PARTNERSHIP FUNDS GETS A BOOST

This year European Union (EU) has joined the contributing members’ of the Partnership Fund. EU has been a member of the fund but has not been contributing directly to the fund. This Financial Year EU decided to contribute directly with a commitment of 4.45 million Euros and therefore boosting the fund. Turkey has also joined as an observer.

NORWAY PLANS TO HAND OVER CHAIRSHIP OF THE PF STEERING COMMITTEE

Norway has been chairing the Partnership Fund for the last 2 years having taken over from UK. At technical level, the chair has been MS. Elisabeth Schwabe-Hansen whose tour of duty comes to an end this July. The fund will elect another chair during the steering committee on 30th June 2015.

PARTNERSHIP FUND GOES THROUGH AN EXTERNAL REVIEW

The steering committee commissioned a thorough external review of the fund to establish i) the performance of the Fund against set targets, outputs and budget, and bring out the key achievements and challenges encountered; ii) the impact of the Fund in relation to specific areas of support; iii) the governance, financial management practices and audit procedures; and iv) the extent which the recommendations of the first external review have been implemented.

This is a follow-up of another review carried out in Feb 2009. ABS Consulting a consultancy firm from Uganda was contracted to conduct the review whose report will be a key agenda in the coming steering committee. The review is expected to introduce a number of changes in the management of the fund which has grown from USD 650,000 in 2006/07 to USD 10 million in FY 14/15.

RMO PLANS TO MOBILIZE USD 20 MILLION IN 3 YEARS FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR

The Resources Mobilization Office has initiated the establishment of an EAC Private Sector Fund as an instrument through which the Private Sector will contribute financially to the EAC. This Fund...
is expected to reach a portfolio of US$ 20 million in the first three years. The Fund will support both short term and long-term investments and priorities and will also supplement the activities of EABC to fast-track implementation of specific private sector focused interventions.

On April 22nd 2015, the EAC hosted key regional players in the private sector to the 1st meeting of the EAC Private Sector Fund held at the InterContinental Hotel in Nairobi. The meeting brought together over 20 key players of the Private Sector representing aviation, financial and banking, construction, investment, manufacturing, media as well as transportation industries in the Partner States. The Private Sector representatives supported the idea of starting the Fund, which will complement the Partnership Fund.

The EAC Private Sector Fund will be officially launched in November during the 17th Ordinary Summit of the EAC Heads of State to be held on 30th November 2015.

**TRAININGS**

The RMO Office has started a roll-down of trainings geared at strengthening the capacities of EAC staff in proposal writing and project management. As such, RMO has organized trainings on EDF procedures where 32 EAC staff were trained, training on USAID procedures where 30 staff were trained. RMO has also conducted a tailor made training for LVFO in proposal writing. A projects management training is also planned for June where more than 40 EAC staff will be trained.

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**EU APPROVES ALLOCATION OF EURO 85 MILLION FOR EAC**

EU early in the year under the EDF 11 support approved an envelope of 85 Million EUROs support to EAC over the next 5 years. The support will go into five main areas; including Peace and Security 15 Million, Support to Regional Economic Integration 40 Million, Support to LVBC 10 Million, support to LVFO 10 Million and
support to EAC Institutional Strengthening 5 Million. The signing of the programme will be on the 4th June in Brussels, where SG and the Head of Resources will represent EAC for the signing ceremony. The resources will be in use from FY 2016/17.

RMO PLANS FOR THE 1ST EAC DONORS CONFERENCE.

EAC Resources Mobilisation Office is planning to organize the first EAC Donors conference, which will bring together all the Development Partners currently supporting EAC and potential donors. The main objectives of the conference will be information sharing between EAC and Development Partners. RMO is exploring the possibility of making the conference an annual event, as well as the possibility to have a joint Steering Committee for all Projects in EAC. Thematic groups will also be formed for ease of coordination. The meeting will take place in Arusha, before December 2015.

EAC TO UNDERGO A FIDUCIARY ASSESSMENT IN THE MONTH OF JUNE 2015

The RMO has been coordinating the preparations for the famous EU compliance assessment. The assessment is now finally scheduled for June 2015. This is an assessment that will help EU and other Development Partners decide on the mode of engagement with EAC. The assessment will examine the status of the seven key areas including Internal controls, accounting, audit, procurement, sub-delegation, financial instruments and Grants Management.

FROM THE USAID DESK

1. USAID contributes USD 4.7 Million to EAC for FY 2015/16.

2. USAID supports an internship Programme for EAC:

USAID has offered technical support in a form of interns from Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) in USA. Internships will start on 1st June 2015 in different departments including Legal, Finance, Energy and Resources Mobilization.

3. A high level Strategic meeting scheduled for 27th May in Arusha.

A high level delegation from USAID Kenya/East Africa, led by the USAID Regional Mission Director, Ms Karen Freeman, will visit the EAC HQs on 27th May 2015. Several events will take place including the launch of the Health cross border project funded by USAID, high-level strategic discussions between EAC and USAID on how to foster the partnership and discussions on future areas of collaboration, which will be part of the USAID Regional Strategy 2015-2020 that is being developed.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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