

Weekly Bulletin 23 February 2021

Regional

Victorious Okonjo-Iweala pledges to rebrand, reform WTO as DG

With her emergence yesterday as the first African and first female to be the Director-General of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, unveiled her agenda, which include working with other members of the organisation in reforming and rebranding the global trade body. Okonjo-Iweala, in her acceptance speech after the WTO's General Council agreed by consensus to select her as the organisation's seventh director-general, also highlighted the need for procedural reforms so that the WTO would better serve its members. She is to assume office on March 1, 2021, and her term, renewable, will expire on 31 August 2025. Okonjo-Iweala stated that the WTO's rulebook must be updated to consider 21st century realities such as e-commerce and the digital economy. She said the pandemic and its economic fallouts have highlighted the interdependence of countries, the importance of multilateralism and the need to strengthen collaboration in order to achieve fair and balanced agreements that provides opportunities for all WTO members, particularly the least developed countries. (Source: This Day Nigeria)

Regional

West African gold production to bounce back this year, says GlobalData

After strong growth in 2019, West Africa's gold production was badly hit by the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, owing to the temporary suspension of mines such as Houde, in Burkina Faso, and Fekola, in Mali. The pandemic had a significant impact on African operations, mainly during the early part of the second quarter of 2020, when, at one point, over one-quarter of the region's gold mines were on hold owing to Covid-19 lockdowns, says data and analytics company GlobalData. Gold production in West Africa's leading markets – Ghana, Burkina Faso and Mali – is expected to increase by 2.7% in 2021 to eight-million ounces and is expected to grow to 8.4-million ounces by 2024 – a 1.6% compound annual growth rate (CAGR). The majority of this growth is expected to originate from Ghana, where production is expected to reach 3.9-million ounces in 2024 from a forecast 3.6-million ounces in 2021. "AngloGold's Obuasi redevelopment project will be a key boost to production in West Africa in 2021. The first phase has already been completed and the momentum of the second phase was maintained despite Covid-19 challenges. The project is expected to contribute up to 200 000 oz of gold production capacity and is anticipated to begin in 2021," says GlobalData associate project manager Vinneth Bajaj. He notes that 12 projects are currently under development across Ghana, Burkina Faso and Mali, which are expected to be operational by 2024. These include the Bombore and Kiaka projects, in Burkina Faso; Obuasi Phase 2, in Ghana; and Kobada, in Mali. (Source: Engineering News)

Angola

Luanda drinking water project receives Afreximbank funding



During a recent visit to Luanda in Angola, the president of Afreximbank announced an overall investment of US\$1.3 billion in the coming months. These funds are expected to support development initiatives, including the project to supply drinking water to Luanda from Bitá. These funds will be invested in priority projects for the country, notably the Lobito rail corridor project, which will require an investment of US\$3 billion, and the drinking water supply project for the capital Luanda, the cost of which is estimated at US\$900 million. This is a mega drinking water project, and also one of the most important on the African continent in terms of cost and infrastructure. Contracts for this project have already been awarded, notably to a consortium led by French giant Suez. The aim of this mega-project is to strengthen the water supply to the populations of the capital from Bitá, a locality 40 km from Luanda, where Suez has started the construction of a drinking water plant with a capacity of 260,000 m³ per day. (Source: Afrik21)

Cameroon

Atlantic Group plans 1Mt/yr cement plant in Port of Kribi

Atlantic Group is planning to build a 1Mt/yr integrated cement plant in the Port of Kribi. Business in Cameroon has reported that the company has received all necessary permissions for the project. The group's only asset in Cameroon is the 48,000t/yr Atlantic Cocoa plant in the Port of Kribi, commissioned in 2020. Parent company Ivory Coast-based Atlantic Group recently inaugurated the 1.5Mt/yr Société Ciment Côte d'Ivoire (SCCI) near Abidjan in Ivory Coast. Cameroon's five existing cement plants have a total production capacity of 5.8Mt/yr (Source: Global Cement)

Ethiopia

IFC seeks to issue US\$10m financing to Ethiopia's leading poultry company EthioChicken Group

Ethiopia's leading producer of day-old-chicks and poultry feed, EthioChicken Group is set to acquire a US\$10 million loan from IFC to enable it to implement its 5-year program. Under the company's growth plan, it seeks to construct two new breeding farms with a capacity of 60,000 bird each and one new hatchery facility, expected to cost US\$16.2 million. The two new breeding farms will be built in SNNPR region and Amhara region, while the new hatchery will be built in SNNPR region. In addition, the group will utilize the financing to boost its working capital for purchase of parent stock birds and refinance an existing long-term loan. As of FY20, the group had eight breeding farms, four hatcheries, and two feed mill facilities. (Source: Food Business Africa)

Kenya

Reprieve for regional importers as court stops Kenya's SGR rule

Importers using the port of Mombasa are now free to use road transport to haul cargo to their respective destinations, after a five-judge bench quashed a government directive requiring all cargo imported through the port be transported to Nairobi and the hinterland exclusively by the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR). Kenya Transporters Association's Mercy Ireri said all transporters from any country in East Africa using the port are now free to choose mode of transporting cargo. "The ruling applies to all transporters irrespective of their country of origin. This ruling is a big relief to Kenyan and Uganda transporters who were mostly affected because they are regular transporters," said Ms Ireri. The ruling will affect traffic of cargo at the Naivasha Container Depot which was constructed to decongest the port of Mombasa but had failed to grow cargo intake due to inadequate clearing facilities and other amenities. (Source: East African)

Kenya

Carrefour Kenya expands base to 11 stores, opens new outlet at the Coast

Carrefour Kenya operated by Dubai-based conglomerate Majid Al Futtaim has opened its 11th store in Kenya and 2nd at the country's coastal region in Kwale County. The new store is located at the



Centrepoint Mall in Diani, becoming the anchor tenant at the outlet that was vacated by former retail giant Nakumatt in 2017. “This second store outside Nairobi aims to target and serve an even bigger customer base,” said Franck Moreau, Country Manager of Carrefour Kenya at Majid Al Futtaim Retail. The outlet sits on a 1,000 square metres of selling area as part of the initial first phase opening, which will be expanded to 1,800 square metres in the final phase. Upon completion, it will offer over 20,000 assorted goods that include fresh fruits and vegetable section, a butchery counter as well as a home-made bakery section. “So far, the response from our customers at our City Mall branch in Mombasa has been overwhelmingly positive and this second store aims to target and serve an even bigger customer base in Kwale County.” Meanwhile, the French retailer is seeking partnerships with manufacturers and distributors to package products in its brand name and colour. (Source: Food Business Africa)

Mauritania

Mauritania Minister: The country is counting on GTA gas

Mauritania’s Minister of Petroleum, Mines and Energy, H.E. Abdessalem Ould Mohamed Saleh, has emphasized the importance of the Grande Tortue / Ahmeyim (GTA) gas project in the industrialization and development of the country. “Mauritania expects a lot from the future gas exploitation of the Grande Tortue / Ahmeyim field located at its maritime border with Senegal. The country is counting on the benefits of these natural resources to improve access to electricity, strengthen its budget and develop its industrial fabric and, in turn, create jobs and added value,” he said. The minister stressed his hope that the first volumes of gas expected to be produced in 2023 will open a new vista in Mauritania’s development. (Source: Africa Oil & Power)

Mozambique

Rehabilitation of Beira Zimbabwe line resumes

Rehabilitation of the Beira-Zimbabwe railway line has resumed. The replacement of rails on the line connecting the city of Beira in Sofala to the village of Machipanda in Manica represents an investment estimated at US\$200 million. The launch ceremony in Dondo district was chaired by Miguel Matabel, chairman of Mozambique Ports and Railways (CFM), who explained that the old rails were able to support only 40 kilograms per metre, while the new ones will support 45, improving production and productivity. The work will consist of joining rail sections to make a line in conformance with international standards, where trains with heavier weight can pass. “We have been using wagons of 60 tonnes gross tonnage, but now we will start using 80-tonne wagons. This phase of the work is crucial,” he said, adding that execution currently stood at 30 percent. Matabel said Covid-19 had held work up, with the company still waiting for equipment that should have arrived from Europe and Asia in March of last year. Even so, he guaranteed that the rehabilitation of the line, which started at the end of last year, would be completed in 2022. (Source: Notícias)

Nigeria

Tatu City homes developer expands to Nigeria

British backed Kenya based developer Unity Homes has expanded to Nigeria as it seeks to tap the wider West African market. Unity Homes, which is developing 1,200 units at Ruiru’s Tatu City, will develop a Sh4 billion (US\$36.5 million), 576-unit apartment complex in the Lekki Free Zone in Lagos. The units will be set up in Alaro City, a mixed-income development featuring industries, logistics centres, offices and homes in Lagos State. The city is backed by Rendeavour, Tatu City's owner and developer. Rendeavour is also developing other similar cities in Africa including two in Ghana at King City and Appolonia, Kiswishi in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Roma Park in Zambia. Launched in January 2019, Alaro City is planned as a 2,000-hectare new Nigerian city located in the



North West Quadrant of the Lekki Free Zone. The city will include industrial and logistics locations, complemented by offices, homes, schools, healthcare facilities, hotels, entertainment and parks and open spaces. The project is a joint venture between the Lagos State Government and Rendeavour. (Source: Business Daily)

Rwanda

Rwanda secures US\$200 million for continental export fund

RWANDA has secured an initial commitment of US\$200 million from the African Export-Import Bank to support the country's preparations to host the Fund for Export Development in Africa (FEDA). The development comes weeks after African countries kicked off trading under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement. FEDA aims at increasing private equity investments in sectors critical to driving intra-African trade and export development. This is vital in addressing constraints to the advancement of export growth and diversification, as well as promoting Africa's export sector. Minister for Foreign Affairs, Vincent Biruta noted that "The benefit of Rwanda in acceding to and hosting FEDA is enhancing the profile of Rwanda as an International Financial Centre," he said, adding; "By hosting a multilateral organisation, it facilitates the entry of Rwandan businesses into the rest of Africa among others." (Source: New Times Rwanda)

Tanzania

Equinor writes off Tanzania Liquefied Natural Gas Project

State-owned Equinor ASA of Norway is writing off its \$982 million liquefied natural gas project in Tanzania (TLNG), as overall economics have not improved sufficiently to justify keeping it on the balance sheet. This will be reflected in adjusted earnings for EPI division in fourth quarter 2020 results. "Equinor will continue to engage Tanzania in negotiations on commercial, fiscal and legal frameworks that may provide a viable business case for TLNG in future," said the firm's senior vice president for investor relations Peter Hutton. Equinor, formerly Statoil, has declared impairment of TLNG as a result of Tanzania delaying approving the building of an onshore gas processing plant and export facility to enable commercial production for exploration firms to monetise the discovery. "The TLNG project has an anticipated break-even price well above portfolio average for Equinor and is at this time not competitive within this portfolio," said Mr Hutton in a briefing note issued the firm's shareholders. Impairment will be reversed if the firm successfully negotiates with Tanzania to make the project economically viable. (Source: East African)

Tunisia

EBRD finance package to stabilise Tunisia's electricity provider

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) is providing US\$361 million in financing to support the stability of Tunisia's electricity provider Société Tunisienne de l'Electricité et du Gaz (STEG). The financing package is meant to support the stability of Tunisia's energy sector during the COVID-19 pandemic in the medium term. It will allow STEG to implement an ambitious corporate and climate reform roadmap that would anchor the shift towards a more sustainable and efficiently run company. STEG is Tunisia's state-owned national electricity and gas utility company. Established in 1962, it produces and distributes electricity and natural gas. Its involvement in the gas value chain is limited to gas distribution and gas-fired generation. STEG is also the sole off-taker of private renewable energy in the country. Only 3% of Tunisia's electricity is generated from renewables which include hydroelectric, solar and wind energy though, the 2015 energy law does encourage IPPs in the area of renewable energy technology and 17 solar IPPs and 2 wind projects have been awarded since

2017. The EBRD is supporting the decarbonisation of Tunisia’s energy sector through the introduction of robust climate governance measures, policy engagement to support solar and wind programmes and strengthening the financial standing of STEG. (Source: ESI Africa)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Inserts in bold and italics font indicate participation by Africa House:

Africa House

<u>Event</u>	<u>Sector</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Contact Details</u>
Africa House: Agriculture Focus Group	Agriculture	Webinar	23 February 2021	Africa House: Nicole Kruger Telephone: 27 11 728 5878 E-mail: nicole@africainfo.co.za
Africa House: Power Focus Group	Power	Webinar	25 February 2021	Africa House: Nicole Kruger Telephone: 27 11 728 5878 E-mail: nicole@africainfo.co.za
Africa House: Health Focus Group	Health	Webinar	03 March 2021	Africa House: Nicole Kruger Telephone: 27 11 728 5878 E-mail: nicole@africainfo.co.za
Africa House: Transport & Logistics/ Ports & Rails	Transport	Webinar	09 March 2021	Africa House: Nicole Kruger Telephone: 27 11 728 5878 E-mail: nicole@africainfo.co.za
Africa House: Mining Focus Group	Mining	Webinar	17 March 2021	Africa House: Nicole Kruger Telephone: 27 11 728 5878 E-mail: nicole@africainfo.co.za
Uganda Virtual Conference	Multi-sector	Webinar	24 & 25 March 2021	Africa House: Nicole Kruger

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Rwanda Country Focus Group	Multi-sector	Webinar	31 March 2021	Africa House: Nicole Kruger Telephone: 27 11 728 5878 E-mail: nicole@africainfo.co.za
Africa House: Hotels & Commercial Property Focus Group	Hotels & Commercial Property	Webinar	14 April 2021	Africa House: Nicole Kruger Telephone: 27 11 728 5878 E-mail: nicole@africainfo.co.za
Africa House: Transport & Logistics/ Roads and Bridges	Transport	Webinar	22 April 2021	Africa House: Nicole Kruger Telephone: 27 11 728 5878 E-mail: nicole@africainfo.co.za
Africa House: Transport & Logistics/ Airports	Transport	Webinar	29 April 2021	Africa House: Nicole Kruger Telephone: 27 11 728 5878 E-mail: nicole@africainfo.co.za
Africa House: Uganda Virtual Event	Multi-sector	Virtual Event	4-5 May 2021	Africa House: Nicole Kruger Telephone: 27 11 728 5878 E-mail: nicole@africainfo.co.za
Africa House: Power Focus Group	Power	Webinar	20 May 2021	Africa House: Nicole Kruger Telephone: 27 11 728 5878 E-mail: nicole@africainfo.co.za
Africa House: Oil & Gas Focus Group	Oil & Gas	Webinar	25 May 2021	Africa House: Nicole Kruger Telephone: 27 11 728 5878 E-mail: nicole@africainfo.co.za
Africa House: Water & Sanitation Focus Group	Water & Sanitation	Webinar	01 June 2021	Africa House: Nicole Kruger

				Telephone: 27 11 728 5878 E-mail: nicole@africainfo.co.za
Africa House: Mining Focus Group	Mining	Webinar	22 June 2021	Africa House: Nicole Kruger Telephone: 27 11 728 5878 E-mail: nicole@africainfo.co.za
Africa House: Agriculture Focus Group	Agriculture	Webinar	01 July 2021	Africa House: Nicole Kruger Telephone: 27 11 728 5878 E-mail: nicole@africainfo.co.za
Africa House: Transport & Logistics/ Ports & Rails	Transport	Webinar	22 July 2021	Africa House: Nicole Kruger Telephone: 27 11 728 5878 E-mail: nicole@africainfo.co.za
Africa House: Health Focus Group	Health	Webinar	12 August 2021	Africa House: Nicole Kruger Telephone: 27 11 728 5878 E-mail: nicole@africainfo.co.za
Africa House: Oil & Gas Focus Group	Oil & Gas	Webinar	18 August 2021	Africa House: Nicole Kruger Telephone: 27 11 728 5878 E-mail: nicole@africainfo.co.za
Africa House: Power Focus Group	Power	Webinar	01 September 2021	Africa House: Nicole Kruger Telephone: 27 11 728 5878 E-mail: nicole@africainfo.co.za
Africa House: Transport & Logistics/ Roads and Bridges	Transport	Webinar	15 September 2021	Africa House: Nicole Kruger Telephone: 27 11 728 5878 E-mail: nicole@africainfo.co.za
Africa House: ICT Focus Group	ICT	Webinar	22 September 2021	Africa House: Nicole Kruger

				Telephone: 27 11 728 5878 E-mail: nicole@africainfo.co.za
Africa House: Transport & Logistics/ Airports	Transport	Webinar	12 October 2021	Africa House: Nicole Kruger Telephone: 27 11 728 5878 E-mail: nicole@africainfo.co.za
Africa House: Water & Sanitation Focus Group	Water & Sanitation	Webinar	20 October 2021	Africa House: Nicole Kruger Telephone: 27 11 728 5878 E-mail: nicole@africainfo.co.za
Africa House: Mining Focus Group	Mining	Webinar	03 November 2021	Africa House: Nicole Kruger Telephone: 27 11 728 5878 E-mail: nicole@africainfo.co.za
Africa House: Oil & Gas Focus Group	Oil & Gas	Webinar	18 November 2021	Africa House: Nicole Kruger Telephone: 27 11 728 5878 E-mail: nicole@africainfo.co.za

Other

Event	Sector	Location	Date	Contact Details
NEW!! ICC Solar and Renewable Energy Expo 2021	Power	Virtual Event	28 February – 02 March 2021	https://www.indianchamber.org/icc_events/icc-solar-and-renewable-energy-virtual-expo-2021-2/
NEW!! Architecture Across Continents	Multi-sector	Virtual Event	02 March 2021	http://www.beyond.aco/
Enterprise Singapore Opportunities in Southern Africa	Multi-sector	Virtual Event	02 March 2021	https://gems.gevme.com/opportunities-in-southern-africa-99891349
Water Africa & East Africa Building and Construction Exhibition and Seminar	Multi-sector	Virtual Event	10-12 March 2021	https://www.iwra.org/event/water-africa-east-africa-building-and-construction-exhibition-and-seminar/
Transport Evolution Mozambique Forum & Showcase	Transport	Port of Maputo, Maputo, Mozambique	13–15 April 2021	https://www.transportevolutionmz.com/
7th Mozambique Mining, Oil & Gas and Energy Conference and Exhibition	Multi- sector	Virtual Event	21-22 April 2021	https://mozambiqueoilmining.com/
AFSIC – Investing in Africa 2020	Multi-sector	Park Plaza Westminster Bridge, London, UK	05 – 07 May 2021	https://www.afsic.net/
DEVAC-Infrasfuture 2021 Conference & Expo.	Infrastructure	Table Bay Hotel, Cape Town, South Africa	05-06 May 2021	https://infrasfuture.com/
FIDIC AFRICA Conference & General Assembly Meeting		online	18-19 May 2021	



AFRICA HOUSE

DRC Mining Week	Mining	Virtual Event	15-17 July 2021	https://www.drcminingweek.com/
FIDIC Conference & General Assembly Meeting		Online	13-14 September 2021	
Africa Oil Week Exhibition & Conference	Oil & Gas	Singapore EXPO, Singapore	13-16 September 2021	https://www.gastechevent.com/
Africa Oil & Power	Oil & Gas	Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC), Cape Town, South Africa	01-05 November 2021	https://www.africa-oilweek.com/Home