The Republic of Niger and the African Development Bank on Tuesday signed a $128.8 million financing agreement to support the “Kandadji” project for the regeneration of ecosystems and the development of the Niger Valley (PA-KRESMIN).

Nigerien Minister of Planning Aïchatou Kane Boulama, who signed on behalf of Niger’s Government, expressed her gratitude to the Bank and praised the leadership shown by it in the process leading to the “Kandadji” signing.

“We would like to acknowledge the Bank’s strong commitment to this very important project for the people of Niger. The signing of this agreement is a step towards its realisation, but also towards the restoration of Niger’s river ecosystem and the development of thousands of hectares of irrigated land of local communities, not only in the Tilabéry region, but all over the country”, said Boulama. The minister was accompanied by the deputy minister in charge of the Budget, Ahmat Jidoud.

“It’s a 100-year-old dream that is finally becoming reality and we are happy to have contributed,” said Marie-Laure Akin-Olugbade, African Development Bank Director General for West Africa. She continued, “we stand by you and we shall remain by your side”.

Malabo goes the extra mile

Malabo not only rolled out the red carpet Tuesday for delegates arriving at the ultramodern Sipopo Congress Centre for this year’s Annual Meetings of the African Development Bank Group. It is also making sure that the event takes place in a safe, colourful and entertaining environment. Delegates were warmly greeted by local dancers with many of them waving white handkerchiefs to arriving dignitaries.

“No doubt this is the right ambience – it’s peaceful, harmonious, colourful and welcoming. It sets the perfect stage for a meaningful meeting,” a delegate from Ghana said.
The entry into force of the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement (AfCFTA) is charting a new path for the continent, with implications beyond trade and African integration. The progress of the Agreement is not only encouraging optimism around the AfCFTA, but also sending a signal that Africa is committed to looking within itself to find answers to the challenges of poverty and growth.

Estimates from the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) show that under the AfCFTA, and if accompanied by the adoption of a more efficient system of trading across borders, already by 2022 the share of intra-African trade will increase to around 22%. The AfCFTA is expected to promote industrialisation, and deliver the associated tangible benefits for jobs, livelihoods and quality of life.

For the AfCFTA to deliver on its promise, however, three crucial issues need to be addressed. First, logistics constitutes a major non-tariff barrier to trade in Africa. The 57,000 kilometre Trans Africa Highway has missing links or sub-standard sections along about 20% of its length. Logistics are also particularly important for the 16 landlocked countries which depend on coastal countries for sea-borne trade. Investments to improve strategic logistics projects such as the road corridors and the African integrated high-speed rail network are needed to facilitate cross-border traffic and trade under AfCFTA. Africa has a financing gap of an estimated $130-170 billion annually for infrastructure, including transport, energy, ICT and soft infrastructure. The African Development Bank has an important and strategic role to play in supporting these priority investments.

Second, with the AfCFTA, Africa must leverage e-commerce for inclusive growth and job creation. African e-commerce is growing at an estimated annual rate of 40% on the back of rapid digitalisation. Under the AfCFTA, it will be important to exploit opportunities for expanded market access and cross-border trading, especially for micro, small and medium enterprises, which constitute over 80% of African businesses. This will require, among others, investments in digital infrastructure to power the digital economy, as well as the removal of digital barriers through the interoperability of digital platforms.

Finally, as people are at the centre of trade, the free movement of people in Africa is critical for the AfCFTA. According to the 2018 Africa Visa Openness Index, African citizens still need visas to travel to more than half of African countries. While the 2018 African Union Protocol to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community Relating to Free Movement of Persons, Right of Residence and Right of Establishment has been signed by 52 countries, only Rwanda has ratified it. Beyond facilitating trade, free movement of people on the continent will enable the mobility of labour and skills, as well as capital, helping to power the industrialisation envisaged under the AfCFTA.
Central Africa could be the continent's rising start

Central Africa stands to benefit the most from the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), data from the African Development Bank shows.

Hanan Morsy, Director of Research at the Bank, revealed the findings at the launch of one of the Bank's flagship reports in Malabo, where the African Development Bank is hosting its Annual Meetings.

Morsy said Central Africa's real income could increase by as much as 7% in one of the scenarios that researchers describe in the 2019 African Economic Outlook. By the same calculations, East Africa, currently the star performer on the continent, would experience an increase of around 4.2%, followed closely by North Africa.

The scenarios measure the potential outcomes of the AfCFTA, ranging from one (least impact) to four (greatest impact).

"While there are differences in gains, all African countries are better off with regional integration than without," Morsy said.

Morsy said current levels of growth were not adequate to generate jobs for millions of unemployed Africans, but regional integration could stimulate the growth needed to make a dent in unemployment. Morsy said Africa needed to grow between 4% and 6% in order to turn the tide.

The Outlook predicts that Africa can add 4.5% to its GDP, provided that governments do away with bilateral tariffs and non-tariff barriers and keep rules of origin simple.

The launch included a panel discussion by Finance and Economic Planning Ministers, who are also Governors of the Bank.

Aïchatou Kané, from Niger, said the Economic Community of West African States, ECOWAS, was in the "fast lane" of integration and planned to have its own currency in 12 months. Kané's comments were echoed by Burkina Faso, Zimbabwe, and Tanzania who all agreed that integration would help the continent remain relevant as a global economic player.

Regional integration is one of the Bank's High 5 strategic areas and the theme of the 2019 Annual Meetings. The AfCFTA is the cornerstone of the integration project. The AfCFTA was launched in March 2018 and the key 22nd ratification was received in April 2019. The next step is for African ministers of trade to work on how to facilitate the launch of the AfCFTA during a summit meeting on 7 July 2019.

The AfCFTA will constitute the world’s largest free trade area, consolidating an integrated market of 1.3 billion consumers with a combined gross domestic product (GDP) of about $3.3-trillion. It is estimated that Africa’s GDP growth could reach 6% a year with a borderless continent (UNECA).

The four-day Annual Meetings are being hosted in Malabo, the capital of Equatorial Guinea. More than 2,000 ministers, government officials, development partners and civil society representatives have gathered in the island capital to discuss Africa’s development agenda.
African Development Bank Vice-President for the Private Sector, Infrastructure and Industrialization, Pierre Guislain, on Tuesday stressed the major role that African financial institutions play in regional integration.

“These institutions finance the private sector, which has to become the engine of Africa’s regional integration,” said Guislain at the opening of the Association of African Development Finance Institutions (AADFI) workshop on the sidelines of the Bank’s Annual Meetings in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea.

The AADFI, which is also holding its 45th General Meeting in Malabo as part of the Annual Meetings of the Bank, is a pan-African organization created in 1975 under the auspices of the African Development Bank. It is composed of development financiers in most countries on the continent, who act as “very effective liaisons for the Bank,” said Guislain.

AADFI Vice-President Lucas Mesos spoke in the absence of the Association’s president, Patrick Dlamini. He highlighted the purpose of the workshop, to “reflect on synergies between different institutions in order to be more effective together. This year’s entry into force of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is a justification of our collective will.”

The recent ratification of the AfCFTA Agreement is intended to eventually create the largest free trade area in the world, with an integrated market of 1.3 billion people and a total GDP of about $3.3 trillion.

“The reality of regional integration is, above all, economic and social, thanks to the companies that contribute to achieving this integration, with the financial support of development institutions,” Guislain said.

Noureddine Zekri, CEO of the Maghreb Bank for Investment and Foreign Trade, agreed: “We only finance the private sector in the five countries of the Maghreb, either directly with small and medium enterprises or by going through banking institutions to which we grant credit lines.”

The Bank supports these national or regional financial institutions, which are mostly public, and members of the African Development Bank, by building their capacity, sharing knowledge and experience with them and providing some with direct financing for large-scale projects.

Mohan Vivekanandan, head of the Development Bank of Southern Africa, said: “African governments should make major infrastructure projects involving several countries a priority, as they are crucial for regional integration. Their foremost challenge is to meet deadlines by improving their coordination.

“We need to prioritize both work on technical assistance and long-term financing provisions for these major, complex projects to be achieved.”

The African Development Bank strategy for regional integration is based on three main axes: connectivity (transport, telecommunications and power); investment and trade (market liberalization); and the integration of financial systems.

In Africa, 54 financial systems exist side by side, each of which is more or less isolated from the others.

“We must find ways of integrating these financial systems, of enabling the banks to have bigger fields of play than their national markets, of boosting links between capital markets and of developing bond issues at regional level,” Guislain said.
AGRICULTURE

Unequal land rights are a major driver of gender inequality in Africa. Women generally have less access to credit than men, which is often due to a lack of assets to use as collateral and is a major barrier to investment. Lack of finance for women farmers often keeps women trapped in poverty and subsistence farming – particularly in the face of climate impacts. To empower women in the agricultural sector, who represent 70% of African women, recommendations from the Africa Gender Index include increasing access to land, providing affordable credit and ensuring women benefit from increased trade across borders.

JOBS

69.7% Vulnerable employment
53.9% Participation in business gap

Young women are more likely than young men to be in informal, low paid and vulnerable employment. The Africa Gender Index recommends tackling traditional expectations about gender roles regarding unpaid domestic work, ensuring affordable childcare and paid maternity leave, and investing in infrastructural services to free up women’s time and enable them to work and be entrepreneurs, among other recommendations to increase women’s access to formal jobs.

72% Ownership of a house and/or a land
83.5% Access to credit for those aged 15 and over

42.1% Managers, professionals and technicians
24.9% Parliamentary representation gap
14.5% Top managers in firms

In both the private and public sectors, senior decision-making remains substantially in the hands of men rather than women. Yet, diversity in leadership roles matters. Parliaments with a larger proportion of women tend to promote legislation for women’s needs and gender equality. When companies have a greater share of women on their boards, they perform better financially. These result in virtuous circles, as women leaders provide role models for girls and young women. It is therefore important to take active steps to address gender inequality in public and private leadership – gender-based quotas have proven to be an important tool.
BRIDGING THE FINANCE GAP FOR WOMEN IN AFRICA
How can the Bank increase its efforts to assist in the achievement of a genuine and “seamless” free trade area on the African continent, especially after the ratification of the AfCFTA?

From the point of view of operations, industrialisation and infrastructure in Africa depend, as do many other challenges, on a more integrated continent, and a genuine and “seamless” free trade area would be the best outcome of all. African economic integration will provide manufacturers the access to the markets they need, and this will encourage more trade and more investment – therefore more employment for Africa’s long suffering youth. This is because the growth of integrated supply chains across borders will add value to primary commodities, creating more jobs and increasing economic activity.

But intra-African trade is still just 14.2% of total trade in goods, because of high costs and complexities in cross-border trading among other less easily defined factors. Other continental blocs manage at least four times this percentage. Of course, Africa’s regional economic communities continue to promote integration, but much more progress is needed in comparatively straightforward areas such as visa liberalisation. This is why the Bank is a major investor in cross-border infrastructure. In 2017 for example, we built or rehabilitated 414 km of cross-border roads and built hundreds of one-stop border crossings to facilitate trade across borders.

What gives the Bank a comparative advantage over other development finance institutions in the area of African integration?

The Bank Group’s convening power gives it a clear comparative advantage in regional infrastructure development and other regional development initiatives. It has a big portfolio of multinational projects in the road sector which support the African Union’s integration agenda; and in regional power initiatives, where we are helping to address power generation capacity gaps.

The Bank can unlock investments in regional projects by helping to meet the high project preparation costs and to make collaboration easier between states and regional economic communities. The NEPAD-Infrastructure Project Preparation Facility (IPPF) managed by the Bank has been at the forefront of preparing large regional infrastructure projects.

The Bank has also developed a valuable niche in the development of cross-border infrastructure and “soft” or institutional infrastructure to make intra-African trade easier. Drawing on its unique mandate and close relationships with African governments, it can also help to encourage the pursuit of regional public goods, such as improved management of cross-border natural resources and the promotion of integrated regional labour and financial markets.

What are the most promising examples you have seen or experienced to illustrate the Bank’s High 5 commitment “to integrate Africa” on the ground?

I’ll use three recent examples. The first is the Trans-Gambia bridge. This creates for once an efficient and productive transport link between the north and south of The Gambia. It’s the first phase in the development of a transport corridor that will cut the long delays caused by ferry crossings, poor roads and inefficiencies at the border. It will halve freight costs, and provide over 900,000 people in local communities with better access to transport, health and education services. The first phase of the project was supported by $93.8 million in Bank lending.

The second is the Addis-Mombasa highway. It links Kenya and Ethiopia and has made cross-border traffic between the two countries a lot easier. The Kenyan section of the corridor was completed in 2016, and the last part of the road in Ethiopia will only be finished later this year. Yet trade and employment opportunities between both countries have already increased and will grow further, with additional foreign investments in the region as transport and shipping costs of goods start to plummet.

The third is the Walvis Bay port expansion, which will make Namibia a regional logistic hub for international markets. The project includes a new container terminal on 40 hectares of land reclaimed from the sea, which will create more trade between SADC and the rest of the world. The Bank contributed to about 90% of the project cost with a $300 million loan, which helped multiply the port’s container capacity from the current 355,000 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) to just over 1,000,000 TEUs at its completion later this year.
**Algeria**
**Mohamed Loukal**
Economies are threatened by energy constraints due to persistent drought especially for countries like Zambia that are dependent on hydropower. We need to act decisively now because the consequences will be grave in the future if not addressed.

**Zambia**
**Margaret Mwanakatwe**
Economies are threatened by energy constraints due to persistent drought especially for countries like Zambia that are dependent on hydropower. We need to act decisively now because the consequences will be grave in the future if not addressed.

**Brazil**
**Erivaldo Alfredo Gomes**
Traditionally, the public debate in Brazil on this subject considers exports to be extremely positive and imports as usually negative. The current government sees imports as one of the main levers for productivity growth, understanding that trade flows are the main vectors for assessing relationships with our trading partners.

**Comoros**
**Fouady Goulame**
The key sectors of the African economy include energy, agriculture, land use, water resources, environmental goods and services, forestry and fishing – all of which involve sectoral, local, regional and global value chains. Given that context, training is of particular importance in the above-menioned sectors, as well as in the working languages necessary for communication.

**Gabon**
**Jean-Marie Ogandaga**
The establishment of innovative and appropriate instruments, by governments and institutions such as the African Development Bank, to support the governance of this economic integration can be very apposite.

**Niger**
**Aichatou Boulama Kané**
The issue of green growth relates to the capacity of the international community to come to a real and resolute agreement on the measures and strategies to implement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

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**Some figures on Equatorial Guinea**

- **Surface area**: 28,051 km²
- **Inhabitants (en 2015)**: 740,743
- **Population density**: 26.4 per km²
- **Migration rate**: 0‰
- **Per capita GDP (PPA)**: $33,767 (2013)
- **Unemployment rate**: 8% (2013)
Transboundary Water Management: From Source of Conflict to Resource for All

W water does not recognise national borders. It flows wherever gravity will take it, sharing its life-giving wealth with all in its path. Water is a strategic natural resource for all countries. Drinking water supply and sanitation, food production, energy supply, and industrial development are all completely dependent on the availability of water.

While Africa is relatively well endowed with natural resources, these remain untapped or poorly managed, with very little value addition before export. Despite growing demands on fresh water, overall water withdrawal stands at about 4% in Sub-Saharan Africa. Two thirds of African countries have developed less than 20% of their agriculture production and less than 5% of the cultivated area is under irrigation in most countries. These statistics might seem modest, until we remember that Africa, with two great deserts and a broad Sahel belt, is the second driest continent on the planet after Australia.

In the past, it was widely assumed that the joint use of transboundary waters would be the flashpoints of potential conflict. Rising consumption and the asymmetrical hydro-political relations between countries led to the assumption that water shortages would lead inevitably to violent conflict.

While these fears have largely receded as more countries have realised that they gain more from sharing than competing over their water resources, Complex negotiations and high investment costs have retrained progress in transboundary water management.

The Bank developed a ten-year strategy recognizing that to drive sustainable growth, Africa must develop and manage its vast natural resources sustainably, since water is central to agriculture, energy, industry, mining, and issues affecting the quality of life such as health, education, leisure, and IT.

Africa has approximately 80 transboundary basins and 38 shared aquifers. The continent’s many transboundary bodies of water create opportunities for increased economic integration and shared benefits. One of the biggest bottlenecks is the huge infrastructure gap. Thus, as part of its efforts to help Africa attain water security for inclusive and sustainable growth, the Bank supports transboundary water management and development. This may include investments in multi-purpose infrastructure for hydropower and other uses, as well as the development of river and lake basin programs for flood control, irrigation, transport, drought prevention and productive water supply.

However, owing to complex political economies and the necessarily long negotiations about the planning and co-financing of multinational projects on shared water sources, most investment projects on transboundary waters tend to be national. Through the African Water Facility, the Bank, as Africa’s premier project preparation body for the water sector, is increasingly supporting the planning and design of transboundary infrastructure projects.

A prime example is the Program for Integrated Development and Adaptation to Climate Change in the Niger basin, involving the nine member states of the basin, for which the facility had provided Euro 960,000 worth of funding for preliminary studies. The program supports three of the Bank’s High 5 priorities: Feed Africa, Integrate Africa, and Improve the quality of life for the people of Africa. It aims to restore and conserve the Niger basin’s ecosystem; improve the living conditions of the people in the basin by implementing support measures to enhance resilience to climate change effects; and build capacities for managing natural resources at local, national and regional levels. The program also aims to mobilise the required finances for the implementation of the investment projects.

The Bank also contributes to building capacities of lake and river basin organisations to facilitate trust building, adoption of measures for environmental and climatic resilience of ecosystems and infrastructure, integrated planning and infrastructure development. In all, 11 regions or transboundary basins benefit from cooperation in the areas of enhancement of governance policies, laws and regulations; development of financing mechanisms; strengthened capacities of institutions, private sector, etc. The Bank and the African Water Facility also support transboundary water resources cooperation to enable riverine member nations to share the benefits and equitable use of rivers and aquifer systems.

Cooperation in the management and development of transboundary water resources is a building block of regional integration.

Regional and cross-sector adaptation approaches to cope with the negative impacts of climate change have the potential to strengthen the cooperation to improve the efficiency of water resources management. This cooperative approach can lead to further collaboration and possible joint action, beyond water, thereby contributing to regional peace, stability and integration.
Why is TAAT needed?

Today, approximately 160 million African adults don’t get enough food to eat and 40% of African children are stunted or too short for their height and are underweight. The Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT) program sets out to correct this problem of not producing enough food at the right price for rural and urban populations. TAAT approaches the need for agricultural transformation in Africa in four ways:

One approach is technology. Technology improves seeds, fertiliser or the agro-chemicals that help farmers make a decent return on their investments.

The second is policies. Seeds, for example, have to be approved for use in a certain way and be certified before they are sold to farmers. Seed laws are meant to punish people who cut corners, but they can prevent technology from being easily shared across national borders, becoming an impediment to the free flow of food production technologies. Seed laws for a hybrid rice released for use in Senegal may not be available in Nigeria due to the lack of harmonisation of national seed laws with existing regional laws. TAAT works with regional organisations to harmonise seed varieties’ release and technology registration so these agricultural technologies can be shared and benefit more people.

The third is to fund the production of early generations of seeds—known as pre-basic and basic seed, for any new varieties, such as drought-tolerant maize, high-yield rice, heat-tolerant wheat, etc and then to give these to seed companies or community seed producers to generate enough seeds to reach millions of farmers.

The fourth is the development of supply chains, identifying the seed companies or technology producers, and the wholesalers and agro-dealers, the last links of the chain to the farmers, who need to be trained in using the technologies.

Tell us about a TAAT initiative of which you are particularly proud:

I will choose the drought tolerant maize. All across Africa, the El Nino phenomenon has had a severe impact on agriculture and food security, causing huge yield losses for small farmers who can’t afford irrigation. Drought-resistant seeds are available but not all farmers can get access to them.

With TAAT, we worked with the African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF), which has a long history of licensing technology from outside the continent to seed companies in Africa. The Bank’s agreement with the Foundation resulted in licensing 30 drought-tolerant maize varieties to more than a dozen national and smaller seed companies. Next, those seed companies were able to produce 20,000 tons of seeds that were distributed to African farmers in about ten countries. We are looking at three million African farmers getting seeds in a single season. That, to me, is a real achievement.

At the individual farmer level, there is a personal story of how TAAT is affecting the livelihoods of smallholder rice farmers in Mali. Madame Ouattara, a widow and member of an association of 57 farmers in Mali, has used the Urea Deep Placement technology deployed by the Soil Fertility Compact of TAAT to triple her rice yield on her one acre plot, changing her life and that of her family from food insufficiency to having a surplus to sell. The factors for success

Approximately 160 million African adults don’t get enough food to eat and 40 percent of African children are stunted or too short for their height and are underweight.
in Madame Ouattara’s case highlights what TAAT is about: supply of high quality certified seeds of a market-preferred improved rice variety from outgrowers trained by Africa Rice, unadulterated fertiliser from an IFDC-certified agro-dealer, training provided by IFDC on the deep placement technology working through the local government extension office to provide continuous advice. TAAT is about building supply chains of top quality inputs, training of farmers, market access and improved livelihoods of rural farmers.

**How will TAAT help Africa to feed Africa?**

TAAT technological assistance can double agricultural production, therefore doubling the amount of food on the market. The increase in supply meeting demand makes food more affordable. Productivity is a driver of profitability in the value chain. If I am a farmer and I produce more rice, I can put more rice on the market. TAAT aims to progress quickly and ensure that suppliers get a fair price. TAAT doubles production by bringing in experts, such as seed companies using proven technologies, whose business it is to deliver that technology to farmers. Those who deliver have to know and understand the farmers, as well as to work with governments. TAAT will help to feed Africa by addressing the policy differences that restrain the use of technologies across borders.

**What’s the impact of TAAT beyond Africa?**

Africa used to be net exporter of food in the 1960s because we produced more food than we ate. We used to export grains, groundnuts, palm oil and many other food crops. Now, Africa’s population is growing much faster and we are importing more food than we produce. But if we produce enough for ourselves, we can cultivate global markets and produce livestock and grains. China has an insatiable appetite and demand for meat – they need soybeans and maize to feed these animals. So, there is a huge market potential for African grain production.

Additionally, many seed companies are always looking for new markets. When European and other companies realise what the Bank’s TAAT initiative is achieving and what it could still achieve, their interest will be intense. “These African farmers are going to be using all these technologies? We want to be part of it,” they say. So, the seed companies want to come to Africa, set up shops on Africa’s agricultural land to grow new varieties of seeds - and sell to Africa and to the rest of the world.
Eliminating malnutrition in Africa is possible, as long as there is political will to bring nutrition to the forefront of the economic agenda. For decades, the issue of nutrition has been on the fringes of Africa’s political and economic conversations. Despite the impact of malnutrition on economic growth, it has received little or no attention.

Malnutrition – the cause of half of child deaths worldwide – robs Africans of the chance to grow to their full physical and cognitive potential. Malnutrition is unacceptably high on the continent, with 58 million or 36% of children under the age of five chronically undernourished (suffering from stunting), and 13 million or 8.5% of children acutely undernourished (suffering from wasting). In some countries, as many as one out of every two children suffer from stunting. The effects of stunting are irreversible, impacting the ability of children’s bodies and brains to grow to their full potential. This is often linked to vulnerability to illness, difficulties in school, and ultimately to reduced adult labour capacity. The impact of this weakened labour force, and negative health outcomes for entire generations of children, has dire consequences for a country’s economic development. Ultimately, stunting feeds the cycle of poverty through generations. Fresh data in the last decade has confirmed this new perspective – malnutrition damages economies.

Studies show that Africa loses $25 billion per year to costs attributed to malnutrition. These costs are far too high to ignore.

It’s not clear who bears the responsibility to act on this emergency. How can the emerging data be used by decision makers to ignite policy changes that advance nutrition at the national level? This is the premise of the African Leaders for Nutrition (ALN) initiative. Hosted by the African Development Bank and adopted by the African Union assembly, the ALN brings together African leaders to amplify their voices outside Africa’s formal political and economic conversations. With an advocacy tool such as the continental nutrition accountability scorecard, which introduces indicators for each African country on nutrition, services, governance and socio-economic impacts, hard data will highlight the areas where financial resources can be targeted and support can be increased.

With commitments from heads of state, finance ministers and eminent leaders as ALN champions, solutions to address malnutrition can be examined, tested, and implemented. Last year alone, the ALN welcomed four nutrition champions; His Excellency Hery Rajaonarimampianina of Madagascar, His Majesty King Letsie III of the Kingdom of Lesotho, First Lady of Ghana Rebecca Akufo-Addo and Howarth Bouis, Acting CEO of HarvestPlus. With a heightened voice, a political platform and valuable data, Africa can begin to define the full nutrition story and start to identify and implement the solutions to end malnutrition and boost Africa’s collective brain power.

1 Cost of Hunger Studies in Africa 2012.
2 UNICEF 2013.
In Tunisia, a new kind of company is emerging. Technological, modern, it innovates through community involvement and focusing on the well-being of its employees. As the country undergoes a wave of change, the private sector is offering opportunities to the new generation of young graduates who went through the 2011 Jasmine Revolution.

By focusing on youth and advanced technologies, the company OneTech is experiencing strong growth. Originally specialised in cables, today the production of electronic components keeps its 4,200 employees busy.

The African Development Bank, through the AfricInvest Investment Fund, has supported this shift to innovation, combined with the priority to create jobs.

The Bank supports the private sector, which brings jobs, wealth and initiatives.

Tunisia, driven by an innovative private sector, presents an increasingly attractive investment destination and is consolidating its place on the world stage. Companies such as OneTech are leading this change. Locally, they are the engines of a revitalised private sector, based on new technologies. In their wake, many companies are modernising. An entire virtuous ecosystem is taking shape.

The dynamism of the private sector in Tunisia is catalysing the whole country, a win-win process for everyone. Impacts are measured at all levels, both economically and socially. Investing in industry, especially in advanced technology, contributes to the quality of life of Tunisians.

Maroua Khemiri
Engineer at MES EleOneTech, Bizerte

“I live in Bizerte with my parents. I am the project manager at MES, that is to say I am responsible for the manufacturing system. This is the first time a woman has held this position in the OneTech group. I am very proud, very fulfilled and very happy. This promotion gave me confidence in myself.”

Ahmed Chebbi
Head Machinist
OneTech, Bizerte

“I’m 46 years old and I’ve been with this company for 23 years. I started as a machinist, and then I became chief machinist. I am head of the department. The company provided me with all the means to succeed in my professional career.”
Festive atmosphere…

Don’t forget to pick up your Malabo Bulletin… at the information booth

Stay tuned to the latest news and highlights of the 2019 Annual Meetings!

Welcome to the 2019 Annual Meetings in Malabo!

Talented dancers

Looking in the same direction

Signing agreement for the “Kandadji” Programme for the Regeneration of Ecosystems and the development of the Niger Valley

Signing of the SEAP II agreement for additional financing

Daily press coverage

Meetings and networking
Hanan Morsy, African Development Bank’s Director of Macroeconomic Policy, presenting the African Economic Outlook.

African Economic Outlook - H.E. Mr. Victor Harison, Commissioner for Economic Affairs AUC.

Governors during the presentation of the African economic outlook.

African Economic Outlook - Mrs. Janet Heckman, Managing Director, Southern and Eastern Mediterranean (SEMED), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).

AADFI 2019 Annual Workshop - Pr Daniel Ona Ondo, President of CEMAC.

African Economic Outlook - H.E. Prof. Mthuli Ncube, Governor for Zimbabwe.