In an interview with Jean-Luc Coulibaly, Director of the Technology, Industry, and Local Content Section of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), he explained the importance of promoting industrialization and diversification in Africa. He highlighted the role of SMEs in driving economic growth and creating job opportunities. The figure underscores the potential of Africa's minerals, particularly cobalt, and the need for strategic partnerships to maximize these resources.

The ECA's BASKET OF ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION initiative aims to support African countries in adopting policies to diversify their economies away from commodity dependence. This is crucial for enhancing the continent's resilience and competitiveness in global markets. The ECA's efforts are aligned with the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), which seeks to create a single market for goods, services, and labor within Africa.

To accelerate the implementation of AfCFTA, the ECA has been working closely with partners such as Brazil and China. These countries have significant expertise in various sectors and can provide valuable support in technology transfer and capacity building.

The figure also highlights the importance of infrastructure development, particularly in the seaport sector, as a key driver of economic growth. The ECA's retreat in Central Africa underscores the need for a decisive turning point in the continent's development, focusing on innovation, productivity, and competitiveness.

The ECA's role in promoting the private sector is emphasized, with a focus on SMEs as engines of growth. The ECA has launched the RED-MORE initiative, which aims to support the development of regional value chains and enhance market access for African products.

In conclusion, the ECA's initiatives and partnerships are instrumental in driving Africa's economic diversification, promoting industrialization, and ensuring the continent's sustainable development.