MEMORANDUM

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The Memorandum is issued daily, with the sole purpose to provide updated basic business and economic information on Africa, to more than 4,000 European Companies, as well as their business parties in Africa.
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EGYPT AND W/BANK SIGN $500M DEVELOPMENT DEAL

The Egyptian government on Wednesday signed a deal with the World Bank worth $500 million for the funding of an economic development program in Upper Egypt.
The program will be applied to the most needy southern governorates, establishing projects to support the development of food and agriculture industries, as well as improving infrastructure, job opportunities and basic services for local communities, said Minister of International Cooperation Sahar Nasr.

The governorates of Sohag and Qena will benefit from the project, beside other neighboring provinces, said Nasr.

The program is part of the government's effort to distribute investments nationwide, aiming at parity in the distribution of economic resources while improving the lives of citizens in the most impoverished areas, the minister added.

The program focuses on food industries and commercial chains associated with the agricultural sector and livestock, as well as factories for the production of furniture, according to Nasr. (APA 03-08-2016)

CEMAC PROMISES TO SUPPORT CAR ARMY

Member states of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC) have pledged to help Central African Republic (CAR) build its army and carry out disarmament, demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) of armed groups, president Faustin Archange Touadéra announced.
According to President Touadéra who was speaking on Sunday in Bangui on his return from CEMAC summit held in Malabo, the organization's member countries also promised to help Central African Government fund the return of its displaced population in their respective area.

In the final statement of the summit, countries of the CEMAC commit to host the Central African Armed Forces as part of their training, in addition to a FCFA 4 billion aid allocated to the Central Government to initiate the DDR operations.

Congo, Gabon, Cameroon are ready, according to President Touadéra, to get involved in order to facilitate the stability of the Central African Republic.
The CEMAC summit was held from 30 to 31 July in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea. (APA 02-08-2016)

GUINEA-BISSAU GOVERNMENT DELIVERS TO FARMERS SEED AND FERTILISER DONATED BY CHINA

The government of Guinea-Bissau has begun distributing to farmers the agricultural production resources, namely seed and fertiliser, donated by China at a ceremony last weekend in Bafatá.
Official information indicates that the donation involves 500 tons of rice seed, 617 of fertiliser and 20 of peanuts, along with bean varieties, and also six new tractors and several power tillers. They will be placed at the disposal of farmers in the country's 39 sectors and 8 regions, including the Autonomous Sector of Bissau.
Agriculture Minister Rui Nené Djata said that these production means should enable more than 400 hectares to be planted with peanuts and a similar area with beans. The rice seed should lead to a harvest of 30,000 tons.

Prime Minister Baciro Djá presided at the ceremony. He said the time had come to transform the family-based farming currently practiced in Guinea-Bissau into mechanised agriculture, to increase agricultural production and productivity.
Djá stated that one of his government's goals is to create conditions to enable farmers to harvest up to 80,000 tons of rice, with a view to reducing imports of that cereal. (02-08-2016)

EGYPT: CENTRAL BANK SHUTS DOWN TEN FOREX BUREAUS

The Central Bank of Egypt (CBE) said it has shut down ten foreign exchange bureaus around the country after finding them guilty of manipulating and speculating on currency prices.
The bank said Tuesday that the closure will last for at least one year and comes on the heels of the revoked licenses of 23 of foreign exchange bureaus recently.

There are 115 foreign exchange bureaus operating in Egypt which is facing a dollar shortage with sources of hard currency inflows like tourism and investment slowing down.

The Central Bank of Egypt (CBE) kept the pound steady at 8.78 per dollar at its weekly foreign currency auction on Tuesday.

It devalued the pound by about 14 percent to reach EGP 8.78 against the dollar in March in an effort to close the gap between the official and parallel rates.

However, the move failed to boost dollar liquidity or close the gap.

The widening gap between the official and the unofficial dollar rates persists despite the central bank's attempts to narrow it.

The pound changes hands at about 12 per dollar, while the banks kept the local currency steady at 8.88.

Tuesday's decision comes one day after Egypt's President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi said that Egyptians would "very soon" be able to purchase U.S. dollars at a unified rate. (APA 02-08-2016)

THE BRIC NATIONS' RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE IS CRITICAL TO THE FATE OF THE PLANET

The world's four largest developing economies, Brazil, Russia, India and China, have a huge impact on global sustainability. In a new series, we'll examine their sphere of influence, the innovations that result, and what it's like to do business in their shadows
"Now is the time to act on climate change."
Variations on this sentiment have been frequently repeated throughout the 21st century by all kinds of leaders: Ban Ki-Moon, UN secretary-general; Jorma Korhonen, director general of external economic relations for Finland's foreign affairs ministry; Nasa climatologist James Hansen; the Intergovernmental

Panel on Climate Change; environmental nonprofits, such as World Wildlife Fund for Nature; Jasmine Huggins, policy and advocacy officer for Haiti at hunger and poverty nonprofit Church World Service; and executives, such as Jean-Pascal Tricoire, CEO of Schneider Electric.

But the phrase has never been truer than it is right now: the longer we wait, the worse it will be.

sustainable business

And while urgent action is needed across the world, particularly in the developed nations, the four largest developing economies – Brazil, Russia, India and China, collectively known as the BRICs – are critically important to the cause.

These four countries, with a combined population of 3 billion people and a GDP of $16tn, will have a huge direct impact on global emissions. Perhaps just as importantly, if they can get sustainable development right, they could pave the way for other developing countries to create economic opportunities without destroying the planet and oppressing workers and residents.

The routes the BRIC nations take will, for better or for worse, shape the path of sustainable development for the rest of the world. Clean energy or fossil fuels? Human rights or cheap labor? The decisions being made in the BRICs are top of mind for everyone reading the world's economic and environmental tea leaves.

But what about the countries that sit in the shadow of the BRICs? Countries such as Colombia, Ukraine, Nepal, Indonesia and many others are on the path to becoming the next generation of economic powerhouses and sustainability leaders – or laggards. How are the BRICs' practices and policies shaping, and shaped by, developments in neighboring countries as well as countries farther afield?

For example, Brazil has invested in development projects in Guyana, Bolivia, Argentina, Paraguay and more. And while Brazil looms large in Latin America, it simultaneously lives in the shadow of China, its largest export partner. China's current economic slowdown demonstrates the country's impact on Brazil and other Latin American economies.

It goes without saying that Russia heavily influences Ukraine, as evidenced by its annexation last year of the Crimean peninsula in a crisis that already has killed thousands. Sanctions from the European Union, the US and others have resulted in quid-pro-quo sanctions from Russia, including a ban on food imports from the EU.

In India, a desperate search for energy to meet rapidly growing demand is sending energy companies high into the Nepalese Himalayas to tap massive and undeveloped hydropower resources. Billion-dollar hydropower deals could bring prosperity to one of the world's poorest countries, but hasty development could have wide ranging negative impacts on ecosystems and human rights.

Meanwhile, the labor issues that China has long been known for – sweatshops, corruption, heedless pollution – are far from eliminated. But as China makes progress, improving regulations and worker livelihoods, these issues are rapidly spreading around the developing world, with factories in Cambodia, Indonesia, Vietnam and even Myanmar taking up the yoke.

This could spell trouble for global workers: Bangladesh, which captured global attention after the Rana Plaza disaster, was one of the first countries where manufacturers moved as Chinese costs rose.

These connections warrant exploration. Today, we're launching a new series to examine how the BRICs – and the countries they influence – perceive and respond to their biggest sustainability challenges, such as energy, water, climate change and human rights.

We also will explore the role that business is playing in trying to solve these challenges. Whether it's entrepreneurs seeking out new business ideas or industrial veterans undergoing sustainability epiphanies, what trends and innovations can serve as models for developed and developing countries alike? (The Guardian 04-08-2016)

MOZAMBIQUE'S CFM PORTS AND RAILWAYS SELLS PART OF STAKE IN NACALA INTEGRATED LOGISTICS CORRIDOR

The state-held Portos e Caminhos-de-Ferro de Moçambique (CFM) has earned US$106 million by selling a block of shares it held in Corredor Logístico Integrado de Nacala (CLN), Transport and Communications Minister Carlos Mesquita announced on Tuesday in Maputo.

Mesquita specified that CFM maintained a stake in CLN’s share capital and that the proceeds from the sale would allow the company to improve its cash holdings and make a number of planned projects feasible.

The press has reported that the shareholder restructuring of the Northern Logistics Corridor is meant to improve logistics for Moatize coal in various transport chain segments, especially the coal and general cargo terminals in Nacala-a-Velha, and also regarding rail passenger transport service.

Mesquita said that lower raw materials prices had significantly changed the results of various financial models that were studied at a time when coal was priced from 140 to 150 dollars per ton.

“For example, Vale Moçambique continues to operate with losses, whereby the government accepted the sale of part of its coal-associated assets in Mozambique to the Japanese group Mitsui & Co., thereby allowing a strategic partner to enter,” he added. (02-08-2016)

BURKINA: BUILDING OF SECOND SOLAR PLANT UNDERWAY

Burkina Faso has launched construction work for a second solar plant worth CFA25.1 billion in Dédougou, west of the country, the Energy Ministry told APA Monday.

This initiative is linked to Windiga Energy, a subsidiary of the Canadian group Semafo which operates the Mana gold mine.

With a capacity of 20mw and a production capacity of 33 million kWh per year, this plant complements the Zagtouli (Centre) plant, built in June.

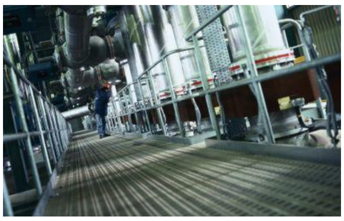
The project which receives financial support from the African Development Bank (AfDB), the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and technical support from Siemens, covers a period of 25 years after which the plant would be ceded to the government of Burkina Faso.

The plant, the first deliveries in SONABEL network of which are planned in the second half of 2017, will be built on a 70 hectare land and will comprise 85,200 photovoltaic panels.

Burkina Faso is experiencing an electricity shortfall of about 140 megawatts resulting in frequent power cuts (between February and June) while need for power is growing by 13 percent every year.

The World Bank financed the building of Burkina Faso’s 50 megawatt thermal power plant with a budget of $80 to $100 million. (APA 02-08-2016)

SOUTH AFRICA: PRIVATE SECTOR SHRINKS, BUT AT A SLOWER PACE



Output from SA’s private sector declined further in July but at a slower pace than in June, the IHS Markit/Standard Bank purchasing managers index (PMI) showed on Tuesday.

The PMI rose slightly to 49.9 in July from 49.6 in June, pointing to some stabilisation of operating conditions, the bank said.

Readings below 50 signal a deterioration in business conditions.

Positive contributions to the July PMI came only from the employment and inventory indices.

"Despite the slight improvement in July's PMI to 49.9, the private sector continued to deteriorate, albeit at a slower pace in the month," Standard Bank economist Kuvasha Naidoo said.

New business dropped for the first time in three months, partly due to lower demand from export markets, according to survey participants.

Despite this, companies hired more people in July, although the rate of job creation was fractional. Higher workforce numbers in turn helped firms to work through their backlogs.

In response to subdued demand, some businesses lowered their input buying activity.

A weak rand and higher prices for raw materials continued to exert upward pressure on overall input costs. Purchase prices, selling prices, and staff costs rose at weaker rates.

"Overall input prices continued to rise, but at a slower rate, driven mainly by purchase costs as the pace of staff cost increases remained sticky. This also saw a moderation in the price increases passed onto consumers," Naidoo said.

Companies reported a 15th consecutive monthly fall in activity in July, although the rate of decline was only fractional overall, the bank said.

The PMI is a composite index, calculated as a weighted average of five individual components: new orders (30%), output (25%), employment (20%), suppliers' delivery times (15%) and stocks of purchases (10%). (BD 11-08-2016)

CROSS-BORDER PLATFORM TO LINK ANGOLA TO DR CONGO AND ZAMBIA

A cross-border logistics platform will be built in Luau municipality, Moxico province, to link Angola to the Democratic Republic of Congo and Zambia via the Benguela railway, Angolan Transport Minister Augusto da Silva Tomás announced.

The Luau cross-border logistics platform will altogether comprise an integrated and varied multipole front in economic relations with Angola's neighbouring countries, said Tomás, who spoke on Saturday during the opening session of a conference on "The National Logistics Platform".

Construction of this infrastructure is vital, because many countries in the Great Lakes region and others in southern Africa do not have maritime borders, he said, stressing that it could eventually play a decisive role and become a factor for attracting international trade, both imports and exports.

In the report from Angop news agency, the minister indicated that plans called for the creation of 44 logistics platforms, from first to third level, for urban, regional, port and cross-border typologies as well as for air cargo centres at the country's major airports. (02-08-2016)

SENEGAL: SERVICE SECTORS CONSTITUTE 59 PERCENT OF GDP

Service sectors including those of telecommunications and finance and insurance, account for 59 percent of Senegal's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), the Foreign Trade Director (DCE), Assome Aminata Diatta revealed on Tuesday.

"In Senegal, services account for 59 percent of GDP and absorb over 37 percent of jobs" Ms. Diatta told the opening of a four-day workshop on trade in services.

Globally, service exports account for almost 47 percent of the GDP of the Least Developed Countries (LDC).

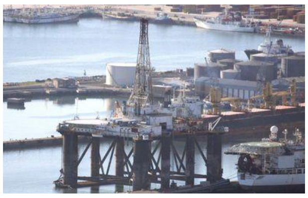
Senegal contributes about 3.8 percent of exports of the LDC which represents only 0.62 percent of world exports regarding commercial services in 2012.

“This means that there are still opportunities for LDC service providers and Senegal in particular, to take advantage of initiatives such as the exemption on services. To do so, development strategies of these types of services are needed,” Ms. Diatta advised.

Aware of the issues in trade services, the African Union (AU) in January 2012 adopted an action plan to boost intra-African trade, and created a framework to accelerate the implementation of the continental Free Trade Zone (CFTA).

At the end of the workshop in Senegal, the Directorate of Foreign Trade is looking to develop strategies and define development and exploitation mechanisms of services within the context of implementing the Plan Senegal Emergent. (APA 02-08-2016)

LIBYAN GOVERNMENT IN DEAL TO END BLOCKING OF OIL PORTS



Libya’s state-controlled National Oil Company said it was taking steps to restart exports from three blocked oil ports after the government reached a deal with local guards who had blocked the facilities during a pay dispute.

The deal could help revive Libya’s sagging oil exports, which have been curtailed as various factions fight for control of this North African nation.

In a statement on Sunday, National Oil said it "unconditionally" welcomed a deal between Libya’s unity government and the petroleum facilities guards (PFGs) to reopen three eastern ports.

The guards, an autonomous force that operates like a militia, had blocked them for 18 months, claiming they were not getting paid.

The state oil company said it "will now start working" to resume exports, including calling back staff to work and talking to international oil buyers. But it warned there were still security and political obstacles before the first ship can be loaded, without providing more details.

Higher production from Libya would add more oil to a global glut that has seen prices drop by more than half since mid-2014. After a recent oil price rally, prices have again sagged due to resurgent production in Africa and the Middle East.

National Oil chairman Mustafa Sanalla, who had opposed tying monetary payments to PFG leader Ibrahim Jathran in return for guards reopening the ports, said he received guarantees from the country’s presidential council that no improper payments would be made.

"I am pleased the presidential council agrees that we cannot reward individuals who hold Libya’s oil hostage," Sanalla said in the statement on Sunday.

A PFG spokesman confirmed a deal had been reached but did not return a request for comment on its content. A presidential council adviser on oil matters did not return a request for comment. A National Oil spokesman declined to comment.

The three ports set to reopen — Zueitina, Es Sider and Ras Lanuf — have the capacity to export over 600,000 barrels a day. But they may not be able to load more than 100,000 barrels a day because of attacks by Islamic State and other armed groups, Sanalla said in a recent letter to the UN.

The letter also complained about the risk of improper payments to Jathran. A spokesman for Jathran declined to comment on Sanalla’s allegations but said a "key issue that was resolved was over two years of back salaries due to the PFG".

Overall, National Oil said nationwide oil production could increase by 150,000 barrels per day (bpd), from about 400,000 bpd, within two weeks, thanks to fresh government funding.

Provided talks with other groups that have blocked output in Southern oil fields bear fruit, nationwide production could more than double to 900,000 bpd, it said.(WSJ 01-08-2016)

EGYPT AND FRENCH AGENCY SIGN €69M GRANTS

Egypt on Tuesday signed two grants valued at €69 million with the French Development Agency (AFD) to finance an ambitious natural gas connection project.
The grant will also fund schemes to develop the industrial skills of young Egyptians.

Egypt's Minister of International Cooperation, Sahar Nasr told journalists in Cairo after the signing that the first grant is worth €68 million designated to increase the household use of natural gas, notably located in the poorest and most needy parts of the country.

The second grant, valued at €1 million, will go for honing youth skills and conducting studies on the country's new and renewable energy, health, transport, and social housing sectors, Minister Nasr said.(APA 02-08-2016)

FOREIGN SHIPPERS AUTHORISED TO OPERATE ALONG MOZAMBIQUE'S COAST

Foreign shipowners can operate cabotage (coasting trade) service in Mozambique per the terms of a government-approved decree-law, Transport and Communications Minister Carlos Mesquita announced in Maputo.

Mesquita stated at the end of the Tuesday Council of Ministers meeting that the decision was meant to boost activity and offer a transport alternative, enabling both national and foreign shipowners to invest "under equal circumstances, benefiting from the same treatment and arrangements offered by the state."

The reactivation of coasting service will help achieve economies of scale and thereby lower product prices, making them more affordable for the population, Mesquita added, cited by the Maputo-based daily Notícias.

"To encourage foreign investors' entry in the coasting trade, the government considered regulatory instruments that guarantee priority for ship mooring and lower port fees in national harbours," he said.

Without revealing percentages, Mesquita said the reduction of fees charged by the national maritime (Inamar) and hydrography and navigation (Inahina) institutes had also been approved to eventually benefit shipowners and the population. (03-08-2016)

ETHIOPIAN AIRLINES SIGNS NEW DEAL WITH GERMAN FIRM

Ethiopian Airlines has contracted a German company, Lufthansa Technik to supply it with comprehensive component support for its new Airbus A350 fleet.

The airline said the total component support (TCS) agreement with Lufthansa Technik will run for 10 years and involves 14 aircraft. Their contract comprises component maintenance, repair and overhaul as well as access to a pool of spares.

Officials said the agreement underscored Lufthansa Technik's many years of collaboration with Ethiopian Airlines in a number of different areas. These include an extensive TCS for the carrier's Boeing 787 fleet as well as material support for its Bombardier Q400 regional aircraft fleet.

"We are delighted that we were able to extend our long-term Boeing 787 component support with Lufthansa Technik to our newest A350 fleet," Mesfin Tasew, COO for Ethiopian Airlines, said. "Our partnership with Lufthansa Technik, which goes back to the 1990s, thus finds a successful continuation into the future."

"We are convinced that we will receive the same professional and reliable support for our brand-new fleet," Mesfin added.

The Lufthansa Technik Group, with more than 30 subsidiaries and about 26,000 employees worldwide, is licensed internationally as a repair, production and development enterprise.

Harald Gloy, senior vice president TCS at Lufthansa Technik said the new agreement would "fosters our long-term partnership."(The Africa Report 29-07-2016)

SASOL STUDIES OFFSHORE TRANSFER OF MOZAMBICAN NATURAL GAS

The South African petrochemical group Sasol is studying the feasibility of building a pipeline to link the liquid processing facility (LPF) on land to a floating production, storage and offloading (FPSO) unit off the coast of Inhambane province, reports the Maputo-based daily Notícias.

The transnational Environmental Resources Management and the Mozambican company Impacto have been contracted to conduct the environmental impact study, including the public participation aspect, the newspaper indicates, citing a group source. A pre-feasibility study should be presented and subject to public debate this month in Inhassoro and Maputo.

The group exports to South Africa via a 900 km gas pipeline natural gas it has extracted from the Pande and Temane wells since 2004. The aim of this investment is to diversify outflow alternatives.

Besides this project, the Sasol group is involved in prospecting for more hydrocarbons in Inhambane, where it recently began a drilling programme under a shared production contract signed with the Mozambican authorities in January.

The Mozambican government also approved last January that contract’s development plan. Sasol soon afterward ordered drilling equipment from the French Société de Maintenance Pétrolière, which arrived at the port of Maputo in March.

The shared production contract's first development phase is estimated to require investment of about US$1.4 billion by the South African group. (03-08-2016)

AFRICAN LEADERS DRIVING PUSH FOR INDUSTRIALISATION

The UN General Assembly adopted a resolution on the the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa on July 25.

Industrialisation in Africa is being driven by African leaders who realise that industries as diverse as horticulture and leather production can help add value to the primary resources they currently export.

This is an "inside driven" process, Li Yong, Director General of the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) told IPS in a recent interview. "I've heard that message from the African leaders."

The African Union 'Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want' sets out a plan to transform the economy of the 54 countries in Africa based on manufacturing, said Li.

The process received support from the UN General Assembly on Monday with a new resolution titled the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (2016-2025).

The resolution was sponsored by the Group of 77 (G77) developing countries and China in collaboration with the African Union, said Li.

"These steps create a momentum that all "industrialization stakeholders" in Africa must take advantage of," said Li.

The resolution called on UNIDO to work together with the African Union Commission, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), and the Economic Commission for Africa to work towards sustainable industrialisation in Africa over the next 10 years.

The types of industrialisation African countries are embracing often involves adding value to the primary commodities, from mining or agriculture, that they are already producing.

It includes horticultural industry, notably in Kenya, Ethiopia and Senegal, beneficiation, adding value to minerals mined in Botswana, and shoe and garment manufacturing in Ethiopia, said Li.

However Li noted that in order to attract foreign investment in industrialisation, developing countries need to "do their homework."

This can include building the necessary business infrastructure required for new industries in industrial parks.

"We have already seen some countries move ahead with attracting investments into industrial parks (including) Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa," said Li.

Li pointed to recent examples from Ethiopia and Senegal, where the respective governments have invested millions of dollars in building industrial parks to attract foreign investors that create jobs and exports for these two Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

Currently, there are 48 LDCs around the world, of which 34 are in Africa.

Most LDCs rely on a handful of primary resources for exports, such as gold or the so-called black golds: oil, coal and coffee.

The decent work and value addition that come with industrialisation are considered a key way that these LDCs can grow, transform and diversify their economies and become middle income countries. Most LDCs rely on a handful of primary resources for exports, such as gold or the so-called black golds: oil, coal and coffee.

LDCs in Africa have had “very low and declining shares of manufacturing value added in GDP since the 1970s”, noted Li.

By investing in industry, these countries can add value to their primary exports, including through agro-industry, as is the case in Ethiopia, whose main exports include coffee, gold, leather products and live animals. “Manufacturing connects agriculture to light industry” noted Li, such as through food processing, garments and textiles, wood and leather processing.

Moreover, industrialisation does not necessarily have to be incompatible with the shift to a low carbon economy, said Li, since use of resource and energy efficient production methods and renewable energy in productive activities such as agro-industry, beneficiation, and in manufacturing, in general, will lead the economy onto a low carbon path.

The world’s least developed countries are following in the footsteps of other countries which have already achieved development, in part due to the industrialisation of their economies.

LDCs are “really eager to learn from those countries (that have) already gone through this process so that is why we have established South-South cooperation,” said Li.

However industrialisation does not only benefit the developing countries which want to attract it.

“Firms in today’s manufacturing powerhouses such as China, India and Brazil that are faced with rising wages at home are searching for locations that offer competitive wages, and appropriate infrastructure,” said Li.

With populations in many countries around the world beginning to age, Africa also has a comparative advantage to offer with growing young populations in many African countries.

“With its young and growing population, some indications show that Africa has the potential to become the next region to benefit from industrialization, particularly in labor-intensive manufacturing sectors,” said Li.

By providing employment and opportunities for these young people at home, industrialisation can also address other issues, including migration, inequalities and climate change, noted Li.

“Industry means creating jobs and incomes and industrial jobs partially reduce the pressure on migration and also resolve the root causes,” he said.

The Role of the G77

Li noted that UNIDO works closely with all developing countries, often through the Group of 77 and China, which represents 134 developing countries at the UN.

“The G77 and China has diverse membership, including Least Developed Countries, Land Locked Developing Countries, Small Islands Developing States, and Middle Income Countries, located in almost all regions of the world and with diverse range of priorities with respect to industrial development,” he said.

“In LDCs, labor-intensive manufacturing is promoted to create jobs.”

“In middle-income countries moving up the technology ladder into higher value added manufacturing is targeted.”

This can include collaborations with “science, technology and research and development institutions, targeted foreign investment promotion, and other relevant services,” said Li. (IPS 27-06-2016)

ANGOLA’S SONANGOL BACKS OFF FROM DEAL WITH COBALT INTERNATIONAL GROUP

The US-based Cobalt International Energy group will sell its 40 percent stake in two Angolan oil blocs to “third parties” after the state-held Sonangol pulled out of the deal, the group has announced.

In a statement to the market released on Tuesday in Houston, the group indicated that its chief executive Tim Cutt met in late July with the head of Sociedade Nacional de Combustíveis de Angola (Sonangol), Isabel dos Santos, to discuss the sale of those two stakes.

At that meeting, the two sides agreed that Cobalt International Energy would seek to sell its 40 percent stake in blocs 20 and 21 to “third parties”.

In August 2015 the US group announced that it had sold to state-held Sonangol its stakes in those two blocs for US$1.75 billion. Indicating that it would only keep a stake in bloc 9, the group stated that “the sale and purchase agreement provides for a smooth transition to a new operator and underscores the parties' commitment to attain the final investment decision" so that production can begin in late 2018. (03-08-2016)

EU-FUNDED PROJECT PUBLISHES REPORT ON ENTREPRENEURSHIP SUPPORT IN FIVE MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES

The policy report "Raising the capacities of young entrepreneurs in Arab countries - Best practices and recommendations", produced by the EU-funded SAHWA project, is now online. Written and coordinated by Amina Ziane-Cherif from the ANIMA Investment Network, the policy paper examines five Mediterranean Arab countries, namely Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Lebanon and Egypt, and analyses programmes developed to support entrepreneurship.

It looks at the main policies implemented in these countries to foster the development of entrepreneurship support programmes and best practices targeted at students, budding entrepreneurs and start-up founders by taking into account the different stages of the entrepreneurial journey i.e. from the initial idea to growing a business.

Looking into the main policies introduced to foster entrepreneurship, the paper raises the issue of sourcing high-quality projects and the importance of tailored support to empower and inspire the youth at an earlier age. The author underlines several loopholes in the entrepreneurship support chain and puts forward recommendations for actions at the national and regional level.

The SAHWA Project – funded under the EU's seventh framework programme for research FP7 – brings together partners from Europe and Arab countries to research youth prospects and perspectives in the context of multiple social, economic and political transitions in five Arab Mediterranean countries (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt and Lebanon). (ANIMA 02-08-2016)
SAHWA's Policy report

The Memorandum is supported by the ACP-African, Caribbean, Pacific Secretariat, Chamber of Commerce Tenerife, AHEAD-GLOBAL, Business Council for Africa, Corporate Council on Africa, ELO - Portuguese Association for Economic Development and Cooperation, Hellenic-African Chamber of Commerce and Development, HTTC - Hungarian Trade & Cultural Centre, NABA - Norwegian-African Business Association, NABC- Netherlands Africa Business Council, SwissCham-Africa and other organisations.

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