



---

## **Industrial Development Board**

### **Forty-ninth session**

Vienna, 12–15 July 2021

Item 8 of the provisional agenda

### **UNIDO and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

## **UNIDO and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

### **Report by the Director General**

The present document provides information on the contribution of UNIDO to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It is written in line with General Conference resolutions GC.15/Res.1 and GC.16/Res.2, and in accordance with Programme and Budget Committee conclusion 2016/6 and Industrial Development Board decision IDB.44/Dec.9(e)(i), requesting the Director General and the Secretariat to enhance dialogue and liaise with representatives of Member States on UNIDO's contribution to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF).

## **I. Overview**

1. The goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development remain as the key focus and compass for the international community as it continues to confront the major setbacks stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic at the end of the first year of the Decade of Action. Through the creation of jobs, innovation and the development of new and greener production technologies, inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID) can directly and indirectly contribute to the achievement of the socioeconomic and environmental targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> See United Nations Industrial Development Organization, 2020. *Industrialization as the driver of sustained prosperity*, Vienna.

For reasons of economy, this document has not been printed. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies of documents to meetings.



## II. Follow-up and review at the global level

2. At the global level, UNIDO participated in the high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF) 2021 themed “Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development”. The HLPF 2021 in reviewing SDGs 1, 2, 3, 8, 10, 12, 13 and 17 provided UNIDO with an opportunity to highlight its efforts to build back better through inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID) via a green recovery, the circular economy and digitalization.

3. UNIDO led the development of two policy briefs on the interlinkages of SDG 7 and 9, and SDG 7 and 12 through its participation as a member of the United Nations Energy Technical Working Group. The Industrial Development Board did not submit its inputs to the HLPF 2021.

## III. Supporting achievements towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

4. As the custodian agency for the six industry-related indicators under SDG 9, UNIDO continued to play an important part in international efforts to meet the data needs required by the SDG framework, including through its participation in the Inter-Agency and Expert Group Meeting on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDG). In support of SDG reporting, the UNIDO Industrial Analytics Platform developed the SDG 9 Industry Tracker, a tool to monitor the progress of countries along inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

5. It also continued to develop national capacities to compile statistics on industry and its relationship to sustainable development, particularly in relation to small enterprises, gender, environment and the digital economy. In February 2020, UNIDO published a report on “How Industrial Development Matters to the Well-Being of the Population” presenting evidence on the interlinkages of SDG 9 to the other SDGs.

6. The strengthening of ongoing and forging of new partnerships (SDG 17) remain a fundamental approach for UNIDO. The Organization continued to scale up its engagement with international financial institutions (IFIs) by assisting its Member States in their efforts to formulate and implement IFI-financed development investment operations. In 2020, UNIDO supported governments to implement the IFI-financed COVID-19 Emergency Operation, including support from the World Bank, the International Finance Corporation and the African Development Bank.

7. UNIDO is also currently engaged in business sector partnerships with more than 100 entities in over 55 countries across the world, leveraging private sector expertise, technology and resources to advance ISID. UNIDO actively contributed to the United Nation’s effort to strengthen South-South cooperation through the preparation of the United Nations-wide strategy for South-South cooperation and the dissemination of knowledge and best practices in this area.

8. Programmatically, the operationalization of the Programme for Country Partnerships (PCPs), supporting large-scale industrial infrastructure projects are currently ongoing in 11 countries.<sup>2</sup> The PCPs, supporting development initiatives such as the establishment of integrated agro-industrial parks in Ethiopia and agro-poles in Senegal, continue to serve as catalysts for mobilizing public and private investments for prioritized national initiatives and contribute to structural transformation and job creation.

<sup>2</sup> Cambodia, Côte d’Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, Peru, Rwanda, Senegal, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia as of April 2021.

9. UNIDO development interventions to increase access to advanced technologies, including blockchain and the internet of things, in developing countries such as Ghana, Kenya and Namibia are helping to upscale traceability and quality in agro-industrial value chains, improve sustainable energy access and enhance food security. In the agro-industrial context, UNIDO has continued to implement interventions to increase entrepreneurial and technical capacities for marginalized segments of the population including women, youth, rural dwellers and refugees. Targeted activities in Guinea, Iraq, Madagascar, Mali, Senegal, and Tunisia have respectively created 1,400 jobs and 120 start-ups, many led by women, and have trained as many as 500 women in 2020.

10. UNIDO has been supporting developing countries in adopting principles and practices of a circular economy as a viable solution to accelerate the implementation of various SDGs, in particular SDG 3 (Health), SDG 6 (Clean Water), SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 15 (Life on Land).

11. At the request of the General Conference, UNIDO is convening consultations on circular economy for Member States to deliberate on means to promote the transition to a circular economy, identify challenges and devise solutions. The global consultations derive actionable policymaking organ decisions to advance the work of UNIDO and its Member States on circular economy in intergovernmental processes, thereby promoting ISID. Furthermore, UNIDO partnered with the European Commission and the United Nations Environment Programme to launch the Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency. To scale-up concrete action on the ground, UNIDO has been expanding its portfolio of circular economy activities, covering aspects such as eco-industrial parks, green chemistry, sustainable waste management, green job creation, cleantech innovation and entrepreneurship.

12. Together with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, UNIDO is co-leading the thematic Working Group on Innovation, Technology and Data in the preparation for the High-level Dialogue on Energy, to be convened by the United Nations Secretary-General in September 2021. The recent expansion of UNIDO's Global Cleantech Innovation Programme to include new partner countries will contribute to achieving SDGs 7, 9 and 13 through the promotion of innovative climate and clean energy technologies and business models.

13. As the Organization embarks on its second year of implementation of the 2020–2023 UNIDO Strategy for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, it is on track to achieve its goal to ensure that UNIDO programmes and projects significantly contribute to gender equality and the empowerment of women (SDG 5). The collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Governments of Finland, Norway and Sweden continued in 2020 with the 2020 Vienna Discussion Forum, addressing gender-responsible crisis management in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

14. Internal operations to support and enhance organizational effectiveness, contributing to programme effectiveness towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda include the following activities:

(a) The UNIDO Office of Legal Affairs negotiated and concluded, in 2020, over 70 agreements and arrangements with governments, international organizations, national organizations, and other entities. The majority of these agreements and arrangements relate to funding and cooperation activities of the Organization in support of Member States in their efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda;<sup>3</sup>

(b) In response to Member States requesting the Director General to intensify efforts of the Organization to mobilize adequate financial resources, in 2020, UNIDO

<sup>3</sup> See Appendix G of the UNIDO [2020 Annual Report](#).

fully mainstreamed its Full Cost Recovery (FCR) efforts to increase capacity and tackle some of its regular budget financial resource constraints. FCR is delivering tangible financial results by mobilizing €2.3 million operational income for 2020 and will continue to provide additional resources in the Programme and Budgets, 2022–2023;

(c) The Organization is introducing grants and financial instruments and mechanisms that will enable UNIDO to access new financial resources and further diversify its funding partners. This will expand engagement with new partners and donors such as the Green Climate Fund and Adaptation Fund, the Joint SDG fund, the Global Environment Facility and the European Union.

#### **IV. Action required of the Board**

15. The Board may wish to take note of the information contained in the present document.

---