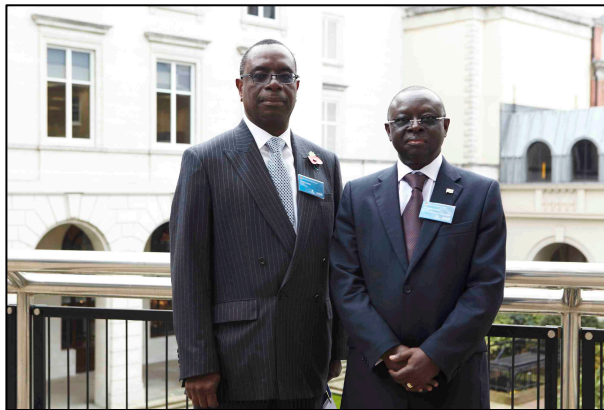


## PRESS RELEASE

### Ecobank hosts inaugural UK-Guinea Bissau Investment Summit

**Lomé/London, 28 November 2011:** The Ecobank Group was delighted to have the opportunity recently to highlight the trade and investment potential of Guinea-Bissau to UK industry representatives and institutional investors. Working in close cooperation with the UK All-Party Parliamentary Group for Guinea-Bissau ("APPG"), Ecobank also helped to facilitate the first ever high-level talks between the governments of the two countries. British activity in Guinea-Bissau dates back to the early 19th century and, in more recent years, the United Kingdom has been a crucial stakeholder in European Union projects in Guinea-Bissau, including security sector reform, landmine removal, disease eradication and maritime affairs.



**Pictured: Kolapo Lawson, Chairman of the Ecobank Group (left), welcomes Raimundo Pereira, Speaker of the Parliament of Guinea-Bissau, to London**

Ecobank hosted the inaugural UK-Guinea Bissau Investment Summit at its representative office in the City of London, the audience including hedge fund and institutional fund managers, as well as existing and potential trade investors. The event included an address from Raimundo Pereira, Speaker of the Parliament of Guinea-Bissau, during which he highlighted the country's ongoing economic recovery and forthcoming privatizations in the telecoms, utility, forestry, publishing and transportation sectors. A UK trade mission to Guinea-Bissau, supported by Ecobank and the APPG, is planned for 2012.

Sr. Pereira commented:

*"We want to help support new investment in Guinea-Bissau and to encourage foreign investors to participate in its growth. The country's rich mineral deposits and its agribusiness and tourism potential could provide diverse sources of income in the future. We have made significant progress in public sector reform and are creating a fiscal and regulatory environment that is supportive of business. Economic growth is expected to remain robust in 2012, on the back of sustained exports of cashew nuts, buoyant construction activity and renewed confidence in Guinea-Bissau's prospects."*

Kolapo Lawson, Chairman of the Ecobank Group, said:

*"Our ability to assist post-crisis sovereign African states in funding essential infrastructure investment represents a significant competitive advantage. By restoring investor confidence in such countries, Ecobank plays a pioneering role in Africa's overall economic development. As a bank we have been operating in Guinea-Bissau since 2006 and remain committed to assisting both local and international businesses to expand in the country."*

**(....continued overleaf)**

Lord Teverson, Chairman of the APPG, added:

*"Apart from perceptual issues, one of the major problems facing potential investors and trade partners in Guinea-Bissau is an information vacuum. The APPG is delighted to be working alongside Ecobank to raise awareness of the country's economic potential and the investment opportunities for UK businesses arising from the Guinea-Bissau government's privatization plans."*

**- Ends -**

#### **Notes to Editors**

##### **About Ecobank Group**

Incorporated in Lomé, Togo, Ecobank Transnational Incorporated (ETI) is the parent company of the Ecobank Group, which is present in more countries in Africa than any other bank in the world. Ecobank currently operates in Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo (Brazzaville), Congo (Democratic Republic), Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The Group also has an affiliate in Paris and representative offices in Dubai, Johannesburg, London and Luanda. ETI is listed on the stock exchanges in Lagos, Accra and the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) – the BRVM. The Group has over 24,200 employees from 35 different countries in over 1,100 branches. Ecobank is a full-service bank providing wholesale, retail, investment and transactional banking services to governments, financial institutions, multinationals, local companies, SMEs and individuals. For more information, please visit: { HYPERLINK "http://www.ecobank.com." }

##### **About the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Guinea-Bissau**

The All-Party Parliamentary Group for Guinea-Bissau was established in January 2011 to promote knowledge and awareness of issues of mutual concern between the United Kingdom and the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, to facilitate inter-parliamentary and inter-governmental relations, to highlight matters of concern to the United Kingdom and to support British individuals and companies who are seeking to engage in trade or investment with Guinea-Bissau and vice-versa.