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ONE) – EU STANDS SHOULDER-TO-SHOULDER WITH SOUTH SUDAN

As South Sudan became independent on 9 July, the EU has extended a welcoming hand, reiterating its intention to continue support and develop a regular dialogue. Over 98% of voters from South Sudan voted in favour of separation from North Sudan in a January referendum. EU observers found the election to be peaceful and credible and the turnout overwhelming at 97.5%. Voters' wishes became reality on 9 July, when independence is announced. Secession marked the end of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), agreed in 2005 and ending 21 years of civil war between North and South Sudan. The EU has been a staunch supporter of the CPA, and will now pursue a 'comprehensive approach' to relations with both North and South Sudan. The approach – agreed by EU Member States in June – covers all aspects of EU policy towards an independent South Sudan: political and diplomatic relations, security and the rule of law, development, trade, human rights and fundamental freedoms. Commissioner for Development Andris Piebalgs recently visited South Sudan with the comprehensive approach in mind. 'Let us rejoice, but let us also remind each other that with independence comes enormous responsibility,' he said. The Commissioner urged the state to give itself a good springboard from which to fight corruption, build up governance and state structures and generate income for itself and its people. 'The EU can engage with South Sudan in a broad and honest dialogue on these issues. As partners, we should be brave enough to tell each other the truth – even if the truth can sometimes be difficult to hear. In any event, the people of South Sudan can count on the EU to be a reliable partner,' he said. Dialogue will be further strengthened when the EU establishes a full Delegation in the South Sudan capital, Juba. The current office in Juba, open since 2009, will be upgraded as soon as possible following independence. Decades of civil war have left South Sudan extremely poor. It has the highest infant-mortality rates and lowest education indicators in the world. One child in 10 dies before its first birthday, and less than 1% of girls complete primary education. Since 2005, the EU has committed development assistance of over €650 million. Humanitarian aid since 2003 meanwhile amounts to €776 million. In May, EU foreign affairs ministers agreed to allocate an additional €200 million to South Sudan to support a development plan for 2011-2013, and to fund projects in the areas of education, health, agriculture, food security and democratic governance. (EEAS)

TWO) - SOUTH SUDAN SAYS IT CAN LIVE OFF CREDIT IF NORTH BLOCKS OIL

South Sudan can survive on credit, using its oil as collateral, if the north goes ahead with its threat to block pipelines after the south seceded or if war between them breaks out again, officials told Reuters. Such economic independence may give the new state an edge in tortured negotiations over oil rights with its old civil war foe which has received 50 percent of the revenues from southern oil for six years. Southern officials say they would be willing to pay a transit fee to use the north's pipeline, but insist that they will stop "sharing" oil revenues from the moment they secede. "In case the south is forced not to export its own oil through the existing pipeline infrastructure through the north, we will use our resources to continue to live... The south can still survive without a problem," the south's Director General of Energy Arkangelo Okwang told Reuters. "If we are forced not to export our crude, we will definitely use some of our (oil) blocks to ensure we have roots," he said, roots meaning money for the government. The south produces about three quarters of Sudan's roughly 500,000 barrels of oil output and depends on oil for 98 percent of its revenue. The south funnels its oil through northern pipelines to Sudan's only commercial port on the Red Sea coast. Diplomats and southern officials have said it is unlikely the north's President Omar Hassan al-Bashir will shut down those pipelines as the country is so dependent on oil revenues and which already faces debts of about \$38 billion. The south is due to split away at midnight tonight local time (2100 GMT) OFFERS OF CREDIT Senior officials told Reuters a number of institutions had approached the south offering it credit in exchange for oil. "A resource is a resource, and we have the resources. We have the petroleum resources... They are there. They are like financial guarantors for a country like south Sudan," Okwang said. Such deals would allow the south the time to build a link southwards to an existing pipeline through Kenya, bypassing north Sudan altogether. One Western diplomat said he knew that "there have been approaches" from parties to set up agreements that would allow the south to use future oil sales as collateral if the exports were shut down but did not name the groups. "We are a sovereign state. We will borrow money. We have oil in the ground. We have a lot of friends who are prepared to offer us money," Information Minister Barnaba Marial Benjamin told Reuters. They have also said accepting credit offers would be a last resort, a contingency plan, if the north shuts its pipeline. Asked what fee might be acceptable, Okwang declined to name a specific limit but said it must fall within international standards, as

with other landlocked countries like Chad that must export oil through their neighbours. "We need to stick to international standards, so we are not abnormally treated," Okwang said. South Sudan has talked to Toyota Kenya about the possibility of linking to a proposed regional oil corridor to help export crude from fields far from the north, a southern energy official said on Thursday. (Reuters)

THREE) - LUXEMBOURG PROVIDES NEW FUNDS FOR MICROFINANCE IN ACP COUNTRIES

The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and the European Investment Bank are joining forces on a third technical assistance operation in support of microfinance. Luc Frieden, Finance Minister, and Philippe Maystadt, EIB President, today signed a new cooperation agreement that will bring together the expertise, networks and resources of the EIB and the Finance Ministry in order to develop microfinance and the private sector in the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries. The Finance Ministry of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg has pledged to earmark a new envelope of EUR 3m (EUR 1m a year until 2013) for technical assistance projects supporting EIB investments in microfinance companies and institutions, i.e. intermediaries that provide retail financial services to small businesses or micro-enterprises. The technical assistance will take the form of support and training in the fields of accounting, administration and risk management as well as sound governance of those intermediaries. Under their cooperation agreement, the EIB, through its participation in the investment funds that it supports, identifies for the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg the technical assistance projects that merit financing. On the basis of the EIB's recommendation and following an examination, the Finance Ministry funds the technical assistance operation directly. Monitoring and evaluation are conducted jointly at a later stage. Over the past five years, under two previous agreements, 15 microfinance projects received aid and technical assistance totalling EUR 5m in nine countries: Cameroon, Uganda, Chad, Ghana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Senegal, Tanzania, Namibia and Afghanistan. (EIB)

FOUR) - INTERNATIONAL BODY URGES PROTECTION FOR ALL SPECIES OF TUNA

La quasi-totalité des espèces de thons doivent figurer sur la liste rouge des espèces menacées établie par l'[Union internationale pour la conservation de la nature](#) (UICN), selon une étude publiée jeudi par l'organisation basée en Suisse. Sur les huit espèces de thons examinées, "cinq sont classées dans l'une des catégories +menacées+ de la liste rouge ou sont +quasi menacées+" d'extinction, a souligné l'UICN dans cette étude passant en revue les 61 espèces connues des familles des scombridés (thons, bonites, maquereaux et thazards) et des marlins (espadons et marlins). L'étude est basée sur un rapport publié dans la dernière édition de la revue américaine Science. Les thons menacés sont le thon rouge du sud (*Thunnus maccoyii*) qui est évalué "en danger critique d'extinction", le thon rouge d'Atlantique et de Méditerranée (*T. thynnus*) qui est "en danger", le thon obèse (*T. obesus*) classé "vulnérable", le thon jaune albacore (*T. albacares*) et le thon germon (*T. alalunga*) qui sont tous deux "quasi menacés". Toutes les espèces de thons rouges, en particulier, "sont susceptibles de s'effondrer en raison de la pression de la surpêche continue, et c'est déjà le cas essentiellement pour le thon rouge du sud avec peu d'espoir de rétablissement", selon Kent Carpenter, directeur de l'unité biodiversité marine de l'UICN et un des auteurs de l'étude. "Si aucun changement n'est apporté aux pratiques de pêche actuelles, les stocks de thon rouge de l'Atlantique risquent de s'effondrer aussi car il y a peu de signes de reconstitution de la population après une réduction significative dans les années 1970", a-t-il ajouté. Ces données "aideront considérablement les gouvernements à prendre des décisions susceptibles de sauvegarder à l'avenir ces espèces dont beaucoup ont une grande valeur économique", selon l'UICN qui publie cette étude à la veille de l'ouverture, lundi, de la troisième réunion conjointe des Organisations régionales de gestion de la pêche des thonidés à La Jolla (Californie). Selon l'étude, "les populations de thon rouge du sud et de thon rouge de l'Atlantique (incluant la Méditerranée) ont été tellement réduites que la façon la plus efficace pour éviter l'effondrement est de fermer la pêche jusqu'à ce que les stocks se soient reconstitués à des niveaux sains". Pour la saison de pêche 2011 (15 mai au 15 juin) les quotas de pêche au thon rouge pour la Méditerranée n'avaient été que faiblement réduits à 12.900 tonnes, contre 13.500 t en 2010 par les 48 Etats pêcheurs de la Commission internationale pour la Conservation des thonidés de l'Atlantique (CICTA). (See [press release](#) or [draft assessments](#)) (AFP)

FIVE) - COMMISSION WANTS TO SPEND MORE ON DEVELOPMENT

On 29 June, the European Commission issued a Communication on the [EU financial framework for the period 2014 – 2020](#). It includes a proposal to introduce a financial transactions tax and a new VAT to finance part of the EU budget, in order to reduce direct contributions from Member States. The proposed total expenditures add up to 1.11% of the EU's GNI, which has already led to criticism from some member states who have called for a freeze of the EU budget. In terms of EU external action, the Commission proposes an envelope of €70 billion under Heading IV. It suggests to keep funding for the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States and Overseas Countries and Territories out of the budget by creating an 11th European Development Fund. It should cover €30.3 billion, which represents a considerable increase as compared to the 10th EDF. At the same time, the Commission proposes to strengthen parliamentary scrutiny of the EDF. ECDPM's Jeske van Seters gives an [analysis of this and more of the key elements of the Commission proposals](#) related to external action in general, and development cooperation in particular

SIX) – MALAWI TO COMPENSATE TARIFF CUT FOR EU GOODS THROUGH MORE VAT

The increase of taxes by government would continue to maximise domestic revenue ahead of abolition of international trade tariffs after endorsement of the proposed Free Trade Area (FTA) arrangements by African, European and Caribbean countries. Minister of Finance Ken Kandodo gave an indication that the phasing out of international trade tariffs would cause introduction of more Value Added Tax (VAT) as government would continue to rely on domestic revenue to sustain the non-donor funded recurrent budget. In his wind up speech of budget debate in Parliament Kandodo said once the regional integration in the SADC, COMESA and East Africa Community (EAC) had taken place and most trade taxes phased out countries like Malawi would rely more on VAT. "We will, therefore, need to minimise exemptions in the VAT regime," Kandodo said. Malawi's major trade partner on the continent is South Africa and the FTAs, which include abolition of trade tariffs and trade quotas, will reduce revenues collected from imports. [...] Apart from the African free trade area proposal, the European Union is also pushing for African Caribbean Partnership (ACP) countries signing of the new ACP-EU new trade agreement which also provides for free trade area among member countries. (The Times)

SEVEN) – BRITISH AID BATTLES STARVATION IN ETHIOPIA

Britain will provide emergency food relief for 1.3 million people in Ethiopia as the region faces its worst drought in a decade, Andrew Mitchell said. The International Development Secretary warned that the rest of the international community will need to pull its weight if a full-scale disaster is to be avoided. Britain will fund the World Food Programme to provide emergency food for drought-stricken Ethiopians for the next three months to help them through the driest months of the year. Supplementary food will also be provided for 329,000 malnourished children and pregnant and breastfeeding mothers. Britain is working with international agencies and NGOs on the ground across the Horn of Africa region to assess the humanitarian need and ensure that lifesaving help reaches those most in need and prevents the wholesale destruction of their livestock. The British Government is supporting 8 million people with food, livestock and basic support through the Productive Safety Net Programme. However the current crisis underlines the need for immediate additional help. (DFID)

EIGHT) – AFRICAN PEER REVIEW MONITORING PROJECT

This project is funded by the Open Society Foundation of South Africa (OSF-SA), the Open Society Initiative in Southern Africa (OSISA) and the African Governance Monitoring and Advocacy Programme (AfriMAP).

The African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) was established in 2003 as an innovative instrument aimed at improving governance in Africa, created and driven by Africans for Africans. Through a series of voluntary governance "peer reviews", member states aim at collectively improving governance on the

continent through sharing best practices and following recommendations made by the APRM Panel of Eminent Persons. The intention of these reviews is to spur reform – at the end of the review each country embarks on implementing a National Programme of Action (NPOA), according to which it is supposed to carry out pre-agreed commitments aimed at improving governance. To date, 30 African states have signed up to the APRM and 14 of these have undergone their first review – including four in Southern Africa (South Africa, Mozambique, Lesotho and Mauritius).

One of the greatest challenges for the APRM has been the monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the NPOA. There are presently only loose procedures and guidelines for Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) and some countries have already missed deadlines for submitting their annual NPOA implementation reports. Furthermore, a number of implementation reports have lacked detail and did not provide concrete evidence and data which shows the extent to which the NPOA is being implemented. They also tended not to reflect the voices of civil society organisations (CSOs).

SAIIA and CPS have launched a project to empower civil society in Southern African APRM states to track the implementation of the APRM in their countries, known as the APRM Monitoring Project (AMP). Through this project, CSOs will be assisted to develop independent reviews of APRM Implementation through the use of APRM Monitoring & Evaluation Tool (AMAT). The AMAT is not intended to duplicate the work of the relevant national APRM Agencies, but to complement and expand upon existing M&E processes.

This page is intended to help civil society to conduct a successful review by providing a database of electronic material, information and advice on M&E. As the AMP develops, this page will grow, so please check back regularly for updates.

NINE) – UGANDA - IN SEARCH OF BETTER MEDICAL CARE

Even though government health services are free, Grace Nafungo Kutosi doesn't mind paying the two thousand shillings (about one dollar) when she visits the non-governmental Beatrice Tierney Clinic in Bumwalukani village. In fact, paying the fee at the clinic, which is a 20-minute walk from her home, is cheaper than her having to travel to the nearest government clinic almost seven kilometres away.

"We were suffering a lot. Even if you endured the journey seven kilometres from your home to the (government) health centre, (there is a possibility that) you will not be treated. If you were lucky the nurses will give you Panadol and tell you to go and buy prescribed drugs elsewhere. Here we get all the medicine," Kutosi said.

Government health care in Uganda has been free since 2001, but patients in the rural village of Bumwalukani, in Bududua district some 200 kilometres from Kampala, would rather pay a small user fee to their local independently-run clinic because they know they will get the services they need.

"You can come here when you are sick and you are sure of medication unlike the government hospital," said Kutosi as she waited amidst mothers, children and men.

The Beatrice Tierney Clinic was founded by the Foundation for International Medical Relief for Children as a sick bay for pupils at Arlington Academy of Hope. It not only provides health care to students of the school but to the surrounding community.

The villagers have taken advantage of its existence to access treatment for their families and don't mind paying the user fee of two thousand shillings per visit per adult. Children are treated for free.

"That is not a lot of money. Because you can use more than that if you were to visit Bududa hospital," Kutosi said.

Residents of Bumwalukani are also fortunate because the clinic has a volunteer medical doctor working alongside the nurses. A government clinic is usually run by an enrolled nurse who works with a midwife, two nursing assistants and a health assistant.

Wilson Mangoye, a health outreach coordinator in Bumwalukani, and a regular user of the clinic, says the presence of qualified doctor has attracted patients from neighbouring districts who are in desperate search of better medical care.

"Sometimes we get patients from the regional referral hospital coming here for treatment because they are assured of the medicine," he said.

Sam Bulukwa, 43, traveled about 10 kilometres from Bubiita sub-county for treatment.

Bulukwa said he did so because the services at local government hospitals were deplorable, especially for the poor who cannot bribe health workers. Services in government facilities are supposed to be free, but in many cases health workers extort money from patients desperate for services.

"The workers in government hospitals have no passion to serve; you cannot be respected as patients. Even

cleaners can shout at you but you cannot say anything because you never know they could (put you in touch with) someone who can treat you," said Bulukwa.

But despite charging a small user fee, the clinic is still under-resourced.

Dr. Lisa Umphrey, the resident doctor sits in a small blockhouse attending to her patients. She is a specialist in child-related disease like malaria, respiratory diseases like pneumonia, and malnutrition among others. Umphrey said it is challenging to provide needed services for patients in an under-resourced clinic.

"Even with support from donations, there are too many patients that need our care. So we are forced to find creative ways to reach many patients, care for many diseases. We try to educate and reach communities to prevent the illnesses before they reach the clinic," explained Umphrey.

The clinic, according Umphrey, attends to between 100 to 150 patients per day. She says the inclusion of outreach programmes to the community has had some benefit because people now have some understanding of diseases and how to prevent them.

In the past government had attempted to start similar outreach programmes but they were not successful because of a lack of funds.

Health care provision and infrastructure in Uganda are chronically under-funded and highly variable in quality.

A system of 'cost sharing', whereby hospitals used to charge user fees was abolished by government because of intense pressure from activist groups and politicians who thought it was very costly to the majority of Ugandans who live on less than a dollar per day.

Asked whether the clinic was not contradicting government's policy by reintroducing user fees Umphrey explained that it had been done in conjunction with the community.

"We used our outreach services to educate the entire community about the idea before we started. They embraced it because of the services and felt that they could contribute to it as well," she said. However, there is a need for transparency on how the money is utilised.

"At the end of every month we have an open day where we inform the community what we did with their money," she said. Money is used to purchase medicine and to pay for the transportation of patients to other health centres.

TEN) – AU/NEPAD DECLARATION ON THE G20 ACTION PLAN ON FOOD PRICE VOLATILITY AND AGRICULTURE

The food security challenge

1. Two-thirds of African people derive their income from agriculture and spend between 50 and 80% of their income on food. These figures show the importance of agriculture on the continent.

2. Food insecurity remains the biggest challenge in developing countries and African countries in particular. The measures to be taken by G20 countries may have a direct impact on the daily lives of people in Africa hence their importance for us.

3. Food security is a matter of **sovereignty and a national security challenge**. That is why any actions in this regard **should be discussed with Governments and regional organizations**. The specific mechanisms in a good number of countries or implemented by specialized regional institutions should **be at the heart of deliberations with our partners when working on systems to mitigate the effects of food insecurity**. This is especially true when it comes to the sensitive issue of managing strategic food reserves.

The role of the G20

4. Considering that the G20 countries account for more than 85% of global production and food exports, one can easily understand the huge responsibility these countries have when it comes to implementing measures that contribute to the well-being of the general community. We welcome their efforts. Their influence in the global food balance is paramount and we encourage them to **embark on ambitious goals, such as restoring production and stock levels to limit tensions on the market**. This may yield benefits for the community as a whole.

The African perspective

5. African countries are not looking forward to depending continuously on external supplies that will remain uncertain in prices and quantities. Actually, our ultimate and unquestionable ambition is to develop our agriculture and markets. In this regard, NEPAD is working towards this goal through its Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Program (CAADP). In our opinion, we must rely on our own production to meet our food needs. **In fact, importation is not Africa's goal .**

5. All developed and emerging countries started out by conquering their domestic markets before taking advantage of production gains to end up exporting. This choice to focus on domestic demand was warranted by an enabling and stable economic environment, enhanced for instance by access to credit facilities that were mostly on concessional terms, and by bright and predictable revenue prospects due to regulated prices or deficiency payments. **This is only what we are asking for our producers: let us apply the recipes accountable for success in the G20 countries.**

6. Developments at the WTO equally remind us that little has actually changed regarding international negotiations on agriculture over the last 10 years. **The failure of Doha is an opportunity for us to bounce back positively and in a pragmatic manner to make progress with issues of importance to all developing countries, and African countries in particular.** Hence, efforts should be made to conclude early agreements (harvest) in matters concerning vulnerable countries. This should apply also to certain export products that play a central role in the fight against poverty in some parts of Africa. Our countries are in need of stability; **that is why the arrangements made since 2004 in the farming agreement need to give birth to concrete measures regarding particularly special safeguard mechanisms or subsidies for specific products.**

7. We are calling for **pragmatism in providing support to African farmers** by facilitating the purchase of fertilizers through smart subsidies where the market is not running smoothly, for fertilizers to be made available at reasonable prices. **We support the idea of an innovative mechanism to finance access to farming inputs and would like the private sector to be involved as a stakeholder.** On our part, we are working in this direction and we encourage any initiatives along these lines from our G20 partners.

8. This gives us the opportunity to recall that **the mandate received by the G20 at Seoul envisaged an examination of the issue of increasing the share of supplies on the market for small producers** and expanding their access to markets. We hope the G20 will address this issue that involves virtually all Africa's producers and accounts for the majority of the volumes produced.

10. Africa has close cooperation and dialogue with the international community and this is improving by the day. **Our countries are attached to multilateralism.** The reform of FAO that Africa heavily contributed to, mobilized the energies of each and every one of us. We should be confident that this reform will bear fruit. Therefore, in keeping with the mandates conferred on it, we need to emphasize its central role for the benefit of all in the G20 proposals with regard to food markets and food security.

11. The decision taken by the AU in 2010 at the Kampala summit to set up a development agency under its supervision, namely the NEPAD agency, is evidence that Africans are increasingly equipping themselves with the means to build a common destiny. This year, NEPAD will be 10 years old. It is sustained by facilitating major changes in the different countries working towards their own development. This renewed commitment is certain. State revenues that are now the main source of development financing account for more than 80% of overall sources of financing in Africa. With growth rates near 7% before the financial crisis, Africa is showing it can become a power to be reckoned with.

ELEVEN) – KENYA: STRATEGY TO COUNTER COUNTERFEIT MEDICINE

In Kenya buying medicine from any unregistered pharmacy outlet means that you are running a higher risk of buying either substandard or counterfeit drugs that form 30 percent of all drugs sold in the country. Medicine manufacturers, government representatives and pharmacists from six countries in East Africa have observed that the region is stocked with either poor quality, or counterfeit medicine.

"The biggest challenge is that it is very difficult to identify counterfeit medicine by just looking at either the medicine or the packaging. In many cases, we have seen counterfeit medicines that have been packaged

better than the original ones," said Dr. Jayesh Pandit, the head of Pharmacovigilance at the Pharmacy and Poisons Board in Kenya.

The board is urging Kenyans, through media campaigns, to consider buying both lifestyle and life-saving drugs from only registered pharmacies and pharmacists in order to reduce the risk of buying substances that would be detrimental to their health.

"I am not saying that we should trust certified pharmacists 100 percent. But buying drugs from such outlets can reduce the risk of buying substandard or counterfeit medicine by more than 50 percent. This is because these pharmacies are routinely inspected by the Pharmacy and Poisons Board without notice," said Pandit.

The only way to identify such pharmacies and pharmacists is by looking at the certificate, which is supposed to be hung openly. Pharmacists are also issued with green badges, which are supposed to be worn at all times, while pharmaceutical technologists are issued with blue badges.

"However, the other challenge is that unscrupulous traders are already making fake badges to deceive the public. But we have a special inspection team out there on the lookout. And so far, some culprits have already been arrested and charged in court," said Pandit.

In one of the most memorable frauds in Kenya, a full container of counterfeit Panadol Extra tablets worth over 62,000 dollars was impounded three years ago. (Panadol Extra is a painkiller manufactured by GlaxoSmithKline pharmaceuticals). When the tablets were examined by the Kenya Medical Research Institute, they were found to contain chalk with no active ingredients whatsoever.

Some counterfeit products are found to have too many active ingredients – subjecting the end user to an overdose. While others have little or no active ingredient – subjecting the patient to under-dose. Others are found to contain potentially lethal substances including pesticides, heavy metals, chalk, leaded highway paint, printer ink and arsenic.

According to Steve Allen of Pfizer – the world's largest pharmaceutical company – a huge number of counterfeit medicines are still in the market. Some of these counterfeit medicines are in the genuine supply chain, in many cases without the knowledge of the suppliers and retailers. "Fake medicine can, and does cause serious harm to patients, which can sometimes lead to death," said Allen, the company's Senior Director for Global Security for Europe, Middle East and Africa.

Between 2004 and 2010, authorities all over the world seized 65 million doses of counterfeit Pfizer medicines. However, Pfizer estimates this is just one third of what is already on the market.

"This is just a tip of the iceberg. We need concerted effort to stem out the vice which is not only affecting Africa, but also the developed world," added Allen. In order to do this, Kenya's legal framework needs to be addressed.

"The laws that we have at the moment are either outdated, or are not being implemented," said Pandit. He points to Kenya's current law, which provides guidelines to govern the Pharmacy and Poisons Board in the country.

"This legislation was put in place in 1957. And since then, many things have changed, hence, it must be redressed in order to make sense in the present world," he said.

"The only way to fight against the vice at the moment is through collaboration with all the players starting from end users of the drugs, to all manufacturers, distributors, regulatory authorities, customs, and police among others," Pandit said.

The Kenyan Pharmacy and Poisons Board wants people to report counterfeit or substandard medicine.

"We have developed a 'simple to understand' form in simple English to be used for reporting substandard and poor quality medicine. It is available in PDF form on our website for anybody to print, and at all public health facilities for people to pick and fill, and present to nearby provincial pharmacists, or e-mailed directly to the board," said Pandit.

The form requires the complainant to report any anomalies identified with the drug. It could be the colour, ineffectiveness or suspicious packaging, among others.

Over the last two years the board has received 190 reports from the public, through which counterfeit and substandard medicines have been impounded and culprits arrested. At the same time, a number of drugs have been recalled from the market for being substandard or because they failed quality tests.

Though it is not easy to trace the origin of counterfeit medicine due to a lack of records, Pfizer officials believe that most are manufactured in China, India, Egypt and Columbia.

TWELVE) – ANGOLA - LAW ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE A STEP FORWARD FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Domestically abused women who are financially dependent on their abusers can now report the crime with the assurance that they will be able to get financial and medical support from the state, thanks to the country's new law on domestic violence.

Women's campaigners have welcomed the introduction of the new law, which was signed into the statute books on Jul. 8, and which criminalises domestic violence and offers protection to victims and their families. Until now domestic violence had not been illegal in Angola – and on the rare occasions it reached court, it was prosecuted under rape, assault and battery laws.

The law, which was signed into the statute books on Jul. 8, guarantees support to victims, through safe houses, medical treatment and financial and legal help. In addition, violence has been designated as a "public crime", which means anyone can report it to the police, not just the victim.

"Giving other people the right to report domestic violence also helps because victims can be ashamed of their situations and may not want to speak up about what is happening to them," Suzana Mendes, editor of the Luanda-based private weekly newspaper *Angolense* and a leading member of the Angolan Forum of Women Journalists, which has lobbied extensively for the new law, said.

The fact that anyone can report domestic violence, and that victims will get financial and medical support is crucial to the new legislation's impact, Mendes said. However, no details have been given about the amount of money that will be made available to victims.

"With domestic violence there are so many factors you need to take into consideration," she explained.

"For many victims they are trapped and unable to report their problems because they are financially dependent on their abuser. Now, they can contact the police and know that they won't be left vulnerable," Mendes said.

The legislation, some 10 years in the making, articulates new definitions of domestic violence, which include withholding food from a child, failing to adequately support a pregnant woman and sexually abusing a minor or elderly person in your care.

"This is very good news. We have spent many years fighting for this legislation and it has not been easy.

"We had a big job to prove to society that the law was necessary, to explain what domestic violence was. Initially some people saw this law as being something that was un-African because it interfered with families, and others saw it as anti-men," Mendes said.

Traditional marriages with girls under the age of 14 have also been outlawed and there are new laws around family finances, giving women more rights to inheritance and family money.

Sizaltina Cutaia, from the Angolan office of the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa, also welcomed the legislation.

But she said it was not guaranteed that the pledges made in the law would be supported in practice.

"As a country in general we do not have very good records in terms of law enforcement and there too many examples to show that," she said. "I think that the adoption of the law is a great starting point but there needs to be resources allocated to provide training to police officers (both male and female) as well as to educate the population, particularly women and girls, about the content of the law and the processes that one needs follow in order to report violence."

There are no concrete statistics for levels of domestic violence in Angola, partly because until now there has been no legal definition, and any incidents that are reported have been recorded as normal assaults. However, in one survey carried out in 2008 by the Angolan Women's Organisation (OMA), the women's wing of the country's ruling party, Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola, in just one district of Luanda, researchers counted some 4,000 incidents over 12 months – roughly 10 attacks a day.

And another study, referred to in the 2009 United States State Department Human Rights report on Angola, recorded 62 percent of women living in poor suburbs of the capital to have experienced some form of household violence.

Despite this perceived high rate of incidence, there are no formal support networks and just a handful of safe houses in the capital Luanda run by the OMA. Few women bothered to report domestic violence as they believed that prosecution was unlikely and would only complicate matters further.

Cutaia admitted domestic violence was endemic in Angola and hoped that the new legislation and an accompanying civic education programme would start to tackle that.

"When I was growing up, domestic violence was all around me and I remember a neighbour being very badly beaten and a guy standing by saying that sometimes men beat women to show them that they love them," she recalled.

And added: "When you are a teenager and hear these statements, you believe them. And also, there is a tendency for victims to be asked what they did wrong, as if they deserved it in some way."

A 2009 study by the South African Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (CSVR) observed

that the legacy of Angola's three-decade civil war, which only ended in 2002, had left engrained violent tendencies within its people.

Cutaia said too much of Angola's ills were blamed on its history of conflict, but Mendes suggested the entrenched poverty the war had left behind definitely puts pressure on families.

"When you are living in a place with no water, no electricity and you have no food, life is very hard," she said. "Many families are living in poor and cramped conditions and with little space to relax and this can make life very hard and make people start to be angry."

While celebrating the new legislation, Mendes agrees with Cutaia that it is only the beginning.

"Now we have the law," she said. "But it is only the first step. We need the media and civil society to make a big campaign to tell people about it and explain to people about their rights. "It's important this happens countrywide and that any publicity material is translated into all languages, not just Portuguese, to make sure we reach all communities, not just those people in the urban centres, but the people in rural villages too."

Angola's minister for women and family promotion, Genoveva Lino, who has led the fight to criminalise domestic violence for a number of years, described the new legislation as a "victory for all Angolans" that would "help build stronger and more stable family units."

THIRTEEN) – EGYPT: FISHING DANGEROUSLY FOR QUICK NET WORTH

Ali Mohsen knows how to tell a good fish story. The wiry, white-haired Egyptian mariner weaves a yarn about his childhood days when the sea was so full of fish that one could simply dangle a hand net over the side of the boat and pull up a seafood dinner. This morning, his crew spent hours out at sea with only four kilos of small fish to show for it.

Smaller still are the fish seen in the local market. Fishmongers in this Mediterranean port city sell sardine-sized fish belonging to a species that grows to two kilos when allowed to mature. Mohsen grows visibly angry as he explains how poachers use nylon mist nets known locally as "el-shabah" (the phantom) to catch even the smallest fish, including fingerlings.

"They're ruining the market for all of us," he says. "If you catch baby fish, they're not worth much, but it will keep them from growing to be adult fish and reproducing to make more fish."

Egypt's natural fisheries have been in decline since the late 1990s. According to the General Authority for Fisheries Resources Development (GAFRD), the state agency responsible for managing Egypt's fisheries, Mediterranean fishermen landed 81,000 tonnes of finfish in 2009, a 10 percent decrease from the previous year. Unpublished reports indicate the 2010 catch was even lower.

Diminishing returns have given fishermen more incentive to use illegal and destructive techniques to maintain their meagre incomes. The preferred methods of poaching, according to GAFRD, involve the use of mist nets, floodlights to attract fish at night, dynamite and various fast-acting poisons.

"Some fishermen throw large amounts of insecticide powder into the water and wait a few minutes for the dead fish to float to the surface," Mohsen explains. "Can you imagine what happens to people who eat these poisoned fish?"

Catching poachers is extremely difficult. While Mediterranean ports are tightly controlled, the vast expanse of sea that buttresses Egypt's northern coast is beyond police purview.

The coast guard vessels that patrol these waters are on the lookout for Israeli naval vessels and illegal arms shipments to Gaza. Catching a boatload of local fishermen dragging a mist net over a shoal is not a priority, nor within their jurisdiction.

"Authorities only control the landing area," says marine biologist Alaa El-Haweet, a GAFRD consultant.

"There is no control out at sea, or in the market... so fishermen can basically catch as much as they want, wherever they want."

The government limits its regulation to licensing the 4,000 fishing vessels and 40,000 unmotorised boats that ply Egypt's Mediterranean waters. Port authorities randomly inspect boats for permits and mandatory safety equipment, but rarely bother to search for illegal fishing tackle. Even then, infractions are usually overlooked with a small bribe.

In recent years, the government has also imposed an annual 45-day moratorium on Mediterranean fisheries aimed at protecting wild stocks. Most commercial fleet owners use the May 1 to June 15 period to perform annual maintenance on their boats, which are forbidden from leaving port during the moratorium.

"The ban coincides with the spawning season for 20 (commercially) important species of fish," explains El-Haweet. "Actually, the spawning season lasts three months, but we couldn't make the ban any longer

because fishermen have to feed their families."

Fisheries officials say they faced ferocious resistance when they attempted to enforce the moratorium earlier this year. The uprising that forced Hosni Mubarak from power in February is said to have distorted prices and pushed fishermen deeper into poverty, heightening their contempt of regulatory powers. When protests by angry fishermen turned violent, GAFRD decided to abandon the fishing ban altogether.

Madani Ali Madani, a fisheries specialist at GAFRD, says unregulated fishing during the critical spawning season will augment fish production this season, but could harm wild stocks for years to come. "We tried to clarify that the ban was for their benefit, but fishermen have used the opportunity of the revolution to disobey all regulations," said Madani. "Some told us they wouldn't stop fishing because they were using long lines, which they claim do not affect spawning fish. Then the purse seiners said they wouldn't stop if the long liners didn't, and the trawlers followed the purse seiners, and so on."

While commercial fishermen have reportedly targeted fish congregating over their spawning grounds, Madani denies rumours that the absence of authority following Mubarak's departure prompted a large number of boat captains to switch to mist nets.

"A fishing net is one of the most expensive items in any fishing operation," he says. "Usually a boat that has a net will use it until it is completely destroyed in about two to four years. We've seen no evidence of fishermen changing their gear early."

However one veteran fisher, who gave his name as Gomaa, told that since the revolution five months ago Egypt's Mediterranean coastal waters have become a "battle zone." Competing captains are using mist nets, long-lines, bottom trawling and other destructive fishing methods to land a larger catch.

And while Gomaa acknowledges the damage that these methods cause, he says he too will resort to them if his catch continues to decline.

FOURTEEN) – SOMALIANS DYING WHILE FLEEING DROUGHT, SAYS UNHCR

De "nombreuses" personnes meurent en fuyant la sécheresse en Somalie, a indiqué vendredi le [Haut-commissariat de l'ONU pour les réfugiés](#) (HCR), avertissant que l'aide humanitaire risque d'être insuffisante face à cette crise humanitaire. "De nombreuses personnes meurent en chemin, selon ce que nous entendons", a déclaré aux médias Melissa Fleming, une porte-parole de l'agence, sans préciser le nombre de décès. (AFP)

FIFTEEN) – EU SETS OUT ROADMAP FOR THE GRADUAL RESUMPTION OF DEVELOPMENT

The EU Council today concluded consultations held under Article 96 of the Cotonou Agreement with the Republic of Guinea-Bissau and set out a roadmap to gradually resume development cooperation with the country. The roadmap foresees that advances made by Guinea-Bissau in the reform process will be reflected in a gradual resumption of EU development assistance.

The EU considered the military mutiny of 1 April 2010 and the subsequent appointment of its main instigators to leading posts in the military hierarchy as a serious and evident breach of the essential elements of the Cotonou Agreement. In accordance with Article 96 of the Agreement, the EU therefore provisionally suspended parts of its development cooperation with Guinea-Bissau and engaged in political consultations that took place in Brussels on 29 March 2011.

At that meeting, Guinea-Bissau authorities put forward a series of undertakings in order to progressively ensure the primacy of civilian authority, improve democratic governance, safeguard constitutional order and the rule of law, and to tackle impunity and organised crime.

Pending progress on the country's reform agenda and in the fight against impunity and organised crime, the Commission temporarily suspended parts of its development cooperation, for example in the fields of budget support or security sector reform. However, humanitarian measures or assistance directly benefiting the population has continued. In the context of the European Development Fund, an amount of around €110 million has been allocated to Guinea-Bissau from 2007 to 2013. These funds were notably intended to support the country in strengthening the rule of law and democracy (reform of the administration, the justice system, the security forces, etc.), as well as facilitating the population's access to basic services, such as water and energy.

Article 96 of the Cotonou Agreement

Article 96 of the Cotonou Agreement between the EU and African, Caribbean and Pacific countries (ACP) states inter alia that, if a Party considers that the other Party has failed to fulfil an obligation stemming from respect for human rights, democratic principles and the rule of law, the situation should be examined thoroughly with a view to seeking a solution acceptable to the Parties. To this end, it invites the other Party to hold consultations so that together they can carry out a thorough and constructive examination of the situation, enabling the Party concerned to take measures to remedy the situation.

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Brussels

