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AFRICAN UNION - EUROPEAN UNION SUMMIT INVESTING IN YOUTH FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

The 5th African Union - European Union Summit took place on 29-30 November in Abidjan, under the overarching theme of Youth. The Summit brought together leaders from 55 African Union and 28 European Union Member States.

The EU was represented by the President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker and the President of the Council of the EU Donald Tusk, joined by the High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy & Vice-President of the European Commission Federica Mogherini, Vice-President responsible for the EU's Digital Single Market Andrus Ansip and Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development Neven Mimica. The African Union was represented by the President of the African Union Alpha Condé and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Moussa Faki Mahamat.

In their political declaration, the European and African leaders set out their joint commitment to invest in youth for a sustainable future. Concretely, they committed to focussing their work on four strategic priorities. On this basis, the European and African Union Commission will put forward concrete projects and programmes within three months.

Mobilising investments for African structural and sustainable transformation

European leaders presented, and African partners welcomed the EU's innovative External Investment Plan (EIP), which will mobilise €44 billion of private investments for sustainable development and job creation. Special attention will be paid to enhancing entrepreneurship of women and young people. The

newly launched Sustainable Business for Africa Platform (SB4A) will allow for structured dialogue with the European and African private sector.

Investing in people through education, science, technology and skills development

The importance of supporting inclusive education and vocational training was highlighted. Leaders also agreed to enhance the mobility of students, staff and academics across the African continent, as well as exchange programmes between Africa and Europe, such as ERASMUS+.

Strengthening Resilience, Peace, security and governance

Leaders will step up their work to enhance peace and security on both continents. In this regard, they will strengthen strategic, political and operational cooperation between the African Union and European Union, in close partnership with the United Nations. Support to ongoing work to fight against terrorism was reiterated, including the Multinational Joint Task Force against Boko Haram, the Joint Force of the G5 Sahel and the African Union Mission in Somalia, to all of which the EU is the biggest contributor.

Managing mobility and migration

European and African leaders reaffirmed their strong political commitment to address the root causes of irregular migration in a spirit of genuine partnership and shared responsibility, and in full respect of international laws and human rights, as well as creating legal pathways for migration. Leaders committed to deepen cooperation on migration and mobility in a joint framework, including a continental dialogue between Africa and Europe.

They stressed the imperative need to improve the conditions of migrants and refugees in Libya, and to undertake all necessary action to provide them with the appropriate assistance and to facilitate their voluntary repatriation to their countries of origin, as well as durable solutions for refugees. In order to jointly address the dramatic situation of migrants and refugees victims of criminal networks, in particular inside Libya, President Jean-Claude Juncker, and High Representative/Vice

President Federica Mogherini, United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission Moussa Faki Mahamat agreed to set up a joint EU-AU-UN Task Force to save and protect lives of migrants and refugees along the routes and in particular inside Libya. Furthermore, efforts will be intensified to enhance intra-African mobility and the free movement of persons within Africa.

EU SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VISITS THE GAMBIA



On October 28-November 1, the EU Special Representative for Human Rights, Mr. Stavros Lambrinidis, visited The Gambia.

The aim of the visit was to meet with government officials and civil society organisations with a focus on human rights and EU-Gambia relations, as well as to attend the EU-AU Human Rights Dialogue and the 61st session of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights. He was accompanied by Director and Deputy Managing

Director for Africa at the EEAS, Mrs. Birgitte Markussen and other delegation members.



The delegation engaged in high-level bilaterals with The Gambia's Vice President, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Justice, Minister of Interior, Minister of Trade, Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, the Chair of the Inter-party Committee and the Chief Justice as well as members of the National Assembly.



On October 30th the EU Special Representative for Human Rights, Mr. Stavros Lambrinidis, met with the President of The Gambia, H.E. Adama Barrow, at the presidential residence in Fajara, The Gambia where he reaffirmed the EU's support to the democratic transition in the country.

EU DIRECTOR AND DEPUTY MANAGING DIRECTOR FOR AFRICA VISITS EU PROJECT SITES IN THE GAMBIA



facilitating their insertion in the labour market. The informal, short-term and hands-on approach as well as the focus on skills in high demand (satellite TV and solar panels installation and repair) is proving very successful.



The third project visited, "Evidence into Action: Applied Research and Knowledge Transfer for Management and Prevention of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in The Gambia" in the West Coast Region, aims at eradicating FGM of young Gambian girls. Although it was officially outlawed in 2015, it is still a widespread practice in the country. The project, implemented by Wassu Gambian Kafo (a Spanish-Gambian NGO) works through advocacy and awareness-raising on health and other negative impacts of FGM. One community has been declared FGM free thanks to this initiative and progress is being made in other communities where the project is active.

On October 28-November 1, Director and Deputy Managing Director for Africa, Birgitte Markussen, visited The Gambia. During the visit, DMD Markussen and the Brussels delegation visited 3 different EU-funded projects around the country.

The first project, "Building Resilience through Social Transfers for Nutrition Security in The Gambia", implemented by UNICEF in partnership with the Gambia's National Nutrition Agency in the North Bank Region, aims at improving maternal-child nutrition and overall health during the first two years of the child, combining medical follow up, training of practitioners and direct financial support to the mothers with a view to reduce child mortality and malnutrition.

The second project, "Youth Empowerment Project (YEP)" in the Banjul region, provides technical and entrepreneurial training to unemployed young men and women, including returned migrants, with the aim of





THE EU FUNDED “POST CRISIS RESPONSE TO FOOD AND NUTRITION INSECURITY” PROJECT GETS MOBILE



On 17 November 2017, 21 motorbikes for use by Government Agriculture extension agents working under the EU funded “Post Crisis Response to Food and Nutrition Insecurity” project were officially handed over to the Ministry of Agriculture.

Hon. Omar A Jallow, Minister of Agriculture received the consignment on behalf of his Ministry at a ceremony held at the FAO premises in Fajara. The Minister of Agriculture, Omar A Jallow thanked the EU and FAO for responding to the needs of people of The Gambia. He noted that the assistance will encourage and improve agriculture in the country. The activity was the latest in a series of activities run by FAO to support Agriculture under the project via establishment of Farmer Field Schools in LRR, CRR South, CRR North, URR and NBR for up to 10,000 farmers interested in adopting agriculture techniques that are climate smart and provide better nutrition.

The “Post Crisis” project is EURO 11.5 million or in local currency around 600 million Dalasi in grant aid assistance funded from an exceptional B allocation of the 11th European Development Fund. It is 29 months in duration and started on 15th January 2017. The project is providing support to rural communities remaining vulnerable to food and nutrition insecurity. It is 100% fully funded by the European Union and implemented by three UN Agencies (FAO/WFP and UNICEF) under a co-delegation agreement, with overall responsibility for project implementation undertaken by FAO.”