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ONE) – TUNISIA POSTPONES ELECTIONS

Les premières élections de l'après-Ben Ali en Tunisie, initialement prévues le 24 juillet, sont reportées au 23 octobre, pour permettre au pays pionnier du "printemps arabe" d'organiser un scrutin libre et transparent, a tranché mercredi le gouvernement au terme d'un vif débat. "Nous avons pris en compte tous les avis et nous avons décidé de tenir les élections le 23 octobre", a déclaré à la presse le Premier ministre tunisien de transition, Béji Caïd Essebsi, lors d'une réunion avec les partis politiques. "Le plus important, c'est la transparence des élections", a-t-il insisté, en soulignant que "la révolution et la Tunisie ont une réputation que nous devons protéger". Cette élection cruciale, qui aura valeur de test pour la transition démocratique dans ce pays récemment sorti d'une dictature, promet d'être suivie attentivement par la communauté internationale. L'élection d'une Assemblée constituante, qui dotera le pays d'un pouvoir légitime, était prévue le 24 juillet. Mais la commission électorale avait demandé un report au 16 octobre, contre l'avis initial du gouvernement et de certains partis, en affirmant avoir besoin de ce délai pour organiser une élection crédible et transparente. "Nous avons un choix: dissoudre la commission (électorale), revenir à des élections organisées par le ministère de l'Intérieur et retomber dans les tares de l'ancien régime, ou garder la commission. Nous avons donc décidé de la garder", a ajouté le Premier ministre. M. Essebsi a également demandé aux Tunisiens de "rompre définitivement avec toutes les formes de grèves et de protestations" pour tenir les élections dans de bonnes conditions, en avançant que le pays, en difficultés économiques, "ne tolère plus de telles perturbations". D'après négociations s'étaient tenues ces dernières semaines avec les formations politiques pour parvenir à un consensus sur la date de ces élections cruciales, qui seront les premières depuis la chute le 14 janvier du président Zine el Abidine Ben Ali. L'influent mouvement islamiste Ennahda, crédité d'au moins 20% des intentions de vote par les experts, semble avoir finalement accepté ce report, après avoir longtemps insisté sur le respect de la date du 24 juillet. Cette élection doit déboucher sur la mise en place d'une Assemblée constituante, chargée de rédiger une nouvelle Constitution en remplacement de celle de l'ancien régime. L'Assemblée déterminera elle-même la durée de son mandat, selon le président de la commission électorale, Kamel Jendoubi. Après 23 ans de pouvoir sans partage, Zine el Abidine Ben Ali a fui la Tunisie le 14 janvier pour l'Arabie Saoudite, sous la pression d'un puissant soulèvement populaire. (AFP)

TWO) - LAGARDE "VERY SATISFIED" WITH CHINA VISIT

French Finance Minister Christine Lagarde, a leading candidate to head the International Monetary Fund (IMF), said on Thursday that she was "very satisfied" with her meetings with top Chinese officials, and proposed increasing China's voting share in the fund. Lagarde, who is in Beijing as part of a whirlwind world tour to rally support for her IMF candidacy, is considered the favourite to replace former IMF chief Dominique Strauss-Kahn after he was arrested last month on attempted rape charges. She met Chinese Vice Premier Wang Qishan and central bank chief Zhou Xiaochuan on Wednesday. Lagarde said she had "very solid, in-depth" discussions about her candidacy with central bank chief Zhou. She also said the IMF could help China promote greater use of China's currency in global markets, one of Beijing's key objectives. India's Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee said on Tuesday that the country has not committed to support Lagarde's bid despite her visit, a sign that India may still be hopeful of nominating an alternative candidate. The main obstacle in Lagarde's bid for the top IMF job is the possibility of an inquiry into her role in a 2008 arbitration payout. (Reuters)

THREE) - LATIN AMERICAN SUPPORT GROWS FOR CARSTENS AS IMF CHIEF

Colombia became the first major Latin American nation to publicly endorse Mexican central bank chief Agustin Carstens for the International Monetary Fund's top job on Wednesday, calling on others to do the same. The Colombian Foreign Ministry said in a statement a dozen other Latin American nations now backed Carstens, who is seen as the underdog candidate in the race to succeed Dominique Strauss-Kahn to head the Washington-based IMF. The Latin American group backing Carstens includes Venezuela, Bolivia, Peru, Panama, Uruguay, Mexico, Paraguay, Belize, Honduras, Guatemala, the Dominican Republic and Nicaragua, the statement said. Costa Rica also endorsed Carstens on Wednesday. "Colombia expresses support for the aspiration of Agustin Carstens and invites other governments of the Americas to join in backing this bid," Foreign Minister Maria Angela Holguin said in the statement, which called on other Latin American nations to support the Mexican. Holguin, who was in El Salvador at a meeting of the Organization of American States, said emerging markets needed more say in multilateral institutions. **ANOTHER EMERGING CANDIDATE?**

Emerging nations have not rallied behind Carstens, and there is hope in some quarters that another candidate will emerge who can win the backing of the BRIC countries -- Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. In Latin America, Brazil, Argentina and Chile have been reluctant to immediately support Carstens because of his orthodox views on economic policy. Some of the votes in the group named by Colombia are a foregone conclusion because at IMF board votes, Mexico casts votes for itself and seven other countries, including Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Venezuela. Spain, for example, is also part of Mexico's IMF constituency and has said it would like to support Lagarde, but will end up behind Carstens. Carstens was the chair of the World Bank's development committee and is well versed in poverty issues faced by developing countries. The United States and Europe hold 48 percent of the votes in the IMF, while emerging economies -China, India, Brazil and Russia- have 12 percent. The process to name candidates closes on Friday. A new IMF head will be elected on June 30. (Reuters)

FOUR) - DISCORD OVER SLIMMED-DOWN DOHA DELAYS TRADE TALKS

The World Trade Organization postponed on Wednesday stop-gap negotiations over a way of benefiting the world's poorest nations in the absence of a comprehensive deal. Citing a request by Geneva-based negotiators for more time to consult with one another and their capitals, WTO chief Pascal Lamy delayed the meeting originally set for Thursday to June 22. Ten years of negotiations in the 153-member WTO have failed to seal an accord that could generate billions of dollars and alleviate poverty by freeing up trade in goods and services. The stop-gap proposed last week would require that rich countries -particularly the United States- make good on promises made in 2005 to trim cotton subsidies, import most from least-developed countries with customs exempted and simplify sourcing rules for exporters in poor countries. The United States has been the most vocal opponent of a one-sided deal, calling on emerging countries to pitch in with concessions and saying commitments to poor states hinged on the success of talks for a broad and lucrative deal, known since negotiations started in 2001 as the Doha round. "It is already evident that coming to a common view about the content of any 'early package' will be challenging. But leadership from all -- not just some -- major members is going to be essential," said a U.S. official. Trimming back cotton subsidies could affect U.S. payments expected to be worth \$921 million (\$631 million euros) in 2011, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and payments by the European Union that were worth 217 million euros (\$316 million) in 2009, according to EU data. China has been cited by the 42-member International Cotton Advisory Committee as paying more than a billion dollars a year to cotton farmers. China argues that its payments are legal under trade rules and need not be cut. Granting duty-free access to least-developed countries would also impact most on the United States, where there are currently no wide-ranging concessions in place for least-developed states. The EU already grants such trade concessions, albeit with important caveats under complex sourcing rules. Pressure for a limited deal is high, with countries hoping to postpone -- perhaps indefinitely given the stalled Doha round -- concessions over more commercially sensitive issues. "Countries have been clawing issues off the negotiating table" as issues that should not now be up for discussion, said a trade official familiar with talks that occurred on the side-lines of an OECD meeting in Paris last month. (Reuters)

FIVE) – AFRICA LOOKS TO A GREEN FUTURE

As G20 ministers met here Tuesday to discuss nuclear safety, another meeting has been taking place 6,000km away - to examine green business growth.

In Brazzaville, capital of the Republic of the Congo, environmentalists, policy-makers and businesspeople kicked off the second international Green Business Forum in Africa, a four-day conference that looks at opportunities for sustainable economic development.

Both meetings come at a crucial time. The industrialised world is rethinking its policies on nuclear energy, following the Fukushima disaster in Japan, while many African leaders have realised that the future of their continent is green.

The conference in Brazzaville aims to respond to "current concerns" and to "sensitise" the public to the importance of sustainable business, conservation of the forests in the Congo Basin and the fight for food security, according to Sylvestre Didier Mavuenzela, president of Congo's Pointe-Noire Chamber of Commerce, who spoke in Paris ahead of the meeting.

"For investors from central Africa, Europe, Asia and America, the forum represents an occasion to benefit from the real opportunities offered by eco-business in the sub-region, on one hand, and emphasises the need for the

development and the improvement of conditions for the people who live there, on the other hand," he said. Mavuenzela told journalists that the organisers (including Congo's Ministry of Sustainable Development and the Environment) were aware of the boom in green business.

"If central Africa doesn't get involved and move forward in this sector, it won't be able to benefit from the advantages of green business that would allow it to reduce its economic vulnerability," he said.

The Paris-based Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has said that "governments must look to the green economy to find new sources of growth and jobs" and that countries should "put in place policies that tap into the innovation, investment and entrepreneurship driving the shift towards a greener economy."

In a report published late last month titled "Towards Green Growth", the organisation outlined a practical framework for governments to boost economic growth and protect the environment.

"Many countries in Africa have strong wealth in natural assets, and there is the need to have specific policies to develop these assets in a sustainable way and this is now happening in an organised fashion," Nathalie Girouard of the OECD's Green Growth Strategy team told IPS.

"Green growth makes economic as well as environmental sense," the OECD has stated. "In natural resource sectors alone, commercial opportunities related to investments in environmental sustainability could run into trillions of dollars by 2050."

In the run-up to Rio+20 - the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012 – various countries across Africa and other regions have already come to that understanding, with new investments being made and many partnerships being formed, according to experts.

In Rwanda's "Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy", for instance, environment is "identified as a key cross-cutting issue", Girouard told IPS.

"In the area of green growth, Rwanda of course has a different need than Germany or Canada, so the idea is to tailor policies to different stages of development," she said.

Rwanda has also identified various sectors with strong "environmental and natural resource content" as critical to achieving its development objectives, the OECD says.

The measures taken, for example, to preserve the country's mountain gorilla habitat has boosted tourism, which now accounts for the biggest share of national GDP, the organisation adds.

African businesspeople based at home and abroad, are also getting actively involved in the green industry, some through partnerships with other developing countries as well as with Europe. For many this is a chance to improve the living conditions on the continent.

In Benin, the non-governmental organisation Association Béninoise pour l'Eveil et le Développement (Beninese Association for Mobilisation and Development – ABED) has been installing solar panels in villages and working to "create a replicable model for encouraging solar energy," says Christèle Adedjoumon, the Paris-based, French-educated renewable energy project manager.

"The project consists of solar electrification of rural areas by rural women themselves," she says.

Rural Beninese women were trained in solar PV technology at Barefoot College in India for six months to solar electrify their villages, she said. Barefoot College, which itself is solar-powered, educates women from poor villages to become health and engineering professionals.

Adedjoumon said that the aim was to "drive sustainable social development" through the effects on family life, health, education, employment and protection of the environment.

She and other experts have pointed out that some 1.4 billion people worldwide are lacking access to electricity, mostly in sub-Saharan Africa where the electrification rate is 30 percent on average and 12 percent in rural areas.

If specific measures aren't put in place, the number of people without access to electricity is predicted to remain around 1.2 billion by 2030, they say.

France, which holds the G8 and G20 presidency in 2011, has stressed that energy access and development in Africa is a top priority. In April, the French Environment Minister, Nathalie Kosciusko-Morizet and Kenyan Prime Minister Raila Odinga launched the Paris-Nairobi Climate Initiative, which seeks to contribute to achieving universal access to clean energy by 2030.

"The poorest population of the world pays energy among the most expensive, least effective and least sustainable," says a joint French-Kenyan report.

Reflecting the stakes involved, the launch of the initiative in Paris drew 90 delegations, from Africa, from G20 member states, Europe, United Nations agencies, development groups and energy companies (including the French EDF and the Central African Republic's Enerca).

In the final declaration of the meeting, participants said they agreed on "the urgency of achieving universal energy access, of economic development and of the fight against climate change."

Kenya will host the next conference of the Initiative in Nairobi, in February 2012. That meeting will report on

"actions taken to improve the climate for investments, to establish new financing mechanisms, and to launch Clean Energy Flagship Projects", the partners said.

SIX) – CANADA CONFIRMS IT WILL REJECT NEW KYOTO PROTOCOL

Canada confirmed on Wednesday that it would not support an extended Kyoto Protocol after 2012, joining Japan and Russia in rejecting a new round of the climate emissions pact. The current Kyoto Protocol binds only the emissions of industrialised countries from 2008-2012. Poor and emerging economies want to extend the pact, creating a deadlock at U.N. climate talks running from June 6 to 17 in Bonn, Germany. The confirmation makes it clear Canada is following the line its ruling party pursued ahead of last month's election. "Now that we've finished our election we can say now that Canada will not be taking a target under a second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol," Judith Gelbman, a member of Canada's delegation, told a negotiating session of the talks. Canada has also previously said it could not achieve the binding emissions cuts it has committed to under the first round of Kyoto up to 2012, infuriating environmentalists and developing countries. The U.N.'s top climate official, Christiana Figueres, said on Monday that the talks would now miss a deadline to launch a binding successor to Kyoto at the end of next year, because even if countries agreed a deal, they subsequently would have to be approved in national parliaments in a lengthy ratification process. The talks in Bonn were all but deadlocked on Wednesday on what items to include in the agenda of the meeting, and also over the long-running spat over whether or not to extend Kyoto. Global carbon emissions last year rose at their fastest rate in more than four decades, up nearly 6 percent at about double the annual rate of increase over the past decade, data released by Oil Company BP showed. (Reuters)

SEVEN) – REPORT BLASTS CONTESTED EU FISHING PACT WITH MOROCCO

A politically divisive fishing pact between Morocco and the European Union has been costing Europe millions of euros a year and could deplete Morocco's fish stocks, according to a confidential report seen by Reuters. The EU report says Europe has been unable to profit from the treaty, increase access to fish or impose environmental standards, findings that are likely to erode support among EU governments and lawmakers for the accord. The treaty, which took effect in 2007, has also long been criticised for tightening Morocco's hold over Western Sahara, a resource-rich territory to the south that Morocco annexed in 1975 and has become Africa's longest land dispute. "The EU has paid too high a price to support its fishing fleet," said the 112-page report for the EU Commission. Europe has paid Morocco 36.1 million euros a year since 2007 so that its boats can fish off the coast of Morocco and Western Sahara, an area with vast resources of fish, phosphates and potentially oil, as an alternative to Europe's depleted stocks. **EU FISHERMEN NOT PROFITING** But rather than turning a profit as similar EU agreements have done, fishing turnover fell short of the 36.1 million investment by about 6 million euros a year, the report found. EU fishermen land around 44,000 tonnes of fish a year, mainly sardines and anchovies -5 percent of Morocco's total catch and a fragment of Europe's 13-million-tonne consumption. "The fleet's contribution ... to meeting the needs of the European market is ... rather marginal," the report said. Continued EU fishing could harm the region's fish stocks, already exploited and in part overexploited by local fishermen. "The EU has not had any strategic impact in defining measures to promote responsible fishing practices," it said. Diplomats and lawmakers say the report will be given serious consideration during discussions over whether to extend the pact to 2012, and a four-year renewal after that. "We'll have to see if this agreement is going to be renewed as it stands," said Carmen Fraga, a Spanish conservative party delegate and president of the European Parliament's fisheries committee who has backed the fisheries agreement in the past. "But our European fishing sector cannot be left stranded. As for human rights, that's a horizontal problem. Why is this agreement the only pact where this is raised as an issue?" Spain, home to fish processing giant Pescanova, has led the push to keep the pact in place, arguing it provides employment for European fishermen, among other benefits. **LIKE PALESTINE, AN OCCUPIED TERRITORY** An end to the EU-Moroccan fisheries deal could trigger a more wholesale examination of governments and firms doing business in Moroccan-occupied Western Sahara, said Sara Eyckmans of the [Western Sahara Resource Watch](#). Pressure on the pact has been mounting since last year, when the European Commission requested evidence from Morocco that the agreement benefits the local Sahrawi population as a precondition to discussing a four-year renewal of the treaty. (Reuters)

EIGHT) – EU COURT ANNULS EU SANCTIONS ON GBAGBO WIFE

La justice européenne a annulé mercredi des sanctions décrétées par l'UE à l'encontre de la seconde épouse de l'ancien président ivoirien Laurent Gbagbo, Nadiany Bamba, privée de visa et dont les avoirs avaient été gelés. Le tribunal de la Cour de justice européenne à Luxembourg a affirmé dans son arrêt que l'UE "n'a pas motivé de manière suffisante en quoi Mme Nadiany Bamba a fait obstruction au processus de paix et à la réconciliation en Côte d'Ivoire". Directrice du groupe de presse Cyclone qui éditait notamment le quotidien "Le Temps", favorable à Laurent Gbagbo, Mme Bamba avait été sanctionnée par l'UE en janvier pour "obstruction au processus de paix et de réconciliation par l'incitation publique à la haine et à la violence et par la participation à des campagnes de désinformation en rapport avec l'élection présidentielle de 2010". Mme Bamba avait demandé au tribunal européen d'annuler cette décision. Les juges ont estimé que l'UE aurait dû préciser "les raisons spécifiques et concrètes" qui ont motivé les sanctions. Or, l'UE "s'est contentée d'exposer des considérations vagues et générales" à l'encontre de Mme Bamba, ont-ils déploré. Laurent Gbagbo est en résidence surveillée dans le nord de la Côte d'Ivoire depuis son arrestation le 11 avril à Abidjan. Sa chute est intervenue après plus de quatre mois de crise née de son refus de céder le pouvoir après le scrutin de novembre 2010, et dix jours de guerre dans Abidjan. Près de 3.000 personnes ont trouvé la mort durant la crise, selon le régime du nouveau président Alassane Ouattara. (AFP)

NINE) – EU MUST SAVE AFRICAN IMMIGRANTS FLEEING LIBYA, SAYS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSIONER

Le [commissaire aux droits de l'homme du Conseil de l'Europe](#) a appelé mercredi l'Europe à faire davantage d'efforts pour sauver les migrants africains fuyant par mer la Libye. "Le temps n'est plus où Kadhafi coopérait avec les gouvernements européens - en échange d'une aide et d'investissements généreux - pour empêcher même les plus désespérés des demandeurs d'asile de gagner l'Europe", écrit le commissaire, Thomas Hammarberg, dans un [article publié dans son "carnet des droits de l'homme"](#). "L'Europe a un rôle à jouer dans cette crise. Le principe fondamental imposant de porter secours aux personnes en mer ne s'applique pas seulement aux passagers d'un bateau qui est déjà en train de couler". M. Hammarberg juge "nécessaire de renforcer considérablement la surveillance aérienne, le long de la côte libyenne et plus au large, afin de détecter toute embarcation précaire et de préparer un sauvetage en toute sécurité". "Compte tenu des opérations militaires en cours, il semble difficile d'invoquer l'impossibilité de financer ces activités de reconnaissance. L'intensification du conflit armé a d'ailleurs contribué à aggraver la situation des migrants d'Afrique subsaharienne". Selon lui, "à ce jour, les institutions et les gouvernements européens n'ont pas pris toutes leurs responsabilités. Leur silence et leur passivité sont difficilement acceptables", et "l'Europe fait manifestement fausse route lorsqu'elle se préoccupe plus d'empêcher les migrants d'arriver sur ses côtes que de sauver des vies". Le commissaire est une personnalité indépendante dont la mission est de promouvoir la prise de conscience et le respect des droits de l'homme dans les 47 Etats membres du Conseil de l'Europe. Diplomate suédois spécialiste des droits de l'homme, M. Hammarberg a été élu à ce poste en 2006 par l'assemblée parlementaire du Conseil de l'Europe. (AFP)

TEN) – ALLIES IGNORE NATO CALL FOR MORE LIBYA BOMBARDMENTS

NATO sought broader support for the Western bombing campaign in Libya on Wednesday with alliance air power stretched by the heaviest strikes on Tripoli so far. But as NATO defence ministers met in Brussels met to discuss the Libyan campaign, some allies which have refused to take part in the bombing said they would not alter their stance and Sweden, a non-NATO participant in the mission, said it would scale down its role. Of the 28 NATO allies, only eight, led by Britain and France, have been conducting air strikes against Gaddafi's forces, and a senior U.S. official warned this week that while there were no risks to the mission as yet, fatigue was beginning to set in among the aircrews already committed. NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen said he would call on ministers for more burden-sharing and British Defence Minister Liam Fox said he would push for a stepped-up effort by other allies. "We want to see increased urgency in some quarters in terms of Libya," he told reporters in Brussels. However, there was no sign other allies would be willing to do more, and some plan to cut their existing commitments. Germany, which opposed the Libyan intervention, said it understood the pressures on Britain and France but would not change its position. Spain said it would not join the strike mission. "Germany sticks to its position, no military engagement," German Deputy Defence Minister

Christian Schmidt told reporters. Spanish Defence Minister Carme Chacon said Spain would keep up its role of assisting in enforcing a no-fly zone and the arms embargo, but would not undertake strike missions. "It will be the same contribution, the same format," she said. Norway said last month it would scale down its air strike role after its three-month commitment ends on June 24. Sweden said it would prolong its participation in the military alliance against Gaddafi, but would cut its number of fighter jets to five from eight and switch their role to reconnaissance from patrolling the no-fly zone. **PREPARING FOR EUROPE'S VIETNAM?** While NATO says its bombing campaign has greatly reduced the capacity of Gaddafi's forces, it has yet to land a knock-out blow and analysts say the conflict could drag on for many months, in the absence of a "lucky strike" on Gaddafi himself. Rasmussen said last week he hoped NATO's mission could be completed by the end of September, but many consider that optimistic, given the limitations of rebel forces and the fact that NATO has ruled out sending ground forces. "I think the vast majority of the proponents have vastly underestimated the difficulties and I don't think they anticipated how long this would drag out," said Christopher Schnaubelt of the NATO Defence College in Rome. "I don't see them increasing the capacity of the rebels to enable them to defeat Gaddafi's forces in centres of power like Tripoli any time soon, so I wouldn't be surprised if NATO was there for years. I think it's 50-50 whether we end up in a frozen conflict and de-facto partition of Libya, with Gaddafi controlling part of it and the rebels the other." Rasmussen said last week that Gaddafi's departure could take some time or could come suddenly, but the international community must begin planning to ensure a peaceful transition. He said he did not see a major role for NATO after it had fulfilled its U.N.-mandated mission to protect civilians, but NATO could help to reform the security sector. U.S. Admiral Samuel Locklear, commander of the Joint Operations Command at Naples conducting the Libya campaign, suggested last week a small force may be needed once Gaddafi's regime collapses to help the transition to democracy. He said this could come from the United Nations, the European Union, or for a short time from NATO. However, NATO officials said that while ministers would discuss the alliance's post-Gaddafi role, there was no plan to deploy ground troops. (Reuters)

ELEVEN) – SPAIN RECOGNISES LIBYAN REBEL COUNCIL

Spain has recognised Libya's rebel National Transitional Council as the country's legitimate representative, Spanish Foreign Minister Trinidad Jimenez said during a visit to rebel-held east Libya. "I'm here today to confirm that the National Transitional Council is the only legitimate representative of the Libyan people," Jimenez told reporters in the eastern Libyan city of Benghazi on Wednesday. The council, which oversees the affairs of eastern regions under rebel control, has lobbied hard for diplomatic recognition and for funds to maintain its months-long campaign to unseat leader Muammar Gaddafi. Foreign powers led by United States, France and Britain have helped isolate Gaddafi and cut his funding and weapon supplies, while bolstering the rebel council with offers of aid. The council has won full recognition from France, Italy, Qatar and Jordan as the true representative of the Libyan people, while the U.S. has invited the rebels to open an office in Washington. Jimenez pledged humanitarian assistance for the rebels, without giving details. "What the Spanish government wants is the same thing that the Libyan people want which is democracy and freedom, and that is why the Spanish government will pledge assistance to the national council," she said. (Reuters)

TWELVE) – ONLY 2 % OF REFUGEES FROM LIBYA ARE IN EUROPE, SAYS UNHCR

Seule une infime partie des quelque 900.000 personnes ayant fui les violences en Libye ont trouvé refuge en Europe, a estimé mercredi à Stockholm le chef du Haut commissariat de l'ONU pour les réfugiés (HCR). "Je pense qu'il est important de dire que sur les personnes qui ont fui la Libye, moins de deux pour cent (...) sont venues en Europe", a déclaré Antonio Guterres lors d'une conférence de presse. Il a précisé que parmi "les quelque 900.000 personnes qui ont déjà quitté la Libye, la très grande majorité sont des ressortissants de pays tiers qui travaillaient comme immigrés en Libye". Le chef du HCR a invité à "remettre en perspective les discussions faisant parfois état de mouvements massifs de population". "Ces discussions parfois en Europe ne reposent pas sur des faits mais sur des impressions", a-t-il dit, soulignant qu' "il n'y a pas eu de flux massifs de réfugiés de Libye en Europe". (AFP)

THIRTEEN) – SOUTH SUDAN PARTY CALLS FOR SOUTH KORDOFAN CEASEFIRE

A senior member of south Sudan's main party called for a ceasefire in the border state of Southern Kordofan on Wednesday, following fighting between the northern military and armed groups there. The oil-producing state, which is in northern Sudan and borders the south, has been seen as a potential flashpoint as south Sudan prepares to secede on July 9. Southern Kordofan is home to many fighters who sided with the south against the north during decades of civil war and fear being isolated after the split. Clashes broke out at the weekend in Kadugli, the state capital, between northern soldiers and armed groups aligned with the south, local officials and the United Nations said. The fighting started after northern forces attempted to disarm some of the armed groups, said Yasir Arman from the south's dominant Sudan Peoples' Liberation Movement (SPLM). "We call for an immediate ceasefire, and to start dialogue immediately," Arman, who heads the SPLM's northern wing, told Reuters. "The leadership of the SPLM north is ever-ready to sit with the (ruling northern) National Congress Party to get a solution that will bring permanent peace ... Disarming the SPLA north, if it continues, will bring a big crisis," he added. The fighters in Southern Kordofan are still referred to as members of the Sudan Peoples' Liberation Army (SPLA) although south Sudan says they are no longer part of its army. The northern military has previously said the situation in Southern Kordofan was stable and blamed southern-allied forces for starting any fighting in the area. (Reuters)

FOURTEEN) – FUEL PRICES SKYROCKET IN OIL-RICH SOUTH SUDAN

Southern Sudan wants to control its oil supply after becoming the world's newest nation in only a month's time, but already an apparent dispute with the north has sent fuel prices skyrocketing here and prompted fist fights at gas stations. Aid groups are decamping from their offices in the capital to the few restaurants and hotels that have stockpiled fuel for their generators, and it's unclear how long even the Southern Sudanese government can now keep its air-conditioning units blowing. While the south is rich in oil, all pipelines run through the north and the south does not have any refineries of its own. "It has worsened very quickly and that is what the Khartoum government wants - they want to support instability," Juba Mayor Mohamed el Haj Baballa told The Associated Press. The north categorically denies involvement in any such blockade. "We are planning to cooperate and coordinate with the south, to transport their oil, to help them refine their oil," said Rabie A. Atti, spokesman for the ruling National Congress Party in Sudan. "Such actions (like a blockade) will harm the south and they will also harm the north." **STILL PAYING FAR LESS THAN EUROPEANS** The price of fuel at gas stations and other small shops in Juba has increased by two-thirds since the weekend alone. A litter (a quarter of a gallon) that typically sells for just over \$1 was selling this week for \$1.67. Several motorbike drivers told the AP it was difficult to find fuel for sale, even at the higher rate. The normally traffic-clogged streets have emptied of the usually omnipresent motorbike taxi traffic, leaving residents to walk in the rainy season instead of zipping to their destination by motorcycle taxi. "There is not fuel - that is why you don't see any motorbikes, said Chaplain Kenyi, 30, a motorcycle taxi driver. "Everyone is parked at home, he said, adding that the liter of fuel he bought last week was almost finished. Southern Sudan's government is trying to negotiate with authorities in neighbouring countries to import fuel, Baballa said. That's despite the fact roughly 75 percent of Sudan's daily oil production of 490,000 barrels originates in southern territory. Bol Ahol Ngor, the manager of Nile Petroleum station, said in late May that his reserves would soon run out. And transporting fuel from Kenya takes twice as long and costs roughly three times as much as bringing fuel from Khartoum. The fuel crunch is also causing headaches for aid organizations. The head of the U.N. World Food Program in Southern Sudan said the agency is now paying "more or less double" to obtain diesel supplies from other U.N. bodies. "In the end, we will have to tell the donors that our very expensive operations in Southern Sudan are now even more expensive," said Leo van der Velden. (AP)

FIFTEEN) – MORE ARMED CLASHES IN SOUTH KORDOFAN CAPITAL

Les affrontements meurtriers entre forces nordistes et sudistes se poursuivaient mercredi dans la capitale de l'Etat pétrolier du Kordofan-Sud, dans le centre du Soudan, et risquaient de s'étendre, a annoncé l'ONU, en faisant état de milliers de déplacés. "Nous savons que plusieurs personnes ont été tuées dans la nuit et ce matin à Kadugli, mais nous n'avons toujours pas de bilan précis", a déclaré à l'AFP Hua Jiang, porte-parole de la mission des Nations unies au Soudan (Minus). La veille, la Minus a fait état d'au moins quatre policiers et deux civils tués dans les combats à Kadugli, la capitale du Kordofan-Sud. Un médecin de la région de Haiban,

au sud-est de Kadugli, a affirmé que son hôpital avait reçu depuis mardi 10 corps de personnes tuées dans les affrontements dans cette localité. Selon Mme Jiang, les combats qui ont éclaté dimanche entre l'armée nordistes et la branche nord de l'armée populaire de libération du Soudan (SPLA, sudiste) sont actuellement les plus violents à Kadugli. L'armée nordiste bombarde aussi les positions sudistes dans les montagnes autour de la capitale et les deux camps ont échangé des tirs dans la région de Deleng, à une centaine de kilomètres de Kadugli, témoignant de l'élargissement de la zone des combats, selon la porte-parole de l'ONU. (AFP)

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