



ECA

DIVERSIFY



ECA

An update on economic diversification in central Africa

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Committed to supporting Central Africa's economic integration through the development of value chains

Focus

ECA supports the development of Congo's industrial strategy, focusing on the development of priority value chains and promotion of the private sector

The Sub-Regional Office for Central Africa of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), in partnership with the UNDP Congo Country Office, has launched the support to the Republic of Congo in setting up its Industrialization and Economic Diversification Master Plan (PDIDE). The PDIDE is intended to serve as the basis for transforming the Congolese productive system towards a low-carbon and greener economy. This industrial strategy should lead to a revolution in skills and capacity development.



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The figure

3.5 million USD from the Democratic Republic of Congo Government to Buenassa as initial financing of copper and cobalt refinery project

A big step towards the concretization of the Battery and Electric Vehicle Initiative in DRC! From the DRC's Industry Promotion Fund (FPI), the grant allocated by DRC's government to Buenassa represents the initial installment for the financing of the preparation facility for the company's copper and cobalt refinery project. The first phase of the project calls for the annual production of 30,000 tonnes of copper cathodes and 5,000 tonnes of cobalt sulfate.

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AfCFTA BOOKLET

Equatorial Guinea adopts its AfCFTA implementing national strategy and takes a big step towards the African single market

The Republic of Equatorial Guinea now holds the keys for a strategic positioning in the single African market. At the end of a technical and multi-sectoral review workshop organized by ECA's Sub-Regional Office for Central Africa and the Ministry of Trade and SME Promotion, the action plan enabling Equatorial Guinea to take the most advantage from the AfCFTA was validated. The strategy's vision is to make Equatorial Guinea a reference trading partner on the continental economic space by 2029.



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Cooperation & Coalition

To be transformative, the development of Special Economic Zones must be mindful of land justice, labor rights and environmental sustainability issues

Responsible business practices within New-Generation Special Economic Zones boil down to creating added value, respecting land ownership through adequate compensation and recruiting local workers with an investment to preserving the environment.

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BASKET OF ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION

CEMAC-ECA retreat: a decisive turning point towards accelerating the implementation of the Master Plan for Industrialization and Economic Diversification in Central Africa

From July 1 to 4, 2024, the CEMAC-ECA Commission welcomes a delegation from the ECA-CA led by Jean Luc Mastaki to define and adopt areas of cooperation to smoothly implement the PDIDE AC. The retreat will result in a joint roadmap specifying the activities to be jointly carried out, the roles and responsibilities, deadlines and possible sources of funding, and monitoring and evaluation strategy.

Intra-regional cooperation is a must to lift-off the mining industry in Central Africa

ECA's Sub-Regional Office for Central Africa message during the Conference of Mining Ministers of the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States, held jointly with the 4th edition of the Cameroon International Mining and Exhibition Convention (CIMEC). Transforming the mining products of Cameroon and Central Africa requires a coalition approach. No single State of the region could fully control the entire value chain of a mining-derived products.



[WATCH](#)

The development of agricultural value chains as a launching pad of the partnership between China and the ECA in Cameroon

His Excellency Wang Yingwu, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Cameroon, and Jean-Luc Mastaki, Director of the ECA's Subregional Office for Central Africa, agree to build a partnership on the development of agricultural value chains.



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ECA and Kribi deep sea Port stepping up for a partnership to develop a new-generation Special Economic Zone integrated to the Port

ECA will provide its expertise to leverage the integrated industrial zone of the Kribi deep seaport to a new generation special economic zone. The partnership in discussion will focus on the development of regional value chains and value retention through an affirmative local content policy.



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Central African SMEs urge ECA for tools to support sub-regional import-substitution



80% to 85% of enterprises in the sub-region are SMEs and VSEs. They can't resist the shady business climate. At the Salon international de l'entreprise, de la PME et du partenariat, (Promote) in Yaounde, Jean Luc Mastaki spoke to SMEs about their full participation in Central Africa's import-substitution policy. The establishment of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) which are conscious of SMEs's special needs will allow enterprises to overcome the challenges of administrative formalities, energy (cost, quality and quantity of electricity), market accessibility...

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Mediametrics

Challenges of SME-focused industrialization

The success of import-substitution in Central Africa will necessarily depend on the development of local content, putting SMEs at the heart of the ambition to move from value creation to value retention. The involvement of SMEs in industry enables them to contribute to processing clusters. The contribution of SMEs to import-substitution through the development of value chains is guaranteed by the establishment of Special Economic Zones (SEZ).

[WATCH](#)

Congo Basin: BDEAC supports the implementation of the natural capital consortium project

At the end of a courtesy call paid by the ECA Central Africa Sub-regional Initiatives Section's Head, Dr. Adama Ekberg Coulibaly, BDEAC President Dieudonné Evou Mekou confirmed the support of his institution to the consortium. BDEAC will lodge the funds that will be issued to finance projects such as solar power plants or the expansion of forestry assets to help sequester carbon.

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Congo-Brazzaville: processing local products, a priority for AfCFTA

On Saturday March 30, Congo-Brazzaville launched the design of its master plan for industrialization and economic diversification. The aim is to build a solid economic base to take advantage of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), with a particular focus on the local processing of raw materials.

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Jean Luc Mastaki: "those who export raw materials without added value are often at the mercy of international cost fluctuations"

Visiting the United Nations stand in Promote, on February 24, 2024, the director of the sub-region of the Central Africa of the ECA, spoke to the public on the theme: "Import-substitution, special economic zones and local content in Central Africa: keys to accelerating industrialization and economic diversification led by SMEs".

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Forest economy: ECA and its partners discussed a "sustainable" business model for Central Africa

"Which business model for an industrialization of the forestry sector that is inclusive, sustainable and likely to promote innovative financing for development in the subregion?" The question was at the heart of a webinar organized on February 15, 2024 by the Subregional Office for Central Africa of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), as part of the second preparatory policy dialogue for the 56th Session of the Conference of Ministers. Discussions focused on the theme: "Central Africa's forest economy: issues, challenges and opportunities for inclusive and sustainable industrialization".

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IWD2024 INTERNATIONAL WOMEN DAY

Fact-sheet: Women in regional and global value chains

- 01** Women make up a significant proportion of the workforce in trading and exporting companies. In developing countries, women account for 33% of the workforce in trading companies, compared with 22% in non-exporting companies.
- 02** Export companies led by women. In CAR, 40% of export companies are led by women. In Rwanda and Burundi, around 22% of export companies are led by women.
- 03** Women shareholders in export companies. In CAR, 86% of exporting companies have women shareholders. In Rwanda, 61% of exporting companies have women shareholders. In DRC, 39% of exporting companies have women shareholders.
- 04** Women majority-owned export companies. In Rwanda, 20.5% of export companies are majority-owned by women. In Cameroon, 10% of export companies are majority-owned by women.
- 05** Qualified women in the trade sector. In DRC, qualified women represent 14.2% of workers in the trade sector. In CAR, qualified women represent 8.6% of workers in the trade sector.
- 06** Impact of the AfCFTA on women's income in the production sector. Implementation of the AfCFTA would increase women's salaries slightly faster than men's, as production increases in the main female-intensive industries.

Through women, AfCFTA can achieve all its promises in Central Africa!

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa