

SDGs Can Inspire Innovation, Growth: UN Official

BEIJING - The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) offer global companies new opportunities for innovation and growth amid a sluggish world economy, according to a senior UN official.

SDGs offer inspiration for companies and help them think about their business in a new way to address global challenges, Lise Kingo, executive director of UN Global Compact, told Xinhua in an exclusive interview on the sidelines of the 2016 China Summit on Achieving SDGs on Monday.

A few industries are struggling with existing business models, such as the banking sector and the soft drink and food industries, Kingo said. If they can experiment with changes according to the 17 SDGs, such as reducing poverty



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

and hunger, they may find new opportunities such as promoting inclusive finance and "green food," according to Kingo.

She said she was delighted to see that the SDGs are reflected in China's 13th Five-Year Plan, which prioritizes poverty eradication and sustainable growth. Kingo added that many Chinese firms have joined the UN Global Compact Network China and are dedicated to running business responsibly.

Kingo said she was particularly impressed by the pioneering practices of the State Grid Corporation of China, which proposed the development of a worldwide, high voltage energy transmission network called the Global Energy Internet to share renewable energy from around the ...*(More on P4)...(25)*

Russia Proposes Mechanism to Prevent Incidents Between Syria, U.S. Air Forces

MOSCOW - Moscow offered to help negotiate a communication mechanism to prevent incidents between Syrian and U.S. air forces, Russian media reported Tuesday.

"The increase of Syrian Air Force's sorties is fraught with incidents, as the Syrians have no such link with the Americans, as the Russian military," the Russian newspaper Izvestia reported.

On Thursday, U.S.

fighter jets were sent to intercept Syrian government warplanes that were bombing the position of Kurdish militia in the northeastern Syrian town of El-Hasakah, close to where U.S. special forces are operating. According to the Russian Defense Ministry, the Russian proposal will be discussed during a meeting between Russia's foreign minister and the U.S. secretary of state on Aug. 26-27. (Xinhua)

U.S. Delegation in Ankara to Discuss Gulen's Extradition

ANKARA - A delegation of U.S. officials from the Justice and State Department arrived in Ankara on Monday to discuss developments following the failed coup, Hurriyet Daily News reported.

The four U.S. officials are expected to discuss with their Turkish counterparts on Tuesday and Wednesday the extradition of Fethullah Gulen, who is believed to have masterminded the failed July 15 coup attempt.

Turkish Justice Minis-

try officials stated they will share with their U.S. counterparts the extradition demand documents in addition to evidence indicating Gulen's direct involvement in the attempted coup.

Turkey sent a second request to the U.S. for the arrest of Fethullah Gulen earlier this month. Tensions brewed after Ankara expressed its discontent over lack of support from Washington in the wake of the failed coup.



Turkish Justice Minister Bekir Bozdogan warned that the relationship between both countries could be negatively affected if Gulen is not extradited.

However, the U.S. insists that the cleric will only be extradited following legal procedures according to relevant legislature and treaties. (Xinhua)

UN Ready to Send Aid to Aleppo with 48-Hour Truce: Senior Official

UNITED NATIONS - Stephen O'Brien, the UN under-secretary-general for humanitarian affairs, on Monday reiterated his call for a 48-hour ceasefire in Syria's northern city of Aleppo, saying that the United Nations is ready to send humanitarian assistance to the people in the city.

O'Brien, in his briefing to the UN Security Council, stressed that anything shorter than 48 hours would not allow for a meaningful response.

"The UN is ready to

move 70 trucks of assistance into eastern Aleppo as soon as we receive the necessary security assurances," said O'Brien, who is also the UN emergency relief coordinator. "Once we have the green light, we can move assistance within 48 to 72 hours." While noting progress in reaching besieged and hard-to-reach areas since the beginning of the year, O'Brien deplored that we now appear to be in reverse gear. (Xinhua)

Growth through new Ways, a Well-Timed Focus for Global Economy

BEIJING - Growth as a focus of global efforts is on top of the agenda of the upcoming G20 summit to be held in east China's Hangzhou City, which is in a well-timed response to the economic difficulties or crises troubling both developed and developing countries.

This is what the Sept. 4-5 summit under China's presidency will be trying to commit a coordinated global effort to, with a difference to be made that is spelled in its theme "Toward an Innovative,



Invigorated, Interconnected and Inclusive World Economy." China's ideas and initia-

tives highlight adjustment and cooperation in seeking a way to get out of the global economic sluggish-

ness to benefit both developed and developing countries while calling for ...*(More on P4)...(26)*

Iraqi Forces Gear Up to Free Last Major IS Stronghold in Mosul

MOSUL, Iraq - Iraqi security forces on Tuesday launched an operation to flush out Islamic State (IS) militants from the town of Qayyara in south of IS major stronghold in Mosul, a security source said. The troops backed by Iraqi and U.S.-led coalition aircraft began the advance at dawn from several direction toward Qayyara, some 50 km south of Mosul, amid heavy clashes with IS militants at the entrances of the town, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity. Last month, the security forces made a significant victory when they recaptured a strategic airbase near Qayyara. Recapturing the town is vital for the security forces which will use the town and the nearby airbase as a staging ground to free Iraq's last major IS stronghold in Mosul, which itself located some 400 km north of the Iraqi capital of Baghdad. The advance into Qayyara is part of a major offensive aiming to free areas in southern Mosul and surround Mosul from the south and east before pushing into the city and flushing the IS militants out of it. (Xinhua)

UNHCR Braces for new Wave of Mass Displacement in Iraq

GENEVA - The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) warned Tuesday that up to 1.2 million people could be affected in Mosul as military action turns towards Iraq's northern city which has been under Islamic State control for over two years.

"Mosul is Iraq's second largest city, and the humanitarian impact of a military offensive there is expected to be enormous," UNHCR said in a statement. "Contingency plans have been drawn up to provide shelter assistance for up to 120,000 people fleeing conflict in Mosul and surrounding areas,



as part of an inter-agency response to the crisis," it added. According to the agency, 48,000 people have recently fled the Mosul area, adding to the 165,000 civilians who have been forced to flee their homes in other parts of the country in recent months.

The refugee agency said that it hoped to set up camps in six locations across northern Iraq, though the ability to do so depended on both the availability of land and funding. (Xinhua)

At Least 153 Killed in Clashes between South Sudan Rival Factions

JUBA - Fighting between government troops and opposition forces in South Sudan's northeastern state of Jonglei last Friday left 153 people dead, a government army spokesperson said. Lul Ruai Koang claimed that the opposition troops linked to the Sudan People's Liberation Army-In-Opposition (SPLA-IO) attacked the Pajut military base in Duk County, but declined to give details on the casualties. "The SPLA-IO forces and some anti-peace elements attacked our forces on Friday but the SPLA forces managed to repulse them. Some 153 people died and we recovered 161 light and heavy weapons from the attackers," Koang said on Tuesday. Koang said calm had returned to the area and dis-

placed people were coming back. South Sudan has witnessed fresh clashes since fighting broke out between government troops led by President Salva Kiir and forces loyal to former Vice President Riek Machar in early July. The rival leaders had fought a civil war which started in December 2013 and left tens of thousands dead. A peace deal signed by them last August under UN pressure was supposed to end the war, but failed to quell the renewed violence. Machar has fled to neighboring Democratic Republic of the Congo, raising fears that hostilities could be lengthy. The UN says unrest in the world's youngest nation has left some 4.6 million people severely food insecure. (Xinhua)

US, Costa Rica to Strengthen Cooperation in Protecting Migrants

WASHINGTON - The U.S. and Costa Rica on Monday agreed to strengthen cooperation in protecting vulnerable migrants, stated the White House.

U.S. President Barack Obama, Vice President Joe Biden, and Costa Rican President Luis Guillermo Solis met at the White House to discuss new steps to protect migrants, as well as improve security and governance, the White House said in a statement.

They agreed the challenge of irregular migration in

the Americas requires close cooperation among all relevant countries in strengthening border security and upholding the rule of law.

At the meeting, Obama and Biden commended Costa Rica for providing temporary safe haven for up to 200 migrants at a time from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. U.S. leaders also underscored its commitment to strong bilateral ties with Costa Rica, as well as robust cooperation and regional leadership in different areas. (Xinhua)

AU Mission Vows to Deter Al-Shabaab from Disrupting Somalia Polls

MOGADISHU - A senior Africa Union (AU) official in Somalia said Tuesday that the AU Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) would work with Somali security forces to deter Al-Shabaab militants from disrupting the country's upcoming elections.

Deputy Special Representative of the Chairperson of the AU Commission for Somalia, Lydia Wanyoto, made the remarks at a

planning meeting for the elections. Somalia has formed a security taskforce to help secure the electoral process slated for September and October. AMISOM will be represented in the taskforce. "With the taskforce in place, we will now be able to know what to do and how to move, to ensure that we deliver on elections security, which ...*(More on P4)...(27)*

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Int'l Investment Fair to Promote China's Open Economy

BEIJING - An international investment and trade fair in the eastern coastal city of Xiamen next month will focus on promoting China's open economy, the event's organizing committee said Tuesday.

More than 600 business teams from over 90 countries and regions are expected to participate in the China International Fair for Investment and Trade (CIFIT), slated for Sept. 8-11, the organizers said at a

press conference. China's Vice Commerce Minister Wang Shouwen said this year's participants will share their experience and views about the open economy.

Last September, China issued a guideline to open the economy wider to the outside world. This year's CIFIT participants will also discuss trends in the global economy and transnational investment, Wang said. (Xinhua)

China, Turkmenistan Pledge More Cooperation in Energy, Trade

TIANJIN - China and Turkmenistan on Tuesday pledged prioritization of cooperation in energy, trade, culture and security.

The pledge came during the fourth meeting of the China-Turkmenistan Cooperation Committee, co-chaired by Chinese Vice Premier Zhang Gaoli and his Turkmen counterpart Yagshygeldi Kakayev, in north China's port city.

"China and Turkmenistan are sincere and

trustworthy strategic partners," Zhang said, adding that bilateral ties had been healthy and stable with close high-level exchanges and had reached the new high of mutual trust.

Kakayev said Turkmenistan highly values its relations with China and regards China as a diplomatic priority. He said Turkmenistan was willing to expand cooperation with China in oil and gas, trade, transportation, investment and culture. (Xinhua)

Top Pakistani Official Visits Belarus, Kazakhstan to Seek NSG Support

ISLAMABAD - A top Pakistani official Tuesday started a five-day visit to Belarus and Kazakhstan to seek support for the country's move to seek membership of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), officials said Tuesday.

The Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs, Syed Tariq Fatemi, is undertaking the Aug. 23-27 visits as Special Envoy of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. "The objective of the visits is to seek the two friendly countries' support for Pakistan's membership of the Nuclear Suppli-

ers Group (NSG)," the Foreign Ministry said.

The Nuclear Suppliers Group is a group of nuclear supplier countries that seek to contribute to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons through the implementation of two sets of guidelines for nuclear exports and nuclear-related exports, the NSG website says. The special assistant will be carrying letters from Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif addressed to President Alexander Lukashenko of Belarus and President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan. (Xinhua)

Iran, Cuba More Resilient after US Sanctions: Zarif

TEHRAN - Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif says Iran and Cuba have both endured cruel sanctions imposed by the United States, stressing that such bans have enhanced the perseverance and resistance of the two nations. "The resistance of the Iranian and Cuban nations has left the hegemonic countries no other choice but compromise and renunciation of their hostile policies even in their words," Zarif said in the opening ceremony of Iran-Cuba joint economic conference in Havana on Monday.

He added that steadfastness of the Iranian and Cuban people is a "valuable asset" to improve cooperation between the two countries' state and private sectors. Iran and Cuba have both been the target of various US sanctions over the past decades. However, sanctions against Iran over its nuclear program were stipulated to be removed

under last year's agreement between Tehran and the P5+1 group of countries, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), which went into effect on January 16. Meanwhile, despite a thaw in diplomatic relations between Washington and Havana, a 55-year embargo on Cuba still remains in place. The two countries became ideological foes soon after the 1959 revolution that brought Fidel Castro to power and their ties remained hostile even after the end of the Cold War. The top Iranian diplomat further emphasized that Tehran and Havana should make use of the appropriate opportunity created following the removal of sanctions against Iran to strengthen relations. "Iran and Cuba enjoy broad interaction on political and international scenes and their cooperation must be improved in the economic sector," Zarif said. (Presstv)