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Industrial Development Board

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Item 17 of the provisional agenda

Preparations for the twentieth session of the General Conference

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Report by the Director General

The present report provides general information on the organization of the work of the twentieth session of the General Conference, including items proposed for inclusion in the provisional agenda.

I. Introduction

1. The General Conference of UNIDO is the principal organ of the Organization, consisting of representatives of all Members (Articles 7.1 and 8.1 of the Constitution). The main functions of the Conference are stipulated in Article 8.3 of the Constitution. In particular, the Conference should determine the guiding principles and the policies of the Organization. Unless it decides otherwise, the Conference is to hold a regular session every two years, at the seat of the Organization (Article 8.2). The last regular session (nineteenth) of the Conference was held in Vienna, 29 November to 3 December 2021.

II. Background information

A. Date and place of the Conference

2. In line with General Conference decision GC.19/Dec.18, the twentieth session of the General Conference will be held in Vienna from 27 November to 1 December 2023. It is planned that the meetings of the General Conference will take place in a hybrid format, combining in-person attendance in the M-building of the Vienna International Centre with virtual attendance on the interprefy platform.

For reasons of sustainability, this document has not been printed. Delegates are kindly requested to refer to electronic versions of all documents.



B. Budgetary matters

3. The Organization's resources available for holding the twentieth session of the Conference, as provided for in the programme and budgets of UNIDO, 2022–2023, total €1,023,300. The budget of the Conference is based on the following:

- (a) The session will last five working days providing for 10 plenary meetings as well as meetings of the main committee and geographical groups;
- (b) The session will be held in a hybrid format, combining in-person attendance with virtual participation;
- (c) Interpretation for plenary and main committee meetings and pre-session documentation will be provided in six languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish); and
- (d) As per Board decision IDB.46/Dec.3 (e), written summary records will be replaced with digital records for the twentieth session of the Conference.

C. Agenda

4. In accordance with Article 9.4 (g) of the Constitution, the Board prepares the provisional agenda for each session of the General Conference. Rule 13 of the rules of procedure of the Conference provides guidelines for the contents of the provisional agenda of a regular session of the Conference. Furthermore, in accordance with rule 12, the Board shall prepare that provisional agenda on the basis of a list of items proposed for inclusion as submitted by the Director General.

5. Annotations indicating briefly the history of each item, the proposed documentation, the substance of the matter to be discussed and earlier relevant decisions by the Conference or other organs of the Organization will be issued following the fifty-first session of the Board.

6. A list of items proposed for inclusion in the provisional agenda for the twentieth session of the Conference is contained in annex I to the present document, together with an indication of relevant mandates for the items. A provisional schedule of work will be elaborated, taking into account the outcome of the fifty-first session of the Board.

D. Documentation

7. In accordance with rule 23 of the rules of procedure of the Conference, documents required for consideration of items on the provisional agenda will be distributed by the Director General in all languages of the Conference to all recipients of the agenda not later than forty-five days before the opening date of the session.

III. Organization of the work of the Conference

8. In keeping with practice of previous sessions of the General Conference, an overarching theme will be developed for the twentieth session.

9. As encouraged by the Conference in resolution GC.9/Res.1, a forum on industrial development issues shall be part of the Conference's sessions. Following the adoption of the Lima Declaration at the fifteenth Conference and in line with the successful approach of the last four sessions in 2015, 2017, 2019 and 2021, UNIDO's ISID Forum has been incorporated into the plenary of the Conference as the principal element of the forum on industrial development issues, complemented by the launch of the Industrial Development Report (IDR). At the twentieth session, the ISID Forum is planned for the second plenary meeting, while the launch of IDR is planned for the sixth plenary meeting. The forum events will provide participants with an opportunity

to engage in a high-level dialogue on various aspects of industrial development, communicate their views on selected topics that facilitate thematic and interregional debates, exchange knowledge, forge partnerships, and shape strategies for advancing ISID. In line with resolution GC.9/Res.1, it is suggested that these two events be included in the provisional agenda of the session under the title “Forum on industrial development issues”.

10. To focus the debate on critical issues, and in line with past practice, a speaking limit is proposed for interventions under general debate of five minutes for Member States and ten minutes for Government Ministers and regional groups. Furthermore, in line with the practice introduced in 2020 for the Programme and Budget Committee and the Industrial Development Board, delegations to the General Conference will be given the opportunity to provide pre-recorded video messages.

11. At its previous sessions, the Conference established a main committee to which it allocated a number of agenda items. The Board may wish to recommend to the Conference a similar procedure for its twentieth session, keeping in mind that the possibility of creating additional committees is constrained by the limited resources available (see para. 3 above). Items 7 to 23 of the proposed draft agenda would thus be referred to the main committee for a more focused debate aimed at the preparation of consensus draft decisions and resolutions for submission to the plenary.

12. The work of the previous sessions was also facilitated by pre-session informal consultations under the guidance of the President of the Board. Similar informal consultations, composed of representatives of permanent missions to UNIDO in Vienna, were convened prior to previous sessions of the Conference and prepared a report to the Conference containing recommendations that cover most of the items on the agenda, as well as organizational matters.

13. Taking into consideration past experiences, the Board may wish to suggest the early commencement of informal consultations chaired by the President of the Board. To facilitate the work of the informal consultations in advance of the General Conference, it is strongly recommended to adopt the successful approach of other organizations in establishing a deadline for the submission of draft decisions and resolutions of three weeks prior to the Conference.

IV. Action required of the Board

14. The Board may wish to consider adopting the following draft decision:

“The Industrial Development Board:

- (a) Takes note of the information provided in document [IDB.51/28](#);
- (b) Adopts the following agenda for the twentieth session of the General Conference:
 - 1. Opening of the session.
 - 2. Election of officers.
 - 3. Adoption of the agenda.
 - 4. Organization of work.
 - 5. Credentials of representatives to the Conference.
 - 6. Elections to organs:
 - (a) Industrial Development Board;
 - (b) Programme and Budget Committee.
 - 7. Annual reports of the Director General on the activities of the Organization for 2021 and 2022.

8. Reports of the Industrial Development Board on the work of its fiftieth and fifty-first regular sessions.
9. Forum on industrial development issues.
10. Financial matters:
 - (a) Scale of assessments for apportionment of the regular budget expenses for the biennium 2024–2025;
 - (b) Financial situation of UNIDO;
 - (c) Working Capital Fund for the biennium 2024–2025;
 - (d) Appointment of an External Auditor;
 - (e) Financial regulations (if required).
11. Programme and budgets, 2024–2025.
12. Midterm review of the Medium-term programme framework, 2022–2025: midterm update.
13. United Nations Development System Reform.
14. UNIDO, gender equality and the empowerment of women.
15. UNIDO and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
16. Reform of the UNIDO field network
17. UNIDO regional strategies
 - (a) UNIDO Regional Strategy for Africa
 - (b) UNIDO Regional Strategy for Asia and the Pacific
 - (c) UNIDO Regional Strategy for Latin America and the Caribbean
 - (d) UNIDO Regional Strategy for Europe and Central Asia
18. UNIDO activities related to Digital Transformation, Innovation and AI:
 - (a) UNIDO Strategic Framework for Digital Transformation, AI and the Fourth Industrial Revolution.
19. UNIDO activities related to the environment, energy and circular economy:
20. UNIDO activities related to structural transformation and sectoral expertise:
 - (a) UNIDO activities related to agribusiness, trade capacity-building and job creation.
21. UNIDO activities related to the Vienna Ministerial Declaration for the Least Developed Countries.
22. Personnel matters, including UNIDO Staff Pension Committee.
23. Matters related to intergovernmental, non-governmental, governmental and other organizations.
24. Date and place of the twenty-first session.
25. Closure of the session.
 - (c) Agrees to hold a forum on industrial development issues within the framework of the General Conference (provisional agenda, item XX);
 - (d) Recommends to the Conference that items 7 to 23 of the provisional agenda be allocated to a main committee of the Conference;

(e) Also recommends that, in the light of experience gained in the preparation of previous sessions of the Conference, the President of the fifty-first session of the Industrial Development Board conduct pre-session informal consultations for the preparation of the twentieth session of the Conference;

(f) Urges Member States to submit to the informal consultations any proposed draft decisions or resolutions by 6 November 2023.”

Annex

Items proposed for inclusion in the provisional agenda¹

General Conference, twentieth session, 27 November to 1 December 2023

	<i>Mandate</i>
1. Opening of the session.	Rule 34
2. Election of officers.	Rule 35
3. Adoption of the agenda.	Rule 17
4. Organization of work.	Rules 44–47
5. Credentials of representatives to the Conference.	Rule 28
6. Elections to organs:	Rule 102
(a) Industrial Development Board;	Constitution, Article 9.1
(b) Programme and Budget Committee.	Constitution, Article 10.1
7. Annual reports of the Director General on the activities of the Organization for 2021 and 2022.	Rule 13.1 (b)
8. Reports of the Industrial Development Board on the work of its fiftieth and fifty-first regular sessions.	Constitution, Article 8.3 (b) Rule 13.1 (c)
9. Forum on industrial development issues.	GC.9/Res.1 IDB.44/Dec.9 (e)(iii)
10. Financial matters:	
(a) Scale of assessments of Member States;	Constitution, Article 15 Rule 13.1 (k)
(b) Financial situation of UNIDO;	Rule 13.1 (l), IDB.27/Dec.2 (e)
(c) Working Capital Fund;	Financial regulation 5.4
(d) Appointment of an External Auditor;	Financial regulation 11.1
(e) Financial regulations (if required).	Financial regulation 12.2
11. Programme and budgets, 2024–2025.	Constitution, Articles 8.3 (c) and 14; Rule 13.1 (i)
12. Midterm review of the Medium-term programme framework, 2022–2025: midterm update.	GC.2/Dec.23, GC.6/Dec.10, GC.13/Res.3, GC.14/Dec.18, GC.16/Res.1 GC.17/Res.1 IDB.44/Dec.10
13. United Nations Development System Reform.	IDB.46/Dec.12(f)
14. UNIDO, gender equality and the empowerment of women.	GC.16/Res.3, GC.17/Res.3, GC.18/Res.2, GC.19/Res.1
15. UNIDO and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.	GC.15/Res.1 GC.16/Res.2
16. Reform of the UNIDO field network	Proposed by the Director General (rule 13.1 (b))

¹ To be updated to take account of mandates adopted by the Board at its forty-ninth session.

	<i>Mandate</i>
17. UNIDO regional strategies	Proposed by the Director General (rule 13.1 (b))
(a) UNIDO Regional Strategy for Africa	
(b) UNIDO Regional Strategy for Asia and the Pacific	
(c) UNIDO Regional Strategy for Latin America and the Caribbean	
(d) UNIDO Regional Strategy for Europe and Central Asia	
18. UNIDO activities related to Digital Transformation, Innovation and AI:	Proposed by the Director General (rule 13.1 (b))
(a) UNIDO Strategic Framework for Digital Transformation, AI and the Fourth Industrial Revolution.	
19. UNIDO activities related to the environment, energy and circular economy.	GC.18/Res.7, GC.19/Res.2, IDB.50/Dec.5, IDB.51/Dec.XX
20. UNIDO activities related to structural transformation and sectoral expertise	Proposed by the Director General (rule 13.1 (b))
(a) UNIDO activities related to agribusiness, trade capacity-building and job creation.	
21. UNIDO activities related to the Vienna Ministerial Declaration for the Least Developed Countries.	GC.19/Res.3
22. Personnel matters, including UNIDO Staff Pension Committee.	Staff regulation 13.2, document IDB.45/17 refers GC.1/Dec.37 IDB.44/Dec.13
23. Matters related to intergovernmental, non-governmental, governmental and other organizations.	GC.1/Dec.41, annex
24. Date and place of the twenty-first session.	Rule 13.1 (s)
25. Closure of the session.	