

Newsletter N° 40 - December 2015

The ACP Local Government Platform e-Newsletter is an electronic newsletter produced every three months by the ACP Local Government Platform (ACP-LG Platform). The editor of this e-Newsletter invites readers to make comments & contribute news on local government issues from their organisations, local authorities & countries. All former editions of the newsletter are available on the Platform website: www.acplgp.net (go to 'News', then 'Platform Newsletters'). For those who want to know about the Platform and its history, please visit the Platform website www.acplgp.net (go to 'The ACP-LG Platform', then 'Background', 'Establishment of the Platform' and 'Future orientation'). The Newsletter N 23 is a special edition to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Platform.

EC calls for proposals: open / foreseen

Various EC calls for proposals open/foreseen for some programmes of interest to local authorities can be seen at <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?do=publi.welcome>

• Non-State Actors and Local Authorities thematic programme (NSA & LA)

Countries	Deadline	Budget* (EURO)	Reference
Sierra Leone	01/03/2016	5.500.000	EuropeAid/150758/DD/ACT/SL
South Africa	23/02/2016	3.000.000	EuropeAid/150756/DD/ACT/ZA
Cuba	Open	2.000.000	EuropeAid/150708/DD/ACT/CU

• EIDHR: European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights

Countries	Deadline	Budget (EURO)	Reference
Papua New Guinea	open	295.000	EuropeAid/131030/L/ACT/PG

• Food Security

Countries	Deadline	Budget (EURO)	Reference
Madagascar	open	1.700.000	EuropeAid/134180/M/ACT/MG

• Various fields in ACP countries

Countries	Deadline	Budget (EURO)	Reference
Côte d'Ivoire	01/02/2016	4.600.000	EuropeAid/137537/ID/ACT/CI
Mauritius	open	56.000.000 (MUR)	EuropeAid/134113/M/ACT/MU
All ACP	open	7.000.000	EuropeAid/130741/D/ACT/Multi

Paris Conference of Parties on Climate Change - COP21

Climate Summit for Local Leaders at Paris City Hall

Paris 4 December 2015 - The Climate Summit for Local Leaders, co-chaired by Anne Hidalgo, Mayor of Paris, and Michael Bloomberg, United Nations Secretary General's Special Envoy for Cities and Climate Change, brought together more than a thousand mayors and local leaders from around the world to highlight the commitments of cities and communities and to contribute to the success of COP21. At the Paris City Hall, local leaders emphasised the importance of climate action and highlighted the role of cities and regions.

"We have not come to Paris to make history, said former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, but rather to build the future". He is UN Special Envoy for Cities and Climate Change, and underlined that, in the United States, global warming is a threat to every city and every region.

He insisted that local authorities have the power to act: approximately 70% of global greenhouse gas emissions come from urban areas, where 50% of the global population lives.

Local leaders adopted a common declaration, committing to "support ambitious long-term climate goals such as a transition to 100 percent renewable energy in our communities, or a **80 percent greenhouse gas emissions reduction by 2050.**"

Greenpeace welcomed the outcome, saying that "this declarations by cities for the climate once again shows that it is communities that are leading the way in the energy transition." Jean-François Julliard, managing director of Greenpeace France, said that "local leaders know the realities on the ground and what is possible, and they prepare the ground." Proven innovative policies and mechanisms are unlocking investment for much-needed climate-smart infrastructure in cities, according to a new report launched on 4 December 2015 at Paris City Hall by United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and international partners.

"Your efforts enable your citizens to reduce their carbon footprint, breathe cleaner air and live more healthy lives," Mr. Ban told mayors and local leaders from all regions of the world during the Climate Summit for Local Leaders, taking place on the margins of the COP21.

During the COP21, governments had been meeting to adopt an ambitious global climate change agreement to limit global temperature rise to below two degrees Celsius. The UN chief said mayors and local leaders "are essential to this effort." "You know, from the ground up, how important it is to translate words into action," he told them. "Your example can inspire national governments to act more boldly."

The UN chief is also underlining that the recommendations of The State of City Climate Finance can help unlock the capital needed to make major investments for climate action in cities: "We know these solutions can work - they just need to be scaled up. I urge governments, banks and the international community to act on these practical recommendations."

The report makes five recommendations for mobilizing investment in low-emission, climate-resilient urban infrastructure. It analyses the obstacles that many cities face in obtaining the financing they need, including uncertainty over regulatory and tax policies, lack of expertise in project development, lack of control over infrastructure planning, high transaction costs and lack of proven funding models at the city and regional level.

According to the UN, urban areas account for over 70% of energy-related CO2 emissions, and the world's cities produce almost half of all global greenhouse gas emissions. Cities are also on the front lines of climate impacts and urgently need to build resilience, with more than 80% of the overall annual global costs of adaptation to climate change estimated to be borne by urban areas, according to the World Bank.

"There is no way that we get to two degrees or to 1.5 degrees without building and living in, and transporting ourselves around cities in a very different way than we do today," Rachel Kyte, the World Bank Group's Special Envoy for Climate Change, told the UN News Centre in an interview.

"At the same time cities are growing. In the next 30 years another two billion people will move into cities, and so we have to find a way to help cities get the financing necessary to become liveable, green, clean, competitive, job-rich cities," she added.

Sources:

<http://www.cop21.gouv.fr/en/climate-summit-for-local-leaders-at-paris-city-hall/>

http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=52731#.Vmlj_btliUk

Useful links:

State of City Climate Finance

<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2015/12/state-of-city-climate-finance/>

Paris City Hall Declaration: a decisive contribution to COP21

http://www.uclg.org/sites/default/files/climate_summit_final_declaration.pdf

Compact of Mayors: <http://www.compactofmayors.org/>

Local Government Climate Roadmap: <http://www.iclei.org/climate-roadmap/advocacy/unfccc/lgma-at-unfccc.html>

EU and 79 African, Caribbean and Pacific countries join forces for ambitious global climate deal

Paris, 8 December 2015 - The European Union and the group of 79 African, Caribbean and Pacific States stressed their shared commitment for an ambitious and binding global climate deal to be agreed in Paris.

The EU and the African, Caribbean and Pacific states have agreed:

- the Paris Agreement must be legally binding, inclusive, fair, ambitious, durable and dynamic
- it must set out a clear and operational long-term goal which is in line with science
- it must establish a review mechanism for countries to come together every five years to consider progress made and to enhance collective and individual efforts as appropriate
- it must include a transparency and accountability system to track progress on the delivery of national commitments and the sharing of best practice

EU Climate Action and Energy Commissioner Miguel Arias Cañete and Secretary-General of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, Patrick Gomes, welcomed the signing of the 11th European Development Fund Intra-ACP Strategy by the ACP Group and the European Commission, which allocates €475 million to support climate action, resilience building and the environment in ACP countries up to 2020.

Commissioner Miguel Arias Cañete said: *"These negotiations are not about "them" and "us". These negotiations are about all of us, both developed and developing countries, finding common ground and solutions together. This is why the EU and the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries have agreed to join forces for an ambitious outcome here in Paris. We urge other countries to join us. Together we can do it. The EU stands shoulder to shoulder with its long term partners in the African, Caribbean and Pacific regions"*.

ACP Secretary General Patrick Gomes stressed the importance of supporting ACP Countries to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change, stating: *"The EU and the ACP Group represent a great majority of countries in the world and we want an ambitious Paris Agreement to accelerate the global transition that we urgently need. Now is the time for leaders to be ambitious. The adverse impacts of climate change threaten the world as a whole, including the very survival of the 79 countries of the ACP Group, while impeding their achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals"*.

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-6273_en.htm

ACP Declaration on the Paris Climate Change Conference (COP21)

<http://www.acp.int/content/acp-council-ministers-declaration-paris-climate-change-conference-cop21>

News from the EU

EC: Closing Ceremony of the European Year for Development

The closing ceremony for the European Year for Development 2015 (EYD 2015) taking place on 9 December in Luxembourg marked the culmination of a successful campaign. It saw partners such as youth groups, international organisations, members of the public, NGOs, the private sector, schools and universities from all over the EU, and worldwide, come together in a wide range of events, debates, and initiatives on international development. This is the first ever 'European Year' dedicated to external relations. 2015 has been a pivotal year for development cooperation: the year when the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) came to an end and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were put in place. During the UN Summit in September, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted, which will set the course for international cooperation and development up to 2030. 2015 also saw the Financing for Development

Conference take place in Addis Ababa, as well as the Climate Change Conference of Parties (or 'COP') in Paris. The ongoing migration and refugee crisis also clearly shows the vital role that international development can play in tackling the root causes of irregular migration - helping to improve stability and to create jobs and opportunities in the different regions of the world, particularly for young people.

Source: CTA Newsletter N 473

News from the ACP-EU

Recall: Public consultation on the future of the EU's partnership with the ACP countries - Deadline 31 December 2015

As previously announced through a separate email to all ACP local government, the EC & EEAS are jointly launching this public consultation on the ACP-EU future cooperation. High Representative / Vice-President of the European Commission, Federica Mogherini said: "The relationship between the EU and ACP countries has moved beyond development cooperation and trade over the last two decades. So it's time to assess our cooperation to identify new ways for our partnership on the common challenges and interests that we all share." European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Neven Mimica, added: "By launching the public consultation, we are opening a debate to see on which issues a future partnership could focus on and how this could be turned into an effective vehicle to promote our common interest, given the so many challenges we are confronted with." The consultation is online and accessible at http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/public-consultation-eu-ACP-new-partnership_en.

The document for the consultation is accessible at the same site. Another useful document is accessible at http://brussels.cta.int/images/EPRD_ACP-EU_Post-Cotonou_Final_Report.pdf

EU- West Africa Economic Partnership Agreement.

The Economic Partnership agreement between the West African states, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) and the European Union (EU) is now publically available. Economic and trade partnership for sustainable development is dealt with under part 1 of the agreement. Agriculture, fisheries and food security is dealt with under part 2 of the agreement, entitled trade policy and questions concerning trade. The agreement notes that the parties support efforts of the West African region with regard to the sustainable management of forests, fisheries and the emergence of modern agriculture. It notes that they shall therefore initiate and implement innovative forms of trade favourable to the preservation of natural resources.

http://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-13370-2014-INIT/en/pdf?utm_source=brussels.cta.int+feb+2014&utm_campaign=de3448dc4a-CTA_Brussels_Office_Newsletter_466_23_10_2015&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f50a0786c3-de3448dc4a-78361057&goal=0_f50a0786c3-de3448dc4a-78361057&mc_cid=de3448dc4a&mc_eid=4454c92803

EU - EAC Economic Partnership Agreement.

The European Union (EU) and East African Community (EAC) Economic Partnership Agreement text is available online. The agreement covers areas including trade in goods, fisheries, agriculture, economic and development cooperation amongst others. The Agreement includes Multilateral safeguards, including on agriculture (see Article 49). Part IV of the EPA text deals directly with Agriculture and outlines the objective of the agreement of sustainable development, which includes but is not limited to food and livelihoods security, rural development and poverty reduction in the EAC Partner States. Other articles outline cooperation on comprehensive dialogue; regional integration; enabling policies; sustainable agricultural development; food and nutrition security; value chain management; early warning systems; technology; protection and marketing of agricultural commodities and more.

http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2015/october/tradoc_153845.compressed.pdf?utm_source=brussels.cta.int+feb+2014&utm_campaign=de3448dc4a-CTA_Brussels_Office_Newsletter_466_23_10_2015&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f50a0786c3-de3448dc4a-78361057&goal=0_f50a0786c3-de3448dc4a-78361057&mc_cid=de3448dc4a&mc_eid=4454c92803

The Pacific region wishes to resume negotiations on EPA

Leaders of the Pacific region requested the responsible in charge of EPA negotiations with the European Union (EU) to explore all solutions. Given the stalemate of negotiations for 11 years now, the UE has recently suggested to suspend the negotiations for a 3-year period. During a recent meeting of leaders of the Pacific ACP countries in Port Moresby, the President of the Forum and PNG Prime Minister, Peter O'Neill, declared that the leaders would like the Pacific region to go on with the negotiations with the EU, with a view to signing a global EPA. In this respect, a meeting with senior officials of the European Commission is foreseen in December 2015.

Source: CTA Newsletter N 463 FR

News from the ACP

Resolutions, Declarations of the 102nd session of the ACP Council of Ministers

The ACP Council of Ministers concluded its 102nd session on 25th November 2015 with a renewed commitment to ensuring the success of the upcoming 8th Summit of ACP Heads of State and Government in 2016, which will be a pivotal point for the organisation, as it undergoes a review and reorientation process to position itself as a more effective global player. Council approved the offer from Papua New Guinea to host the 8th Summit in its capital city Port Moresby from 30 May - 1 June 2016 under the theme: "Repositioning the ACP Group to respond to the challenges of Sustainable Development". The Summit is expected to pronounce a clear direction on the future of the ACP Group as an organisation, in terms of how it delivers on the sustainable development goals of its Member States and populations, as well as the future

partnership between the ACP countries and the European Union. The Summit will also consider recommendations for organisational reforms, informed by the report of the ACP Eminent Persons Group chaired by former President of Nigeria Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, which is due in early 2016, and that of the Ambassadorial Working Group on Future Perspectives, which was approved by Council in December 2014.

Along with the endorsing of the preparations for the 8th Summit, the ACP Council of Ministers passed 13 decisions, four resolutions and two declarations on other key matters, including the following:

Climate Change Declaration

The ACP Council of Ministers reaffirmed that the adverse impact of climate change threatens the very survival of the 79 ACP countries, and poses immediate and long term significant risks to their sustainable development efforts. In the lead up to the Paris Climate Change Conference (COP21), the ACP Council of Ministers declared that the new agreement to be adopted at the conference must be a legally binding agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, while urging developed countries to take the lead in further reducing greenhouse gas emissions to support efforts to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees below pre-industrial levels by the end of the century. The Council emphasised the need to scale up climate finance, and highlighted other issues of concern in an ACP Issues Paper which was endorsed to support Member States in their negotiations at the COP21 conference.

Trade matters and ACP-EU Economic Partnership Agreements

The ACP Council of Ministers passed a resolution reiterating that the conclusion and implementation of Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA) between the ACP regions and the EU must be balanced, with a view to speeding up sustainable and inclusive development of ACP countries. The Council reaffirmed the need for additional EU resources, set up in special EPA Funds, while also increasing aid for trade financing. To date, the Caribbean region (CARIFORUM) is the only one currently implementing a full EPA with the EU, while the Southern African Development Community EPA Group, the East Africa Community, and West Africa have completed negotiations for full EPAs, to be signed and ratified by October 2016. At the same time, several other countries are already implementing interim EPAs at the bilateral level. The ACP Council thus called on the EU to speed up EPA negotiations with the remaining regions.

Council also endorsed the Declaration by the ACP Trade Ministers on the 10th WTO Ministerial Conference, to be held in Nairobi, Kenya from 15-18 December, which calls on WTO member countries to affirm their commitment to the Doha Development Agenda, in particular on the core areas in the negotiations that are important to developing countries.

Resolution: <http://acp.int/sites/acpsec.waw.be/files/102nd%20Council%20Decisions%20Resolutions.pdf>

Source: CTA Newsletter N 472 EN

Abaiang's IDC's Training on "Leadership, Human Rights and Good Governance for CC", 19 October 2015, Kiribati

Over 30 members of the Abaiang's IDC and Councillors spent a week to learn their roles and about 'Leadership, Human Rights and Good Governance in relation to Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management'. The training was coordinated by SPC's RRRT, in partnership with the government ministries (OB, MWYSA and MIA), SPREP, GIZ and KiLGA.

The training workshop was opened by the Vice President, Hon. Teima Onorio, witnessed by Ms. Saitofi Mika, the Secretary of the Office of Te Beretitenti, members of the Kiribati National Expert Group on Climate Change (KNEC) and other officials. In her remarks, the Vice President told the participants that the training was important and would allow the IDC and Council of Abaiang to learn new knowledge, skills and values to be better prepared to deal with Climate Change and Natural Disasters. This way, they would be more effective and better able to help members of the Abaiang communities, including vulnerable groups such as persons with disabilities.

The Vice President said that Abaiang, together with Tabiteuea North, have been selected by Cabinet in 2013, as sites for the Whole of Island (WOI) Approach projects, because of their plight from Climate Change, their physical and population size, existence of government institutions on them and other factors.

The Vice President also acknowledged the generous assistance offered by supporters of the WOI projects for Abaiang, including SPC, RRRT, GIZ, SPREP and USAID and concluded by saying that the 'development of Abaiang means the development of Kiribati'.

Source: KiLGA Newsletter, Vol 5, Issue 10, 31 October 2015 - www.kilga.org.ki

News on Post-2015 global development agenda

Post-2015: "do development differently," says ACP SG

In a recent interview, ACP Secretary General Patrick Gomes explained the importance of the newly adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and how they reflect the five strategic domains the ACP Group. In its bid to reposition itself as a more effective organisation in the global arena, the ACP group shall focus on the following domains: rule of law and good governance; global justice and human security; intra-ACP trade, industrialisation and regional integration; building sustainable, resilient and creative economies; as well as financing for development. ACP SG Gomes added that South-South and Triangular Cooperation also informs the Group's approach to all these domains. Additionally, the ACP Group has also called for the establishment of a vulnerability index that takes into consideration the specific challenges that affect a country's ability to develop. This is linked to what the ACP SG has defined as the need to do development differently in the post-2015 era i.e. quantitatively, traditional Official Development Assistance (ODA) is simply not enough to address the development demands of ACP countries.

Source: CTA Newsletter N 466 EN

Announcement

Facilitating multi-stakeholder partnerships and institutional change, 17 October-4 November 2016, The Hague

This course covers state-of-the-art thinking about designing and facilitating multi stakeholder partnerships (MSPs) and institutional change. You will learn what MSPs are, why we need them, what their key elements are and how to design and facilitate them. We will work highly interactive by building on participant's own experiences. You will have plenary discussions, work on group assignments, engage in role-plays and undertake fieldwork to explore a real life MSP. You will practice a wide range of participatory methodologies and tools. The facilitators follow a flexible programme that allows adaptation to the specific needs of individuals and the group. Upon completion of the course you will be able to:

- understand the concept and rationale of multi-stakeholder partnerships and institutional change;
- have a good insight into the key principles for effective MSPs;
- analyse different types of multi-stakeholder partnerships in terms of the issues at stake, the stakeholders, their interests, power relations and conflicts;
- use a broad range of participatory methodologies and tools in MSPs;
- design an extended MSP;
- assess the impact of your personal style in facilitation, communication, leadership and dealing with conflicts.

Practical information

The course fee is €3,875.

Interested candidates can apply for admission to the training via the website. After reviewing, Centre for Development Innovation will send you the admission letter and instructions on how to continue. Please note that there is a limited time span in which you can apply for NFP funding. For NFP applicants, the application procedure is 2 steps: registration for the short course at CDI, and submitting an application for NFP in Atlas.

Course date: 17 October - 04 November 2016

Deadline NFP fellowships: 22 March 2016

Deadline alternative funding: 05 September 2016

Application procedure and on-line application form:

<https://cdicourse.wageningenur.nl/CDIprod/PagesCDI/AccountControl/Login.aspx?id=3763&language=en>

NFP Fellowships

Nuffic has a limited number of fellowships available for nationals of the countries listed in the following link https://www.studyinholland.nl/scholarships/highlighted-scholarships/netherlands-fellowship-programmes/nfp-country-list?utm_source=Measuremail&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=CDI

After you completed your registration for this course, and you are eligible for NFP funding, you will receive an admission letter with further instructions on the NFP application procedure.

Applications for NFP fellowships should be submitted online via the ATLAS application form **between 04 February and 22 March 2016**. The link and further instructions are given in the NFP admission letter.

For the latest information on NFP please check:

<https://www.studyinholland.nl/scholarships/highlighted-scholarships/netherlands-fellowship-programmes/netherlands-fellowship-programmes-nfp>

Reading

The European Parliament adopted a Resolution on the role of local authorities in developing countries in development cooperation. It stresses that the new guidelines set out in the Commission's communication on LAs and on recognising their role as state stakeholders need to be translated into the effective implementation of European cooperation.

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P8-TA-2015-0336+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&language=EN>

Making Multi-Stakeholder Initiatives Work. This report by the Global Development Incubator, draws on over 30 interviews with early funders or implementers on Making Multi-Stakeholder Initiatives Work. When is an MSI the best-suited solution to address a global development problem? What can an MSI do in its early days to be most effective?

<http://www.globaldevincubator.org/current-initiatives/making-multi-stakeholder-initiatives-work/>

Harmonisation and alignment principles have contributed to health and education outcomes in Zambia. Implementation of good aid principles has been insufficient to overcome the negative side effects of uncoordinated and fragmented aid. This article from the German Development Institute reviews evidence from recent in-depth country work on the extent to which the harmonisation and alignment principles have contributed to health and education outcomes in Zambia.

<http://www.die-gdi.de//externe-publikationen/article/donor-coordination-for-effective-government-policies/>

China-Africa relations. The European Journal of Development Research has brought together articles on China-Africa relations and looks at trade, investment, global politics and development.

<http://www.palgrave.com/page/detail/the-power-of-the-chinese-dragon-/?sf1=barcode&st1=9781137574480>

The concept of resilience and how a focus on society's strengths might contribute to more effective peacebuilding.

<http://www.interpeace.org/2015/11/announcing-a-new-edition-of-the-journal-of-peacebuilding/>

Annual Action Programme 2015 for the Pan-African Programme

http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/annual-action-programme-2015-pan-african-programme_en

State fragility and state building in Africa - Cases from Eastern and Southern Africa. Effective states can be built on the African continent, resulting in a change from state fragility to state resilience. This assertion is based on lessons learned from studies of the nations where the state has been most developed, in Eastern and Southern Africa. With the drivers of fragility and the impact of fragility on citizens and neighbouring states in mind, this book from the United Nations University discusses capacity building approaches.

http://www.cris.unu.edu/UNU-CRIS-UNU-Institute-on-Comparative-Regional-In.178.0.html?&tx_ttnews%5Btt_news%5D=1696&cHash=a1b0cada530c3dc44064a5af659878c9

Fragile statehood as deficiencies in one or more of the core functions of the state: authority, capacity and legitimacy. This Third World Quarterly article suggests a route towards operationalisation that maintains this multidimensionality.

<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/01436597.2015.1038340#.Vlg7dbuFOUk>

The forthcoming review of the European Consensus on Development to make Policy Coherence for Development.

<http://international-development.eu/2015/11/11/policy-coherence-for-development-not-just-for-works/>

The challenges posed by the global crisis reinforce the importance of implementing strategies for development as opposed to leaving the economy to market forces. This UNCTAD paper looks at the general issues that all developing countries need to handle in light of recent economic trends and the challenged posed by the global crisis.

<http://unctad.org/en/pages/PublicationWebflyer.aspx?publicationid=1376>

The eighth Mutual Review of Development Effectiveness in Africa covers four broad policy areas: sustainable economic growth, investing in people's well-being, good governance and financing for sustainable development. It provides an in-depth review of the implementation of commitments in 19 individual topics and considers future policy priorities.

http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/development/the-mutual-review-of-development-effectiveness-in-africa-2015_9789264247642-en

Time to take the challenge of rapid urbanisation in fragile contexts seriously says the Broker in their Sahel Watch.

<http://www.thebrokeronline.eu/Blogs/Sahel-Watch-a-living-analysis-of-the-conflict-in-Mali/Time-to-take-the-challenge-of-rapid-urbanization-in-fragile-contexts-seriously>

Tralac provides an update on Economic Partnership Agreements between the EU and African regions. Although the finalisation of the signing and ratification process remains tentative, the preparations towards implementation of the EPA texts and efforts to align them with the African Continental Free Trade Area process are welcome developments.

<http://www.tralac.org/discussions/article/8429-update-on-economic-partnership-agreements-between-the-eu-and-african-regions.html>

UK DFID's rapid evidence assessment focuses on the poverty impacts of business environment reforms in terms of increasing incomes and employment. Business environment reform does contribute to poverty reduction, but through indirect links rather than a direct impact.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/business-environment-reform-and-poverty-rapid-evidence-assessment>

This policy briefing from SAIIA is based on a collaborative research effort comparing four international peer-review processes - the AU's African Peer Review Mechanism, the UN's Universal Periodic Review, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development's Anti-Bribery Convention Review and the Open Government Partnership.

<http://www.saiia.org.za/policy-briefings/a-next-generation-peer-review-what-does-the-open-government-partnership-have-to-offer>

The New Deal-2030 Agenda integration process should be used to reassess progress and priorities within each country context and identify what might have been missing in the New Deal framework, says Saferworld in its publication

<http://www.saferworld.org.uk/resources/view-resource/1017-the-2030-agenda-and-the-new-deal-where-next>

Eminent Persons Group advances work on future perspectives of ACP Group. The ACP Eminent Persons Group (EPG) made significant progress on its work on the future prospects of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group, with the aim of submitting a final report to ACP Heads of State and Government at the next ACP Summit, which Papua New Guinea has offered to host in May 2016.

<http://www.acp.int/content/eminant-persons-group-advances-work-future-perspectives-acp-group>

2015 African Economic Conference. The theme for the 2015 African Economic Conference (AEC) is Addressing Poverty and Inequality in the Post 2015 Development Agenda. As outlined in the African Union's (AU) Agenda 2063 and the Africa's Common Position on Post 2015 documents, the vision is for *"an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena."*

<http://www.afdb.org/en/aec-2015/background/>

Is global development achievable?

<http://ecdpm.org/events/global-development-achieve-lisbon-conference/>

The IMF's "Regional Economic Outlook: Sub-Saharan Africa - Dealing with the Gathering Clouds" report says that growth in sub-Saharan Africa has weakened after more than a decade of solid growth. The report discusses the fiscal and monetary policy adjustments necessary for these countries to adapt to the new international environment.

<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/reo/2015/afr/eng/sreo1015.htm>

The World Bank's "Doing Business 2016: Measuring Regulatory Quality and Efficiency" report says that entrepreneurs in 122 economies saw improvements in their local regulatory framework last year. Sub-Saharan Africa accounted for about 30% of the regulatory reforms.

<http://www.doingbusiness.org/reports/global-reports/doing-business-2016>

The OECD's "Official Development Finance for Infrastructure: Support by Multilateral and Bilateral Development Partners" contributes to the debate on how to fill the financing gap. The report includes support by major development partners that do not report to the DAC.

http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/development/official-development-finance-for-infrastructure_5jrs3sbcvzx-en

The African Development Bank published “Africa Climate Change Fund - Supporting African countries to access international climate finance: Enabling a transition towards climate resilient, low carbon development”.

http://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Project-and-Operations/Africa_Climate_Change_Fund_-_Supporting_African_countries_to_access_international_climate_finance.pdf

There are concerns about the capacity and intent of rising powers’ foreign businesses operating in Africa and claiming to be responsible corporate citizens, according to the Institute of Development Studies.

<http://www.ids.ac.uk/publication/businesses-from-the-rising-powers-traditional-or-progressive-development-partners-for-africa>

The EPA between the EU and SADC countries

http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2015/october/tradoc_153915.pdf

EC 2016 work plan

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-5923_en.htm

Global Climate Change Alliance+ Launch: EU's contribution to tackle climate change in developing countries

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-5943_en.htm

Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation - 2nd Monitoring Round 2015-2016

<http://effectivecooperation.org/wordpress/2nd-monitoring-round-2015-2016/>

The future of financing for development in Africa. African governments have shown great enthusiasm for developing innovative ideas for financing for development. To effectively raise finance for development, however, African governments will need to create conditions for inclusive economic growth and, at the same time, improve tax policy and public financial management systems. International efforts to combat illicit financial flows can help Africa to raise the resources needed to finance its development. Ultimately though, such reforms will accomplish little without political stability and inclusion, government accountability and transparency, social protection and the availability of key infrastructure and public services.

<http://ecdpm.org/publications/future-financing-development-africa-afdb/>

The World Bank-IMF “Global Monitoring Report 20015/16: Development Goals in an Era of Demographic Change” details the decline of those living in global poverty to a forecast 9.6 percent of the world’s population in 2015 and revises world economic growth projections for 2015 down to 3.3 percent. The report also analyses how profound demographic shifts could alter the course of global development.

<http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/pubdocs/publicdoc/2015/10/503001444058224597/Global-Monitoring-Report-2015.pdf>

Is adoption of governance as a SDG an empty gesture?

World Bank research indicates that a paradigm shift is underway with the adoption of governance focused Sustainable Development Goal Number 16 to “build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels”.

<http://blogs.worldbank.org/governance/adoption-governance-sdg-empty-gesture>

The World Bank’s “Poverty in a Rising Africa” shows that poverty in Africa may be lower than current estimates suggest and no systematic increase in inequality, though challenges remain substantial.

<http://www.worldbank.org/en/region/afr/publication/poverty-rising-africa-poverty-report>

The UN Development Group’s guide to mainstreaming, acceleration and policy support for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at national level focuses on policy coherence and multi-stakeholder engagement

<http://linkis.com/undg.org/wp-content/2VBxd>

Collect More - Spend Better: Achieving Development in an Inclusive and Sustainable Way”

The European Commission explains what the international community can do to support developing countries’ efforts to improve their tax systems and benefit more from their domestic resources.

<http://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-13186-2015-INIT/en/pdf>

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Compass was launched by U.N. Global Compact, the World Business Council for Sustainable Development and the Global Reporting Initiative. It is an online, open source tool to help businesses align their strategies with the 17 goals and measure their progress on SDG implementation.

<http://sdgcompass.org/>

Making African agriculture “climate-smart”. Up to nine in ten Africans work in agriculture, but agriculture is entirely climate dependent. And African agriculture will be the hardest hit by climate change, making it even more difficult for Africans to produce and to consume food. While African policy-makers are increasingly integrating a Climate-Smart Agriculture approach into their agriculture policies, agriculture also needs to become a priority of the climate agenda at all levels. This video explains what a Climate Smart Agriculture approach means in practice and whether it can really improve African agriculture.

<http://ecdpm.org/multimedia/video-making-agriculture-in-africa-climate-smart/>

African accountability: What works and what doesn't. Rather than choosing an Afro-optimistic or Afro-pessimistic approach, both of which have been prominent since the start of the 21st century, this new book from the South African Institute of International Affairs tries to adopt a balanced, Afro-realistic view, giving credit where it is due, while also pointing out deficient areas that need improvement. This edited volume brings to the fore cutting edge analysis on the contemporary African governance and accountability landscape by focusing on both domestic and continental institutions - including the African Peer Review Mechanism, African Charter on Democracy Elections and Governance, and the African Union.

<http://www.saiia.org.za/books/african-accountability-what-works-and-what-doesnt>

Annual report 2015 on the European Union's development and external assistance policies and their implementation in 2014

http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/annual-report-2015-european-unions-development-and-external-assistance-policies-and-their_en

Can cities pave the way towards a sustainable future? With rapid urbanisation, cities are at a critical juncture. They have always been a major driver of economic growth, yet urbanisation brings major challenges. In 2016 we have an opportunity to promote a new model of urban development that is able to integrate all facets of sustainable development and promote equity, welfare and shared prosperity. The important role that cities can play in development has been underlined by the UN's 11th Sustainable Development Goal which is devoted to making 'cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable'.

<http://ecdpm.org/talking-points/challenges-2016-sustainable-cities-urbanisation/>

Corruption in Africa: 75 Million People Pay Bribes. The African edition of the Global Corruption Barometer, from Afrobarometer and Transparency International finds that nearly 75 million people have paid a bribe in the past year - to escape punishment by the police or courts, or to get access to the basic services. A majority of Africans perceive corruption to be on the rise and think that their government is failing in its efforts to fight corruption.

http://www.transparency.org/news/feature/corruption_in_africa_75_million_people_pay_bribes

China-Africa: a maturing relationship? Growth, change and resilience

SAlIA livestreamed its event 'China-Africa: a maturing relationship?' looking at the growth, change and resilience of the relationship. You can watch a recording of the meeting and download all presentations.

<http://www.saiia.org.za/events/china-africa-a-maturing-relationship-change-continuity-and-resilience>

China's Xi cheers African leaders with pledge of \$60 bln for development

At the Second Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) Summit at the Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa - Chinese President Xi Jinping told African leaders his country would pump \$60 billion into development projects, cancel some debt and boost agriculture under a three-year plan that will extend Beijing's influence in the continent. Xi said China would not interfere in African countries' internal affairs, a stance that drew applause from leaders such as Zimbabwe's Robert Mugabe who have faced Western criticism of their human rights record.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFKBN0TN0M620151204?feedType=RSS&feedName=topNews>

A governance practitioner's notebook: Alternative ideas and approaches

Academics and economists agree that institutions are crucial to economic and social performance, yet exactly how development practitioners can support good institutions remains opaque and contested. The OECD-DAC Network on Governance (GovNet) brings together a collection of papers from experts offering ideas, thoughts and experiences on how to support institutions as they try to make strides forward in their governance performance.

<http://ecdpm.org/publications/governance-notebook-oecd-ecdpm/>

Multi-stakeholder partnerships in the post-2015 development agenda: Time to get down to earth?

The extremely ambitious 2030 Agenda requires the development community to act collectively, and commit adequate resources to tackle substantial and increasingly interrelated challenges: climate change, poverty, gender inequalities, and more. Acknowledging the complexity of addressing such issues, the development community underlined the need for collaboration between national or subnational governments, private sector actors and civil society actors. As a way to pull together a set of complementary and reinforcing resources, capabilities and knowledge, inclusive multi-stakeholder partnerships will be a key instrument for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Agenda.

<http://ecdpm.org/talking-points/multi-stakeholder-partnerships-in-the-post-2015-development-agenda-time-to-get-down-to-earth/>

Governance progress in Africa stalling, reports Mo Ibrahim Foundation

Progress in governance is stalling in Africa, according to the Ibrahim Index of African Governance. From 2011-14 the average overall governance score increased slightly, but with considerable changes across countries and sectors.

<http://static.moibrahimfoundation.org/u/2015/10/02185642/2015-press-release.pdf>

Economic transformation is increasingly believed to be the mechanism to make trade work for poverty reduction and development in Africa. This UNCTAD paper argues that while transformation is indeed necessary for trade to contribute to poverty reduction, the nature of transformation also matters.

<http://unctad.org/en/pages/PublicationWebflyer.aspx?publicationid=1385>

The 5th Continental Task Force (CTF) Meeting on the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) Considers Documents in Preparation of the Negotiations.

<http://ti.au.int/en/events/5th-continental-task-force-ctf-meeting-continental-free-trade-area-cfta-considers-documents-p>

Which development partners do developing countries prefer? AidData explains how decision-makers in low- and middle-income countries assess the relative performance of development partners in supporting them to address their most pressing problems. The report also examines to what extent the performance of development partners enhance or constrain the countries they seek to assist. AidData then sets out the attributes of development partner institutions that may make them more influential and useful from the perspective of public sector decision makers who are seeking to prioritise and implement reforms.

<http://aiddata.org/listening-to-leaders>

There are concerns about the capacity and intent of rising powers' foreign businesses operating in Africa and claiming to be responsible corporate citizens, according to the Institute of Development Studies.

<http://www.ids.ac.uk/publication/businesses-from-the-rising-powers-traditional-or-progressive-development-partners-for-africa>

"The SDGs are flexible enough for countries to choose what they want to emphasise" - Betty Maina

Betty Maina, member of the UN High Level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda and board member at ECDPM, explains how can the Sustainable Development Goals be implemented in the African continent.

<http://ecdpm.org/multimedia/video-betty-maina-africa-sdg/>

“ACP-EU relations cannot be business as usual after 2020”, say experts. At the African Union Commission-ECDPM-Friedrich Ebert Stiftung conference this week on the role for the African Union in ACP-EU relations, participants called for a paradigm shift in the ACP-EU partnership after 2020 that will transform the current paternalistic cooperation into economic development and trade cooperation. Experts further argued in favour of a new partnership that will take into account the new globalised context and the current dynamics of the regional integration. Next week, ECDPM will publish “The Future of ACP-EU Relations: A Political Economy Analysis Perspective”.

<http://au.int/en/pressreleases/19464/%E2%80%9Cacp-eu-relations-cannot-be-business-usual-after-2020%E2%80%9D-say-experts>

Fonds fiduciaires de l’UE - Vers une action extérieure plus intégrée? Souvent critiquée pour la lenteur de son action et la lourdeur de ses procédures, l’Union européenne a récemment introduit un nouvel instrument de coopération : les fonds fiduciaires. Ceux-ci permettent l’UE et ses États membres de répondre conjointement à des situations d’urgence ou de fragilité ou à des priorités thématiques de manière plus souple, plus intégrée et plus efficace. Les trois fonds créés à ce jour (Bekou pour la République centrafricaine, Madad pour la Syrie et le Fonds fiduciaire pour l’Afrique) abordent évidemment des problématiques très spécifiques. La Notice d’information de l’ECDPM explique en détail la nature des fonds individuels, leur fonctionnement, les enjeux politiques et opérationnels, et les défis à relever dans un proche avenir.

<http://ecdpm.org/fr/publications/fonds-fiduciaires-ue-action-exterieure-plus-integree/>

The Africa Capacity Report ACR 2015: Capacity Imperatives for Domestic Resource Mobilisation in Africa argues that the continent can rely more on mobilising domestic resources to implement its development agenda.

<http://www.acbf-pact.org/knowledge-learning/africa-capacity-report/africa-capacity-report-acr-2015>

A World Bank paper on trajectories for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) maps out the fiscal space available to countries to fulfil the SDGs and ways to leverage these resources to accelerate progress.

<https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/23122>

The Centre for Global Development’s Commitment to Development Index ranks 27 of the world’s richest countries on policies that affect the more than five billion people living in poorer nations.

<http://www.cgdev.org/publication/ft/commitment-development-index-2015>

#AfricaBlogging - This international blogger network is an new online platform featuring a plurality of voices and views supporting democratic culture and debate in Sub-Saharan Africa.

<http://www.africablogging.org/>

Illicit financial flows have grown to US\$1.1 trillion in 2013. This study from the Financial Transparency Coalition pegs cumulative illicit outflows from developing economies at US\$7.8 trillion between 2004 and 2013.

<https://financialtransparency.org/new-study-illicit-financial-flows-hit-us1-1-trillion-in-2013/>

The UN DESA’s World Economic Situation and Prospects 2016 says the world economy stumbled in 2015 and only a modest improvement is projected for 2016/17 as a number of cyclical and structural headwinds persist.

<http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/wesp/index.shtml>

An informal meeting of European Development ministers discussed the link between policies related to development and climate change, the implementation of Agenda 2030, and migration and development.

http://eeas.europa.eu/statements-eeas/2015/151210_01_en.htm

The European Parliament, the EU Council and the European Commission adopted a declaration acknowledging the achievements of the European Year for Development 2015 (EYD2015).

http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/legacy-european-year-development-2015-joint-declaration-european-parliament-council-and-european_en

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly discussed an evaluation of the African Peace Facility, illicit financial flows, and future relations with the EU.

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/intcoop/acp/2015_acp2/default_en.htm?utm_source=ECDPM+Newsletters+List&utm_campaign=a8b329e9c5-WECO_4_December_2015&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f93a3dae14-a8b329e9c5-388610901

Inaugural Meeting of the Political Heads of the African Governance Platform Members, 9-10 December 2015, Kigali, Rwanda

<http://au.int/en/newsevents/19461/inaugural-meeting-political-heads-african-governance-platform-members-9-10-december>

What’s the link between decentralised cooperation and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?

http://www.platforma-dev.eu/article.php?page_id=642&lg=en

Connecting Territories for Development

<http://www.connectingterritories4development.org/>

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