

PRESS RELEASE

The FINACTU Group is pleased to confirm its strong involvement in the African banking sector, as the arrival of Basel III triggers a revolution for the continent's banks.

Casablanca, Monday July 12th, 2018

FINACTU is pleased to see, in the middle of the year 2018, the dynamism of its "Banking" practice, with several missions that testify to the banking expertise of its teams throughout the African continent.:

- in **Gabon**, FINACTU performed the due diligence of one of the local banks, on behalf of a large pan-African banking group interested in its takeover, as part of the government's disengagement. In the continuity of our due diligence, our teams valued the institution and estimated its strategic potential in the context of the banking sector in the CEMAC zone;
- in **Tunisia**, FINACTU has been supporting the BIAT Group, leader of the Tunisian banking sector, since 2013, on the strategic development of some of its subsidiaries, as well as in the field of private equity;
- in **Morocco**, the FINACTU teams are accompanying the young Banque Postale (**Barid Al Maghrib**) in its development through the creation of new products;
- in **Tunis** again, FINACTU was chosen by the government, through the Al Karama holding company, as adviser in the sale of **ZITOUNA Bank**, flagship of Islamic finance in the country. This sale - the largest in Al Karama's portfolio - is underway and FINACTU has attracted 7 buyout candidates, most of them internationally renowned, for this iconic transaction.;
- in **Benin**, FINACTU teams have just finalized a major mission to completely overhaul the strategy of **FAGACE**, one of the continent's first guarantee funds, held by 14 African countries. The new strategy put forward by FINACTU and adopted unanimously by the institution's Board of Directors, refocuses FAGACE on VSE / SME through a closer relationship with banks.

With these projects, FINACTU affirms our solid banking specialization, which augments the sectors the Group has historically been involved in: insurance, social protection, asset management, private equity, advising governments, etc.

"I am happy to have been able to put FINACTU firmly in the African banking landscape, in continuity with my own specialization in banking, first in Switzerland and then in Morocco and more generally on the continent," says **Géraldine MERMOUX**, Associate Director General of the FINACTU Group.

With such strong banking experience, the FINACTU Group intends to help the continent's banks cope with the enforcement of the solvency constraints related to Basel III, which constitutes a considerable shock that will lead to a profound transformation of the landscape. **"We have calculated that in the long run, Basel III will eliminate about one in three banks in the franc zone,"** adds Mrs. MERMOUX. **"Only those who understand the issues will survive, will be able to adapt their management methods, strengthen their teams and derive all the consequences of Basel III, before the competitors. All the existing banks cannot make it to the finish line ... "** adds Patrick OUINICHE, Vice President.

For more information, please feel free to:

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