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These are indicative rates based on results of daily surveys of foreign exchange market in Monrovia and selected cities of Liberia. These rates are collected from the Central bank, commercial banks, parallel market and the license forex bureaux. The rates are not set by the Central Bank of Liberia. Source: Research, Policy and Planning Department, CBL.

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Continental News

UK backs Morocco's plan for disputed Western Sahara

The UK has backed Morocco's plan for ending a territorial conflict in Western Sahara, as part of a deal that will secure lucrative investment projects in the

infrastructure projects for the World Cup, which Morocco is hosting alongside Spain and Portugal in five years' time.

The deal would allow "British businesses to score big on

countries have backed Morocco's position, including the United States, Spain, France, Germany and the Netherlands. British diplomats said the UK had decided to follow suit but only in return for business deals and a new commitment from Morocco to support the principle of self-determination, publish a new version of its autonomy plan and restart negotiations.

A procurement agreement between the two countries will "create a unique foundation for UK companies to access public tenders in Morocco", the UK Foreign Office said, pointing to deals in the health sector as well as contracts to upgrade Casablanca's airport.

The joint communique reaffirmed both sides' respect for "the non-use of force for the settlement of conflicts and their support for the principle of respect for self-determination".

Previously the UK has always said the status of Western Sahara was "undetermined" and supported "self-determination" for the people there. Morocco's Foreign Minister Nasser Bourita welcomed the change in British policy, saying it marked an historic moment in the two nations' 800-year-old relationship. "It represents a genuine pivot toward a definitive resolution of the dispute," he said.

Lammy said the deals signed in Rabat would "directly benefit British business". BBC

Bill Gates to give most of his \$200bn fortune to Africa

Microsoft founder Bill Gates says that most of his fortune will be spent on improving health and education services in Africa over the next 20 years. The 69-year-old said that "by unleashing human potential through health and education, every country in Africa should be on a path to prosperity".

Speaking in Ethiopia's capital Addis Ababa, he also urged Africa's young innovators to think about how to build Artificial Intelligence (AI) to improve healthcare on the continent.

Gates announced last month that he would give away 99% of his vast fortune - which he expects to reach \$200bn (£150bn) - by 2045, by when his foundation planned to end its operations. "I recently made a commitment that my wealth will be given away over the next 20 years. The majority of that funding will be spent on helping you address challenges here in Africa," he said in an address at the African Union (AU) headquarters.

as well makes all the difference."

In a message to young innovators, the tech billionaire noted that mobile phones had revolutionised banking in Africa, and argued that AI should now be used for the continent's benefit.

"Africa largely skipped traditional banking and now you have a chance, as you build your next generation healthcare systems, to think about how AI is built into that," he said.

Gates pointed to Rwanda as an example, saying it was already improving services using AI-enabled ultrasound to identify high-risk pregnancies.

The Gates Foundation said it had three priorities: ending preventable deaths of mothers and babies, ensuring the next generation grows up without having to suffer from deadly infectious diseases, and lifting millions of people out of poverty. "At the end of 20 years, the foundation will sunset its operations," it said in a statement. Last month, Gates said he would accelerate his giving via his foundation. "People



Supporters of the Polisario Front want Western Sahara to become totally independent

2030 men's football World Cup. For decades British governments have refused to take sides over who should control Western Sahara, which is considered a "non-self-governing territory" by the UN. But UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy has announced the UK now supports a plan that would give Western Sahara autonomy but Morocco ultimate sovereignty.

On a visit to Moroccan capital Rabat, Lammy said Morocco's autonomy proposal was "the most credible, viable and pragmatic basis for a lasting resolution of the dispute". Lammy also signed an agreement to boost collaboration between the two countries on critical

football's biggest stage", Lammy said. Algeria, which backs the Western Saharan independence movement, said it "regrets" Lammy's announcement. Algeria said Morocco's autonomy plan was now 18 years old and had never been submitted to the Sahrawis as a basis for negotiation. Western Sahara is a mineral-rich former Spanish colony that has been fought over for five decades in what is one of Africa's longest frozen conflicts. Morocco holds much of the 100,000 sq miles (260,000 sq km) of territory but part is controlled by the Polisario Front, an armed group seeking independence for the local Sahrawi people.

The African Union recognises Western Sahara's independence but in recent years, various

More than 700 believed dead in devastating Nigeria floods

The official death toll after deadly floods hit the Nigerian town of Mokwa on Thursday has risen to more than 200, officials say. Another 500 people are still missing in the town in the central Niger State however, local official Musa Kimboku told the BBC that rescue efforts had ceased because authorities no longer believe anyone could still be found alive. The floods, said to be worst in the area for 60 years, swept through the Mokwa districts of Tiffin Maza and Anguwan Hausawa after torrential rains. In an effort to prevent disease in the area, authorities will soon start to dig out corpses buried underground, Mokwa's district head Muhammadu Aliyu said. Recounting scenes of catastrophe, local residents told the BBC that they saw their homes and family members get washed away.

One man, Adamu Yusuf, lost his

wife and newborn baby. "I watched helplessly as water washed away my family. I survived because I could swim," he told the BBC. Another resident, Saliu Sulaiman, said the floods had left him homeless and destroyed some of his cash business profits. "I lost at least \$1,500 to the floods. It was the proceeds from the sale of my farm produce the previous day. I contemplated going back into

the room to get it, but the pressure of the water scared me." Some local residents have said that the flooding was so devastating because a nearby dam had burst, however the authorities have not confirmed this. Residents said the pressure of the floodwater was so intense that bodies had been washed up in the town of Rabba, at least an hour's drive from Mokwa.



Local people have told the BBC how the flood waters swept through their town



Bill Gates, who founded tech giant Microsoft, is the fifth-richest person in the world

Mozambique's former First Lady Graça Machel welcomed his announcement, saying it came in a "moment of crisis". "We are counting on Mr Gates' steadfast commitment to continue walking this path of transformation alongside us," she said. The US government has cut aid to Africa, including programmes to treat patients with HIV/Aids, as part of US President Donald Trump's "America First" policy, raising concerns about the future of healthcare on the continent.

Gates said his foundation, which has a long history of operating in Africa, would focus on improving primary healthcare. "What we've learned is that helping the mother be healthy and have great nutrition before she gets pregnant, while she is pregnant, delivers the strongest results," he said.

"Ensuring the child receives good nutrition in their first four years

will say a lot of things about me when I die, but I am determined that 'he died rich' will not be one of them," he wrote in a blog post.

Giving away 99% of his fortune could still leave the fifth-richest person in the world a billionaire, according to Bloomberg. Along with Paul Allen, Gates founded Microsoft in 1975, and the company soon became a dominant force in software and other tech industries.

Gates has gradually stepped back from the company in recent decades, resigning as its chief executive in 2000 and as chairman in 2014. He said he had been inspired to give away money by investor Warren Buffett and other philanthropists. However, critics of his foundation say Gates uses its charitable status to avoid tax and that it has undue influence over the global health system. BBC

EDITORIAL

We welcome intervention in the rubber sector

The Government of Liberia has taken a noticeable step to regulate prices in the rubber sector in the country effective this June, thanks to intervention by President Joseph Boakai.

This paper gathered that President Boakai has constituted the Liberia National Rubber Pricing Committee headed by the Ministry of Agriculture to ensure fair pricing in the rubber sector.

We think this is an applaudable action because rubber farmers across the country have complained of bad pricing for too long that has cheated them of the actual benefit of their labor.

For too long farmers in the country have been subjected to being price takers, which put them in a very disadvantageous position at the hands of Firestone Plantations in Harbel, Margibi County and the Liberia Agriculture Company in Grand Bassa County, respectively, the major firms here.

These two foreign companies have always offered low prices, leaving farmers, who are restricted to sell only at home, with no choice despite advocating to be allowed to sell to buyers of their choice outside the country.

Because of persistent low prices, local farmers across the country have never benefited from their crops despite toiling in their rain and the sun, day and night in cultivating their farms.

It is our hope that this time around, the latest intervention by the government thru the President will bring long desired relief to rubber farmers in the country.

According to a resolution from the meeting, the Government of Liberia's decision was triggered by numerous complaints from rubber farmers in the country about unfair pricing in the rubber sector. The latest move comes after a series of meetings among members of the Liberia National Rubber Pricing Committee during which a scenario for determining a fair monthly price of rubber was unanimously agreed upon, from several scenarios presented by a technical sub-committee.

The Ministry of Agriculture is quoted as saying “The committee has resolved that the monthly price of rubber will be derived from an average of the daily prices of one ton of rubber for the preceding month posted on the Singapore Commodity Exchange, applying a 58 percent dry rubber content to get the actual, from which the production cost is deducted, and the resultant amount be used to calculate 10 percent profit margin for the processor.”

We hope this will become sincerely turning point for our local farmers in getting worth for their production.

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COMMENTARY

By Aziz Huq

Non-Credible America

CHICAGO - The global trade war that Donald Trump launched on April 2 has entered a new phase: dealmaking. A new memorandum of understanding with the United Kingdom lists “initial proposals” that might eventually be hammered into a “free-trade deal.” In an online post titled “art of the deal,” the White House proclaimed a 90-day suspension of the tariffs that it had unilaterally imposed on China, and an end to Chinese “retaliation.” According to the administration, negotiations are ongoing with “dozens” of other countries.

Such “deals” imply that the United States can and will enter new, binding agreements on trade with other countries. But can the US bind itself credibly anymore?

A country like the US typically makes binding international commitments through statutory legislation or treaties signed and ratified by both governments. If one side can walk away without notice from a law or treaty, its commitment is not credible. Trump’s own actions show that he does not believe himself to be bound by statute or treaty, and no one in the US legal system is willing or able to force him to abide by them in a timely and effective fashion.

Consider statutes first. Since the eighteenth century, Congress has delegated carefully designed trade authorities to the executive. Presidents George Washington, John Adams, and Thomas Jefferson all had clearly defined authorizations to embargo ships. In delegating such trade authority, however, Congress also imposes limits, which means that trade partners can understand what to expect from the White House by reading the text of statutes.

The Trump administration has short-circuited statutory limits, largely skirting the laws usually relied on for trade matters, such as the 1962 Trade Expansion Act. These statutes impose time-consuming obligations to investigate and make findings before imposing tariffs. But in its impatience to make a political splash, the Trump administration used a 1977 statute, the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, to try to justify its “reciprocal” tariffs.

As I and many other commentators have pointed out, this 1977 law plainly does not permit tariffs of the sort imposed on April 2. But if the tariffs on the UK and China were unlawful from day one, White House trade negotiators cannot now credibly claim to be bound by any federal statute.

What about international law? The gold standard is the treaty. But here, too, Trump has shown that he cannot and will not be bound. In 2018, his first administration insisted on renegotiating the North American Free Trade Agreement, and Congress ratified the resulting US-Mexico-Canada Agreement in 2020. But Trump unilaterally ditched it by imposing across-

the-board 25% tariffs on both partner countries this year. He has even gone so far as to suggest that the 1908 Canada-US border treaty creates an “artificial line” that “makes no sense.” As a result, neither US statutes nor treaties provide for a credible commitment in trade policy.

A long-standing ambiguity in US law complicates the situation: Exactly how binding are international agreements supposed to be? Under the prevailing understanding of US constitutional law, Trump can withdraw from treaties without notice to international partners or Congress. The leading example is President Jimmy Carter’s 1978 decision to terminate America’s 1954 mutual defense treaty with Taiwan. US senators, led by Barry Goldwater, tried to challenge Carter’s decision in court, but they failed. The Supreme Court turned their suit aside on procedural grounds.

This commitment problem would be mitigated if there was some other actor in the US legal system that could check the president in a timely fashion. But Congress has been supine. Republican legislators are so terrified of being challenged in a party primary election that they have offered no resistance to Trump, even when confronted with manifestly unqualified nominees to fill senior positions in the executive branch.

Some hope the courts will provide a check on the administration. Just this week, the US Court of International Trade in Manhattan heard arguments in the first legal challenge to the tariffs. But I am not optimistic. Even if judges do act, the litigation process takes so long as to leave Trump with wide practical discretion to use illegal tariffs. His administration has already shown itself willing to disregard court orders in other instances, and its legal arguments for doing so would be even stronger when foreign affairs are at issue.

In short, no other country should take it for granted that Trump’s “deals” as binding or durable. They should heed a warning from the law firms that have concluded deals with Trump. Rather than finding certainty, these firms have found that the president views such arrangements as endlessly malleable. He will not hesitate to renege and impose new conditions whenever it suits him.

Of course, politically vulnerable leaders such as UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer may grasp for deals to secure temporary trade-related relief. But whatever they think they have gotten will be illusory. The very tools that Trump has used to fight his trade war make it far more difficult to reach a peace.

Aziz Huq, Professor of Law at the University of Chicago, is the author of The Collapse of Constitutional Remedies (Oxford University Press, 2021).

OP-ED

By Connie Hedegaard, Anne Højer Simonsen, and Christian Ibsen

Europe’s Prosperity and Security Depend on Climate Action

COPENHAGEN - It has been more than a year since the European Commission proposed the next milestone in the European Union’s transition toward climate neutrality: reducing greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions by 90% by 2040. But we are still waiting for the proposal to become law, raising concerns that the bloc is focused on more urgent priorities - namely, rebuilding defenses and reviving competitiveness.

In fact, building a clean economy would help address the EU’s productivity, innovation, and security gaps. That is why, despite our varied backgrounds in industry, politics, and think tanks, we collectively urge European policymakers to commit to the ambitious domestic 2040 emissions-reduction target, and to support strategic climate investments and initiatives that will boost Europe’s energy security and competitiveness.

As the EU’s Clean Industrial Deal has highlighted, climate action is a powerful economic driver that should be harnessed to strengthen Europe’s competitiveness now and in the future. Without improved energy security, mobility options, and industrial resilience, the EU cannot hope to gain ground on the United States and China in the decades ahead.

The EU has already committed significant funds to secure energy supplies and modernize industry, but major obstacles remain - which Mario Draghi warned about in his 2024 report on the future of European competitiveness. To overcome these challenges, the bloc must refine its investment priorities, provide a predictable legislative framework, and send clear signals to private investors, reinforcing trust in its low-carbon path. The first step is to implement existing climate legislation, such as the Fit for 55 package.

Relying on homegrown clean-energy sources rather than expensive and volatile fossil-fuel imports will enhance the EU’s security, energy independence, and economic stability, with governments, businesses, and households benefiting from lower costs. According to the Commission’s 2040 impact assessment, the bloc can save €160 billion (\$179 billion) per year by electrifying its economy and halving its energy imports by 2040. To put this in perspective, the EU’s annual investment in grid upgrades and renewables would increase by around €40 billion and €30 billion, respectively.

A new report from the OECD and the United Nations Development Programme emphasizes that in addition to being an environmental necessity, ambitious climate action offers economic gains. Recent research supports the argument, concluding that previous economic models have underestimated the impact of global warming. A 4° Celsius temperature rise would leave the average person 40% poorer, significantly higher than previous estimates. Even a 2° C increase would mean a 16% drop in global GDP per capita. These findings highlight the urgent need for climate action to avoid severe economic fallout.

The huge risks from global warming will only increase, while our ability to contain them will diminish with every year of inaction. Of course, policymakers have made similar calls to arms before, with skeptics blaming lofty decarbonization targets for the challenges currently facing the bloc, and imploring policymakers to lower their ambitions in the name of competitiveness. But the EU’s strategic vulnerabilities stem from its failure to pursue sufficiently ambitious goals.

Achieving the 2040 target is necessary because it is a crucial milestone defining the trajectory of Europe’s climate efforts until mid-century. It will also help clarify our commitments under the 2015 Paris climate agreement. The EU has yet to submit an updated Nationally Determined Contribution, including a 2035 emissions-reduction target, even though the formal deadline for doing so has passed. The bloc’s NDC should follow a linear trajectory from 2030 to 2040, ensuring that Europe remains a global leader in combating climate change.

At a time when other major economies, including the US, have wavered in their climate commitments, Europe should remain dedicated to the green transition and work toward a successful outcome at this year’s United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP30) in Belém, Brazil. Amid today’s geopolitical turmoil, the stakes are high for the EU, which can show its support for the rules-based international system through climate action - an approach that serves its own and others’ interests.

By committing to bold climate policies and, most importantly, effective implementation, the EU can address its economic challenges and risky dependencies, while also securing its position as a global leader in sustainable development. If Europe does not set global benchmarks, it is far from clear who will take up the mantle - certainly not the US under its current leadership. The proposed 2040 target thus offers an opportunity that Europe must seize to ensure its future competitiveness, prosperity, and security.

Connie Hedegaard served as European Commissioner for Climate Action (2010-14), and as Denmark’s Minister for the Environment (2004-07) and Minister for Climate and Energy (2007-09). Anne Højer Simonsen is Senior Director and Head of Climate

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OPINION

By Marisa Drew

Scaling Investment for Africa’s Sustainable Blue Economy

LONDON - Despite carrying 80% of the world’s trade, absorbing 30% of its carbon-dioxide emissions, and providing food security for almost three billion people, the global blue economy (oceans and waterways) is suffering from acute underinvestment, and nowhere more so than in Africa. In the face of heightened economic volatility and tightening financial constraints, the transition to a more sustainable blue economy represents a major, largely underappreciated opportunity for the continent.

This is not just some abstract idea. Given investors’ appetite for sustainable, scalable returns, the opportunity is hiding in plain sight, and governments are waking up to it. Spanning more than 30,000 kilometers (18,640 miles) of coastline, Africa’s blue economy does \$300 billion worth of business each year, and it is uniquely positioned to benefit from the broader shift to more sustainable models. The African Union projects that the blue economy will increase to \$405 billion in 2030, and to as much as \$576 billion by 2063. As these sectors expand, employment levels could increase from 49 million jobs in 2019 to 78 million by 2063.

Highlighting the sectors with the most potential helps to put these numbers into context. Consider food, where the development of sustainable aquaculture and fishing practices could help meet the growing demand for protein in Africa and beyond. Our calculations suggest that sustainable aquaculture-based fish production could grow eightfold in Africa, reaching approximately 19 million metric tons per year by 2050.

The energy sector is similarly promising. According to research from the World Bank, South Africa could reach 900 gigawatts of offshore wind capacity, and it is not unique. All told, offshore wind alone could boost Africa’s electricity generation 45-fold.

The sustainable blue economy also has an important role to play in climate adaptation. With sea levels around much of Africa’s coastline rising faster than the global level average, marine restoration and conservation can build natural resilience while also delivering benefits to food systems, biodiversity, and other sectors such as tourism.

But to make the blue economy truly sustainable, Africa and the Middle East will need approximately \$70 billion in annual investment from now to 2030. To reach that target, governments should leverage innovative financial mechanisms to bring more capital into the blue economy and advance sustainable, scalable projects. Fortunately, demand for such solutions is growing, and over 80% of African countries have already embedded the blue economy into their national development plans or climate strategies.

Decision-makers across many markets are beginning to treat the ocean as a strategic asset that needs to be protected and sustainably managed. But while solutions like blue debt instruments hold much potential, many issuers have yet to capitalize on the opportunity presented by the sustainable debt market. Greater use of blue bonds, sustainability-linked loans, and social bonds could channel capital where it is needed most.

Similarly, debt conversions for nature - often referred to as “debt-for-climate swaps,” whereby financing or debt relief is explicitly earmarked for sustainable projects - represent attractive options for sovereign issuers, depending on their financial characteristics. Such transactions can reduce debt-service payments and free up capital to support a country’s sustainability goals.

For example, last year, Standard Chartered (where I am Chief Sustainability Officer) partnered with the Government of The Bahamas, The Nature Conservancy, and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) to launch an innovative debt conversion for nature and climate. The project is expected to generate \$124 million for marine conservation, demonstrating that this asset class is developing quickly - and with significant potential for scaling.

Moreover, efforts to develop sustainable blue economy strategies and practices are increasingly supported by regulatory reforms, marine spatial planning programs, and regional cooperation models like the International Union for Conservation of Nature’s Great Blue Wall Initiative. These are laying the foundation for a wave of investible projects supported by real assets, local ownership, and measurable returns.

The momentum will keep building this year. In June, the Blue Economy and Finance Forum and the UN Ocean Conference offer opportunities to bring bankable projects to global investors and accelerate the African sustainable blue economy’s growth. The risks - ranging from regulatory bottlenecks to insufficient capacity to develop projects - are manageable with the right partnerships.

Making Africa’s blue economy sustainable is no longer an untested idea. Our own latest research, Harnessing Africa’s Blue Economy, shows this is a growing investible market - one that banks, asset managers, and governments cannot afford to ignore.

Marisa Drew is Chief Sustainability Officer at Standard Chartered.

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ECOWAS endorses Liberia's UNSC Bid

-As Snowe amplifies diplomatic push

Liberia's campaign for a non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has gained critical momentum, receiving unanimous endorsement from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

By Stephen G. Fellajuah
Monrovia, June 2, 2025: This major diplomatic milestone follows a

and heads of state in support of Liberia's bid. Liberia's candidacy comes at a time when the country is

conflict reconciliation. The country has ratified key international treaties on human rights, transitional justice, and child protection. Its Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) remains one of Africa's earliest and most notable efforts at post-conflict justice and national healing. Liberia has also emerged as a



formal appeal by Bomi County Senator Edwin Melvin Snowe, who heads Liberia's delegation to the ECOWAS Parliament. "As we all know, Senator Snowe made an appeal to Parliament for support of Liberia's candidacy. We are all behind Liberia," said ECOWAS Commission President Dr. Omar Aliou Touray. "We will continue to support Liberia in this crucial time. We commend the government for its firmness and determination on this matter." In response, Senator Snowe expressed gratitude for ECOWAS's endorsement and underscored the importance of continued engagement with the three member states considering withdrawal from the regional bloc. He urged the Community to maintain dialogue to preserve unity within ECOWAS. As the head of Liberia's delegation, Snowe also acknowledged ECOWAS's involvement in addressing political tensions in Liberia's House of Representatives. He cited two fact-finding missions, one led by ECOWAS Parliament Speaker Hadja Mémounatou Ibrahima, which he praised for its proactive engagement, and another that concluded with a final ruling by the Liberian Supreme Court. Snowe further commended the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government for officially endorsing Liberia as the regional candidate for the UNSC seat. With elections scheduled for next week, he called on ECOWAS to intensify diplomatic outreach across the subregion, encouraging member states to lobby their respective foreign ministers

increasingly recognized as a symbol of post-conflict transformation, democratic governance, and regional leadership. Once a recipient of UN peacekeeping missions, Liberia is now a contributor, having deployed personnel to regional and UN operations in Mali and Darfur. The country has experienced four peaceful democratic transitions (2005, 2011, 2017, and 2023), reinforcing its image as a stable and constitutionally governed nation. Its consistent advocacy for regional peace, mediation in West African conflicts, and defense of democratic norms further bolster its credentials for a UNSC seat. As a Least Developed Country (LDC), Liberia brings a critical and authentic perspective to the Security Council, especially on the link between development and security. If elected, Liberia plans to champion equitable access to development financing Sustainable debt relief for vulnerable states, as well as fairer trade regimes for African economies These priorities reflect Liberia's firsthand understanding of how poverty, inequality, and governance deficits drive instability, and affirm its commitment to multilateral cooperation for sustainable peace. Liberia's progressive record on gender equality and human rights further strengthens its candidacy. As the first African nation to elect a female president, Nobel Laureate Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Liberia has become a global reference point for women's political empowerment and post-

regional leader in climate and environmental governance. With one of the largest remaining stretches of the Upper Guinean Forest ecosystem, a biodiversity hotspot—Liberia has partnered with nations like Norway to preserve forest cover, advance carbon credit systems, and promote climate resilience. These efforts underscore the country's commitment to elevating climate security as a pillar of global peace. Liberia's unique history, as a nation founded by freed slaves, later ravaged by civil war, and now a model of recovery, gives it a moral voice in international diplomacy. Its dual ties to both Western democracies and the Global South position it as a natural bridge-builder in a divided world. A seat on the Security Council would symbolize not only representation but also redemption. It would affirm the transformative power of peace and the enduring strength of international solidarity. As the UNSC election approaches, Liberia is calling on the international community for support. Its voice at the Council would reflect Africa's rising global influence and amplify the needs of countries affected by conflict, poverty, and climate change. Liberia's candidacy is more than justified, it is timely and necessary. In a world seeking renewed consensus and empathy, Liberia offers a perspective shaped by hardship, resilience, and an unshakable commitment to global peace.- Edited by Othello B. Garblah.

Gov't shutdown Chinese Mining Company

The Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME) has ordered the immediate and temporary closure of Huiren Mining Company, a Chinese-owned corporation operating in Jackson Village, Jorquelleh District #3, Bong County.

By Edwin N. Khakie
Jackson Village, Bong County - June 2, 2025 - The decision follows mounting allegations of illegal mining practices and violations of agreements made with local communities. The enforcement action was taken during a surprise inspection on Saturday, led by Assistant Minister Carlos E. Tingban. Accompanied by law enforcement officers, the MME team reportedly discovered that Huiren Mining had extended its operations beyond the boundaries set in its license and had breached the terms of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed with communities directly affected by its activities. "This is not just about mining rights," Assistant Minister Tingban stated during a town hall meeting held with residents. "It's about protecting our environment, enforcing accountability, and standing up for the rights of Liberians whose land and livelihoods are being exploited by noncompliant mining companies." For months, community leaders have raised concerns about the company's alleged failure to deliver on promised social development initiatives, poor communication with residents, and environmental degradation. Locals also cited a lack of transparency and disregard for community welfare. Tensions escalated during the inspection when two Huiren Mining Company officials, including the General Manager,

mining day and night, destroying our land, and not living up to their promises. This action shows that the government is finally listening." The Ministry has since launched a full investigation into the company's activities. All mining operations at the site have been suspended pending the outcome of the probe. "No one is above the law," Tingban emphasized. "While we encourage foreign investment, it must align with Liberia's laws and show respect for our people and the environment." In a brief statement, Huiren Mining Company officials confirmed they had received the ministry's order and expressed willingness to fully cooperate with the ongoing investigation. This strong regulatory action is one of the most assertive measures taken by the Ministry of Mines and Energy in recent months, signaling a shift toward more stringent oversight of the mining sector and greater protection of community rights. Also present during the inspection were Bong County District #3 Representative. J. Marvin Cole, Bong County Senator. Johnny Kpehe Sr., and Bong County Superintendent. Loleya Hawa Norris. All three officials issued special remarks during the visit, emphasizing the need for corporate responsibility, environmental stewardship, and strengthened community relations. Rep. Cole reiterated his commitment to ensuring that companies operating within his district adhere to the laws and prioritize community development. Senator Kpehe underscored the importance of



were handcuffed and taken into custody for questioning. Though their identities have not been officially released, sources within the ministry indicate the individuals may face charges related to environmental infractions and unauthorized extraction of mineral resources. James Kollie, a youth leader from Jackson Village, praised the ministry's intervention. "We've been raising these concerns for months," he said. "They were

collaboration between government institutions and citizens to hold corporations accountable. Superintendent Norris called for unity among residents, assuring them that the local government stands ready to support enforcement and advocacy efforts. Their presence and statements lent additional weight to the ministry's action and highlighted a growing consensus among local leaders for stricter regulation and transparent, community-centered resource management.

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"I will provide Sen. Snowe the legal service"

-Cllr. Gongloe pledged.

Cllr. Taiwan Saye Gongloe, former presidential candidate and human rights advocate has vowed to provide legal representation

By: Kruah Thompson the Boakai led Monrovia, Liberia, administration. The June 3, 2025: "I controversy centers around assured Senator claims that Senator Snowe is Snowe that if the using his political influence government goes after him, to undermine President



Cllr. Taiwan Saye Gongloe

takes him to court, or does anything, I will provide him the legal service," Gongloe pledged. The assurance was issued through a public statement on Monday, June 2, 2025, via Gongloe's official Facebook page. In his message, he addressed Liberians both at home and abroad amid an intensifying dispute between Senator Snowe and

Joseph Boakai's leadership. Over the past week, critics have argued that his statements aimed at eroding public confidence in the administration, potentially laying the groundwork for his own political ambitions. However, Snowe has firmly rejected these allegations, clarifying that his criticisms stem from a commitment to

good governance and a respect for democratic norms. Weighing in on the matter, on Monday Cllr. Gongloe expressed concern over what he described as a growing trend of intolerance among certain government officials toward opposing viewpoints from both fellow officials and ordinary citizens. "Last week, I read in the papers, heard on the radio, and saw online the reactions of high-ranking government officials to a statement allegedly made by Senator Snowe, wishing the government would fail," he recounted. "They responded in different ways, and I was surprised." He continued, "Even within families, people hold differing views about their children. Why can't the government respond by saying, 'You are wrong, and we will prove you wrong by succeeding' rather than getting angry?" Gongloe referenced the work ethic of figures like Abraham Touray, emphasizing that

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Bong: County leadership breaks ground for the construction of a new High School

By: Edwin N Khakie government's commitment to educational equity and rural development. "This is your project," Senator Moya declared to the assembled residents. "We want every community member to take ownership of it. If it succeeds here, it sets a standard for other communities across Bong County to follow." Representative Kolleh echoed the senator's message, emphasizing the importance of community engagement. "Kolietawolah has waited long enough," he said. "Let us all work together to ensure that our

critical need for the region. The school's construction is being financed through a \$75,000 allocation from the County Development Fund, a collaborative initiative supported by both national and local government leaders. Senator Prince K. Moya and District #2 Representative James M. Kolleh, who spearheaded the funding allocation, described the project as a testament to the

children don't have to travel far or give up on their dreams due to lack of access to basic education." Representing the Office of the County Superintendent, County Administrative Officer D Sam Baryougah Elliott Sr. pledged the administration's full support in ensuring the timely and quality completion of the project. He assured the crowd that the school will be ready to welcome students before the new academic year begins in September. "Kolietawolah

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Liberian launches Africa's First-Ever World-Class Travel and Lifestyle Magazine with Global Reach

FREETOWN, SIERRA LEONE - photography, food and wellness June 2, 2025 - Africa has features, art and design, culture, taken a bold step onto the festivals, local guides, and global stage with the launch of people driving tourism Africa Travel and Life, the innovation.

The premier issue places Freetown on the cover, showcasing the city's natural beauty, historical charm, and cultural vibrance through the lens of three of Sierra Leone's top models, styled by the country's most acclaimed designers. The issue also includes an exclusive interview with Freetown's dynamic Mayor, who is championing tourism as a pillar experienced, both by Africans of the city's future.

In the premier issue, readers will journey through the continent's treasures: from the Namib Desert, the world's oldest, to marketing Africa travel." A seasoned media professional and capitals, and on to the luxe tourism veteran with more than shores of the Seychelles. Other two decades of experience, highlights include the Mindelo Festival in Cabo Verde, star power from Nigerian actors



"The idea came to me in the late 90s during an IACVB conference in Florida. A pie chart showed Africa earning just 1% of global marine tourism revenue—it struck me deeply," said Baker. "Today, Africa earns just 5%, and that's still far too low. We want to see that number in double digits."

When asked why Freetown as the cover story, Baker says "choosing the premier issue cover Imagine 10% of Africa traveling destination was a tough one, as Africa—that's 140 million people we considered the various regions of Africa. We chose West That's \$350 billion infused into Africa to begin and a destination the continent. We can achieve that offered an excellent mix of this, but we must keep telling our adventure, luxury and history. We excitedly look forward to exploring the continent."

With a gradual rollout of a robust Africa Travel and Life offers a digital presence across beautifully curated celebration Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, of the continent's people, and its website places, and cultures. The AfricaTravelandLife.com, publication spans every corner of alongside its premium print and Africa—from bustling cities to digital editions, Africa Travel and hidden villages—through fashion shoots on location, rich

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"I will provide Sen. Snowe the legal service"

public officials should focus on delivering results that the Liberian people can feel, instead of being distracted by criticism. He stressed that opposing views are vital in a democracy, as they challenge leaders to reflect, adjust, and ultimately succeed. "I don't believe leaders should get angry over what people say. Instead, they should prove critics wrong not through words, but through their actions, for the benefit of the Liberian people," he advised. Drawing on a personal anecdote, Gongloe shared that during the last election, his youngest sister whom he holds dear supported him in the first round. However, in the second round, she informed him that she had shifted her support to President Weah and not to Boikai and had also encouraged others to vote for former President George Weah.

"I had no problem with that," Gongloe said. "But then I read in the newspaper that there were problems within the Gongloe family because of our different political choices. That wasn't true." He noted that he publicly clarified there were no such family divisions, underscoring that diverse political views should not be a source of conflict, but rather a catalyst for productive governance.

Highlighting his longstanding commitment to free expression, Gongloe referenced the Kamara Kamara Free Speech Act. he explained that serving as Solicitor General under the Ellen administration he chose

not to prosecute individuals for criminal libel against the President, but Instead, in 2009, he authored a repeal of such laws and presented the draft to then-President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and shared it with the Press Union of Liberia. He asserted that if former President Weah had not officially repealed those three laws in 2017, Liberia's democracy could have faced serious challenges by 2020 or 2022.

"Our democracy has been strengthened by the Kamara Kamara law, which ensures that no one is arrested for expressing free speech," Gongloe emphasized. He concluded by reaffirming his support for Senator Snowe and anyone else who speaks out in the interest of Liberia. "I assure Senator Snowe that I will defend people's right to speak freely. If they get into trouble whether civil action or damages for the good of the country, I will defend them," he promised.

According to him, he will provide this service to anyone whose rights are being violated for exercising their democratic rights under the Constitution of Liberia and international laws to which Liberia is a state party.

However, he pledged not to offer this service to individuals he described as "mercenary journalists" and "mercenary civil society activists," claiming they are paid to say certain things or suppress the truth.

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Liberian launches Africa's First-Ever World-Class

Life is poised to become the definitive voice of African travel and lifestyle.

Publisher Hesta Baker, a native of Liberia, previously helmed top-tier U.S. visitor and lifestyle publications including Guest Informant that also published Where Magazine, and Style Magazine. Her vision

for Africa Travel and Life is clear: to tell Africa's story with elegance, accuracy, and pride.

"This is Africa's time," said Baker. "And we're going to show the world what we've always known: Africa is extraordinary."

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Bong: County leadership breaks ground

deserves a school that meets modern standards," Elliott said. "We are committed to delivering not just a building, but an environment where learning can thrive."

The new junior high school is expected to serve hundreds of students from Kolietawolah and surrounding communities, many of whom currently walk long distances to attend school. Community leaders hailed the development as a major stride toward youth empowerment and educational inclusion. Local elder Mary Yarkpawolo, speaking on behalf of the town's traditional council, praised the lawmakers and county officials for "finally bringing light" to the children of Kolietawolah.

"For years, our kids have suffered. Today, we see hope," she said.

Construction crews are expected to begin work immediately, with local laborers being prioritized for hiring as part of an effort to boost community involvement and stimulate the local economy.

As Liberia continues its post-war reconstruction efforts, investments in rural education infrastructure like the Kolietawolah Junior High School are increasingly seen as key to national progress.

The Bong County groundbreaking is the latest in a series of local initiatives aiming to bridge the education gap between urban centers and underserved communities.

Liberians split on Boakai's performance

Views from citizens across the country are split on performance of the Boakai Administration's two years in office.

By Stephen G. Fellajuah

Monrovia, Liberia, June 3, 2025 - Liberians are evenly split on the country's current trajectory under the Unity Party-led government, according to an Afrobarometer Survey released here.

The survey, released on May 30, 2025, shows that 50% of citizens believe Liberia is heading in the right direction, while the other 50% think the country is moving in the wrong direction.

This marks a significant shift from 2022 during the administration of former President George Weah, when

The report concluded by statig that the survey, was conducted by the Center for Democratic Governance (CDG) on behalf of Afrobarometer, involved 1,200 adult participants across Liberia between July 30 and August 21, 2024.

The results mirror the nation's deep political divisions, which were evident during the 2023 presidential and general elections. In a closely contested run-off, former President George Weah conceded defeat to President Joseph Boakai.

Final results from the National Elections Commission (NEC) showed Boakai narrowly



only 25% of Liberians believed winning with 51% of the vote, the country was on the right compared to Weah's 49%, track, while 74% said it was further illustrating how divided headed in the wrong direction. the nation remains.

Under Weah's Congress for Democratic Change (CDC), the Boakai administration has yet highest level of optimism to make meaningful progress in recorded was 30% in 2018, with reviving the economy. This the lowest at just 19% in 2020. sentiment was echoed recently On the state of the economy, by Noah Zawu Gibson, Deputy 48% of respondents described Director General for Operations current conditions as fairly bad at the National Transit or very bad, while 45% rated Authority (NTA), during a call-in them as fairly good or very radio program.

good. Despite these mixed Concerns have also been raised assessments, 61% expressed by members of the business optimism that the economy will community, who say economic improve over the next year. conditions remain challenging When it came to personal living and are urging the government conditions, views were again to take decisive actions. Editing evenly divided: 46% of by Jonathan Browne respondents rated their situation as fairly bad or very bad, while another 46% said it was fairly good or very good.

Français

CEDEAO approuve la candidature du Libéria au Conseil de Sécurité de l'ONU

La campagne du Libéria pour un siège non permanent au Conseil de Sécurité des Nations Unies (CSNU) a gagné un élan critique avec l'approbation unanime de la Communauté Économique des États de

Melvin Snowe, qui dirige la délégation du Libéria au Parlement de la CEDEAO. "Comme nous le savons tous, le Sénateur Snowe a lancé un appel au Parlement pour le soutien de la candidature du Libéria. Nous sommes tous derrière le Libéria," a déclaré le

et sa détermination sur cette question." En réponse, le Sénateur Snowe a exprimé sa gratitude pour l'approbation de la CEDEAO et a souligné l'importance de maintenir un engagement continu avec les trois États membres envisageant de se retirer du bloc régional. Il a exhorté la Communauté à maintenir le dialogue pour préserver l'unité au sein de la CEDEAO. En tant que chef de la délégation du Libéria, Snowe a également reconnu l'implication de la CEDEAO dans la résolution des tensions politiques à la Chambre des Représentants du Libéria. Il a mentionné deux missions de vérification des faits, l'une dirigée par la Présidente du Parlement de la CEDEAO, Hadja Mémounatou Ibrahima, qu'il a saluée pour son engagement proactif, et une autre qui s'est conclue par une décision finale de la Cour

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l'Afrique de l'Ouest (CEDEAO). Cette étape diplomatique majeure fait suite à un appel formel du Sénateur du Comté de Bomi, Edwin

Président de la Commission de la CEDEAO, Dr. Omar Alieu Touray. "Nous continuerons de soutenir le Libéria en ce moment crucial. Nous saluons le gouvernement pour sa fermeté

Le gouvernement ordonne la fermeture d'une société minière chinoise à Bong County

Le ministère des Mines et de l'Énergie (MME) du Liberia a ordonné la fermeture immédiate et temporaire de la société minière Huiren Mining Company, une entreprise à capitaux chinois opérant à Jackson Village, dans le district #3 de Jorquellah, Bong County. Cette décision fait suite à une série d'allégations portant sur des pratiques minières illégales et des violations d'accords passés avec les communautés locales. L'action a été déclenchée samedi lors d'une inspection inopinée dirigée par le ministre adjoint Carlos E. Tingban, accompagné d'agents des forces de l'ordre. Selon les premières constatations, Huiren Mining aurait outrepassé les limites géographiques fixées par son permis d'exploitation et enfreint les termes d'un protocole d'accord signé avec les communautés affectées par ses activités. « Il ne s'agit pas seulement de droits miniers », a déclaré le ministre adjoint Tingban lors d'une réunion publique avec les habitants. « Il est question de protéger notre environnement, d'instaurer une véritable responsabilité et de défendre les droits des

Libériens dont les terres et les moyens de subsistance sont menacés par des entreprises non conformes. » Depuis plusieurs mois, des leaders communautaires dénoncent le non-respect par la société de ses engagements sociaux, une communication quasi inexistante avec les résidents, ainsi que des dommages environnementaux croissants. Ils pointent également un manque de transparence et un mépris manifeste du bien-être communautaire. La tension est montée d'un cran durant l'inspection, lorsque deux responsables de Huiren Mining, dont le directeur général, ont été menottés et placés en garde à vue pour interrogatoire. Leurs identités n'ont pas été officiellement révélées, mais des

sources au sein du ministère indiquent qu'ils pourraient être inculpés pour infractions environnementales et extraction non autorisée de ressources minières. James Kollie, un jeune leader de Jackson Village, a salué l'intervention du gouvernement : « Nous avons dénoncé cette situation depuis des mois. Ils exploitaient jour et nuit, détruisaient nos terres et ne respectaient aucun de leurs engagements. Cette décision prouve que les autorités commencent enfin à nous entendre. » Le ministère a ouvert une enquête complète sur les activités

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Éditorial

Une intervention salubre dans le secteur du caoutchouc

Le gouvernement du Liberia a franchi une étape significative en décidant de réguler les prix dans le secteur du caoutchouc à partir de ce mois de juin, une mesure rendue possible grâce à l'intervention directe du président Joseph Boakai.

Selon nos informations, le président Boakai a institué le Comité national libérien de fixation des prix du caoutchouc, présidé par le ministère de l'Agriculture. Ce comité a pour mission de garantir une tarification équitable au sein de la filière.

Nous saluons cette initiative que nous jugeons louable. Depuis trop longtemps, les agriculteurs libériens se plaignent des prix dérisoires auxquels leur caoutchouc est acheté, les privant ainsi du juste fruit de leur labeur.

En réalité, les producteurs de caoutchouc ont été contraints de se contenter des prix imposés par deux grandes entreprises étrangères, Firestone Plantations à Harbel (comté de Margibi) et Liberia Agriculture Company (LAC) dans le comté de Grand Bassa.

Ces sociétés, jusqu'ici dominantes, ont toujours offert des prix bas, sans réelle alternative pour les producteurs locaux, qui n'ont pas le droit de vendre à des acheteurs internationaux de leur choix.

Cette situation a empêché les agriculteurs libériens de tirer profit de leurs efforts, malgré les conditions difficiles dans lesquelles ils cultivent leurs plantations - sous la pluie, le soleil, de jour comme de nuit.

Nous espérons que cette nouvelle intervention gouvernementale marquera un tournant décisif pour améliorer les conditions de vie de ces producteurs et redonner un sens économique à leur travail.

Selon une résolution issue des réunions du comité, la décision du gouvernement a été motivée par les nombreuses plaintes des agriculteurs concernant l'iniquité dans les prix d'achat. Après plusieurs sessions de travail, les membres du Comité ont unanimement adopté un mécanisme de calcul basé sur différentes propositions techniques.

Le ministère de l'Agriculture a précisé que : « Le prix mensuel du caoutchouc sera calculé à partir de la moyenne des prix journaliers d'une tonne de caoutchouc sur le marché de la Singapore Commodity Exchange, pour le mois précédent.

Cette moyenne sera appliquée à un taux de contenu en caoutchouc sec de 58 %, duquel seront déduits les coûts de production. Le montant obtenu servira ensuite de base pour calculer une marge bénéficiaire de 10 % en faveur du transformateur. »

Nous espérons sincèrement que ce mécanisme contribuera à rétablir une forme de justice économique dans le secteur et à offrir enfin aux agriculteurs locaux une rémunération à la hauteur de leur travail.

Français

commentaire

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CEDEAO approuve la candidature du

Suprême du Libéria. Snowe a en outre salué l'Autorité des Chefs d'État et de Gouvernement de la CEDEAO pour avoir officiellement approuvé le Libéria comme candidat régional au siège du CSNU. Avec les élections prévues pour la semaine prochaine, il a appelé la CEDEAO à intensifier les efforts diplomatiques à travers la sous-région, encourageant les États membres à faire pression sur leurs ministres des affaires étrangères et chefs d'État respectifs pour soutenir la candidature du Libéria.

La candidature du Libéria intervient à un moment où le pays est de plus en plus reconnu comme un symbole de transformation post-conflit, de gouvernance démocratique et de leadership régional. Autrefois bénéficiaire de missions de maintien de la paix de l'ONU, le Libéria est désormais contributeur, ayant déployé du personnel dans des opérations régionales et onusiennes au Mali et au Darfour.

Le pays a connu quatre transitions démocratiques pacifiques (2005, 2011, 2017 et 2023), renforçant son image en tant que nation stable et gouvernée selon les principes constitutionnels. Son plaidoyer constant pour la paix régionale, sa médiation dans les conflits ouest-africains et sa défense des normes démocratiques renforcent encore ses arguments pour un siège au CSNU. En tant que Pays Moins Avancé (PMA), le Libéria apporte une perspective critique et authentique au Conseil de Sécurité, notamment sur le lien entre développement et sécurité. En cas d'élection, le Libéria prévoit de promouvoir l'accès équitable au financement du développement, le soulagement durable de la dette pour les États vulnérables, ainsi que des régimes commerciaux plus équitables pour les économies africaines.

Ces priorités reflètent la compréhension directe du Libéria sur la manière dont la pauvreté, les inégalités et les déficits de gouvernance alimentent l'instabilité, et affirment son engagement envers la coopération multilatérale pour une paix durable.

Le bilan progressif du Libéria en matière d'égalité des genres et de droits humains renforce également sa candidature. En tant que premier pays africain à élire une

présidente femme, la lauréate du Prix Nobel Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, le Libéria est devenu une référence mondiale pour l'émancipation politique des femmes et la réconciliation post-conflit.

Le pays a ratifié des traités internationaux clés sur les droits humains, la justice transitionnelle et la protection de l'enfance. Sa Commission Vérité et Réconciliation (CVR) reste l'un des premiers et des plus remarquables efforts de justice post-conflit et de guérison nationale en Afrique.

Le Libéria s'est également affirmé comme un leader régional en matière de gouvernance climatique et environnementale. Avec l'une des plus vastes étendues restantes de l'écosystème de la forêt de Guinée, un hotspot de biodiversité, le Libéria a collaboré avec des nations comme la Norvège pour préserver la couverture forestière, faire progresser les systèmes de crédits carbone et promouvoir la résilience climatique. Ces efforts soulignent l'engagement du pays à élever la sécurité climatique comme pilier de la paix mondiale. L'histoire unique du Libéria, en tant que nation fondée par des esclaves affranchis, déchirée ensuite par la guerre civile, et maintenant modèle de reconstruction, lui confère une voix morale dans la diplomatie internationale. Ses liens doubles avec les démocraties occidentales et le Sud Global en font un constructeur de ponts naturel dans un monde divisé.

Un siège au Conseil de Sécurité symboliserait non seulement une représentation mais aussi une rédemption. Il affirmerait le pouvoir transformateur de la paix et la force durable de la solidarité internationale.

À l'approche de l'élection au CSNU, le Libéria appelle la communauté internationale à soutenir sa candidature. Sa voix au Conseil refléterait l'influence mondiale croissante de l'Afrique et amplifierait les besoins des pays touchés par les conflits, la pauvreté et le changement climatique.

La candidature du Libéria est non seulement justifiée mais aussi opportune et nécessaire. Dans un monde en quête de consensus renouvelé et d'empathie, le Libéria offre une perspective forgée par l'adversité, la résilience et un engagement indéfectible envers la paix mondiale.

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Le gouvernement ordonne la fermeture d'une

de la société, et toutes les opérations minières sur le site sont suspendues jusqu'à nouvel ordre.

« Nul n'est au-dessus de la loi », a insisté M. Tingban. « Nous encourageons les investissements étrangers, mais ils doivent respecter les lois libériennes et les droits de nos citoyens, ainsi que préserver notre environnement. »

Dans une brève déclaration, la direction de Huiren Mining a confirmé avoir reçu l'ordre du ministère et a exprimé sa volonté de coopérer pleinement avec les autorités dans le cadre de l'enquête en cours.

Cette mesure constitue l'une des interventions les plus fermes prises récemment par le ministère des Mines et de l'Énergie, marquant un tournant vers un encadrement plus strict du secteur minier et une meilleure protection des droits des communautés locales.

L'inspection s'est déroulée en présence de plusieurs personnalités politiques de la région, notamment le représentant du district #3 de

Bong County, J. Marvin Cole, le sénateur Johnny Kpehe Sr., et la superintendante du comté, Loleya Hawa Norris. Tous ont prononcé des discours soulignant l'importance de la responsabilité des entreprises, de la préservation de l'environnement et de la consolidation des relations entre les compagnies et les populations. Le représentant Cole a réaffirmé son engagement à faire respecter les lois dans son district et à promouvoir le développement local. Le sénateur Kpehe a mis l'accent sur la nécessité d'une collaboration étroite entre les institutions gouvernementales et les citoyens pour garantir la redevabilité des entreprises. Quant à la superintendante Norris, elle a appelé à l'unité et a assuré les résidents du soutien total des autorités locales.

Leur présence conjointe et leurs déclarations ont renforcé la portée de l'action gouvernementale, illustrant un consensus grandissant en faveur d'une régulation rigoureuse et d'une gestion des ressources axée sur les communautés.

Les États-Unis sont-ils encore crédibles ?

Par Aziz Huq

CHICAGO - La guerre commerciale mondiale déclarée par Donald Trump le 2 avril est entrée dans une nouvelle phase : la conclusion d'accords. Un nouveau protocole d'accord avec le Royaume-Uni énonce un certain nombre de « propositions initiales » susceptibles d'évoluer vers un « accord de libre-échange ». Dans une publication en ligne intitulée « l'art du deal », la Maison-Blanche a indiqué suspendre durant 90 jours les droits de douane qu'elle avait unilatéralement imposés à la Chine, et annoncé la fin des « représailles » chinoises. D'après l'administration américaine, des négociations sont en cours avec plusieurs « dizaines » d'autres pays. Ces différents « deals » suggèrent une capacité et une volonté des États-Unis de conclure de nouveaux accords commerciaux contraignants avec d'autres pays. Seulement voilà, peut-on encore accorder de la crédibilité aux engagements américains ?

Un pays tel que les États-Unis prend habituellement des engagements internationaux contraignants par le biais de textes législatifs ou de traités conclus et ratifiés par les deux gouvernements concernés. Si l'un des deux camps peut se retirer sans prévenir d'une loi ou d'un traité, alors l'engagement perd toute crédibilité. Or, comme le démontrent ses propres agissements, Trump ne se considère pas lié par la loi ou les traités, et personne dans le système juridique américain n'est déterminé ou capable de le contraindre à s'y conformer dans les délais convenus et de manière effective. Concentrons-nous tout d'abord sur les lois. Depuis le XVIIIe siècle, le Congrès délègue à l'exécutif certains pouvoirs consciencieusement déterminés en matière de commerce. Si les présidents George Washington, John Adams et Thomas Jefferson ont décrété des embargos maritimes, ils l'ont tous fait en vertu d'autorisations clairement définies. Dans la délégation de tels pouvoirs commerciaux, le Congrès impose par ailleurs certaines limites. Ainsi, à la lecture des textes de loi, les partenaires commerciaux des États-Unis savent en temps normal à quoi s'attendre de la part de la Maison-Blanche.

L'administration Trump vient court-circuiter ces limites légales, en contournant sans scrupule les textes qui servent généralement de référence pour les questions commerciales, tels que la loi de 1962 sur l'expansion du commerce. Ces textes législatifs imposent certaines obligations exigeantes, qui prévoient qu'un temps soit consacré à la conduite d'enquêtes ainsi qu'à la formulation de conclusions, avant que ne puissent être appliqués des droits de douane. Or, impatiente de réaliser un coup d'éclat politique, l'administration Trump s'est fondée sur une loi de 1977, relative aux pouvoirs économiques d'urgence, pour tenter de justifier ses droits de douane « réciproques ». Comme de nombreux autres observateurs et moi-même l'avons souligné, cette loi de 1977 n'autorise tout simplement pas les droits de douane du type de ceux qui ont été instaurés le 2 avril. Ainsi, les droits de douane imposés au Royaume-Uni et à la Chine étant contraires à la loi dès leur conception, comment les négociateurs commerciaux de la Maison-Blanche pourraient-ils prétendre de manière crédible être liés par quelque loi fédérale que ce soit ?

Quid du droit international ? En la matière, ce sont les traités qui constituent la norme de référence. Or, ici encore, Trump démontre un refus de se conformer aux règles. En 2018, sa première administration a insisté pour renégocier l'Accord de libre-échange nord-américain, puis le Congrès a ratifié en 2020 l'accord États-Unis-Mexique-Canada qui en a résulté, ce qui n'a pas empêché Trump de l'abandonner unilatéralement, et d'imposer cette année des droits de douane généralisés de 25 % aux deux pays partenaires de cet accord.

Le président américain est allé jusqu'à déclarer que le traité frontalier de 1908 entre le Canada et les États-Unis créait une « ligne artificielle », qui n'avait « aucun sens ». Ainsi, ni les lois américaines ni les traités ne garantissent le moindre engagement crédible de la part des États-Unis en matière de politique commerciale.

Une ambiguïté de longue date du droit américain vient compliquer la situation : dans quelle mesure les accords internationaux sont-ils censés être contraignants ? Dans la conception dominante du droit constitutionnel américain, Trump peut se retirer des traités sans en avertir les partenaires internationaux ou le Congrès. C'est ce qu'illustre notamment la décision prise en 1978 par le président Jimmy Carter et consistant à mettre fin au traité de défense mutuelle conclu en 1954 entre les États-Unis et Taïwan. Les sénateurs américains, menés par Barry Goldwater, avaient tenté à l'époque de contester cette décision de Carter devant les tribunaux - en vain. La Cour suprême avait en effet rejeté leur demande pour des motifs procéduraux. Ce problème de crédibilité des engagements américains serait atténué s'il existait dans le système juridique des États-Unis d'autres acteurs capables de faire contrepoids au président le cas échéant. Le Congrès n'agit malheureusement pas.

Les parlementaires républicains éprouvent une telle peur de se retrouver en difficulté lors des élections primaires de leur parti qu'ils n'opposent aucune résistance à Trump, même lorsqu'ils sont confrontés à des candidats manifestement peu qualifiés pour occuper des postes de haut niveau au sein de l'exécutif. Certains espèrent que les tribunaux exerceront un contrôle sur l'administration. Cette semaine, le tribunal de commerce international des États-Unis de Manhattan a entendu les arguments de la toute première contestation juridique des droits de douane. Je ne suis toutefois pas optimiste dans cette affaire. Même si les juges décident d'agir, la procédure judiciaire sera si longue que Trump aura quasiment toute liberté d'imposer des droits de douane contraires aux lois.

Son administration s'est déjà montrée disposée à ignorer les décisions de justice dans d'autres affaires, et ses arguments juridiques pour agir ainsi auraient encore plus de poids dans le domaine des affaires étrangères. En résumé, aucun autre État ne devrait tenir pour acquis le caractère contraignant et durable des « accords » négociés par Trump. Le reste du monde doit garder à l'esprit l'expérience des cabinets juridiques qui ont conclu des accords avec Trump, et qui ont constaté que le président considérerait ces accords non pas comme des certitudes, mais comme des textes malléables à l'infini. Trump n'hésitera pas à revenir sur ses décisions et à imposer de nouvelles conditions comme bon lui semblera.

The Impact of Illicit Mining on the Liberian Economy

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Introduction

Liberia is a country richly endowed with a variety of mineral resources, including gold, diamonds, iron ore, and bauxite. These resources have historically formed the backbone of Liberia's economy, dating as far back as the 1950s, when iron ore exports contributed significantly to the national GDP and foreign exchange earnings. Mining, both large-scale and artisanal, has long been seen as a promising pathway for economic recovery and transformation particularly in a post-war context where the government seeks to diversify income streams, reduce poverty, and generate employment.

However, over the past two decades, Liberia has witnessed an alarming surge in illicit mining activities, particularly artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) operations that operate outside of the legal framework. These unauthorized and largely unregulated activities are concentrated in resource-rich counties such as Gbarpolu, Grand Gedeh, Grand Kru, Grand Cape Mount, Rivercess, Sinoe, and Nimba, where limited state presence and weak enforcement have allowed informal mining networks to thrive. While these operations provide short-term income for thousands of impoverished Liberians, the long-term economic, environmental, and governance costs are devastating.

Illicit mining has emerged as one of the most pressing threats to Liberia's economic integrity. The Liberian government, through institutions such as the Liberia Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (LEITI), has reported that although the country earned over US\$1.63 billion from its legal extractive sector between 2009 and 2021, a substantial portion of the country's actual mineral output is never taxed or recorded. For instance, as much as 90% of Liberia's gold production is believed to be smuggled out of the country, contributing to annual revenue losses estimated between US\$150 million to US\$450 million. These losses deprive the government of critical resources needed to fund public infrastructure, health services, and education, and they severely constrain national development planning (LEITI 2022).

Beyond revenue loss, illicit mining contributes to currency instability by fueling informal trade networks that operate outside the central banking system. The proliferation of such underground economies undermines the country's macroeconomic framework, pushes inflation trends, and reduces investor confidence. International donors and responsible investors are increasingly concerned about the implications of weak governance and the lack of accountability in Liberia's natural resource management.

The environmental degradation caused by illicit mining is equally severe. Unauthorized miners frequently clear forests, divert rivers, and use harmful chemicals such as mercury and cyanide—actions that lead to deforestation, water pollution, soil erosion, and the destruction of habitats in some of Liberia's most ecologically sensitive areas, including Sapo National Park. These practices threaten not only biodiversity and food security but also the livelihoods of local communities who rely on the land for farming, fishing, and hunting. At the community level, illicit mining brings about widespread social disruption, including the breakdown of traditional authority structures, the displacement of families, increased conflict, and the rise of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in unregulated mining camps. Vulnerable populations particularly women and children face exploitation, trafficking, and abuse, while the lack of formal employment opportunities drives many into dangerous and unsustainable work conditions.

Moreover, illicit mining is now closely tied to illicit financial flows (IFFs), with

proceeds from untaxed mineral exports being laundered through criminal networks. These unregulated financial transactions further erode the government's tax base and facilitate corruption, weakening Liberia's institutional capacity to manage its resource wealth responsibly.

This article titled: The Impact of Illicit Mining on the Liberian Economy provides a comprehensive analysis of how an illicit mining activity is offering short-term economic relief to marginalized populations thereby eroding the very foundations of Liberia's economic progress. Drawing on government data, international reports, academic research, and field evidence, it explores the economic ramifications of illicit mining across five major dimensions: revenue loss, environmental degradation, community disruption, illicit financial flows, and policy failure. In doing so, it aims to offer a clear picture of the stakes involved and to contribute to the urgent national and international conversation about responsible resource governance in Liberia.

Economic Ramifications: Revenue Loss

One of the most significant and measurable impacts of illicit mining on the Liberian economy is the enormous revenue loss sustained by the government due to the circumvention of formal legal and tax structures. Liberia, a resource-rich country, particularly in gold, diamonds, iron ore, and other minerals, continues to struggle with translating its natural resource wealth into sustained national development. This struggle is exacerbated by the pervasive presence of unregulated and illegal mining operations that operate outside of the state's fiscal and regulatory control. According to the Liberia Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (LEITI), from 2009 to 2021, the Liberian government officially accrued approximately US\$1.63 billion in revenue from its extractive sector. This figure represents taxes, royalties, surface rental fees, and other payments from large-scale mining companies that operate under legal concessions. However, this official amount only reflects a fraction of what could have been realized had Liberia successfully regulated and formalized the entire mining landscape including artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM), which accounts for a significant share of the country's mineral output.

The LEITI and the Ministry of Mines and Energy have consistently reported that a large volume of minerals particularly gold and diamonds are produced informally and smuggled out of Liberia without any documentation, valuation, or taxation. Industry experts and international studies estimate that as much as 70 to 90 percent of gold produced in Liberia annually is not recorded in official export statistics. In monetary terms, the smuggled gold alone may represent a loss of between US\$150 million to US\$450 million per year, depriving the government of millions of dollars in taxes, royalties, and fees that should otherwise be invested in infrastructure, health, education, and social development (LEITI 2022, Ministry of Mines and Energy, Liberia 2023).

Moreover, the absence of proper documentation and export permits means that these minerals are often undervalued, or not valued at all, when leaving the country. They enter the international market through informal channels, often fetching premium prices that benefit foreign buyers and smugglers while leaving local communities impoverished and the government empty-handed.

This chronic revenue leakage has broader macroeconomic implications. Liberia continues to experience budget shortfalls, with the national budget consistently failing to meet developmental demands. In FY2022/2023, for instance, the government projected revenue of around US\$786 million, with a significant portion expected from the extractive industries. However, the persistent failure to capture revenues from illicit mining undermines these projections and forces the government to either cut essential services or increase borrowing, which leads to higher public debt (MoFD 2023).

Additionally, the economic distortion caused by illicit mining weakens investor confidence in the formal mining sector. Multinational companies that operate legally in Liberia often complain about unfair competition from illicit operators who do not bear the same regulatory or fiscal burdens. This environment creates a disincentive for legitimate foreign direct investment, limiting the potential for job creation, technology transfer, and infrastructural development that could otherwise come from a well-regulated mining industry.

Furthermore, revenue loss from illicit mining erodes the government's ability to invest in regulatory enforcement and environmental protection. The Ministry of Mines and Energy, as well as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), are often under-resourced, making it difficult to monitor and control the vast network of informal mining sites scattered across the country from the dense forests of Grand Cape Mount to the mountainous regions of Nimba and the riverbanks of Rivercess, Grand Gedeh, Grand Kru, Gbarpolu, and Sinoe Counties.

In summary, the economic cost of illicit mining to the Liberian economy extends beyond simple figures on lost revenue. It affects national development planning, macroeconomic stability, fiscal policy, governance, and public service delivery. The longer these leaks persist, the greater the cumulative setback to Liberia's quest for economic independence and sustainable development (EPA 2021).

Illicit Financial Flows: A Drain on Liberia's Economic Sovereignty

One of the most damaging yet less visible consequences of illicit mining in Liberia is the surge in illicit financial flows (IFFs), particularly through the artisanal and

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Liberia makes history today

Liberia is on the global stage, as the West African nation contests for a Non-permanent seat today, on the Security Council at the UN.

Monrovia, Liberia, today on the UN June 3, 2025 - Headquarters in New York, Liberia is taking a giant step today, Tuesday at the United Nations, as it vies for a Non-Permanent seat on



the Security Council. Liberia's Foreign Minister, Sara Beyslow Nyanti, has been on the frontline, engaging friendly governments and galvanizing regional and continental support for the country's bid for a Non-permanent seat to lift Africa's voice higher in global affairs.

With support from President Joseph Boakai, Minister Nyanti succeeded in getting the support of the African Union and ECOWAS in its campaign for this important seat that would allow the post-conflict nation to share its experiences on the global stage, amid aid cut by the United States, the Israeli-Palestinian war on one hand, and Ukraine and Russian on the other. Liberia deserves a seat on the Council, especially so after two other smaller countries in West Africa, The Gambia and Sierra Leone, have served their terms respectively there. All eyes are set from Liberia

to sit on the Security Council. From all indications, this is Liberia's time and there is no turning back, as the country is determined to make history, being a founding member of the United Nations.

Liberia's candidacy comes at a time when the country is increasingly recognized as a symbol of post-conflict transformation, democratic governance, and regional leadership. Once a recipient of UN peacekeeping missions, Liberia is now a contributor, having deployed personnel to regional and UN operations in Mali and Darfur.

The country has experienced four peaceful democratic transitions (2005, 2011, 2017, and 2023), reinforcing its image as a stable and constitutionally governed nation. Its consistent advocacy for regional peace, mediation in West African conflicts, and defense of democratic norms further bolster its credentials for a UNSC seat.

As a Least Developed

Country (LDC), Liberia brings a critical and authentic perspective to the Security Council, especially on the link between development and security. If elected, Liberia plans to champion equitable access to development financing Sustainable debt relief for vulnerable states, as well as fairer trade regimes for African economies These priorities reflect Liberia's firsthand understanding of how poverty, inequality, and governance deficits drive instability, and affirm its commitment to multilateral cooperation for sustainable peace.

Liberia's progressive record on gender equality and human rights further strengthens its candidacy. As the first African nation to elect a female president, Nobel Laureate Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Liberia has become a global reference point for women's political empowerment and post-conflict reconciliation.

The country has ratified key international treaties on human rights, transitional justice, and child protection. Its Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) remains one of Africa's earliest and most notable efforts at post-conflict justice and national healing. Liberia has also emerged as a regional leader in climate and environmental governance. With one of the largest remaining stretches of the Upper Guinean Forest ecosystem, a biodiversity hotspot—Liberia has partnered with nations like Norway to preserve forest cover, advance carbon credit systems, and promote climate resilience. These efforts underscore the country's commitment to elevating climate security as

India wants Liberia's voice against terrorism

India is rally Liberia and the rest of Africa in its campaign against terrorism after recent attack from neighboring Pakistan.

Monrovia, Liberia, June 3, "India has been speaking alone; 2025 - The Government of it needs a global voice", Dr. Dr. India is seeking support of Shinde emphasized.

Liberia and the rest of Africa in its The Delegation noted that war against terrorism following Pakistan has become breeding incursion into its border by a ground for terrorists, recalling a terrorist group from Pakistan in Pakistani military barracks being April, leaving 26 persons dead. used to host Osman Bin Laden for An All-Party Delegation from India 10 years following the 9/11 is visiting the country and has met attack on the United States.India with President Joseph Nyuma responded militarily following Boakai, Foreign Minister Sara the April attack, targeting nine Beyslow Nyanti, Senate President (9) terrorist bases inside Pro-Tempore Yongblee Karnaga Pakistan, which escalated Lawrence and Speaker Richard tension between the two Nagbe Koon. neighboring countries.

The 10-member delegation is Pakistan retaliated with series of headed by a member of the Indian attacks in Indian border towns, Parliament, Dr. Shrikant Eknath killing dozens of civilians, Shinde. They were accompanied prompting a global call for de- by the Indian Ambassador near escalation of the crisis, with Monrovia, Manoj Bihari Verma. President Donald Trump offering "Liberia is a voice of the AU; we to mediate. Meanwhile, as India need a one voice to ensure that seeks solidarity from Africa and this does not take place again. Be other friendly countries the



Members of the Indian delegation in Monrovia

the voice, stand with India; this is Foreign Office in the Pakistani not an attack on India alone, but capital, Islamabad confirmed on an attack on Liberia and Africa", Monday that the Pakistani said Dr. Shinde, when members of Government on Monday his delegation hosted a press deployed two high-level conference in Monrovia late delegations abroad to counter Monday, June 2, 2025. He what it called India's recent disclosed that the All-Party aggressive posturing.According Delegation has visited Sierra to report, these teams aim to Leone, Democratic Republic of present Pakistan's stance in Congo, UAE prior to coming to regional tensions and highlight Liberia, with a message of peace, Islamabad's commitment to adding "The Team is going to peace diplomacy.

The first delegation has already arrived in New York and includes The Delegation says as Liberia vies senior politicians, former foreign for a non-permanent seat on the ministers, ambassadors, and UN Security Council, the country federal ministers. Their schedule should use its good offices at the includes meetings with the UN high table to speak against Secretary-General, António terrorism and put Pakistan on the Guterres and others. Story by limelight of countries that harbor Jonathan Browne and support terrorism.

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The Impact of Illicit Mining on the Liberian Economy

small-scale gold mining (ASGM) sector. These activities, while often perceived as subsistence efforts by poor rural miners, have become deeply embedded in transnational smuggling networks that operate beyond the reach of the Liberian state. The scale of economic leakage through these channels is staggering and presents a serious challenge to national development and economic self-reliance.

A 2021 study by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) revealed that nearly 90% of gold produced in Liberia is smuggled out of the country each year. This illegal export is largely undocumented and untaxed, with the estimated value of gold lost through smuggling ranging between USD 159 million and USD 455 million annually. These figures, for a resource-

rich but economically constrained country like Liberia, are not just statistics is representing lost hospitals, schools, roads, and public jobs. The drivers of this smuggling are deeply structural. Liberia's porous borders, limited enforcement capacity, and the absence of transparent and well-regulated mineral value chains create fertile ground for illegal actors. Mining communities, especially in isolated regions such as Gbarpolu, Grand Gedeh, Lofa, Grand Cape Mount, and Nimba, are often under the de facto control of informal or even criminal networks that facilitate the movement of gold across borders to neighboring countries like Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Côte d'Ivoire, where it is laundered and sold into the global market.

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