



Call for papers

Title: The path to emerging economy status : the case of D.R. Congo

The ambition of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo is to transform this country into an emerging economy by 2030. This ambition is puzzling, especially since the recent economic history shows that no country has managed to rise to the status of an emerging economy in less than 30 years period. In fact, becoming an emerging economy requires a “shock treatment” based on a medium and long term development strategy. Such a strategy should be broken down into sectoral policies with a common frame. Macroeconomic, industrial and commercial policies are supposed to be accompanied by a deepening of the financial sector, a necessary condition to attract foreign investment necessary for industrial transformation.

Aware of the important challenges in achieving this objective, the Democratic Republic of Congo lays the groundwork for an economic transformation. First, the government has been working to stabilize the macroeconomic framework to send positive signals to economic agents, which are consistent with the purpose of promoting sustainable growth. Second, the goal of industrialization is also clearly expressed through economic and structural reforms, including the creation of special economic zones to attract foreign investment and the creation of agro-industrial parks. These two measures are the prototype instruments to develop poles of competitiveness and growth to seize the opportunities offered by the global and national economy. Moreover, by these measures, the DRC endorses the regional integration strategy for proactive co-development in the Great Lakes region, etc. All these initiatives are therefore part of the strategy of transition to the status of emerging countries.

Given the multiple burdens on the Congolese economy as suggested by the misclassification of the Democratic Republic of Congo (Doing Business, Transparency International, CPIA index development etc.), the road to emergence is far from simple. Indeed, poor infrastructure, weak financial system, the bureaucracy, the decline of the education system and thereby the depreciation of human capital pose serious challenges. Hence, the need for a thorough analysis of the situation in the DRC and policies envisaged to ensure the coherence, relevance and efficiency in resource allocation following the emergence strategy that emerges.

The objective of this issue of Dounia is to present concrete policies set up by the Congolese government to ensure sustained economic growth of the DRC, but also and especially to critically evaluate and make proposals inspired by international experience. Through the multidisciplinary content of this issue, the Strategic Intelligence Centre and International Relations would like to provide decision makers in the DRC a reading grid that can enable them to continue, correct policies in place or innovate in order to maximize the chances of completion of the transition to the status of emerging countries.

Authors from different disciplines could offer contributions as varied as possible, but should lead to conceptual and practical implications on the development strategy of the DRC. The following list, while not exhaustive, provides a range of relevant topics:



- What role the Congolese scientific and business diasporas can play?
- What lessons to draw from the Green Revolution in Asia?
- Special economic zones in the DRC.
- The mining sector and its contribution to development of the DRC.
- The experience concept of agro-industrial parks in the DRC.
- The path of the Chinese growth.
- How to initiate the transfer of technology in the DRC,
- The industrialization of natural resources based economy: lessons from Brazil.
- Reforming and deepening the financial system for development in the DRC.
- The links between economic emergence and political system: lessons from developing countries.
- Regional integration and economic emergence.

Important dates

- 30 March 2014: Deadline for submission of projects (in summary form) items
- 15 July 2014: Deadline for article

Instructions to authors:

- The articles, written in French or English, should not exceed 25 000 characters. They should be written in Word (Microsoft) or Writer (OpenOffice) in font "Times New Roman" size 12.
- Graphs and tables can be integrated in the text. They can also be placed in appendices if they are provided by the author.
- Footnotes should appear at the bottom of pages, not the end.
- A list of references should be placed at the end of the text.
- The numbering of sections and sub-sections should be of type 1, 1.1, 1.2 ... Two, 2.2, 2.3 ... 3, 3.1, 3.2 ... etc ...
- Each author will receive a copy of the issue by post and reprint their articles in electronic format.
- Items must be sent by email to the following addresses: jbntagoma@yahoo.fr, nyembwea@gmail.com or malambwe@yahoo.com.

For further editorial information, please contact the editors via their emails provided above.