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## Press Release

### **European Union and Botswana sign new Cooperation Agreement**

The Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation for Botswana Hon. Phandu Skelemani and Andris Piebalgs, European Commissioner for Development on June 19, 2014, in Nairobi, Kenya signed the National Indicative Programme (NIP) laying down the future cooperation between Botswana and the European Union under the 11th European Development Fund.

The document, which establishes priorities for the joint work for the next seven years allows the Government of Botswana and the Delegation of the European Union in Gaborone to begin preparation of projects and programmes focusing on education, public sector reform and measures in favour of the civil society.

For the European Union it is essential that programmes are drawn up in close cooperation with the partner countries, based on governments' own policies and strategies and reflecting their stated needs. This is to ensure that programming really supports the national priorities where the EU can add value.

The financial envelope of the National Indicative Programme for Botswana is EUR 33 million. This is significantly less than the volume of the current cooperation but has to be seen in the context of Botswana's status as an upper middle income country. Still, it demonstrates a privileged cooperation with Botswana as the European Union has decided to cease development cooperation with many countries of the upper middle income group following its vision for future development cooperation, the "Agenda for Change", which calls for resources to be targeted where they are most needed.

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## **Background**

### **Signing of National Indicative Programmes with 16 ACP countries**

Today and tomorrow, European Commissioner for Development, Andris Piebalgs, and Ministers from 16 ACP (African, Caribbean and Pacific) countries will co-sign the first National Indicative Programmes under the 11th European Development Fund for the period 2014-2020 in Nairobi (Kenya).

The signing ceremony will take place in the margins of the meeting of the Joint Council of Ministers of the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries and the EU, in Nairobi. The list of signatory countries includes Botswana, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritania, Niger, Sao Tome e Principe, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Swaziland, Tanzania and Surinam (the latter being the only non-African signatory country). Nigeria is expected to sign tomorrow.

### **What is a National Indicative Programme?**

The National Indicative Programmes (NIPs) represent an important step in the programming of EU aid under the European Development Fund (EDF). EU Member States agreed in 2013 the overall amount for development cooperation that will be channeled to 78 African, Caribbean and Pacific countries under the so-called 11th EDF during the next financing period 2014-2020 (total amount €29.1 billion).

In parallel, the preparations of a NIP for each of these countries started, defining the strategy and priorities for EU aid. These preparations are done in close cooperation with the partner countries so as to ensure that NIPs support national priorities where the EU has a value added.

For the first time, NIPs are based on governments' own policies and strategies reflecting their analysis of needs. They are in line with the EU's vision for future development cooperation, the "Agenda for Change", which calls for resources to be targeted where they are most needed and can be the most effective. EU funding will focus on a maximum of three sectors per country (possibly four in the case of fragile countries) to achieve maximum impact and value for money of EU cooperation.

### **What are the next steps?**

It is foreseen that by early 2015, the remaining NIPs will be finalised and signed. In parallel, work on designing projects and programmes has also started in all countries .