



Media Release

Brussels, 04 June 2015: The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the East African Community (EAC), the Inter-Governmental Authority for Development (IGAD), the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the European Union (EU) signed a new joint cooperation programme worth 1.332 billion Euros.

Meeting at the venue of the commemoration of the EU Development Days 2015 in Brussels, Belgium, the five Regional Economic Communities (RECs) of Eastern and Southern Africa, and the Indian Ocean Region and the EU re-confirmed the priorities of cooperation under the 11th European Development Fund, which led to the signing of a jointly agreed Regional Indicative Programme (RIP).

The joint RIP defines the focal areas of cooperation, which are fundamental to regional integration, and are based on the regional priorities of the five RECs. The EU has allocated 1.332 billion Euros to this programme. The programme focuses on three priority areas: Peace, Security and Regional Stability; Regional Economic Integration; and Natural Resource Management.

600 million Euros will be used to support hard and soft Regional Infrastructure projects.

450 million Euros will be split among the RECs to implement priorities specific to each REC. Out of this amount, COMESA has been allocated 85 million Euros as an individual REC allocation. EAC has been allocated 85 million, IGAD 80 million, IOC 50 million and SADC 90 million Euros as individual REC allocations. 60 million Euros has been set aside as a performance reserve.

The EU has, further, allocated 205 million Euros to seven projects of cross-regional dimension, namely: Peace and Security in the Great Lakes Region; Migration; Maritime Safety and Security; Interim Economic Partnership Agreements for Eastern and Southern Africa; Trans-boundary Water Management; Sustainable Fisheries; and Wildlife Conservation.

15 million Euros has been allocated to Technical Cooperation Facility and 62 million Euros will be set aside as a performance reserve.

The RIP was signed, on the EU side, by H.E. Neven Mimica – EU Commissioner for Development and International Cooperation, and on the REC side, by H.E Sindiso Ngwenya for COMESA, H.E Richard Sezibera for EAC, H.E. Mahboub Maalim for IGAD, H.E Jean-Claude d'el Strac for IOC and H.E Stergomena Lawrence Tax for SADC.

Delivering her remarks at the occasion graced by senior technical officials from both sides, and the media, SADC Executive Secretary, Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax expressed appreciation to the EU and the RECs for their commitment to the consultation process; and urged all stakeholders to remain committed to the implementation of the programme. She expressed appreciation to the two sides for ensuring that the RIP is aligned to the Regional Organisations' strategic development plans. She noted that the RIP comes at a time when SADC had just finalised its Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap. Accordingly, SADC will utilise its 90

million Euro allocation to strengthen market integration, regional infrastructure development, industrialisation and transformative production. Dr. Tax ended by emphasising the need for the RECs to work closely with civil society and private sector partners in order to take development to the citizens of the EA-SA-IO Region.

The joint Regional Indicative Programme will be implemented during the period 2015 – 2020.

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