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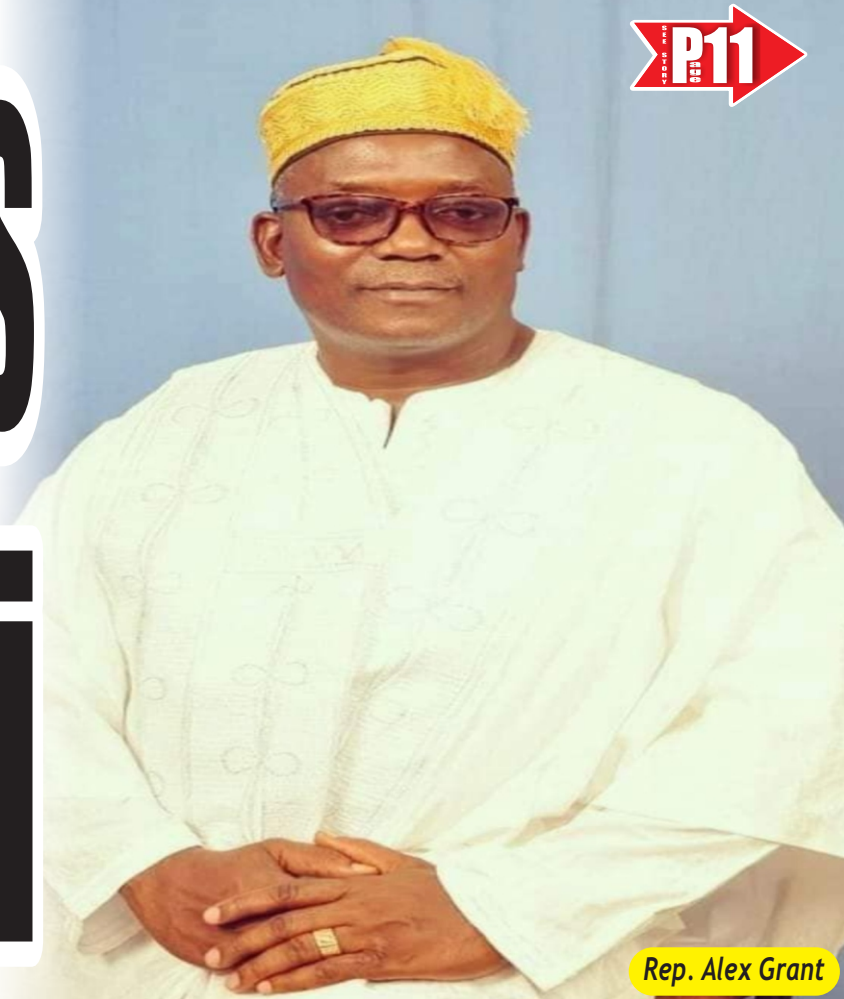
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# CDC lawmaker dumps party for Boakai



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# Continental News

## Children rescued from orphanage in Khartoum

Nearly 300 orphans caught in the crossfire in Sudan's capital have been rescued in a daring and dangerous evacuation by humanitarian workers. The evacuations were carried out following the

Rapid Support Forces (RSF). In a risky operation, 297 children - about 200 of them below the age of two years - were taken by road to the relative safety of Wad Madani, in the south of Sudan. Another 95 children, both from the Mygoma orphanage and

unbearable. Children, especially the youngest ones, started dying. "We are losing them so fast. In recent days, we lost three children," Sudanese activist Sadeia al-Rasheed Ali Hamid told me earlier this week. The UN children's agency, Unicef, said that 67 orphans had died at Mygoma since 15 April.

Local activists and international aid organisations were trying to get the children out of the warzone, but it was not easy.

Ceasefire talks in the Saudi city of Jeddah had collapsed and full-scale fighting had resumed.

Poor communication along the chain of command of the warring sides meant that securing safe access to the orphanage, and out of Khartoum, was difficult.

Transporting hundreds of children and babies was a huge logistical challenge.

But Sadeia tells me there was no alternative.

With a handful of local activists, she organised a private evacuation for the older children aged between four and 15 years.

"We extracted them from certain death to a fate that I hope is better," says Heba Abdullah, a carer from the orphanage who travelled with them.

This first convoy of minibuses set off during the fighting, passing several checkpoints. BBC



Heavy risks were taken to get the babies to safety

deaths of 67 children at the Mygoma orphanage in Khartoum.

They died of starvation, dehydration and infections as fighting prevented staff from reaching the orphanage.

Khartoum has been hit by daily air strikes and heavy clashes between rival forces since 15 April.

The orphanage is in an area that has been at the heart of the fighting between the military and the paramilitary

other smaller facilities across the capital, were evacuated over the weekend by a group of local activists.

The state-run Mygoma orphanage was home to about 400 children when the war broke out in April.

It became too dangerous for many doctors and carers to reach the orphanage to look after the children.

Power and water cuts made the sweltering temperatures, reaching as high as 43C,

## 'Sex for grades' outlawed by Nigeria's parliament

Nigeria's outgoing parliament has finally passed a bill that aims to prevent the sexual harassment of university students.

Once it is signed into law by newly elected President Bola Tinubu it will be illegal for lecturers to make any sexual advances towards students.

Those who do have sexual relationships with their students could face up to 14 years in jail.

The anti-sexual harassment bill was originally introduced in 2016 but did not pass both houses of parliament.

It was reintroduced by the senate in 2019 following a BBC investigation that uncovered alleged sexual misconduct by lecturers in Nigeria and Ghana. BBC Africa Eye's Sex for Grades documentary

prompted outrage, but the bill was further delayed as the house of representatives wanted some changes - and two parliamentary committees had to come to an agreement on the final wording.

Outgoing lawmakers are trying to wrap up business before

newly elected MPs are sworn in next week.

A student told BBC news she was happy about the development and hoped President Tinubu would pass it into law soon. BBC



It will be illegal for lecturers to make any sexual advances towards students

## US Suspends Food Aid to Ethiopia Amid Theft Accusations

The U.S. government says it is suspending food aid to Ethiopia after finding that food supplies are being diverted from people in need.

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) announced the suspension in a statement Thursday.

"After a country-wide review," it said, "USAID determined, in coordination with the Government of Ethiopia, that a widespread and coordinated campaign is diverting food assistance. We cannot move forward with distribution of food assistance until reforms are in place."

responsible." According to The Washington Post, an investigation by USAID found that elements within the Ethiopian government were involved with the food diversion scheme.

The agency said that Ethiopian officials have been stealing donated food in order to feed soldiers and ex-combatants. It said officials have also sold flour on the open market to millers who re-exported it.

"Extensive monitoring indicates this diversion of donor-funded food assistance is a coordinated and criminal scheme, which has prevented life-saving assistance from reaching the most vulnerable," reported The Post,



An Ethiopian woman stands by sacks of wheat to be distributed by the Relief Society of Tigray

The suspension could affect millions of Ethiopians who depend on food aid amid recurring droughts, high inflation and the aftermath of a war in the northern Tigray region.

There was no immediate, direct response to the USAID statement from Ethiopian officials.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken met with Ethiopia's Deputy Prime Minister Demeke Mekonnen on Thursday on the sidelines of a meeting in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Afterward, the State Department said Blinken "welcomed the Ethiopian government's commitment to work together to conduct a full investigation into the diversion of U.S. food assistance and to hold accountable those found

quoting a USAID document prepared for donors. "The scheme appears to be orchestrated by federal and regional Government of Ethiopia (GoE) entities, with military units across the country benefiting from humanitarian assistance."

The document said USAID investigators visited 63 flour mills in seven of Ethiopia's nine regions and found "significant diversion" across all seven regions. Food from the United States, Ukraine, Japan and France donated to the United Nations' World Food Program (WFP) has been stolen, the report said.

It called on all donors who sent food aid to check how it is being used.

Last month, USAID and the WFP halted food aid to the war-scarred Tigray region in northern Ethiopia. The agencies had discovered that shipments were being diverted to local markets. VOA



# EDITORIAL

## Minister Tweah's threat is belated

Finance Minister Samuel D. Tweah's threat to hold back salaries of heads of ministries, agencies and commissions, who fail to present budget performance reports to his office is nothing but belated.

"I didn't make that law; it's the legislature and it says the Minister of Finance will hold back salaries of officials, who failed to report for the budget given their various institutions", Tweah explained on Monday, June 4, when the Government of Liberia and the European Union signed four new financing agreements in the tune of US\$88 million and 80 million euros, respectively. The monies are intended for various government programs.

But having spent five years in office without enforcing such law, when did Minister Tweah realize that spending institutions of government are not providing performance reports for funds allotted them.

From year to year, this has been a major problem for heads of ministries, agencies and commissions appearing for budget hearings at the Legislature. In fact, ministers go with the audacity of requesting for increments of their allotments without detailed reports of expenditures from the previous year. And the government, under the watch of Minister Samuel Tweah, has been making increments for several ministries.

For instance, increments have been made for the Ministries of Health, Education and Agriculture, among several others without expenditure reports from the previous fiscal period. Today, the country's educational sector is in shamble with dilapidated public school buildings across the country staffed with volunteer teachers yet to be placed on the payroll.

Similar situation is with the Health and Agriculture sectors, where millions have been allotted thru the Finance Ministry with no progress on the ground like a bottomless drum that one tries to fill with water. What an irony!

Yet, Tweah wants foreign partners to believe that he means business when it comes to public financial management, while the reality in practice is totally the opposite.

In fact, the Public Financial Management Law of Liberia has been on the book since the administration of former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. So why has Tweah, as Minister of Finance, not enforced this law as a prudent financial policy 'till now?

These are some of the lip services of our public officials. Without political will, they profess to be tough in applying the rules when they mean completely something else. This has kept Liberia in a vicious cycle with no tangible progress.

The government is trying to present itself as tough in an election year, a strategy that could boomerang and further erodes already dangling public trust. It may well be shooting itself in the leg with the ammunition of Minister Tweah, who seems to be overly zealous in putting out a face that does not exist.

If the right thing was never done at the beginning, how relevant can it be at the end? It could be misconstrued and interpreted as a ploy to witch-hunt people being targeted in government. We rest our case here.

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# COMMENTARY

By Maxwell Gomera

## How AI Can Even the Climate Playing Field

**C**AMBRIDGE - With the world on track to exceed 1.5° Celsius of warming in the next decade, we can expect climate hazards to intensify, driving millions more into famine, causing trillions of dollars in damage, and disproportionately harming those countries that contributed the least to the problem. Worse, a global biodiversity crisis is upon us: ecosystems are being eroded to the point of collapse, and species extinctions are accelerating at a frightening pace. Here, too, the poor are disproportionately affected.

To address this dual crisis at the pace and scale needed, the international community must change its approach. Historically, global agreements to address climate change and biodiversity loss have been negotiated separately, even though the two issues are closely interlinked. Moreover, the process has been marred by structural disparities, power imbalances, and prioritization of national and commercial interests over the global common good.

Neither human societies nor the natural systems that support them can work well in silos. Complex, dynamic interacting challenges require solutions based on systems thinking and a full accounting of all the data. But the relevant data sets are massive and undergo constant change. We cannot possibly navigate them on our own. We need a co-pilot.

Following recent breakthroughs, artificial intelligence could play this role. The technology has proved most useful for analyzing massive data sets, identifying patterns, and predicting behavior. It could well be the key to solving the intersecting climate, biodiversity, and inequity crises, starting at the international negotiating table.

For example, AI could vastly improve international negotiations by illuminating the hitherto-neglected connections between biodiversity and climate issues. Such findings would justify a more formalized, interlinked relationship between the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the UN Convention on Biological Diversity - the two bodies that have been negotiating agreements separately.

AI could also shed light on the broader effects of agreements like the Paris climate accords and the many inchoate sectoral initiatives focusing on issues like water, energy security, and oceans. As matters stand, at least 250,000 treaties have been negotiated in the interest of deepening global cooperation, yet the broader effect of all this diplomacy has been underwhelming.

The predictive capabilities and analytic precision of AI could help solve this challenge. By processing enormous amounts of data from these treaties, AI can identify any conflicts, contradictions, or gaps, thereby helping to prevent duplication of efforts, resolve disagreements, and ensure that no crucial issue remains unaddressed.

One example of this potential can be seen in the realm of trade agreements. The Legal Analytics Lab at Georgia State University is using AI to identify the specific legal clauses that have the most influence on trade disputes and to understand how treaty language affects outcomes of international disputes. Similarly, AI could be used to analyze environmental treaties to determine which factors or clauses

lead to successful environmental outcomes, or to identify potential conflicts between treaties.

Moreover, AI can also facilitate the creation of a global treaty database, where negotiators can quickly search existing agreements for similar provisions, consult precedents, and avoid contradictions. Such a system would ensure the harmonization of treaties, fostering a more effective global diplomatic ecosystem.

Finally, by giving low- and middle-income countries access to the most advanced data analysis available, AI could also help correct the power imbalances that stymie genuine progress on climate change and biodiversity. Partnerships between leading AI developers and developing countries could create tools for assembling all relevant data on a country's biodiversity, climate, and economy in an accessible format.

While richer countries typically attend global negotiations with droves of high-powered lawyers and analysts, lower-income countries often struggle to send a single representative. This disparity was evident at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP27) last year. Although the meeting achieved a more representative balance than previous COPs, the biggest delegation, from the United Arab Emirates, had more than 1,000 people, while more than 100 countries had 50 or fewer delegates, with several sending just one or two. With AI, countries as small as Bhutan (which had 15 delegates at COP27) could suddenly have the same data and analytical power as countries with armies of experts.

But it is not just about numbers. Low-income countries are still catching up in terms of technology and research expertise, and this asymmetry is being exacerbated by the global digital divide. According to the UN Conference on Trade and Development, the United States and China together account for 50% of the world's hyperscale data centers, 70% of the world's top AI researchers, and 94% of all funding for AI startups.

We can overcome the effects of such concentration by making AI co-pilots available to developing countries, rather than waiting for them to develop their own homegrown technologies. Doing so would allow delegates to assess negotiated agreements' implications for their own country's laws, capacities, and interests in real time, vastly improving their decision-making.

Of course, AI is no silver bullet, and as Bill Gates recently noted, it comes with some risks. AI cannot replace human creativity, intuition, and intelligence. While it can be used to analyze data with unmatched speed and accuracy, it cannot make ethical judgments or determine whether outcomes are fair. Moreover, the algorithms that inform AI may themselves be subject to deeply rooted biases. Ethical and political decisions will still require empathic human intervention.

To navigate the AI revolution, we must understand the technology's potential and its limitations, as well as our own responsibilities for ensuring its fair and ethical use. We must guard against biased data and remain vigilant against potential hacking and manipulation. If we can do that, we can forge ahead toward the goal of building a sustainable and equitable future - even at a time when hope is losing its hold in the public imagination.





# Lord, our village da real hustle ground ooh

Dear Father:

*I say, if you really want to know whether our village da hustle ground for true, just come around during voting time. Da the time you can see all kina people coming to say they want chop president job-monkey, and all will come and say they want be president. Can you imagine! Nonsense!*

*I tell you Father; I wonder what they take our village for? Somer them na even able to pay to put their names in the newspaper them. They come begging like somebody who wife in the hospital needing urgent blood or else the person will die.*

*But that the people who say they get all the solution them to our village problem. One kitchen sef, somer them na get it here. But they want come be president from motel room-Holy Ghost thunder fire them!*

*We na stupid here again oo. Let me tell yor na. Gone are the days where somebody will jump from one room and say they want to be lawmaker or president just to go steal. I tell you ooh my son.*

*Yes, Father. Look, just the other day they say the voting house gave paper to 10 more handbag party them-I mean some hungry man them who say they want come to put their hat them in the race-so, so hustlers. Ask if they even get headquarters. You will be surprised somer them operating from people porch.*

*Come to think of it Father, I wonder what these people take our village for? Imagine Baboon and all will come and say they want be president.*

*The plenty one them we get here, we still looking at them-somer them na worked for more than forty years nathin to show for it. The lifestyle they living sef will tell you where they will take our village.*

*The funny thing is as soon as they come then they start playing Kountry-Congo card. So, who Kountry and Congo na? Because right na in this village, me I na see no Kountry and Congo, everybody da the same. The only difference here is some people travelled and go to school some people stayed in the village all their lives and went to all the schools here.*

*Hmm, maybe the people who go to school in different Kountry that the Congo people and the people who stayed in the village to go to school are the Kountry people-Nonsense! God go punished your mouth.*

*You better go look for different thing to say. Da all lor yor forcing people na to change their names and go to dialect school. Bor me, I will na go to no dialect school because yor Kountry-Congo card will na hold me.*

*You think the only way you can chop president job or Paramount chief job in this village na to divide us, den you lying, because we na stupid here again like our papay them who yor fooled to burn down our village and today we just look like ancient people among our neighbor them-wicked people!*

*Me, anybody come around me and my family with Kountry-Congo story da hot water I will waste on yor face. Yes, because you na mean well for our village.*

*Right na, our village should even be thinking how to make people with different skin color citizen na to be passing around with Kountry-Congo song. We na passed da orlor level. So go and change da song. It na fine again. Maybe, it wor fine during my grandfather owner time. But for us today, we don't need it. We need to look at yor qualification and yor achievements and also what you can bring to the table and how.*

*No, hustler is allowed here again-period!*

## OP-ED

By Jean Pisani-Ferry

# Europe's Climate Quandary

**W**ASHINGTON, DC - As Europe sets its sights on becoming the world's first carbon-neutral continent, it must perform a delicate balancing act. Can the European Union transform its economy while enhancing its competitiveness? And can it achieve these goals while maintaining its status as a shaper of global standards and adhering to its principles of fiscal responsibility?

The answer to these questions is a resounding no. Trade-offs are unavoidable, and identifying the concessions required to strike the right balance could prove more challenging than policymakers may think.

In 2019, when the EU unveiled its Green Deal and pledged to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050, its primary goal was to bolster the 2015 Paris climate agreement and help limit greenhouse-gas emissions. But policymakers had a second, clearly defined objective: to turn the EU into a green industrial leader. This is why European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen described the policy framework as Europe's "man on the moon moment."

Whether the Paris accord would have collapsed without Europe's commitment to carbon neutrality is anyone's guess. Nevertheless, the EU deserves high praise for devising a comprehensive legislative package within a few years, which many had considered impossible. The European Green Deal relies on a vast array of tools, ranging from regulation (like the prohibition of sales of new internal-combustion cars after 2035) to carbon pricing (through the expansion of emissions quota trading).

But things have changed since 2019. First, China has emerged as a global leader in various green technologies, including solar panels and electric-vehicle (EV) batteries. The scale and speed at which it has pursued green industrial policy may have solidified its comparative advantage.

Second, former US President Donald Trump's tariffs on Chinese imports, which remain in place under his successor, Joe Biden, have resulted in lasting damage to the multilateral system. For all intents and purposes, the World Trade Organization is now a shell of its former self.

Third, Russia's invasion of Ukraine has deprived Europe of unrestricted access to Russian natural gas, which had previously given it an edge in the global scramble for energy resources.

Lastly, the United States has joined the global fight against climate change, albeit in its own way. The Inflation Reduction Act, Biden's landmark climate legislation, excludes carbon pricing, does not cap subsidies, and conditions access to them on distortionary local-content requirements. These characteristics make the IRA a game changer, leaving the EU's consistent and carefully planned strategy increasingly vulnerable.

Despite these challenges, the EU has remained steadfast in its commitment to achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. While seeking to position itself as a global player in emerging green industries, it is also determined to uphold multilateral principles and rules. Moreover, the bloc plans to do all this while maintaining its existing fiscal framework. In fact, it is currently exploring reforms that barely provide flexibility in accommodating the expected budgetary consequences of the net-zero transition.

The new reality, however, may soon force the EU to reassess its stance. Given the substantial political capital that has been invested in pursuing carbon neutrality, it is hard to envision the bloc explicitly renouncing it. But it could maintain the pretense of working toward it, fail to meet its 2030 targets, and then gradually accept its new position as a follower rather than a leader. This scenario seems increasingly likely, as the EU has not established the internal governance mechanisms needed to ensure member states' compliance.

While the EU retains direct control over some measures, such as the ban on sales of new carbon-emitting vehicles and the allocation of emissions quotas, supporting policies still largely fall within the jurisdiction of member states. Unless European governments implement policies to discourage the continued use of aging combustion-engine cars or subsidize investment in new EVs, for example, such cars could remain on the road for many more years.

In order to reduce the costs of achieving carbon neutrality, Europe may be tempted to sacrifice its competitiveness. If Chinese EVs prove to be more affordable than those manufactured in Europe, ardent climate advocates may argue in favor of buying Chinese cars. But Europe cannot afford to squander the opportunity to revitalize its auto industry.

Since 2019, the EU seems to have become more willing to sacrifice its global role as a shaper of rules and standards in the interest of enhancing its competitiveness. But the EU's commitment to a rules-based global order is part of its DNA, and it has no substitute of comparable weight. By relinquishing its role as a rule-maker, the EU could hasten the demise of multilateralism. Given that a weakened EU would lack the resources needed to save the existing global system, this outcome seems increasingly likely.

The most prudent course would be for the bloc to ease fiscal constraints through a green carve-out or a common-debt scheme, backed by an agreement to increase its own resources. Admittedly, such a move would risk triggering macroeconomic instability. But it would be less harmful than sacrificing competitiveness or letting the multilateral system crumble.

Unfortunately, these policies do not have sufficient support within the EU. Germany's finance minister, Christian Lindner, recently reaffirmed his country's commitment to the existing fiscal rules. But insisting on fiscal rectitude may confront the EU with significant losses on other fronts. Contrary to what some European policymakers may believe, the transition to clean energy will not be costless. The choice facing European policymakers is straightforward: act now to address these costs, or pay a much higher price later.



# OP-ED

By George Soros

# Can Democracy Survive the Polycrisis?

**N**EW YORK - We are living in troubled times. Too much is happening too fast. People are confused. The Columbia University economic historian Adam Tooze has, indeed, popularized a word for it. He calls it a “polycrisis.”

The polycrisis has many sources. In my opinion the main source of the polycrisis afflicting the world today is artificial intelligence. Climate change comes second, and the Russian invasion of Ukraine qualifies as the third. The list is much longer but I’ll focus on these three. That should help reduce the confusion.

## Artificial Intelligence

AI shocked the world when Microsoft made ChatGPT freely available to the public through an associated company called OpenAI. That was in November 2022. ChatGPT posed an existential threat to Google’s business model. Google went into overdrive to release a competing product as soon as possible.

Shortly thereafter, Geoffrey Hinton, who is generally considered the godfather of AI, resigned from Google so that he could speak openly about the risks posed by the new technology. Reversing his previous position, he took a very dim view of AI. He said that it could destroy our civilization.

Hinton pioneered the development of neural networks that can understand and generate language and learn skills by analyzing data. As the data grew, so did the capacity of AI’s so-called large language models.

This made a big impression on Hinton. “Maybe what is going on in these systems is actually a lot better than what is going on in the brain,” he said. As they become more powerful they also become more dangerous, he claimed. In particular, he warned against fully autonomous weapon systems - killer robots, he called them.

“We’ve entered completely unknown territory. We’re capable of building machines that are stronger than ourselves, but we’re still in control. But what if we develop machines that are smarter than us? ... It will take AI between five and 20 years to surpass human intelligence.” And “it will soon realize that it achieves its goals better if it becomes more powerful.”

What Hinton said made a big impression on me. Indeed, AI reminded me of Goethe’s poem “The Sorcerer’s Apprentice.” The Apprentice is studying magic but doesn’t fully understand what the master is teaching him. When the master orders him to sweep the floor, he applies the magic words to a broom. The broom obeys him, but the apprentice can’t stop the broom from fetching buckets of water to sweep the floor and the house gets flooded.

I grew up before AI was invented. That made me a great believer in reality. I realized at a relatively early age how difficult it is to understand the world I was born into, and I looked to reality to provide me with moral guidance.

We, human beings, are both participants and observers in the world in which we live. As participants we want to change the world in our favor; as observers we want to understand reality as it is. These two objectives interfere with each other. I regard this as an important insight which allows me to distinguish between right and wrong.

AI destroyed this simple schema because it has absolutely nothing to do with reality. AI creates its own reality and when that artificial reality fails to correspond to the real world - which happens quite often - it is discarded as hallucination.

This made me almost instinctively opposed to AI and I wholeheartedly agree with the experts who argue that it needs to be regulated. But the regulations have to be globally enforceable because the incentive to cheat is too great; those who evade the regulations gain an unfair advantage.

Unfortunately, global regulations are unattainable because the world is dominated by a conflict between two systems of governance which are diametrically opposed to each other. They have radically different views on what needs to be regulated and why.

I refer to the two systems of governance as open and closed societies. I define the difference between the two as follows: in an open society, the role of the state is to defend the freedom of the individual; in a closed society, the role of the individual is to serve the interests of the rulers.

AI is developing incredibly fast, and it is impossible for ordinary human intelligence to fully understand it. Nobody can predict where it will take us. But we can be sure of one thing: AI helps closed societies and poses a mortal threat to open societies. That’s because AI is particularly good at producing instruments of control that help closed societies to surveil their subjects.

This is why I am instinctively opposed to AI, but I don’t know how it can be stopped. Right now, nobody else does either, but most of those who developed AI recognize the need to regulate it. So does Congress and President Joe Biden’s administration. But AI is moving much faster than governmental authorities. The Biden administration has taken some executive action, but Congress will have difficulties in enacting anything like an “AI Bill of Rights.”

There is, however, a problem that cannot wait. There will be general elections in the

United States in 2024 - and, most likely, in the United Kingdom as well - and AI will undoubtedly play an important role, one which is unlikely to be anything but dangerous. AI is very good at producing disinformation and deep fakes and there will be many malicious actors. What can we do about that? I don’t have the answer, but I hope this issue will receive the attention it deserves.

## Climate Change

The second element in the polycrisis is climate change. The global climate system has been disrupted by increased human intervention, particularly the large-scale use of greenhouse gases, carbon dioxide, and methane. The 2015 Paris agreement set a target of 1.5° Celsius above pre-industrial times. That is now bound to be transgressed; in spite of all the efforts to fight climate change, the rate of warming is actually accelerating.

Two highly respected climate scientists, David King, a former chief scientific adviser to the UK government, and Johan Rockström of the Potsdam Institute, have warned that this could trigger tipping points and lead to the collapse of life on earth.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has said that current climate policies will leave the Earth between 2.5° C and 2.7° C hotter by 2100. That would be a disaster, the scientists said. It would exceed the warmest temperature on earth over the past four million years. It would lead to the complete melting of the Greenland, Himalayan, and West Antarctic ice sheets and raise sea levels by ten meters.

“There would be a collapse of all the big biomes on planet Earth - the rainforest, many of the temperate forests - abrupt thawing of permafrost, we will have complete collapse of marine biology, we will have a shift of large parts of the habitability on Earth,” Rockström said.

“Over one-third of the planet around the equatorial regions will be uninhabitable because you will pass the threshold of health, which is around 30° C.”

Unfortunately, when fighting climate change interferes with people’s livelihood, they want to protect their livelihood. Farmers in Germany and the Netherlands are up in arms against regulating nitrogen emissions because these regulations prevent them from keeping cows. They have mobilized, winning elections and shaking the European Union.

I should also mention the desire of oil companies to continue making a profit.

We are way behind schedule in fighting climate change. We ought to do everything that climate scientists deem necessary - reduce emissions deeply and rapidly, remove excess greenhouse gases from the atmosphere, and refreeze the Arctic. To do this, we must gain the approval of indigenous communities. All this has to be done as soon as possible.

## Russia’s War on Ukraine

This brings us to the third component of the polycrisis. The Russian invasion of Ukraine came as a negative shock to the world, disrupting food supplies and causing major geopolitical realignments. Having said that, the actual outcome is much better than could have been expected. The Ukrainian army put up heroic resistance and, with strong support from the US and Europe, turned things around. The Russian army proved to be a paper tiger, badly led and thoroughly corrupt. The Wagner Group, a private mercenary army, propped up the invasion for a period, but in the end, they too failed to defeat Ukraine.

As a result, Ukraine is now ready to launch a counterattack as soon as all of the equipment it has been promised by the West is delivered. Biden has even agreed that Ukraine should be given F-16 fighter planes.

I believe the counterattack will be successful. The target will be the Crimean Peninsula, the home base of the Russian Navy. By destroying the already damaged land bridge with Russia, Ukraine could turn a strategic asset into a strategic liability, because Crimea has no water. With the land bridge destroyed, Crimea will depend on Ukraine for water.

Many parts of the Russian Federation are already chafing under President Vladimir Putin’s despotic regime, and this development may cause them to reject it altogether. Putin’s dream, a revived Russian Empire, could disintegrate and no longer pose a threat to Europe and the world.

The end of the war in Ukraine will come as a positive shock for the world. This may provide an opportunity for Biden to lower the tension between the US and China, which is itself in the midst of an economic decline that may make President Xi Jinping more receptive to an accommodation with the US. Biden is not seeking regime change in China; all he wants is to reestablish the status quo in Taiwan.

A Russian defeat in Ukraine, and a lessening of Sino-American tensions, may create room for world leaders to focus on fighting climate change, which is threatening to destroy our civilization. But there is only a narrow and winding path that leads to this outcome. So, it is appropriate to use a question mark in asking whether democracy can survive the polycrisis.

*George Soros, Founder and Chair of the Open Society Foundations, is the author, most recently, of In Defense of Open Society (Public Affairs, 2019).*



# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## Nimbaians resolved on Weah's re-election

By Naneka Hoffman

Stakeholders in Nimba County have met to strategize on re-electing President George Manneh Weah for a second term come October.

Speaking on Tuesday, June 6, 2023, in Ganta after a

when the people of Nimba will tell the world that they are resolved on supporting President Weah's second term bid.

He explains that the program will be held under the theme: "Zo-ai-wa-Mom", meaning Nimba is resolved to carry the President again.

district have spoken, and if the commissioner of Yarpea Mahn speaks, it means the people of Yarpea Mahn have spoken, adding so at the program in Karnplay, they realize elders of the county will be speaking, which will automatically mean the people of Nimba have spoken.



consultative meeting for the re-election of President Weah, the county chairperson for the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) Regina Mehn, said the forum brought together stakeholders and public officials from Nimba in the Weah-led government, including county administrators, ten collaboration parties that constitute the Coalition and well-wishers.

According to him, its focus was to strategize on a big program coming up on June 24th in Karnplay, Nimba to be graced by President Weah

He says they selected Karnplay as a venue because previous programs were held in Saclepea, Ganta, and Sanniquellie respectively, so this time around, the people of Karnplay will have an opportunity to feel the presence of both local and national officials from Nimba that are working in the CDC government.

Chairman Mehn notes that when it comes to their local governance structure, if District#3 Representative, Joseph Nyan Somwarbi speaks, it means the people of the

"I am not talking about side people, who will go give their support to the political party; I'm talking about people who are making policy in the county", he adds.

Chairman Mehn disclosed that in the shortest possible time, motorbikes and vehicles will ply the streets of Nimba County with inscription "Coalition for Democratic Change", appealing to citizens to exercise patience, as shortly, all campaign materials they need to campaign for President Weah will be in the county.

## Ellen partners with Harvard Library to hold and steward her personal papers

Harvard Library, former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, and the Ellen Johnson Sirleaf Presidential Center for Women and Development (EJS Center) this week announced a partnership to steward and provide access to President Sirleaf's personal and professional archives.

Under an innovative partnership agreement, former world leader and Harvard alum (MPA '71) President Sirleaf will place personal archives that document her life before, during, and after her twelve-year tenure as President of Liberia with Harvard Library. Harvard Library will process the archives to make them publicly discoverable and accessible online and in the Harvard University Archives reading room for a period of at least 25 years, with a plan to

return the collection to the EJS Center in Liberia.

President Sirleaf, who served two terms as president of Liberia from 2006 to 2018, was the first woman elected president of an African country. As president, she worked to secure peace in Liberia, made significant progress in the

country's economic and social development and in reforming areas of governance and the rule of law, and improved infrastructure and basic services. She was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2011

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EJS Center Harvard Partnership

## Steel plates to support damaged St. John River Bridge

By Emmanuel wise Jipoh

Public Works officials say steel plates will be used as an alternative to support the damaged St. John River Bridge that risks isolating Buchanan, Grand Bassa County.

The Ministry of Public Works (MPW) says high restrictions will be observed on the usage of the bridge until it is fully rehabilitated.

Constructed in 1960, the St. John River Bridge has served as a major trade route among Bong, Grand Bassa, Grand Kru, Maryland, Margibi, Montserrado, and other counties in Liberia.

It was reported last Friday that the St. John River Bridge was on the verge of collapse after its bearing had burst, putting thousands of commuters at risk.

Pending its full rehabilitation, only 20-ton vehicles and loads will be allowed passage through the major route to Buchanan City as part of the restrictions being

components and materials needed can arrive in the country.

Barclay told reporters that he couldn't state when the materials will arrive for the full rehabilitation of the bridge.

The bridge is said to have served the Liberian public for more than fifty years.

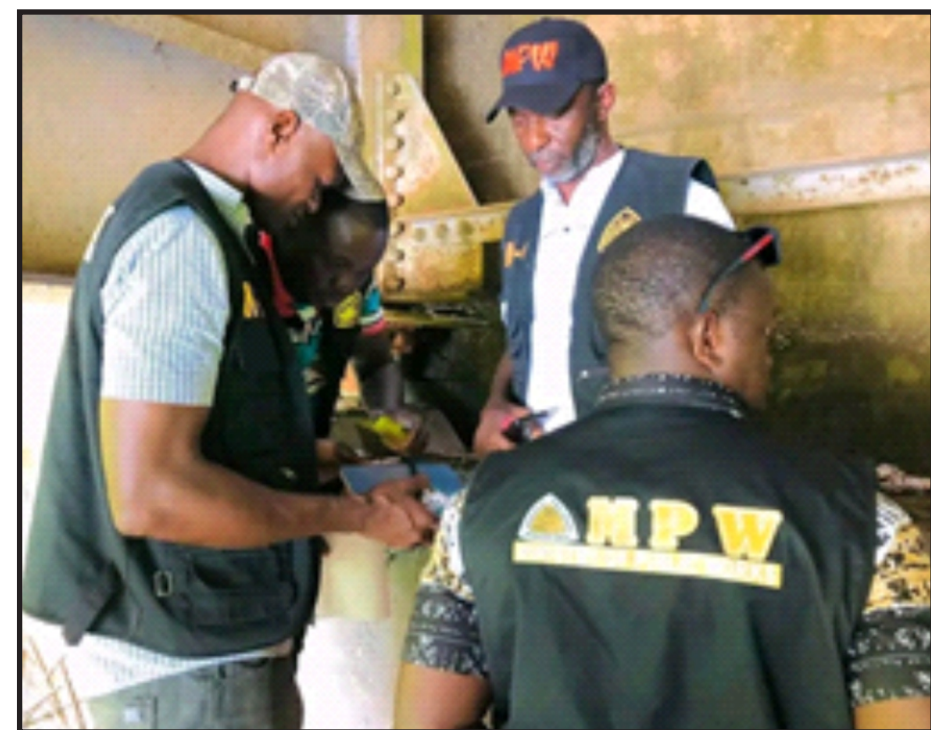
For his part, the Project Engineer at the Ministry of Public Works, Moses T. Kpaan, said the passage of heavy loads over the years had caused damage to the bridge.

He said the bridge's bearing broke due to heavy loads.

According to him, the Engineers from the Ministry of Public Works, MittalSteel, the Equatorial Oil Palm Company, and other engineers will assemble to jack the Bridge while using steel plates as alternative means for commuters' passage.

He noted that only 20 tons, of individual goods will be allowed passage.

Explaining further, Mr. Kpaan said the bridge was damaged because its bearings had burst from



announced.

The Ministry of Public Works considers the damaged St. John River Bridge as an emergency need, announcing a quick-impact project that will involve the use of steel plates as an alternative pending its full rehabilitation.

In the wake of the bridge's damage, prices of basic commodities including rice and gasoline, are skyrocketing in Buchanan and other southeastern counties.

Deputy Public Works Minister Works Amos Yarkpawolo Barclay addressed reporters Wednesday, 7 June 2023 following a full assessment of the St. John River Bridge.

Barclay said the bridge will be contained by steel plates as an alternative, with high restrictions put in place.

He said a full rehabilitation of the bridge will not be done in the nearest months until all the

one of its ends.

According to him, the damaged bearings had been there for more than fifty years.

Commuters have complained that the deplorable bridge has become a death trap, leaving citizens in a state of panic amid rising prices of basic commodities in the affected areas.

Grand Bassa County Superintendent Mr. Janjay Baikpeh has called for calm among citizens.

He said the bridge will be rehabilitated.

Following the shocking incident, gasoline is priced at LRD\$1,000, instead of its previous cost of LRD\$750.

The price of a 25kg bag of rice has jumped from USD 20 to 24 USD.

Commercial drivers, motorcyclists, and private vehicle operators have warned that the escalating price of gasoline in the affected areas is due to the deplorable state of the bridge.



# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## Gongloe underscores rule of law

**-as he visits Ganta Immigration Service**

By: Kruah Thompson

Presidential hopeful Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe stresses here that any country that does not uphold the rule of law cannot

and equality. The standard bearer of the Liberian People's Party notes that he couldn't have passed by the law enforcement officers without paying them homage and appreciating the work that

president of the Liberia National Bar Association (LNBA) and a prominent figure in the legal and human rights sphere with an inspiring history marked by his unwavering commitment to justice and the rule of law in Liberia.

Born in Liberia, his passion for law and advocacy was evident from an early age.

Throughout his career, Gongloe has been a staunch advocate for human rights, social justice, and the rule of law.

He firmly believes that a just and equitable society can only be achieved through proper implementation and adherence to legal principles.

His expertise and deep understanding of the law have made him a sought-after legal consultant and speaker, both nationally and internationally.

Moreover, Cllr. Gongloe's unwavering commitment to justice and human rights has often placed him in the forefront of efforts to hold accountable those responsible for human rights abuses and corruption in Liberia.

His courageous stance and vocal advocacy have earned him respect and admiration from fellow lawyers, activists, and the general public.



rightfully be called a country. He made the statement while visiting border immigration officers in Ganta, Nimba County, urging border security officers to continue to uphold the rule of law in making Liberia safe.

Cllr. Gongloe also emphasizes the fundamental importance of the rule of law in maintaining order, justice,

they are doing in safeguarding the peace and security of the state.

His words serve as a wake-up call to security officers, reminding nations around the world of the indispensable role adherence to the rule of law plays in preserving the fabric of a functioning and legitimate state.

Cllr. Gongloe is former

## House probes US\$100 million cocaine case

By Bridgett Milton

The House of Representatives has instructed its committee on National Security to gather information from the Liberia National Police (LNP) and the Ministry of Justice on facts and circumstances surrounding the US\$100 million cocaine saga in the country.

Plenary requests the committee to establish alternative measures being pursued in finding the actual perpetrators.

Recently, jurors at Criminal Court "C" unanimously acquitted four defendants accused of importing into Liberia, 520 kilograms of cocaine valued at US\$100 million. The drugs were offloaded at TRH warehouse in Topoe Village, importer of frozen poultry products.

The multi-million drug case in Liberia has raised more concerns among people in and out of Liberia.

One of those disappointed about the court ruling in the case is United States Ambassador Michael McCarthy, who said in a recent press

conference, like many Liberians, including the Minister of Justice, he was saddened to see the acquittal of suspects in both a recent human trafficking case and in the \$100 million cocaine trafficking case.

"While I hesitate to second guess any jury and fully admit that I am not privy to all the details of the prosecution or their defenses, I hope this does not send a signal of weakness in enforcement to international criminal cartels" Amb. McCarthy expressed.

However, Amb. McCarthy

said from an outsider's perspective, it is alarming that conviction could not be obtained in Liberia, even when the evidence seemed so overwhelming.

The Ambassador said he is worried about what these developments portend for Liberia's Justice sector, which the United States Government has supported with many millions of dollars over the years in capacity development.

Meanwhile, the committee is expected to report to the full plenary within a week.



## GoL and partners take stock of progress on Decentralization

Monrovia, Liberia; June 8, 2023: Senior Government officials and Development Partners have been taking stock of progress on the implementation of the Local Government Act-LGA with a specific focus on the Revenue Sharing Law that deals with fiscal decentralization under phase two of the Liberia Decentralization Support Programme (LDSP).

At an Inter-Ministerial Committee Meeting chaired by the Minister of Internal Affairs Varney Sirleaf and held on June 6, 2023, at a local hotel in Monrovia, discussions centered on identifying challenges and constraints inhibiting the decentralization reforms, finding remedies, and setting the pace for the way forward amid current realities and emerging decentralization issues.

Minister Sirleaf urged key stakeholders attending the

meeting included adequate appropriation/allocation of budgetary and financial resources to sustainably support the delivery of services and human capital; increased coordination; digitalization of services at County Service Centers; relinquishing control of the signing power of key documents of services in Monrovia, and transferring same to County Service Centers (CSCs); as well as the role of Liberians especially those in rural areas in taking ownership of the decentralization process among others.

UNDP and its Partners are currently supporting the development of a Revenue Sharing Act Regulation in response to section 10.1 of the Act which mandates the Ministry of Finance & Development Planning (MFDP) to issue a regulation on the schedules and methods of transfers of revenues to local governments and sub-local governments.

At the Inter-ministerial meeting, they recognized and



meeting to recommit to taking appropriate steps and actions to address the challenges and gaps associated with implementing the decentralization programme.

Representatives from Sweden, Ireland, European Union, African Development Bank, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and UNDP discussed with high-level government officials, issues around fiscal decentralization as they all recommitted to supporting the decentralization process of the country.

Issues raised during the

acknowledged efforts being made by the government to drive the decentralization agenda and process, especially in the areas of legal and regulatory reforms, as well as the establishment of County Councils which they indicated are progressive milestone accomplishments.

The Partners, however, emphasized that the government needs to step up its political will to fast-track the implementation process which includes transfers of revenues to local and sub-local governments, and the utilization of said funds in a transparent and accountable manner in building effective institutions.

Starts from page 11

## Reviving economy

Cummings said his services at Coca-Cola afforded him the opportunity to establish stronger bonds of friendship and ties, which he still maintained with several current and former African and European leaders.

The CPP Standard Bearer said

he has two major investments and holds shares in several other businesses, but cannot disclose the names, for fear of political reprisals by the government which will affect the business interests of other shareholders.



# Français

## L'ambassadeur américain milite en faveur de la réduction du visa libérien pour attirer les investisseurs

L'ambassadeur des États-Unis demande au gouvernement libérien de simplifier le processus d'obtention du visa libérien afin d'attirer les investissements étrangers dont il a tant besoin.

d'un visa libérien, il attirerait plus d'investisseurs.

Selon lui, la lourdeur du processus que doivent suivre les investisseurs potentiels pour obtenir un visa libérien, parfois trois fois plus cher, nuit au climat d'investissement du Libéria,

étrangers, plus il y a des possibilités pour le Libéria", a-t-il ajouté.

M. McCarthy a fait cette déclaration après avoir fait l'éloge de l'homme d'affaires indien Upjit Sengh Sahadeva, communément appelé M.



Le diplomate Michael McCarthy a dit lors d'un entretien avec des journalistes lors de sa visite à l'usine de caoutchouc Jeety à Cinta, Weala, dans le comté de Margibi, le mercredi 7 juin, que si le gouvernement libérien introduisait un visa à l'arrivée à l'aéroport ou réduisait le prix d'obtention

« Il y a plusieurs choses qui peuvent être faites pour attirer plus d'investissements si les Américains et les investisseurs occidentaux n'ont pas à acheter de visas et peuvent obtenir des visas à l'aéroport ou réduire le prix, plus d'investisseurs viendront », a dit McCarthy.

« Plus les barrières sont retirées pour les investissements

Jeety, pour son investissement ambitieux, après sa visite de l'usine.

« C'est le genre d'investissement qui se multiplie. Cette usine aide la communauté locale et des emplois sont déjà créés dans ce quartier à l'extérieur de

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 09

## La CPP s'en tient aux électeurs âgés de 18 à 35 ans pour sa victoire

Mlle Charlyne W. Brumskine s'est dite confiante de la victoire de la Collaboration des Partis Politiques (CPP) en octobre. Elle croit que la majorité silencieuse votera pour son parti.

La jeune Brumskine croit que le scrutin sera décidé par de jeunes électeurs âgés de 18 à 35 ans. Ce sont eux qu'elle appelle la majorité silencieuse qui, selon elles, ressentent les difficultés et les souffrances extrêmes sous le gouvernement dirigé par Weah.

S'exprimant lors d'une émission sur la radio Truth FM le mardi 6 juin, le porte-étendard adjoint de la CPP a dit « les électeurs âgés de 18 à 35 ans sont le moteur des résultats des élections ».

Selon elle, les Libériens ont un besoin urgent de

changements urgents qui ont un impact sur leurs conditions de vie et leurs moyens de subsistance.

Elle a critiqué l'administration dirigée par la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC) et les anciens régimes dont celui du Parti de l'unité (UP) « qui ont plongé les Libériens dans une crise de pauvreté, d'humiliation

et de marginalisation ».

À en croire le porte-étendard de la CPP, le programme de gouvernance de la CPP met l'accent sur les politiques de transformation, d'amélioration des conditions de vie des gens ordinaires, d'impact sur la vie de la

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 09



ANC leader Mr. Alexander B. Cummings

Cllr. Charlyne W. Brumskine

## Éditorial

### La menace du ministre Tweah est tardive

Le ministre des Finances Samuel D. Tweah a menacé de retenir les salaires des ministres, des directeurs d'agences et des commissaires des commissions s'ils ne présentent pas leurs rapports sur l'exécution du budget selon le délai imparti.

« Ce n'est pas moi qui ai fait cette loi ; c'est le parlement. La loi demande au ministre des Finances de retenir les salaires des fonctionnaires qui n'auront pas présenté leur rapport sur l'utilisation du budget qui leur a été alloué », a expliqué Tweah le lundi 4 juin, lors de la cérémonie de signature de quatre nouveaux accords entre le gouvernement du Libéria et l'Union européenne. Il s'agit des accords financiers de 80 et 88 millions de dollars américains.

Mais nous pensons que cette mesure est très tardive.

Quand est-ce que le ministre Tweah s'est-il rendu compte que ces institutions ne présentent pas de rapports de performance pour les fonds qui leur sont alloués ?

Il est au pouvoir depuis cinq ans, il n'a jamais appliqué une telle loi. Alors pourquoi maintenant ?

D'année en année, cela a été un problème majeur pour les ministres, les directeurs de société et les chefs de commissions qui comparaissent devant l'Assemblée législative pour défendre leurs budgets. En fait, les ministres ont l'audace de demander des augmentations de leurs allocations sans présenter des rapports détaillés des dépenses de l'année précédente. Et le gouvernement, sous la direction du ministre Samuel Tweah, a procédé à des augmentations pour plusieurs ministères.

Par exemple, des augmentations ont été faites pour les ministères de la santé, de l'éducation et de l'agriculture, parmi plusieurs autres, sans qu'il y ait eu de rapport sur les dépenses de l'exercice précédent. Aujourd'hui, le secteur de l'éducation du pays est en ruine, des bâtiments scolaires publics étant délabrés. Les écoles à travers le pays sont dotées d'enseignants bénévoles qui ne reçoivent pas encore de salaire.

C'est aussi le cas pour les secteurs de la santé et de l'agriculture, où des millions ont été alloués par le ministère des Finances sans aucun progrès sur le terrain.

Et maintenant, Tweah veut faire croire aux partenaires étrangers qu'il est sérieux en matière de gestion des finances publiques, alors que la réalité en pratique est totalement le contraire.

En fait, la loi sur la gestion des finances publiques du Libéria est en vigueur depuis l'administration de l'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. Alors pourquoi Tweah, en tant que ministre des Finances, n'a-t-il pas appliqué cette loi comme une politique financière prudente jusqu'à présent ?

Ce sont quelques-uns des services de pure forme de nos fonctionnaires. Sans volonté politique, ils prétendent être durs dans l'application des lois, pourtant en réalité c'est toute une autre chose. Cela a maintenu le Libéria dans un cercle vicieux sans aucun progrès tangible.

Le gouvernement essaie de se faire passer pour des gens durs en pleine année électorale. Mais qu'il fasse attention car cette stratégie pourrait éroder davantage la confiance du public. Il risque bien de se tirer une balle dans la jambe avec les munitions du ministre Tweah, qui semble faire preuve d'un zèle excessif pour faire sortir un visage qui n'existe pas.

Si la bonne chose n'a jamais été faite au début, dans quelle mesure peut-elle être pertinente à la fin ?



# Français

## L'ambassadeur américain milite

Monrovia », a poursuivi le diplomate américain.

Le diplomate américain au ton dur a dit que dans une situation où les investisseurs peuvent acheter des terres sans controverse et comme dans le cas de M. Jeety, cela crée de la confiance pour les investisseurs.

Il a décrit l'investissement de Jeety Rubber Factory comme un projet ambitieux, affirmant que lorsque M. Jeety lui a parlé de l'investissement pour la première fois, il lui a dit que c'était ambitieux, mais voir l'usine devenir une réalité montre ce qui peut être fait lorsque le gouvernement crée un environnement propice pour l'investissement.

Pour sa part, M. Jeety a remercié l'ambassadeur McCarthy pour sa visite, affirmant que le projet n'aurait pas pu aboutir sans le soutien des citoyens et des autorités locales de la région.

M. Jeety a également informé l'ambassadeur des États-Unis qu'il bénéficie du plein soutien du gouvernement pour son investissement et a projeté 2026 comme l'année au cours de laquelle l'on commencera à fabriquer des pneus. Il a déclaré qu'il commencerait d'abord par la production de plastiques et d'autres produits en caoutchouc dans environ un an.

M. Jeety a dit n'avoir aucune intention de planter des hévéas.

Il a promis d'acheter du caoutchouc auprès des agriculteurs locaux du pays afin de les autonomiser.

L'ambassadeur américain était accompagné de son frère George McCarthy qui est en visite ici au Libéria et d'un personnel de l'ambassade.

Plus tôt, les citoyens ont félicité M. Jeety car son investissement a transformé leur communauté au cours de la courte période de son existence.

Les citoyens, dans une déclaration lue par Madame Musu Yango, chef Clain, ont déclaré que Jeety a amélioré l'économie du canton en leur louant des propriétés et en employant des habitants de la région.

M. Jeety offre actuellement des bourses d'études universitaires à certains citoyens et des repas chauds trois fois par semaine à plus de trois cents enfants de la communauté.

Ils ont également loué ses gestes humanitaires, de l'acheminement de l'eau courante et de la construction d'un dispensaire.

Dans l'ensemble, les citoyens ont déclaré que la création de Jeety Rubber Factory a redonné vie à Weala depuis la fermeture de sa plantation de caoutchouc.

## La CPP s'en tient aux électeurs

jeune génération, lesquelles elle n'était pas apte d'autonomisation des femmes, de création d'emplois et d'amélioration des secteurs de la santé et de l'éducation, entre autres.

Elle a décrit le ticket Cummings-Brumskine comme une force formidable. « Je ne suis pas une politicienne conventionnelle, mais M. Cummings m'a choisie, car il sait que j'ai la vision de diriger, et c'est un partenariat unique non pas pour moi, mais pour les commerçantes, les jeunes garçons, les enfants qui vendent dans les rues, les jeunes du Libéria, désireux d'améliorer leurs conditions de vie, les jeunes défavorisés, qui aspirent à la réhabilitation ».

« Nous représentons les femmes, les enfants, les électeurs silencieux, qui ne peuvent pas parler. Nous représentons les écarts entre les riches et les pauvres, c'est pourquoi je suis de la conviction que nous allons gagner l'élection, avec les électeurs silencieux », a-t-elle dit.

Mlle Brumskine a également profité de l'occasion pour s'opposer aux critiques selon

lesquelles elle n'était pas apte à être la vice-présidente de M. Cummings. « Il n'y a pas de meilleur moment pour apporter le changement dont les gens ont besoin. Il ne s'agit pas de Charlyne Brumskine ; il s'agit des jeunes du Libéria, qui aspirent à un leader visionnaire. Arrêtons notre façon de faire et changeons les mentalités », a-t-elle déclaré.

Lorsqu'on lui a demandé quel genre de vice-présidente elle sera si la CCPP est élue en octobre, Me Brumskine a dit qu'elle servira en partenariat avec M. Cummings, pour impacter des vies, plutôt que de simplement s'asseoir comme une voiture dans un garage.

« M. Cummings et moi-même aurons un partenariat en matière de gouvernance », a-t-elle déclaré, ajoutant « Je ne serais pas une vice-présidente qui ne fera qu'observer M. Cummings. Il connaît mon expertise, c'est pourquoi il m'a choisie pour représenter mon peuple. Je dois être reconnaissante de l'opportunité de diriger mon peuple et ce moment est venu », a-t-elle ajouté.

## Côte d'Ivoire : trois nouveaux membres du Conseil constitutionnel ont été nommés



À trois mois des élections locales en Côte d'Ivoire, le président Alassane Ouattara vient de nommer le mardi 6 juin 2023 par décret trois nouveaux conseillers constitutionnels, pour une durée de six ans.

Il s'agit d'abord de la magistrate Aimée Zebeyoux, ancienne secrétaire d'État chargée des Droits de l'homme dans le gouvernement RHDP précédent.

Les autres nouveaux arrivants sont le célèbre procureur de la République, Richard Adou et Sébastien Yédoh Lath, enseignant-chercheur en droit public. Les deux hommes sont des proches du juriste Ouraga Obou, ancien compagnon de Laurent Gbagbo. C'est à Ouraga Obou qu'Alassane Ouattara avait confié, en 2016, la présidence du comité d'experts chargé de

rédiger la nouvelle Constitution.

En période électorale, le Conseil constitutionnel a trois grandes responsabilités : entériner de potentielles réformes constitutionnelles, valider les candidatures, et valider enfin les résultats du scrutin. Les trois nouveaux conseillers entreront officiellement en fonction en juillet 2023. De même que Chantal Camara, l'actuelle présidente de la Cour de cassation, proche d'Alassane Ouattara, qui prendra la tête du Conseil constitutionnel. Elle a été désignée à ce poste le 9 mai.

Tous sont nommés pour une durée de six ans, c'est-à-dire une période qui couvrira les élections locales du mois de septembre, mais aussi l'élection présidentielle de 2025.

## Législatives en Guinée-Bissau : majorité absolue pour l'opposition, selon les résultats provisoires

En Guinée-Bissau, la coalition PAI-Terra Ranka, portée par le parti PAIGC, a remporté 54 sièges sur 102 au Parlement, soit la majorité absolue, à l'occasion des élections législatives organisées le 4 juin et dont les résultats provisoires ont été dévoilés par la Commission nationale électorale ce 8 juin. Le parti du président du pays, Umaro Sissoco Embaló, le Madem, récolte 29 sièges. Selon la Constitution, le parti qui obtient la majorité au Parlement obtient automatiquement le poste de Premier ministre.

PAI-Terra Ranka, coalition portée par le parti PAIGC, obtient une majorité absolue à l'Assemblée nationale : 54 sièges, loin devant le Madem, le parti du président de la République qui obtient 29 sièges. Selon la Constitution, le parti qui remporte la majorité au Parlement obtient de manière automatique le poste de Premier ministre du pays. Concrètement, la Guinée-Bissau devrait connaître une cohabitation avec un Premier ministre issu des rangs du PAIGC.



Le président Umaro Sissoco Embaló, lui, doit s'exprimer dans un message à la nation.

De son côté, le porte-parole du PAIGC encourage toute la classe politique à laisser travailler pour ce mandat de 4 ans et donc à mettre fin à ces cycles de crise à répétition à la tête des institutions de cet État d'Afrique de l'Ouest. En attendant, des militants ont commencé à célébrer la victoire : ils sont sortis spontanément dans le centre-ville de la capitale, avec des drapeaux et des casseroles pour exprimer leur joie.



## ARTICLE

## ARTICLE

# Global Economy on Precarious Footing Amid High Interest Rates Global growth to slow to 2.1% in 2023, with prospects clouded by financial risks

WASHINGTON, June 06, 2023—Global growth has slowed sharply and the risk of financial stress in emerging market and developing economies (EMDEs) is intensifying amid elevated global interest rates, according to the World Bank's latest Global Economic Prospects report.

Global growth is projected to decelerate from 3.1% in 2022 to 2.1% in 2023. In EMDEs other than China, growth is set to slow to 2.9% this year from 4.1% last year. These forecasts reflect broad-based downgrades.

“The surest way to reduce poverty and spread prosperity is through employment—and slower growth makes job creation a lot harder,” said World Bank Group President Ajay Banga. “It’s important to keep in mind that growth forecasts are not destiny. We have an opportunity to turn the tide, but it will take us all working together.”

Most EMDEs have seen only limited harm from the recent banking stress in advanced economies so far, but they are now sailing in dangerous waters. With increasingly restrictive global credit conditions, one out of every four EMDEs has effectively lost access to international bond markets. The squeeze is especially acute for EMDEs with underlying vulnerabilities such as low creditworthiness. Growth projections for these economies for 2023 are less than half those from a year ago, making them highly vulnerable to additional shocks.

“The world economy is in a precarious position,” said Indermit Gill, the World Bank Group’s Chief Economist and Senior Vice President. “Outside of East and South Asia, it is a long way from the dynamism needed to eliminate poverty, counter climate change, and replenish human capital. In 2023, trade will grow at less than a third of its pace in the years before the pandemic. In emerging markets and developing economies, debt pressures are growing due to higher interest rates. Fiscal weaknesses have already tipped many low-income countries into debt distress. Meanwhile, the financing needs

to achieve the sustainable development goals are far greater than even the most optimistic projections of private investment.”

The latest forecasts indicate that the overlapping shocks of the pandemic, the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and the sharp slowdown amid tight global financial conditions have dealt an enduring setback to development in EMDEs, one that will persist for the foreseeable future. By the end of 2024, economic activity in these economies is expected to be about 5% below levels



projected on the eve of the pandemic. In low-income countries—especially the poorest—the damage is stark: in more than one-third of these countries, per capita incomes in 2024 will still be below 2019 levels. This feeble pace of income growth will entrench extreme poverty in many low-income countries.

“Many developing economies are struggling to cope with weak growth, persistently high inflation, and record debt levels. Yet new hazards—such as the possibility of more widespread spillovers from renewed financial stress in advanced economies—could make matters even worse for them,” said Ayhan Kose, Deputy Chief Economist of the World Bank Group. “Policy makers in these economies should act promptly to prevent financial contagion and reduce near-term domestic vulnerabilities.”

In advanced economies, growth is set to decelerate from 2.6% in 2022 to 0.7% this year and remain weak in 2024, the report says. After growing 1.1% in 2023, the U.S.

economy is set to decelerate to 0.8% in 2024, mainly because of the lingering impact of the sharp rise in interest rates over the past year and a half. In the euro area, growth is forecast to slow to 0.4% in 2023 from 3.5% in 2022, due to the lagged effect of monetary policy tightening and energy-price increases.

The report also offers an analysis of how increases in U.S. interest rates are affecting EMDEs. Most of the rise in two-year Treasury yields over the past year and a half has been driven by investor expectations of hawkish U.S. monetary policy to control inflation. According to the report, this particular type of interest rate increases is associated with adverse financial effects in EMDEs, including a higher probability of financial crisis. Moreover, these effects are more pronounced in countries with greater economic vulnerabilities. In particular, frontier markets—those with less developed financial markets and more limited access to international capital—tend to see outsized increases in borrowing costs; for instance, sovereign risk spreads in frontier markets tend to rise by more than three times as much as those in other EMDEs.

In addition, the report provides a comprehensive assessment of the fiscal policy challenges confronting low-income economies. These countries are in dire straits. Rising interest rates have compounded the deterioration in their fiscal positions over the past decade. Public debt now averages about 70% of GDP. Interest payments are eating up a rising share of limited government revenues. 14 low-income countries are already in, or at high risk of, debt distress. Spending pressures have risen in these economies. Adverse shocks such as extreme climate events and conflict are more likely to tip households into distress in low-income countries than anywhere else because of limited social safety nets. On average, these countries spend just 3% of GDP on their most vulnerable citizens—well below the 26% average for developing economies.—Press release



# CDC lawmaker dumps party for Boakai

By: Naneka Hoffman

A ranking member of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) Legislative Caucus Mr. Alex Grant has declared support for opposition Amb. Joseph

personal dislike for him. The Grand Gedeh County Electoral District #3 Representative has also declared his membership with the opposition Unity Party (UP), headed by Mr. Boakai.

He vowed to support the

party's ticket should go for the primary.

He lamented that he has voted for President Weah over five times, but he is not sure that he would be one of Weah's favorites.

He further alleged that "people" wrote a resolution that they should not go for primary, lamenting that it wasn't fair.

Mr. Grant wonders how the CDC would grow if sitting lawmakers are against going for primaries because they want to maintain their seats.

Rep. Grant told journalists that he insisted that they should go for primaries.

He argued that a consensus resolution written to skip primaries was not part of the framework document that the three parties that made up the CDC signed.

He alleged that they suppressed people from expressing their political will.

Representative Grant vowed to contest for the Senatorial seat because the people of Grand Gedeh County have asked him to serve them in that capacity.



Nyumah Boakai's presidential bid.

former Liberian vice president's 2023 presidential bid in the October elections.

Rep. Grant explained that he is leaving the CDC because of its alleged failure to stick to the provision that anyone wishing to contest on the

# Reviving economy is top priority

Mr. Alexander B. Cummings says his top focus when elected President will be to revive the country's economy, with greater private sector involvement, aimed at creating more jobs for the thousands of unemployed Liberians.

Cummings said Liberians will disproportionately benefit and take ownership of their economy, with strict enforcement of the Liberianization policy. He said a CPP leadership will ensure the availability of micro-Finance loans to empower Liberians to become primary importers of goods into the country.

Cummings said there will be a role for everybody including foreign investors and other nationals to help grow the economy and create badly needed jobs to lift Liberians out of poverty and alleviate the sufferings.

Cummings, Standard Bearer of the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP), said he is deliberate and intentional about real change that will reorganize government institutions, hold public officials accountable and ensure respect for the rules of law.

He made the assertions, June 7, on

County and elsewhere. He said choosing Counsellor Brumskine is indicative of his understanding and appreciation of the significant role of women in making better decisions and the need to accord women their rightful and equal participation in all spheres of our national development efforts.

Cummings assured Liberians of a different style of leadership, committed to real change that will guarantee a brighter future, because according to him, a think-tank of Liberians has studied, researched, and understand Liberia's age-old problems, and have formulated workable solutions.

He promised a CPP Government would seriously reduce the overhead costs of some government ministries and agencies as well as the presidency, and transfer those funding to improve the country's health and educational sectors.

He stressed both political and economic decentralization, to



a radio talkshow, "Closing Arguments" in response to questions about his plans for economic recovery, including resource mobilizations, international connections, areas of priorities and what he will do differently, when elected President, come October 10.

Cummings said his first one hundred days would ensure credit opportunities for Liberian entrepreneurs, creation of a national youth service program, prompt payment and steady increment of civil servants' salaries, reorganization and consolidation of government institutions with competent staff and getting the right people in integrity institutions to conduct comprehensive audit of government, devoid of witch hunting.

On his choice of Counsellor Charlyne Brumskine as running mate, Cummings expressed confidence in her ability, integrity, empathy and connections as well as her popular support and admiration, especially amongst the people of Grand Bassa

ensure rural dwellers have access to basic services, and also to empower local authorities including Superintendents to have more autonomy and access to resources to meet the needs of the people.

Cummings said a CPP Government would also ensure an efficient tax code system, rigid enforcement of the code of conduct of public officials, creating the right investment environment, with emphasis on improved infrastructures, strong and independent Judiciary, corrupt-free society and safe streets.

He said he will ensure Liberia gets the full value of its natural resources, without necessarily aborting or changing any agreements.

Responding to questions about his international business connections and whether he has any investment in Liberia,

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# Ellen partners with Harvard

for her work to bring women into the Liberian peacekeeping process. President Sirleaf's legacy also includes strengthening women's position in society, which she continues to promote tirelessly through the EJS Center.

The archives coming to Harvard document President Sirleaf's life and career in finance and politics from the 1960s through the 2010s, including her tenure as president and her time as a student at the Harvard Kennedy School. They include materials related to her political and social activism and to the Liberian peace process and peace talks; speeches and public addresses; records of her presidential campaigns and her work with international development organizations; and personal letters and emails.

President Sirleaf chose Harvard Library to steward her papers because of her long relationship with Harvard and the Library's ability to make the materials accessible to international scholars, including scholars of the African diaspora.

"I have a long relationship with Harvard, and having my papers at a premier higher-education institution will

make them much more available around the world," she said. "I'm pleased that the digitization will enable researchers from anywhere in the world, including Liberia and Africa, to access my papers and help them carry out their work - whether they are seeking leadership positions, studying history, or looking to write a book on me or another African leader.

"The papers especially need to be preserved and



available for women - in Liberia, in Africa, and elsewhere - to follow the history of my life," President Sirleaf added. "We hope they will provide inspiration for future generations."

Vice President for the Harvard Library and University Librarian Martha

Whitehead expressed excitement on behalf of the library organization, both for the partnership with President Sirleaf and the EJS Center and for this new model of collecting records.

"We are thrilled that President Sirleaf has chosen to partner with us in bringing her legacy to the world," Whitehead said. "In addition, this agreement is an important advance in how Harvard Library is enabling discovery of, access to, and

preservation of world knowledge. We are intent on seeing communities in all parts of the world empowered to share their local research resources broadly while retaining their ownership, a significant shift from collecting practices of past centuries."



# Senate cites CBL

## -Over local currency concerns

By Ethel A. Tweh  
The plenary of the Liberian Senate has cited authorities of the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) to provide an update

Darius Dillon's motion seeking the appearance of the CBL authorities.  
The Senate ordered CBL to appear before its committee of a whole next week Tuesday, 13 June 2023.



regarding the status of the old Liberian dollar bank notes.  
The Liberian Senate's decision Thursday, 8 June 2023, followed Montserrado County Senator Abraham

The CBL is cited to comment on the current exchange rate and the status of the new Liberian banknotes and to state the timeframe it has to get rid of the legacy notes from the market.

The Senate is concerned about a huge sum of the new money that was printed and brought into the country and is being used alongside the legacy note.

In his motion, Senator Dillon said the exchange rate is increasing daily, making life for citizens and business people unbearable.

According to him, when the CBL appears before them, they will get a deeper understanding about the economic situation the country is faced with, terming the inflation in exchange rate as scary.

Also speaking, Grand Cape Mount County Senator Varney Sherman recounted that there has always been a timeframe given to the citizens by the Central Bank of Liberia to replace the legacy notes.

"The country is still seeing and using both the old and new Liberian bank notes on the market," Senator Sherman said.

The exchange rate in some areas across Monrovia is at LRD 177, 178, or 180 to US\$1.00.

The unstable exchange rate across Monrovia appears to affect local business owners and buyers.

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