

**Addis Ababa, 30 November 2012 (WIC)** - The German Government on Thursday pledged an additional amount of €30 million in support of different programs of the African Union Commission (AUC).

Focus areas of the funding are peace and security, infrastructure, agriculture, education and capacity building.

Part of the money will be used to scale up the pilot phase of the Trading for Peace Project of COMESA, which seeks to support small-scale trade in the Great Lakes Region and to foster peace-building.

During the agreement signing ceremony, Mr. Erastus Mwencha, Deputy Chairperson of the AU Commission, expressed appreciation to Germany for its continued support to the AU Commission.

Officials from the Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) of Germany for their part expressed their government's interest to assisting Africa strengthen its capacity to address security and developmental challenges in a more effective and sustainable way.

Germany extended 1.4 billion Euro support to the African Union over the past four years.