



## AFRICA EUROPE FAITH AND JUSTICE NETWORK RESEAU FOI ET JUSTICE AFRIQUE EUROPE

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### **NEWS from AEFJN- *Informations***

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#### **ARMS**

##### **Arms trade treaty talks underway**

Negotiators from 192 states gathered at the United Nations on 12th July for the start of formal talks on a legally binding international agreement to control the arms trade. Ten days later they emerged with the draft elements and principles for the future Arms Trade Treaty. The draft showed that a majority of states clearly recognise the need for such a treaty. The next UN meeting on the treaty will be in March 2011.

Find out more: [www.controlarms.org](http://www.controlarms.org)

#### **EPA**

##### **Southern African People's Network summit ends with calls to reject EPA**

The People's Summit brought the voices of the people of Southern Africa Development Community together to share views on their personal prosperity and economic freedoms. M.Makoni/CJW ed. <http://www.africafiles.org/article.asp?ID=24236>

#### **Agriculture and food**

##### **DR Congo : Investment for Indian entrepreneurs (13 August 2010)**

The government of Democratic Republic of Congo is offering investment opportunities in the agricultural and food processing sectors to Indian entrepreneurs. This will involve leasing large scale farming plots to prospective. <http://farmlandgrab.org/14769>  
entrepreneurs.<http://www.africafiles.org/article.asp?ID=24170>

##### **Congo : Fishing community evicted**

The Autonomous Port of Pointe-Noire has evicted 8,000 residents of a fishing village to make way for expanded facilities. The move is a blow to the community's livelihoods, as well as closing down the market that supplied the city's poor with affordable protein. 'I have fished here since my youth, and I don't know where we can go,' said Joseph Takpo, an elderly fisherman.

<http://www.ips.org/africa/2010/11/congo-beninois-fishing-community-evicted/>

**The UN rights of nature** - Civil Society has started to work on a new resolution which is currently under consideration at the UN: the rights of nature. These should be discussed by

governments on April 22, 2011, the day of Mother Earth. The document is at the stage of informal consultation, so it is not public but it is the time to make political pressure.

Raising the issue of the rights of nature - that the civil society has been calling since 2005 - in an open debate at the United Nations will force the 192 UN member states to publicly declare their position on the rights of nature. The aims of this campaign is to curve the market-based approach that predominates inside the ongoing work of the United Nations related to the environment and critical issues such as climate change, forests, water and biodiversity. These rights are enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Mother Earth, adopted when 32 000 people from around the world who participated to the "Peoples World Conference on Climate Change and Mother Earth's Rights" issued by President Morales in Cochabamba (Bolivia), April 22, 2010. <http://pwccc.wordpress.com/programa/>

**AFRICA: Church told to Promote Food Security** Delegates criticised some countries in Africa, which they observed failed to "feed" their people. "Many a times, some governments have failed to do this, allocating as little as 10 percent of its budgetary allocations to agriculture," observed the delegates. "This, among other thing should change if the African continent was to be self-sufficient in food,.

"The Church told take upon itself the whole aspect of educating its flock that "dishing out of food to the hungry on the continent. On the country, the hungry people should be educated on how to make use of available resources in food production," stressed the workshop delegates. NAIROBI, November 26, 2010 - [cisa@wananchi.com]

## Medicines

**Protest for access to affordable medicines** As part of Médecins Sans Frontières' "Europe! HANDS OFF Our Medicine" campaign, we are protesting against aggressive trade policies being pursued by the European Commission that will affect access to affordable medicines across the developing world. The protest will occur on the opening day of the EU-India Summit in Brussels on 10 December 2010, where the EU-India free-trade agreement negotiations will continue

### **African health research has solutions but no support**

It's not lack of talent the worsens Africa's health impoverishment; political bungling and lack of funds also play a part in stalling new technologies.

M.Makoni <http://news.theage.com.au/breaking-news-world/african-health-research-has-solutions-but-no-support-20101213-18ub8.html>

## Companies

### **Italy's energy company, ENI, to take share in Congo oil block**

ENI is the first Italian energy company to gain access to the DRC's oil sector and is expected to secure 55% of the Ndunda oil block in western Congo. Oil exploration is to begin as soon as September 2010. <http://www.africafiles.org/article.asp?ID=24197>

## Soudan

### **South Sudan leader urges state governors to embark on voter registration campaign**

"The President of the Government of Southern Sudan, Salva Kiir Mayardit, on Friday urged state governors to immediately begin voter mobilization campaigns ahead of the south's self-determination referendum in January." GK <http://www.sudantribune.com/>

