

# Luxembourg, a partner for

# AFRICA

*"There will be no development without security and no security without development. And both development and security also depend on respect for human rights and the rule of law."*

The statement by former United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan is the guiding principle of Luxembourg's foreign policy. It is in this spirit that Luxembourg, if elected as a non-permanent member of the Security Council for 2013-2014, will contribute to the work of the Council.

It is also this spirit that inspires Luxembourg's **partnership with Africa**. As one of the six founding members of the European Union, Luxembourg has contributed from the beginning to the shaping of the privileged relationship between Africa and Europe and has worked to deepen the partnership between our two continents in accordance with the important political and economic role that Africa plays on the international scene. This commitment reflects Luxembourg's determination to promote integration and multilateralism as well as the spirit of solidarity of Luxembourg's multicultural and multilingual society.

A founding member of the United Nations, Luxembourg remains more convinced than ever of the necessity of a **multilateral system with the United Nations at its centre**. Only the UN has the necessary legitimacy to develop and implement effective policies in order to address global challenges, which require urgent and collective responses. We must however give the Organisation the means to act as a real catalyst for change. The need for reform of the United Nations is particularly acute with regard to the **Security Council, which needs to better reflect today's geopolitical realities**. Luxembourg has always spoken out for an increase in the number of members in both categories, permanent and non-permanent, and in particular for a **permanent representation for Africa on the Council**. It is equally important to modernize the Council's working methods to make it **more efficient and more transparent**, to ensure a better interaction with the other principal organs of the United Nations, first and foremost the General Assembly, whilst better associating the larger membership in its proceedings.

Luxembourg is committed to **peace and security** in Africa. An active member of the UN Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) and in particular of the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the PBC, Luxembourg has been contributing since its inception to the **Peacebuilding Fund**, which benefits mainly African countries. During its Presidency of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in 2009, Luxembourg also strove to deepen



relations between ECOSOC and the PBC, since we are convinced that ECOSOC, with its know-how and unique experience in dealing with the difficulties of countries in the aftermath of conflict, can significantly contribute to the efforts of the Commission. Luxembourg also regularly participates in **peace and security missions in Africa**, most recently in Chad, the Central African Republic and Uganda (training mission for Somali security forces). Besides its participation in the EU advisory and assistance mission for security sector reform in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Luxembourg is actively involved in the fight against piracy in the Indian Ocean, notably by contributing two maritime patrol and reconnaissance aircraft, in support of relevant UN Security Council resolutions. Luxembourg furthermore supports multiple UN projects, notably in the fields of conflict prevention, security sector reform, training and enhancing the leadership and participation of women in peacebuilding activities in Africa, in the framework of the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 on women and peace and security.

To guarantee and strengthen peace, security and stability at the international level, constant efforts are needed in the fields of **disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control**. Luxembourg fully supports the UN's action in this regard. We have been among the first to ratify both the Ottawa Convention on anti-personnel mines and the Convention on cluster munitions, which prohibits all use, stockpiling, production and transfer of cluster munitions. Luxembourg has even gone beyond the Convention by prohibiting the financing of cluster munitions at the national level. We also contribute regularly to the activities of the UN Mine Action Service. Luxembourg fully supports the ongoing efforts to establish a legally binding instrument under the auspices of the United Nations to regulate the arms trade. Luxembourg shares the deep concern expressed as early as December 2000 by the African countries in the Bamako Declaration about the devastating consequences of the unregulated trade of conventional arms and their illicit trafficking. The absence of a universal regulatory system is a contributory factor to conflict, the displacement of people, crime and terrorism, thereby undermining peace, reconciliation, safety, security, stability and sustainable development.

Terrorism, piracy, drug trafficking and trafficking of human beings are other **transnational threats** that have been on the rise in Africa over the past years. Luxembourg is actively helping to fight these threats and to address their **root causes**.

Luxembourg has for a long time been a **reliable partner for Africa in the field of development cooperation**. Since 2000, Luxembourg is among the few countries, which respect their commitment and honour the objective to contribute 0.7% of their gross national income to official development assistance. **Since 2009, Luxembourg's ODA has exceeded 1% of its GNI**. Despite the financial and economic crisis, Luxembourg will not relent in its efforts to contribute to reaching the Millennium Development Goals in 2015. Our development cooperation policy is strongly committed to the **eradication of poverty, in particular in Africa**, where the majority of Luxembourg's partner countries are located. In a spirit of partnership and in accordance with the principle of local ownership, the Luxembourg Development Cooperation intervenes foremost in the social fields: health, education, including vocational training and access to labour markets, and integrated local development, with an emphasis on water and sanitation.

Luxembourg attaches particular importance to the development of the **least developed countries (LDCs)**, the majority of LDCs being in Africa. By allocating **0.29% of our gross national income to LDCs**, we do more than respect the commitment taken in 2001 to provide 0.15 to 0.20% of GNI to least developed countries. Since 2006, Luxembourg has furthermore been chairing the Sub-Committee on LDCs at the WTO and chaired UNCTAD's Trade and Development Board in 2009-2010.

# Luxembourg, a partner for Africa

To address the major challenge of **food security**, Africa can count on the constant support of Luxembourg in favour of the development of Africa's agriculture. In this regard, we support the activities of the WFP and the FAO, and we have set up in Luxembourg an important guarantee fund and a technical assistance facility called the "Impact Investing Fund for African Agriculture" to support agricultural production in Africa, in partnership with the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA).

Luxembourg also stands with Africa in the fight against climate change and in the adaptation to **climate change**. It has been engaged from the outset in the negotiations towards a United Nations convention to combat desertification and attaches great importance to its concrete implementation. Since the adoption of the Kyoto Protocol in 1997, Luxembourg, together with its European partners, has taken binding commitments to reduce its carbon emissions and to mitigate the effects of climate change, which particularly affects the African continent. A member of the « Friends against climate change », Luxembourg continues to support efforts to reach a legally binding international agreement within the framework of the UN. Luxembourg furthermore provides **fast start finance** to combat climate change (9 million euro for 2010-2012). In a first phase, 3 million euro have been allocated to the Adaptation Fund, the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD) and the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR). This funding is **new and additional to existing official development assistance** by Luxembourg.

To contribute to the **economic development** of Africa and facilitate its access to world markets, Luxembourg encourages its private sector companies to **invest on the continent**, notably in the sectors of steel and mining, mobile phone services, air cargo, satellite communications, the environment and green technologies. Luxembourg contributes to the training of Africa's future senior managers by **welcoming numerous African students to the University of Luxembourg**. Training is also provided in specific sectors such as civil aviation security, microfinance and the banking sector.

Luxembourg generally supports initiatives in the field of **microfinance in Africa**, taking advantage of the expertise of its financial center. The Luxembourg Development Cooperation for instance finances an important programme to promote inclusive financial sectors in the region of the West African Economic and Monetary Union.

**Information and communication technologies** (ICT) have been identified as a priority sector for Africa, in particular during the 14th Summit of the African Union in which the Luxembourg Vice Prime Minister, H.E. Mr. Jean Asselborn, had the honour to participate in January 2010 as an invited guest. Taking advantage of its industry's know-how in the field of ICT, Luxembourg has been supporting since 2009 a regional project aiming at reinforcing the capacities of the ECOWAS Commission. Since 2010, Luxembourg has also been contributing to two important projects at the scale of the continent, one to develop the network of internet exchange points in Africa (Axis project, "African Internet Exchange System"), the other to develop satellite enhanced telemedicine and e-health services for sub-Saharan Africa.

Further to our common commitment to peace, security and development, Luxembourg and Africa share **common values**: the attachment to democracy, the rule of law, good governance, human rights and fundamental freedoms. The holding of the first Review Conference of the Rome Statute in 2010 in Kampala, in the heart of the African continent, has shown to what extent the fight against impunity is a fundamental aspiration of the African people.

# Luxembourg, a partner for Africa

## At a glance

**Relations with Africa:** Long since, Luxembourg participates actively at the bilateral, regional and international level, in the shaping of ever closer political, economic and development relations with Africa

**Common values:** Luxembourg and Africa share their attachment to democracy, the rule of law, good governance, human rights and fundamental freedoms

**Reform of the Security Council:** Luxembourg advocates a permanent representation for Africa, in a more efficient and more transparent Council

**Peace and security in Africa:** Luxembourg is actively engaged in the Peacebuilding Commission and in peace and security missions on the African continent

**Disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control:** Luxembourg promotes the constant search for security at the lowest level of armaments and is party to all regional and international Treaties and Conventions in this area

**Transnational threats:** Luxembourg contributes to the fight against terrorism, piracy, drug trafficking and the trafficking of human beings and is actively helping to address their root causes

**Development Cooperation:** the ODA of Luxembourg exceeds 1% of its GNI and benefits Least Developed Countries in particular (0.29% of its GNI); 51% of our bilateral assistance are invested in Africa

**Food security:** Luxembourg supports the WFP and the FAO and has created an important guarantee and technical assistance fund to support agricultural production in Africa

**Climate change:** Luxembourg has taken binding commitments to reduce its carbon emissions and contributes to the effort of mitigation and adaptation, including through substantial contributions, which are new and additional to its ODA

**Economic development:** Luxembourg encourages its companies to invest in Africa and offers training to officials and managers from Africa, including at the University of Luxembourg

**Microfinance:** Luxembourg puts its expertise in the financial sector at the disposal of Africa

**Information and communication technologies:** Luxembourg uses its competence in this sector to support projects to develop communication networks in Africa

Luxembourg is one of only six founding Member States of the United Nations that have never had the honour to serve on the Security Council, although it strives to make its contribution to the objectives and principles of the Charter, to show solidarity and a concrete commitment to development, peace, security and human rights.

**As a strong partner for Africa, Luxembourg would be most honoured to be able to count on the support of the African countries at the elections to be held in October 2012 for a non-permanent seat on the Security Council for the mandate 2013-2014.**

