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BURUNDI :

RWANDA :

RDC CONGO :

Violences à Béni: l'implication des ADF en question

Rfi.fr/Lundi 3 Novembre 2014

La situation est toujours très tendue à Béni, dans l'est de la RDC. Ce dimanche 2 novembre, des centaines d'habitants de la ville ont manifesté leur colère pendant plusieurs heures face à l'insécurité qui règne dans leur ville après une nouvelle tuerie. Dix personnes au moins tuées dans la nuit de samedi à dimanche. Les autorités ont décrété un couvre-feu pour tenter de mieux contrôler la sécurité.

Qui est responsable de ces tueries macabres ? Voilà la question que tout le monde se pose à Béni.

Pour les autorités, pas de doute : il n'y a qu'un seul groupe armé actif dans la zone, les rebelles ougandais des ADF. Chaque nouvelle attaque leur est donc systématiquement attribuée.

Mais dans la ville, de plus en plus de personnes s'interrogent. Le mode opératoire de ces dernières tueries – l'usage de la machette pour tuer et le meurtre de civils en pleine ville – est différent de celui qu'a adopté la rébellion ougandaise ces dernières années. Ces éléments portent à croire qu'un autre groupe pourrait être derrière ces attaques ou que la nébuleuse ADF coopère avec d'autres personnes.

Autre élément qui vient compliquer l'enquête, aucun assaillant n'a été capturé vivant ces trois dernières semaines. Depuis septembre, il n'y a également eu presque aucune libération d'otages qui aurait pu donner des indices sur l'état de la rébellion ougandaise.

Seule certitude, ces attaques semblent destinées à créer la panique et exposer les faiblesses de l'Etat pour assurer la sécurité dans la zone. Non seulement elles ne se sont pas arrêtées pendant la visite du chef de l'Etat à Béni, mais il aura suffi de quelques heures après son départ pour que dix personnes au moins soient tuées.

A 13h, des tirs résonnent encore. Pendant plusieurs heures, policiers et manifestants en colère se sont affrontés. Des pierres ont volés, les balles ont sifflé. Les habitants de Béni enragent après une nouvelle tuerie la veille.

UGANDA :

Uganda: Businesswomen Need a Network-Graca Machel

By Joan Akello/The Independent (Kampala)/31 October 2014

(L-R) Graca Machel decorated with Karamojong regalia by Ruth Jessica Atal , a business woman, a widow with seven children as a symbol of appreciation of Machel's efforts to empower African women on Oct 30 at Sheraton Hotel, Kampala. Looking on is Theo, a board member of NAGW-U in the centre. The Independent/Joan Akello.While meeting Ugandan business women at Sheraton Hotel yester afternoon, Graca Machel, former first Lady of Mozambique and South Africa, urged Uganda business women to come up with a network because all other women in the other African countries face the same challenges they encounter here.

"We need a common voice" Graca said, "We need a network of African network of business women... one of the reasons we have not succeeded as much as we could is because we are fragmented."

She is urging the women therefore to strategize ways of fighting this fragmentation using the initiatives under the Graca Machel Trust, South Africa which include Network of African Businesswomen (NABW) Multiplying faces, amplifying voices. NABW, conceived in 2011 comprises a network of nine national chapters in East and Southern Africa including one in Uganda with the main focus of "increasing women's participation in the economic development of Africa."

Machel, two time widow following the demise of her second husband, South Africa's former president Nelson Mandela is in the country to meet with Uganda women and also engage with the leaders of the Network of African Business Women Uganda chapter that is run by six women board of directors with about 10,000 members. Machel has tasked the board comprising Deborah Kadu

as chairperson, Theo Sekitto Ntale, Florence Kasule, Gudula Basaza from Uganda Women Entrepreneurs Association Ltd (UWEAL) to build institutions and partnerships with women from those at the grassroots level to those at the top. Not only should the women focus on agribusiness to feed Africa first where by about 200 million Africans go hungry every day but also find out what else to venture into like tourism, oil and gas.

"The women in this country are so powerful. Please recognize the power which is in side you and you will be able to grow," Machel added, "Women are not born just to own small businesses. Women can and must get means to run medium and big business."

"You are my daughters ... my role is just to encourage you. The networks we have started to build are simply unstoppable, it is 21st century ... you have the knowledge expertise, and have a government which is really open to support your initiative, there is no reason this would not be our time."

NABW-U was established in May 2013 and formerly registered this year.

Also present at the event was the minster of Gender, Labour and Social Development Mary Karoro Okurut who said a women enterprise fund will be included in the next financial year from where women groups can access credit for business.

She lauded Machel for her efforts to see women benefit from her trust's initiatives. Karoro also announced that the state had organised a dinner in Machel's honour at State House.

SOUTH AFRICA :

Jewish demonstrators condemn anti-Israel protests in South Africa

By JTA/ November 3, 2014

South African Jewish Board of Deputies stages rally in response to pig's head being placed in store as protest against Israel

CAPE TOWN, South Africa — Jewish protesters demonstrated outside a South African chain store to condemn anti-Israel protests that they say have turned anti-Semitic.

The South African Jewish Board of Deputies umbrella body staged the demonstration Thursday outside the Sea Point store, part of the upscale national chain Woolworths, against the Congress of South African Students' Western Cape branch.

The rally was in response to a pig's head being placed in what was thought to be the store's kosher refrigerators the previous week by COSAS.

Protestors bore placards reading "Free Speech not hate speech" and "Say No To Anti-Semitism" to highlight what the board said is rising anti-Semitism and persecution of minorities, according to the daily Cape Times. The board accused the COSAS branch of intimidation, anti-Semitism and hate speech.

COSAS said its action was in protest of the store continuing to stock Israeli goods in the wake of the Israel-Gaza conflict this summer.

The board's national director, Wendy Kahn, told protesters that there had been an escalation in levels of anti-Semitism and hate speech against Jewish South Africans in the past few months, including verbal and physical threats of violence, "culminating in the ultimate anti-Semitic emblem."

She said the incident "with a pig's head being smuggled inside a baby's pram and placed in a freezer that was assumed to contain kosher meat shows a vicious and vulgar hatred. Every South African citizen who cherishes our democracy should be horrified by this."

The board has lodged a complaint against COSAS and its Western Cape provincial chairman, Siphakamise Ngxowa, with the South African Human Rights Commission. But Ngxowa said the group was fighting for human rights.

"How can they speak about the issue of the pig when children are being killed in Palestine?" he asked.

Paula Disberry, Woolworths' group director of retail operations, said the company was "appalled" by the students' action, which she described as "unacceptable and offensive."

Meanwhile, News24.com reported that the African National Congress, the country's ruling party, has "expressed concern" at COSAS' action, with its deputy secretary-general, Jessie Duarte, describing it as "misguided and extremely unfortunate." Duarte called on COSAS to "desist from further engaging in such acts."

"Our calls for solidarity with the people of Palestine and for heightened action to boycott and isolate Israel is not a call or a campaign against Judaism, nor is it anti-Semitic," she said.

S Africa plunges into loadshedding darkness

03 Nov 2014 /aljazeera.com

Power company Eskom says outages could continue for over a week in up to four cities after coal storage silo collapses.

Four major cities in South Africa have suffered power cuts due to a huge loss in output after a coal storage silo collapsed.

Blackouts on Sunday were reported in Johannesburg, South Africa's economic capital, Pretoria, Port Elizabeth and Cape Town, and could run through the whole week, the state-owned power supplier Eskom said.

Eskom lost 1,800 megawatts due to a loss of capacity at its Majuba power station in Mpumalanga in northern South Africa.

A crack in a silo that held more than 10,000 tonnes of coal on Saturday caused the loss, Eskom said, warning of blackouts between 8h00 am and 10h00 pm.

Tshediso Matona, CEO of Eskom, said the incident would exacerbate an already "tight system".

"An investigation is already underway into the cause of the incident, but it appears that this is an isolated incident specific to the coal infrastructure at Majuba".

South Africans with access to the internet took to social media to express their outrage with the outages.

Eskom has also called on residential users to turn off geysers and pool pumps until 22h00, and switch off non-essential lighting.

It feared that if there are any other supply interruptions, there could be widespread blackouts with a heavy cost to the economy, local media said.

Eskom, which supplies 95 percent of South Africa's electricity, has been struggling to meet growing demand, hobbled by years of underinvestment and ageing infrastructure.

In September, Russia signed a nuclear agreement with South Africa, in a deal to construct eight nuclear reactors at a cost of up to \$50bn, to increase its nuclear power generation capacity.

At the time, the Minister of Energy, Tina Joemat-Pettersson, said South Africa sees nuclear power as “an important driver for the national economic growth”.

“I am sure that cooperation with Russia will allow us to implement our ambitious plans for the creation by 2030 of 9.6 GW of new nuclear capacities based on modern and safe technologies,” she said in a statement.

TANZANIA :

Tanzania: Seed Production Set to Increase to 300,000 Tonnes

By Marc Nkwame/Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)/3 November 2014

Arusha — TANZANIA plans to produce a total of 300,000 metric tonnes of hybrid seeds by next year, even though the figure will account for just 50 per cent of the country's current needs.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Food Security and Cooperatives, Mr Godfrey Zambi, revealed here over the weekend that currently there was a shortage of 600,000 metric tonnes of certified hybrid seeds to boost the agricultural sector and ensuring that the country was self-sufficient in food production.

The deputy minister stated that when it becomes operational the new seed processing plant being built by African Seed Company (SeedCo) in Kisongo section of Arusha city along the main Dodoma Road it would increase the country's seed production capacity to 300,000 metric tonnes by 2015.

The new seed processing plant worth 13 million US dollars (over 22bn/-) will be one of the country's hybrid maize seed multiplication companies.

"As government, we are determined to implement the green revolution; however, a green revolution won't be attained without increasing production and use of certified seeds in the country," the minister said, calling on certified seeds producers to sit down and come up with a better strategy that would promote the effective use of improved seeds by farmers. He underscored the importance of using certified seeds in boosting the farming sector, which employs 80 per cent of Tanzania's

population.

The agriculture sector accounts for about 26 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP) and 30 per cent of foreign exchange earnings. Mr Zamboni expressed concern that despite being the sector that employs 80 per cent of the Tanzanian population of 45 million, agricultural growth had stagnated at between 4 and 5 per cent per year, adding that in order to help peasants break out of the poverty ring, it needs to grow by at least 10 per cent per annum.

"This growth rate would make the country meet the target outlined in the second National Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty (NSGRP II) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), both of which aim to reduce poverty by 50 per cent and eliminate food insecurity by 2015," the minister said.

He said it was high time seed companies produced more seeds for the country to attain a true green revolution, suggesting that urgent and deliberate efforts be taken to encourage rural farmers to embrace the use of high-yield varieties to boost productivity and make Tanzania a hunger-free nation.

Board Chairman of SeedCo East Africa, Mr Michael Nduro, said his firm had invested a total of \$13 million in Tanzania, lauding the country for its efforts towards boosting the farming sector by creating a supportive framework.

Tanzania: Stanbic Named Tanzania's Best Investment Bank

Tanzania Daily News (Dar es Salaam)/3 November 2014

STANBIC Bank has been named the best investment bank in Tanzania by EMEA Finance, a prestigious magazine, for the year 2014, while its parent company Standard Bank has been named leading investment bank in Africa for the seventh consecutive year.

"We are delighted to have retained the award for the best Investment Bank in Tanzania, which is testament to our capacity to connect offshore capital flows with domestic business opportunities.

"We would like to thank our clients for placing their trust with us, which in no small part contributed to the successes that we have achieved," said Ken Cockerill, CEO of Stanbic Bank Tanzania.

The 2014 African Banking Awards reaffirm Standard Bank's leading position in capital markets on the continent with the group also earning the title of Best Investment Bank in Angola, Botswana, Kenya, Mozambique, Rwanda and Uganda.

The awards recognise Standard Bank's depth of knowledge and expertise across the continent, with accolades received across Southern, East and West Africa.

"Despite increasing competition from regional and global banks, Standard Bank's performance in the capital markets space in Africa continues to impress us," said Christopher Moore, CEO of EMEA Finance.

Standout transactions contributing to the group's achievement of 11 awards include Kenya's US\$2bn Eurobond, the largest debut bond from an African sovereign; the block trade carried out in Uganda's Umeme and the IFC's local currency bond in Rwanda. "We are pleased to have been recognised by EMEA Finance for the seventh consecutive time.

Awards such as these are an important external endorsement of our ability to leverage our extensive presence across the continent for the benefit of our clients.

"This, combined with our unique sector expertise, cross-border and product capability give us the platform to deliver world-class capital market transactions as evidenced by our role in key deals across the continent," said David Munro, Chief Executive, Standard Bank Corporate and Investment Banking.

EMEA Finance is a leading bimonthly global industry publication that reports on the major financial events and developments initiated and influenced by the international financial industry active in Europe, Middle East and Africa (the EMEA region).

KENYA :

Kenya Probes for al-Shabaab Links After Mombasa Barracks Attack

By Joseph Burite/bloomberg.com/Nov 3, 2014

Kenyan authorities are investigating whether a raid on an army barracks in the port city of Mombasa yesterday that left six of the attackers dead is linked to al-Shabaab militants or the separatist Mombasa Republican Council.

A group of 20 youths armed with machetes and knives attacked the barracks in the city's Nyali suburb yesterday morning, Mombasa County Commissioner Nelson Marwa told reporters yesterday. One assailant was arrested and has provided information on others involved, he said.

Investigations are under way to establish if the attack is linked to al-Shabaab, which Kenya's army is fighting in neighboring Somalia, or the Mombasa Republican Council, which seeks autonomy for the coastal region, Marwa said.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack. Mombasa Republican Council Secretary-General Randu Nzai Ruwa denied any link to his organization. "We don't believe in violence -- we have always addressed all our issues through courts," he said by phone from Mombasa yesterday.

Attacks in Kenya soared after the government in 2011 sent troops into Somalia to fight al-Shabaab following a wave of kidnappings and the murder of a British tourist in Kenya that the government blamed on the group.

Last year the Islamist militia claimed responsibility for an attack on the Westgate mall in Nairobi that left 67 people dead and the country has faced bombings of bars, churches, and markets.

Kenya : 6 hommes abattus par la marine pour intrusion dans une caserne

(Source: Xinhua)/03.11.2014

L'armée kenyane a confirmé dimanche avoir abattu six hommes qui avaient tenté de s'introduire de force dans un camp de la marine dans la ville côtière de Mombasa.

Selon le porte-parole des Forces de défense kenyanes, David Obonyo, environ 15 assaillants armés de machettes ont pris d'assaut avant l'aube la caserne sous haute protection "17 Kenya Rifles" dans la zone de Nyali.

"Un attaquant non identifié armé d'une machette s'est d'abord approché d'une sentinelle, et avant que le soldat ne puisse l'interroger, d'autres assaillants ont émergé de la forêt voisine, ce qui a poussé les soldats à ouvrir le feu", a déclaré le porte-parole, joint au téléphone par Xinhua.

Les soldats de service ont immédiatement abattu cinq assaillants et en ont tué un autre lorsqu'ils ont poursuivi le groupe qui s'enfuyait vers la forêt, a-t-il indiqué, avant d'ajouter qu'un soldat avait été blessé.

ANGOLA :

AU/AFRICA :

Africa phone tower firm IHS raises \$2.6 billion

By Matt Smith/Reuters/Mon Nov 3, 2014

DUBAI

(Reuters) - Nigerian phone tower group IHS has raised \$2 billion in equity and \$600 million in debt in what it says is the biggest equity fund raising by an African company this decade.

IHS, the continent's largest tower company, will use the money to finance infrastructure spending and recently agreed acquisitions, according to a company statement on Monday.

It said the equity funding was from new and existing shareholders, but did not provide further details.

The loan facility is split into two parts: a seven-year tranche of \$500 million denominated in U.S. dollars and an eight-year tranche of \$100 million in Nigerian naira.

Ecobank, Standard Chartered, Standard Bank, Investec and the World Bank's International Finance Corporation (IFC) participated in the loan, IHS chief executive Issam Darwish told Reuters.

"This is the largest equity raising by a private entity for the past 7-8 years in Africa -- you've had mining, banks and now telecom infrastructure as a standalone sector is commanding this much interest from the international markets," said Darwish.

"This sends the right signal, it's saying the international investor community believes in Africa and they're putting a substantial amount of money behind that."

Building and maintaining mobile communications towers in Africa is typically more expensive than in other regions because of security costs and electricity shortages, while revenue per user is often lower.

That has prompted many mobile operators to sell or lease towers to specialist companies such as IHS, which can reduce building and maintenance costs by hosting multiple tenants -- mobile operators and Internet providers -- on the same towers.

In September, South Africa's MTN agreed to sell 9,151 mobile towers in Nigeria to a new joint venture with IHS in a deal MTN said would cut its costs and boost its call and data capacity in Africa's most populous country.

That was MTN's fifth tie-up with IHS following deals in Ivory Coast, Cameroon, Rwanda and Zambia.

IHS in August agreed to buy and lease back 2,136 towers from Etisalat Nigeria, a unit of Abu Dhabi's Etisalat.

Darwish said a "substantial part" of the money IHS has raised would go towards paying for its recent acquisitions, with the remainder spent on boosting its infrastructure in the five countries it operates in.

He said IHS would complete the two acquisitions soon, with one set to be concluded in a few weeks and the other shortly after that, although he declined to provide more details.

Darwish predicted demand for broadband would drive growth in Africa's telecoms sector.

"The size of the middle class in Africa is now roughly one-third (of the population) -- 15-20 years ago it was 10 percent or less," said Darwish. "Broadband penetration is extremely low, less than 10 percent, so the potential is massive and you need towers to service that."

He predicted Africa could need 200,000-300,000 mobile towers over the next 10 years to meet future broadband demand, including up to 40,000 in Nigeria alone.

IHS may raise further debt before the end of 2015.

"Things keep growing and evolving for us so we may come back to the market very soon," added Darwish.

(Editing by Mark Potter)

UN/AFRICA :

UN urges civilian transfer in Burkina Faso

03 Nov 2014/Source:Al Jazeera and agencies

UN threatens to impose economic sanctions if the army does not hand power to civilian rule.

The United Nations has threatened to impose economic sanctions on Burkina Faso, if the army does not hand over the power to civilian rule.

The army stepped into the power vacuum left by President Blaise Compaore, who was forced to

resign in the wake of violent street demonstrations over his 27-year-rule that some have likened to the Arab Spring.

UN envoy for West Africa, Mohamed Ibn Chambas, said on Sunday he had pressed the demand in a meeting with the country's top military brass.

If the army refuses, "the consequences are pretty clear", he said. "We want to avoid having to impose sanctions on Burkina Faso," he added.

The US State Department also called on the military to immediately transfer power to civilian authorities, while the European Union urged the army to respect the people's right to peaceful protest.

Unity government

On Sunday, the army vowed to install a unity government after tightening its control over the landlocked country. Troops moved into Place de la Nation in the capital Ouagadougou and took over the national television headquarters in a show of force.

West African regional bloc ECOWAS urged dialogue and restraint as one person was killed on Sunday close to the television headquarters, where soldiers fired shots in the air to disperse protesters. The army said the victim was likely struck by a stray bullet.

Opposition figures have said around 30 people have been killed in a week of violent protests. Hospital sources told AFP news agency that there had been at least six deaths, including two by gunshot wounds.

Compaore's 27 years of being in charge of Burkina Faso ended abruptly on Friday after two days of mass protests aimed at thwarting his bid to change the constitution to extend his rule.

The army then selected Lieutenant Colonel Isaac Zida as transitional leader, overriding an earlier claim by the army chief of staff.

But on Sunday there were signs of discontent with the appointment as thousands gathered in Ouagadougou to demand a return to civilian rule, in line with the West African country's constitution.

Locals blame Compaore for not doing more to tackle poverty in the nation of 17 million people by reinvesting government earnings from the gold and cotton sectors.

Neighbouring Ivory Coast confirmed on Saturday that Compaore had arrived there with his family and entourage but did not specify where he was staying.

US/AFRICA :

CANADA/AFRICA :

Ebola Update: Canada Enacts Visa Ban Against Afflicted West African Nations

By Esther Tanquintic-Misa/au.ibtimes.com/November 3, 2014

Canada has enacted a visa ban towards travellers of Ebola afflicted West African nations Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone. The government of the latter has called the measure an act of discrimination.

The ban, Chris Alexander, Canada's immigration minister, explained was a precautionary measure "taken to protect the health and safety of Canadians here at home." Theo Nicol, Sierra Leone's deputy information minister, however blasted the measure because it undermined whatever compassion Canada supposedly wanted to show the global community for the Ebola hardest-hit nations. He told AFP the ban was implemented without consideration to the "interests of west African states in mind," noting that as members of Commonwealth of nations, "Sierra Leone particularly feels we should share common understanding and goodwill."

Apart from withholding new visa issuances, existing Canadian visa applications of foreign nationals who planned to travel to an Ebola-affected nation have likewise been blocked. Ofwono Opondo, Ugandan government spokesman, said the measure isn't being helpful in the sense that the Western countries are the ones creating the mass panic among the global community. The Canadian visa ban "is unhelpful in containing a contagious disease like Ebola," Opondo said.

Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary General had said the travel restrictions are worrying because it will severely impede global efforts to curb and stop Ebola. The visa ban effectively prevents foreign trained health workers to go to west Africa to become volunteers and join the frontline campaign against the disease.

David Fidler of the Indiana University, an international law expert cited by the National Post said the visa ban threatens to destroy the principle of the International Health Regulations. The treaty, drafted following the aftermath of the 2003 SARS outbreak, lists Canada as one of its signees.

Canada is one of two nations that imposed the visa ban. The other was Australia. Canada, however, does not have direct flight connections with West Africa. It also has not yet had a case of Ebola.

In the latest report issued by the World Health Organisation last Friday, there have been 13,567 reported Ebola cases in eight affected countries since the outbreak began. Of that, 4,951 have died. Australia and Canada are "allowing fear and politics drive responses to a disease threat. And we know that only ends up in a bad place," Fidler said.

AUSTRALIA/AFRICA :

EU/AFRICA :

EU has tax haven investments in Africa

StandartNews/03/11/2014

Qalaa, an African investment fund with \$9.5bn on its books has attracted millions of euros from the in loans from the European Investment Bank (EIB), the EU's longterm lending institution. But although it is undoubtedly successful, Qalaa's business model raises a series of questions about whether it represents the sustainable and inclusive growth that the EU says it wants to encourage in Africa. Qalaa investor presentation reveals that the company pays very little tax on their profits. Although there is no suggestion that Qalaa has done anything illegal, the document clearly shows that while the company has made €142m in post-tax profits since it was founded over 10 years ago, it paid just over €298,000 in corporation taxes. This suggests an effective corporation tax rate of 0.2 percent, EUobserver reports.

An investigation by the Illicit Finance Journalism Programme (IFJP) shows Qalaa has paid extremely low levels of corporation tax since it was founded over 10 years ago and relies heavily on some of the most secretive financial jurisdictions in the world.

It has also received hundreds of millions of euros – a revelation which the EU parliament is set to investigate. The European Commission says he represents a company that has become an "African success story".

EIB money has flowed to companies linked to the British Virgin Islands – a known tax haven – contravening the bank's current policies on the matter.

CHINA/AFRICA :

Working with Africa critical in Ebola fight

By Fei Zhou (Global Times)/english.peopledaily.com.cn/November 03, 2014

Chinese President Xi Jinping recently announced that the Chinese government would donate 500 million yuan (\$82 million) to Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea as well as relevant international organizations to help battle Ebola. China will also send more health experts and medical staff and help set up a treatment center in Liberia.

The latest round of Chinese aid to help West African countries fight the Ebola outbreak came after another three rounds in April, August and September.

China gives out rounds of aid to Africa because the two have always shared a community of common destiny. We have gone through difficulties together as brothers, friends and partners. Whenever China is faced with hardships, it receives support and help from the African people.

Therefore since the epidemic broke out, China has sent medical staff to join locals in preventing and treating the highly infectious disease. They have conducted training for local doctors, provided diagnoses in communities and spread knowledge of Ebola prevention. These actions have been widely applauded by the governments and people in these African countries.

China helps Africa also because no country can be immune to such a major disaster. With economic globalization deepening, far distant parts of the world have never been closely connected with each other as today.

The Ebola epidemic may look like a local issue that occurs in underdeveloped countries at the beginning, but in a global village it is definitely capable of breaking the international prevention

system and threatening the safety of the whole of humanity.

Therefore, in addition to aid, China has called on the international community to cooperate with the UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response and offer aid according to the roadmap of the World Health Organization, so as to ensure that well-coordinated aid across the world can be more targeted and effective.

China is willing to explore trilateral cooperation with relevant countries and organizations on the basis of Africa's need, consent and participation, and help the African people win the battle against Ebola.

The public health problems in Africa are fundamentally a development issue. Countries ravaged by the epidemic, such as Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea, all lack public health resources due to their lack of development. What's worse, the Ebola outbreak is badly affecting the economy of these countries and hence forms a vicious cycle.

Under these circumstances, the world needs to help African countries improve their public health and epidemic prevention systems as soon as possible and enhance their capabilities to handle crisis as well as control diseases.

Moreover, aid to and investment in Africa should be increased to help countries on the continent develop their economy, improve people's well-being and achieve independent and sustainable development.

China is willing to share its experiences and opportunities of development with African countries, boost our cooperation and transfer capacities to Africa so as to push forward the development of the continent's systems.

China is also willing to invest more in sectors like health, disease prevention and control, and medical care under the framework of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation. We'd like to help African countries establish effective disease prevention and control system at national level.

We are deeply convinced that with the concerted efforts of the global community, the Ebola epidemic will ultimately be defeated.

INDIA/AFRICA :

Partnership with Africa an integral part of India's foreign policy, assures Sushma
Nov 3/aninews.in

Port Louis (Mauritius), Nov. 3 (ANI): External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj on Monday said that cooperation and partnership with Africa is an integral component of India's foreign policy, adding that Mauritius is a vital platform for this agenda.

"We view our relationship with Mauritius not just through the prism of bilateral engagement but also as our gateway to the Indian Ocean region and Africa. Cooperation and partnership with Africa is an integral component of India's foreign policy and remains a priority of the Government of India. India has embarked on a broad-based and vibrant policy of economic interaction with the African continent," Swaraj said, while addressing a business meet with various industry and

commerce groups of Mauritius.

"Naturally, this makes Mauritius, with its advantageous membership of regional arrangements such as Southern African Development Community (SADC) and Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), a vital platform in India's business agenda with Africa . This is especially true in the case of sectors like infrastructure development, ICT, capacity building, agriculture and other related activities," she added.

Swaraj further stressed upon the need for India and Mauritius to increase their economic relationship.

"India and Mauritius need to actively pursue greater economic and commercial depth in our partnership to elevate our bilateral economic and commercial engagement to a level commensurate with the special and enduring status of our bilateral relationship. And we are committed to fully facilitate this joint endeavour of our businesspeople and entrepreneurs," she said.

Swaraj, who is in Mauritius for a three-day visit to that country, had earlier paid tribute to the friendship between India and Mauritius on Sunday, adding that the bond shared by the two countries was due to a shared historical and cultural heritage.

India is Mauritius' largest trading partner and has been the largest exporter of goods to Mauritius since 2007. In the financial year 2012-2013, India exported goods worth USD 1.31 billion and imported goods worth USD 28.49 million. There are over 10,000 Indian nationals living in Mauritius, including 6865 work permit holders and 696 professional occupation permit holders. (ANI)

BRAZIL/AFRICA :

EN BREF, CE 03 Novembre 2014... AGNEWS/DAM, NY, 03/11/2014