of national public policies supported by the EU, including through participation in policy dialogue.

The programming documents for Egypt and Cross-border Cooperation are expected to be adopted in fall 2014. Based on the programming documents, relevant implementation measures will be adopted and launched.

The new **European Neighbourhood Instrument** (ENI) with a budget of €15.4 billion for the period 2014-2020 will provide the bulk of funding to the 16 partner countries covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP). Building on the achievements of the previous European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI), the ENI will support strengthening of relations with Neighbourhood countries and bring tangible benefits to both the EU and its partners. It will provide support through bilateral, multi-country and Cross Border Co-operation (CBC) programmes as well as through "Umbrella programmes" that will represent the key mechanism for applying an incentive-based approach.(EU Neighbourhood 08-09-2014)

COAL INDIA STARTS ASSESSMENT OF COAL RESERVES IN TWO BLOCKS IN MOZAMBIQUE

Indian state group Coal India plans to start assessing existing coal reserves in two blocks it was awarded in a concession in Mozambique, the group said according to the Press Trust of India (PTI).

Citing the group's Annual Report and Accounts, PTI said a geological report was being prepared based on prospecting work conducted to date.

Coal India Africana Limitada (CIAL), a subsidiary of Coal India in Mozambique, carried out prospecting work that included 35,000 metres of boreholes in two coal blocks.

"In fiscal year 2014 holes with 15,000 meters were made," the report said, adding that the samples were being analysed at the laboratories of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research and the Central Institute for Mining Planning and Design.

In August 2009 CIAL was granted two five-year licenses for mining in Mozambique in two blocks in Moatize, Tete province, covering an area of 200 square kilometres. (10-09-2014)

U.S. MILITARY JOINS EBOLA RESPONSE IN WEST AFRICA

The U.S. military over the weekend formally began to support the international response to the Ebola outbreak in West Africa.

Advocates of the move, including prominent voices in global health, are lauding the Pentagon's particularly robust logistical capacities, which nearly all observers say are desperately needed as the epidemic expands at an increasing rate.

On Monday, the United Nations warned of an "exponential increase" in cases in coming weeks.

Yet already multiple concerns have arisen over the scope of the mission – including whether it is strong enough at the outset as well as whether it could become too broad in future.

President Barack Obama made the first public announcement on the issue on Sunday, contextualising the outbreak as a danger to U.S. national security.

"We're going to have to get U.S. military assets just to set up, for example, isolation units and equipment there to provide security for public health workers surging from around the world," the president said during a televised interview. "If we don't make that effort now … it could be a serious danger to the United States."

While the United States has spent more than 20 million dollars in West Africa this year to combat the disease, Washington has come under increased criticism in recent months for not doing enough. Obama is now expected to request additional funding from Congress later this month.

The military's response, however, has already begun – albeit apparently on a very small scale for now, and in just a single Ebola-hit country.

A Defence Department spokesperson told IPS that, over the weekend, Secretary of Defence Chuck Hagel approved the deployment of a "25-bed deployable hospital facility, equipment, and the support necessary to establish the facility" in Liberia. For now, this is the extent of the approved response.

The spokesperson was quick to note that additional planning is underway, but emphasised that the Pentagon is responding only to requests made by other federal agencies and taking no lead role. Further, its commitment to the hospital in Liberia, the country most affected by the outbreak, is limited.

The Department of Defence "will not have a permanent presence at the facility and will not provide direct patient care, but will ensure that supplies are maintained at the hospital and provide periodic support required to keep the hospital facility functioning for up to 180 days," the spokesperson said.

“This approach provides for the establishment of the hospital facility in the shortest possible period of time … Once the deployable hospital facility is established, it will be transferred to the Government of Liberia.”

On Monday, Liberia’s defence minister, Brownie Samukai, said his government was “extremely pleased” by the announcement.

“We had discussions at the Department of Defence on the issues of utilising and requesting the full skill of United States capabilities, both on the soft side and on the side of providing logistics and technical expertise,” Samukai, who is currently here in Washington, told the media. “We look forward to that cooperation as expeditiously as we can.”

No security needed

The current Ebola outbreak has now killed some 2,100 people and infected more than 3,500 in five countries. On Monday, the United Nations warned of an “exponential increase” in cases in coming weeks.

Yet thus far the epidemic has resulted in an international response that is almost universally seen as dangerously inadequate. Obama’s statement Sunday nonetheless raised questions even among those supportive of the announcement.

Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF), the French humanitarian group, remains the single most important international organisation in physically responding to the outbreak. While MSF has long opposed the use of military personnel in response to disease outbreaks, last week it broke with that tradition.

Warning that the global community is “failing” to address the epidemic, the group told a special U.N. briefing that country with “civilian and military medical capability … must immediately dispatch assets and personnel to West Africa”.

Yet while MSF has welcomed Obama’s announcement, the group is also expressing strong concerns over the president’s reference to the U.S. military providing “security for public health workers”.

MSF “reiterates the need for this support to be of medical nature only,” Tim Shenk, a press officer with the group, told IPS. “Aid workers do not need additional security support in the affected region.”

Last week, MSF urged that any military personnel deployed to West Africa not be used for “quarantine, containment or crowd control measures”.

The Defence Department spokesperson told IPS that the U.S. military had not yet received a request to provide security for health workers.

Few guidelines

The United States is not the only country now turning to its military to bolster the flagging humanitarian response in West Africa.

The British government in recent days announced even more significant plans, aiming to set up 68 beds for Ebola patients at a centre, in Sierra Leone, that will be jointly operated by humanitarians and military personnel. The Canadian government had reportedly been contemplating a military plan as well, although this now appears to have been shelved.

Yet the concerns expressed by MSF over how the military deployment should go forward underscore the fact that there exists little formal guidance on the involvement of foreign military personnel in international health-related response.

The World Health Organisation (WHO), for instance, has no broad stance on the issue, a spokesperson told IPS. As the WHO is an intergovernmental agency, it is up to affected countries to make related decisions and request.

“Each country handles its own security situation,” Daniel Epstein, a WHO spokesperson, told IPS. “So if governments agree to military involvement from other countries that are their business.”

Another spokesperson with the agency, Margaret Harris, told IPS that the WHO appreciates “the skills that well-trained, disciplined and highly organised groups like the US military can bring to the campaign to end Ebola.”

Yet there is already concern that the U.S. military response could be shaping up to be far less robust than necessary.

MSF’s Shenk noted that any plan from the U.S. military would need to include both the construction and operation of Ebola centres. Thus far, the Pentagon says it will not be doing any operating.

While around 570 Ebola beds are currently available in West Africa, MSF estimates that at least 1,000 hospital spaces, capable of providing full isolation, are needed in the region.

In a series of tweets on Monday, Laurie Garrett, a prominent global health scholar with the Council on Foreign Relations, a Washington think tank, expressed alarm that the Defence Department's Ebola response was shaping up to be "tiny" in comparison to what is needed.(IPS 08-09-2014)

SALE OF ANGOLAN DIAMONDS BRINGS IN REVENUES OF US$661 MILLION IN 1ST HALF OF 2014

The sale of diamonds mined in Angola rose by 18 percent year on year in the first half of 2014 to US$661 million, at an average price of US$155 per carat, the chief executive of National Diamond Company of Angola (Endiama) said Saturday in Luanda.

Paul Nvika, who was summarising diamond sector activities at the Consultation Council of the Ministry of Geology and Mining, which ended Saturday, said that the state had collected around US$47 million in taxes on diamond sales.

In the same six-month period, diamond production totalled 4.26 million carats, which was an increase of 4 percent over the first half of last year.

The Endiama CEO said that seven projects, notably Catoca, Cuango and Chitotolo, contributed to the increase in diamond production and added that the United Arab Emirates, Hong Kong and Israel were the main destinations for Angola's diamonds.

Endiama over the next few years plans to increase diamond production, make investments and raise necessary funding for the implementation of mining projects in its portfolio, while the company will partner investor groups with technical and financial capacity for new diamond projects. (10-09-2014)

ANGOLA'S GROWTH SET TO RALLY AFTER DIP IN OIL OUTPUT

Lower oil production is set to cut Angola's economic growth in 2014, before a rebound in the oil industry boosts growth next year.

In its regular assessment of the southern African nation's economy, IMF staff said the authorities had restored macroeconomic stability after the country was hit hard by the global economic crisis.

Inflation is at historic lows, international reserves are adequate, and the country has started to save part of its oil wealth for future generations through Angola's Sovereign Wealth Fund. But emerging fiscal deficits (see Chart 1) should be addressed to preserve space for the authorities' objectives of rebuilding infrastructure and reducing poverty and inequality while continuing to save part of the oil revenues, the IMF staff report said.

IMF staff projected that Angola's economic growth would slow to 3.9 percent in 2014, and then rally to 5.9 percent in 2015. Oil production fell in the first half of 2014, reflecting unscheduled maintenance and repair work in some fields. But the drop in oil output was offset by robust growth in the nonoil economy, supported by the agricultural sector and the manufacturing and services sectors.

Slow decline in poverty

Despite Angola's significant oil wealth—the country is sub-Saharan Africa's second-largest oil producer—income inequality remains high and poverty has been declining only slowly, the IMF staff report said. Angola has been successful in capturing a large share of the rents from its oil resources (see Chart 2) and generating robust economic growth, but this has yet to translate into significant improvements in its welfare indicators such as poverty, life expectancy, and educational attainment.

To accelerate the reduction in poverty and inequality, Angola could benefit from the experience of other countries in sub-Saharan Africa and other regions that have implemented well-targeted safety nets for the poor, including conditional cash transfer programs, the IMF staff report said. Evidence shows that such programs are

• Highly efficient—almost all the expenditure reaches the poor;

• Affordable and sustainable—their costs as a share of national income are modest; and

• Among the most progressive forms of public expenditure—they cut out as beneficiaries become wealthier.

The IMF staff report urged the authorities to phase out costly and regressive fuel subsidies, while mitigating the impact on the poor through well-targeted social assistance. Noting that Angola is one of the world's largest fuel price subsidizers, IMF staff stressed that the fiscal cost of the country's fuel subsidies has been increasing in recent years due to higher international fuel prices.

Fuel subsidies should be reviewed and gradually reduced. International experience indicates that a public campaign and open consultations with key stakeholders to explain the move can ease the process.

The analysis in the IMF staff report also showed that there is significant room to improve the efficiency of public capital spending. An increase in efficiency could help to increase the amount of infrastructure available without the need to allocate additional resources to capital spending.

Favorable growth prospects

Angola's medium-term economic growth prospects are favorable, the IMF staff report said, projecting that the oil sector will grow by more than 2 percent each year on average over the next five years. Declining production in some oil fields would be more than compensated by the commissioning of new fields.

Large investments in the nonoil sector as well as the authorities' policies to improve the business environment are expected to generate much-needed diversification and job creation, mainly in agriculture but also in electricity, manufacturing, and services.

The report said that economic diversification is not only imperative to reduce oil dependency, but also to increase employment and reduce poverty. A sustainable reduction in poverty should be achieved through job creation, mainly by developing small and medium-sized enterprises in the nonoil sector that provide the bulk of national employment.

The report cautioned, however, that the country's medium-term fiscal outlook is challenging, as oil revenues are expected to decline as a share of GDP while there is high demand for increased spending on infrastructure and poverty alleviation. Efforts to improve the fiscal position could start already this year, IMF staff said, by moderating growth in the wage bill and spending on goods and services. (IMF 08-09-2014)

ANGOLA'S FIRST SATELLITE SCHEDULE TO START OPERATING IN 1ST QUARTER OF 2017

Angosat, Angola's first satellite, is expected to be placed in orbit and become operational in the first quarter of 2017, the Angolan Secretary of State for Telecommunications said recently in Calai, Kwando Kubango province.

"Construction of Angosat is on schedule, in September 2016 the satellite will be ready and in early 2017, in March at the latest, we will have the satellite in orbit," said Aristides Safeca.

Construction of the satellite, with an estimated cost of 37 billion kwanza (US$378 million), is underway in Angola by a Russian consortium led by RSC group, and also involves Russian financing, from the VTB bank and Ruseximbank as announced in December 2012.

Once the satellite starts operating Angola will have services to support electronic telecommunications, including broadband and television services.

Angosat will have a lifespan of 15 years and the project includes creation of two tracking stations in Angola and Russia. (10-09-2014)

SOUTH AFRICA HOPES TO RESUME IRAN OIL IMPORTS IN THREE MONTHS

South Africa is looking to resume oil imports from Iran, once its biggest supplier of crude, and hopes to resolve "sanction issues" that have blocked purchases within the next three months, Deputy Foreign Minister Nomaindia Mfeketo said on Tuesday.

South Africa halted crude purchases from Iran in June 2012 because of Western pressure. The country bought about 68,000 barrels of oil per day from Iran in the month before exports ended, about a quarter of its crude oil needs.

The announcement by Ms Mfeketo came after a day of talks in Pretoria with her Iranian counterpart.

World powers imposed sanctions on Iran over its nuclear programme, blocking more than $100bn of much-needed oil revenue held abroad from flowing back to the producer.

Trade sanctions have also prevented Iran from exporting to some countries, even though it sits on the world's largest gas reserves, according to statistics compiled by BP.

Iran's exports to its top four oil buyers — China, India, Japan and South Korea — rose to 1.2-million barrels per day in the first half of 2014, versus 961,236 barrels in the same period a year ago, according to official customs data and tanker arrival schedules. (Reuters 09-09-2014)

AFRICA'S EDUCATION IMPERATIVE.

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has called education the "single best investment" that countries can make to build "prosperous, healthy, and equitable societies." Nowhere is this insight more relevant than in Africa, where large-scale investment in education has enabled significant gains in literacy, school attendance, and university enrollment in recent years. But the continent still has a long way to go.

According to UNICEF, Sub-Saharan Africa is home to more than half of the 58 million children worldwide who are not in school, particularly girls and young women. More than one in five Africans aged 15-24 is unemployed, only one-third have completed primary school, and, despite some progress, the rate of higher education remains low.

The fact that many social indicators are stagnant or declining is particularly disappointing, given that Africa is home to many of the world's fastest-growing economies. According to a recent United Nations report, the number of Africans living in extreme poverty increased by almost 40%, to 414 million, from 1990 to 2010. Four out of five deaths of children under the age of five occur in Africa.

Nonetheless, there is reason for hope. Over the next few decades, Africa is expected to record the fastest growth in the number of wealthy individuals. And two recent studies commissioned by Standard Chartered Bank indicate that the growing ranks of the affluent view education as a top priority.

In the first study, most of the middle-income individuals surveyed in Nigeria, Ghana, and Kenya plan to spend more on their children's education in the next five years, even though up to 20% of them had minimal education themselves. A Chinese proverb says that all parents want their sons to be dragons and daughters to be phoenixes. African parents are no different.

The second study showed that high-net-worth African business owners accorded education the highest priority in their charitable activities, with more than 90% already engaging in education-related philanthropy. In Nigeria, where there are 150 private jets but only four registered philanthropies, Aliko Dangote, Africa's wealthiest individual, has donated close to $200 million to educational causes in the last two years.

Other homegrown philanthropists, such as Strive Masiyiwa and Nicky Oppenheimer, have also made significant contributions. These benefactors, together with private enterprises and the public sector, will be essential to ensuring that all young Africans – not just those from wealthy families – gain access to quality education.

But more than money is needed. People must go beyond writing checks to charities and contribute actively to building schools, funding scholarships, and training teachers. Fortunately, this, too, is already beginning to occur.

For example, Standard Chartered, in partnership with the Varkey GEMS Foundation, is funding the training of school teachers in Uganda, based on the belief that higher-quality teaching will lead to better learning outcomes. And the MasterCard Foundation is providing disadvantaged African students with financial assistance to attend secondary schools and university.

All of these actors know that the kind of stable, inclusive growth that an educated workforce underpins will bring them untold benefits. But ensuring long-term economic success is not only a matter of increasing literacy and university-enrollment rates; it also demands an education system that prepares workers to meet the demands of the region's fast-changing labour market.

This means, first and foremost, ensuring that people gain practical skills that can drive economic development in the decades ahead. It is more important to have a large number of workers capable of making widgets, designing textiles, administering health care, and splitting enzymes than to have a plethora of history or literature graduates. It also means that, following the examples of Singapore and Germany, clear pathways linking education to employment must be created.

Dangote has described how thousands of college graduates applied for a handful of truck-driving vacancies in his factory. This experience motivated him to establish his Dangote Academy, a centre for talent development that aims to help fill the industrial-skills gap in Nigeria and beyond. Such initiatives are crucial to aligning education with economic development and enhanced prosperity.

By 2040, Africa will have 1.1 billion working-age citizens – more than either India or China. With the right education, skills, and job opportunities, this immense workforce could deliver rapid and sustainable economic growth for the entire region. Without them, the continent is more likely to experience rising unemployment, widening inequality, social disorder, and, ultimately, conflict and chaos.(EurActiv 08-09-2014)

PORT OF MAPUTO, MOZAMBIQUE, UNDERGOES MAINTENANCE DREDGING

Dredging operations to maintain the docks in the port of Maputo are due to begin this month, under the terms of a contract signed last week, the company Port of Maputo Development Company (MPDC) said in a statement.

The contract was signed in the port of Durban by the MPDC and the Transnet National Ports Authority, a division of Transnet Limited responsible for managing South Africa's eight commercial ports.

The agreement to use Italeni, a vessel equipped with a grab dredger with a capacity of 750 cubic metres, is part of the memorandum of understanding signed with TNPA in June 2013, in which the two institutions agreed to strengthen their relations, Mozambican daily newspaper Notícias reported.

The memorandum with TNPA resulted in employee training employees at the TNPA Maritime School of Excellence, acquisition and refurbishment of the Ntwanano tug (already underway in Maputo), and this dredging work, with Italeni setting off for the port of Maputo in two weeks' time.

The port of Maputo management company last year dredged the port's access channel and some mooring docks. This work increased the depth of the port from 11 to 13.7 metres, allowing ships weighing over 65,000 tons to enter the port.

As a result, the port of Maputo increased its operating efficiency and exceeded the 17 million tons of cargo that had been set as a goal for 2013.

The port of Maputo was offered under concession to MPDC in 2003, a partnership between Mozambican state port and rail manager CFM and Portus Indico, a consortium of South African group Grindrod, DP World from the United Arab Emirates and Moçambique Gestores. (10-09-2014)

EBOLA SPREADS 'EXPONENTIALLY', ECONOMIES THREATENED

Liberia, the country worst hit by West Africa's Ebola epidemic, should see thousands of new cases in coming weeks as the virus spreads exponentially, the World Health Organisation (WHO) said yesterday (8 September).

The epidemic, the worst since the disease was discovered in 1976, has killed some 2,100 people in Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia and Nigeria and has also spread to Senegal.

The WHO believes it will take six to nine months to contain and may infect up to 20,000 people. In Liberia, the disease has already killed 1,089 people - more than half of all deaths reported since March in this regional epidemic.

"Transmission of the Ebola virus in Liberia is already intense and the number of new cases is increasing exponentially," the U.N. agency said in a statement. "The number of new cases is moving far faster than the capacity to manage them in Ebola-specific treatment centres."

Fourteen of Liberia's 15 counties have reported confirmed cases. As soon as a new Ebola treatment centre is opened, it immediately overflows with patients.

"In Monrovia, taxis filled with entire families, of whom some members are thought to be infected with the Ebola virus, crisscross the city, searching for a treatment bed. There are none," it said.

In Montserrado County, which includes the capital Monrovia and is home to more than one million people, a WHO investigative team estimated that 1,000 beds are urgently needed for Ebola patients, the statement said.

Motorbike-taxis and regular taxis have become "a hot source" of Ebola transmission.

Liberia's government announced on Monday it was extending a nationwide nighttime curfew imposed last month to curb the spread of the disease.

Sierra Leone last week ordered a four-day countrywide "lockdown" starting 18 September as part of tougher efforts to halt the spread of Ebola.

International mobilisation

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called British Prime Minster David Cameron, France's President François Hollande, Cuban President Raul Castro and Herman Van Rompuy, president of the European Council, to urge more support, his spokesman said.

While governments and organisations across the world are scrambling cash and supplies to the region, the WHO said its aid partners must scale up efforts by three- to fourfold to battle the epidemic.

Conventional control measures were "not having an adequate impact" in Liberia, it said.

Ebola is a haemorrhagic fever spread through the blood, sweat or vomit of those infected, making those working directly with the sick among the most vulnerable to the disease.

In a country with just one doctor for nearly 100,000 inhabitants before the outbreak, some 152 health care workers have been infected and 79 have died in Liberia since the crisis began, the WHO said.

The United States said on Monday will send a 25-bed field hospital to Liberia to help provide medical care for health workers there. Britain earlier said it would send military and humanitarian experts to set up a treatment centre for Ebola victims in Sierra Leone.

Medical charity Médecins Sans Frontières welcomed the move by the British government but voiced fears the disease was moving "catastrophically" through the population. Resources needed to be deployed on the ground more quickly, it said.

The WHO said yesterday that one of its doctors working in an Ebola treatment centre in Sierra Leone had tested positive for the disease and would be evacuated from Freetown shortly. It was the second WHO-deployed staff member to contract the virus after a Senegalese epidemiologist was infected last month.

Economies threatened

Chief executives of 11 firms in the region joined the call for world leaders to step up the fight against the disease, warning yesterday that it threatened the region's stability.

"Without the support of the international community the situation for these economies, many of whom are only beginning to return to stability after decades of civil war, will be even more catastrophic," they said in a statement.

Signatories of the statement included chief executives from ArcelorMittal, Randgold Resources, London Mining, IAMGOLD, Newmont, Aureus Mining, and Hummingbird Resources.

Exxon Mobil meanwhile donated $150,000 (€116,000) to the Liberian National Red Cross Society.

Meanwhile, an emergency meeting of health ministers and other officials from African Union member states agreed in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa yesterday to lift restrictions on travel to and from countries affected by Ebola.

A number of African nations introduced travel bans and border closures in recent months despite WHO warnings that the measures risk creating food and supply shortages.

"It was agreed that countries should lift travel bans and allow people to move between members states and allow trade but to put proper measures for screening," Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, the African Union's chairperson, said after the meeting.

"We expect them [all member countries of the 54-nation bloc] to implement [the decision] as agreed," she told journalists. (EurActiv 09-09-2014)

CONFERENCE ON INVESTMENT OPENS IN TUNISIA

Many participants from several American, European, African and Arab Gulf countries are taking part in the conference on investment that opened Monday morning in the Tunisian capital, Tunis, on the theme “Invest in Tunisia, a country of growing democracy”, official sources told PANA here.

The conference, whose opening ceremony was presided over by the Tunisian Prime minister, Mehdi Jomaa, is being attended by several international financial institutions like the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the European investment bank and other investors from different regions of the world.

Tunisia will, during the conference, present about 20 reference projects in the sectors of new technologies, renewable energy sources, industry, tourism and trade.

Opening the conference, the head of the Tunisian government said his government would continue its economic and social reforms in a bid to establish a State which would offer service to its citizens.

“Among the objectives of my government is essentially the country’s economic development,' he said, stressing that the government had adopted a series of structural reforms.

Also speaking, the French Prime Minister, Manuel Valls, and the French foreign affairs minister, Laurent Fabius, took their turn in hailing the conference, saying it came as a result of a cooperation that began several months ago.

They praised Tunisia, saying its successes were as a result of the strength of its civil society and the capacity of the country to achieve consensus on several problems.

They said 2014 should be made a decisive year in the strengthening of the 2011 gains, particularly those related to the adoption of a new constitution and preparations for general elections. (Pana 09/09/2014)

SOUTH AFRICA KEY TO SUCCESS OF CONGO’S INGA 3 PROJECT

South Africa’s undertaking to purchase half of the power produced by the Democratic Republic of Congo’s Inga 3 hydroelectric scheme was the key to making the project bankable, Congolese Water Resources and Electricity Minister Bruno Kalala said in Cape Town on Tuesday.

The Inga 3 project, which is part of an ambitious plan to harness the power of the Congo River, will be an important catalyst for industrial development in Africa.

At a ceremony at which he signed a co-operation agreement with his South African counterpart, Tina Joemat-Pettersson, Mr Kalala said the off-take agreement from SA to purchase 2,500MW of Inga 3’s 4,800MW was a key step in the development of the project.

Tuesday’s agreement was a formality, pending the formal ratification of the Grand Inga Treaty endorsed by the Cabinet last week. It will allow South African government officials to start work on providing support to the Congolese government for the project.

Ms Joemat-Pettersson said officials from her department were providing advice and support to the Congo ahead of the tender process.

Mr Kalala said the feasibility study was funded by the African Development Bank but "a reliable purchaser" was needed to take the project to the next stage.

Good relations between the presidents of the two countries, the existence of a transmission line from the Congo to SA, and investors’ belief that SA was a reliable market, made it a more attractive purchaser than other African countries.

"It is a market where people are serious about business and where they pay their bills, which is why SA is the first place to which we will export," he said.

The Congo has ambitions to become a major power exporter and has recently liberalised its electricity market to attract private investors.

The construction of Inga 3 will be undertaken through a public-private partnership but will be operated privately. It was therefore not possible to say what tariffs would be "as it will be part of the criteria that will determine the operator", he said.

The first power from Inga 3 is expected in 2020. Inga 1 and Inga 2 were constructed in 1970 and 1982. When all seven phases are complete, the grand Inga scheme is expected to produce 40,000MW — almost the size of SA’s generating capacity.

Ms Joemat-Pettersson said that given energy constraints, SA had to act to secure supply from Inga and Eskom would soon sign the off-take agreement. "We can’t wake up in 2020 and say we want power. We

will have missed the boat and that energy will have been sold," she said. SA was an off-taker and "a development partner" for the scheme, she said.
The construction process is expected to create a wide range of opportunities for South African companies, said Mr Kalala. (BD 10-09-2014)

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UPCOMING EVENTS

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HEALTH	SOUTH AFRICA	INNOVATION	INFRASTRUCTURE
			

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