



# United Nations Industrial Development Organization

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## General Conference

### Seventeenth session

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Item 10 of the provisional agenda

### Forum on industrial development issues

## Forum on industrial development issues

### Issues paper by the Secretariat

The present document provides information on the events planned as part of the forum on industrial development issues, to be held in the plenary of the seventeenth session of the General Conference. The document further provides an overview of the additional events, which are planned to take place during the course of the Conference from 27 November to 1 December.

## I. Introduction

1. The forum on industrial development issues was introduced into the proceedings of the General Conference with the intention of providing a high-level platform for informed dialogue on the role of inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID) in the achievement of broader social and economic development goals, first and foremost the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and its associated Sustainable Development Goals.
2. This year's General Conference will take place under the overarching theme "Partnering for impact — achieving the Sustainable Development Goals".
3. In light of the successful experiences of the UNIDO Forum on Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID) and of the UNIDO Donor Meeting, both of these events will again be incorporated into the General Conference plenary as the principal elements of this year's forum on industrial development issues. Furthermore, capitalizing on past experience, the seventeenth session of the General Conference will focus the participation and spotlight on a restricted number of additional events by offering a single, streamlined schedule throughout the one-week period. Participants at the Conference will be able to join these additional events, without jeopardizing their presence in plenary meetings.
4. The proceedings of all the events will provide a unique and interactive platform for an inclusive discussion and exchange of ideas and information between high-level development policy experts, private sector, academia and leading development partners.

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



5. In light of the calibre of both the panel participants and the audience members, it is envisaged that these discussions will provide a great opportunity to emphasize UNIDO's innovative initiatives, achievements and partnerships in promoting its ISID mandate for the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda. Furthermore, this session of the General Conference is envisaged as a fully immersive experience for participants, inclusive of innovative formats for the events and integrated exhibition and networking spaces.

6. In section II, the present document provides an outline of the events of the forum on industrial development issues, namely the World Women Leaders Talk, the sixth UNIDO forum on inclusive and sustainable industrial development UNIDO and the Donor Meeting 2017. In addition to these events taking place in the plenary of the General Conference, a number of interactive discussions will take place on issues related to the mandate of UNIDO and the theme of the Conference. These additional events will explore, inter alia, such issues as gender, the circular economy and industry 4.0. Furthermore, the Organization's continued emphasis on Africa is highlighted by spotlighting UNIDO's leading role in the Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA III). Several of the events will use innovative formats and technologies to provide Member States and partners with an opportunity for interactive participation through state-of-the-art tools. An outline of these additional interactive events, including topics and issues to be explored, will be provided in a conference room paper.

7. A more detailed issues note for each event and information concerning the timing and location of each event will be made available to all participants of the Conference, inter alia through the UNIDO website on [www.unido.org/gc17.html](http://www.unido.org/gc17.html).

## **II. Events of the forum on industrial development issues**

### **(a) World Women Leaders Talk**

#### **Background**

8. Agreement on the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) also represents an agreement on a vision of inclusive societies that provide equal opportunities to all. In fulfilling its ISID mandate, UNIDO has shown that there is clear evidence underlining the strong connection between industrialization and the three basic dimensions of human development: standard of living, education and health. There is also evidence for the environmental performance of economies: the higher the degree of industrial development, the more likely is the application of energy saving measures and the use of environmentally friendly technologies in those countries.

9. In short, on every important measure, whether adjusted or not adjusted for inequality and environmental sustainability, human development is greater in industrialized countries. Therefore, the implementation of the Lima Declaration towards more ISID is a cornerstone in the achievement of the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda.

10. Despite these obvious benefits for the well-being of people and countries, the implementation of the SDGs and in particular Goal 9, "build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation", through ISID does not receive the awareness and support by the international community that it merits. As a result, the support needed for the necessary strengthening of productive capacities and industries in developing countries, and the required global restructuring of industries towards an inclusive and sustainable approach is not commensurate with the challenges ahead. Here, the United Nations, and in particular UNIDO, can play a pivotal role for its Member States, but it needs to be supported and equipped adequately by the international community to fulfil its role in an ever more unequal and environmentally stressed world.

11. The World Women Leaders Talk opens the General Conference, throughout which these issues will be explored and discussed in interactive events. Setting the tone for the entire Conference, it will feature a number of high-level women in the world of politics, who will discuss these issues from a political perspective.

#### **Issues to be addressed**

12. The role of political leadership for the advancement of the 2030 Agenda;
13. The need for enhancing industrialization as one of the cornerstones of development and social well-being in economies, and for people and societies as a whole;
14. The role of innovation and education, training and learning as the foundation for any economic and social advancement of countries in the twenty-first century;
15. The need to focus on policies to reduce economic and social inequalities within and among countries as the foundation for peace and stability; and
16. The pivotal role of the United Nations, and UNIDO in particular, to support Member States in pursuit of policies and strategies for inclusive and sustainable development.

### **(b) The sixth UNIDO forum on inclusive and sustainable industrial development**

#### **Background**

17. Since 2014, UNIDO organizes regular ISID forums. These allow UNIDO Member States and other partners to engage in a strategic dialogue on various aspects of industrial development. To date, UNIDO has organized five such events. They have respectively focused on:

- (a) Identifying best practices in policy, strategy and instruments for advancing industrialization;
- (b) Fostering partnerships among Member States, United Nations agencies, financial institutions and the private sector for the implementation of development programmes;
- (c) Demonstrating how multi-stakeholder partnerships, such as the Programme for Country Partnerships (PCPs),<sup>1</sup> can mobilize and upscale non-traditional financing for ISID, a central theme to Goal 9;
- (d) UNIDO's contribution to advancing industry, infrastructure and innovation in the context of Goal 9, specifically the potential of multi-stakeholder partnerships for creating linkages and synergies between investment in infrastructure, industrial development and innovation;
- (e) The challenges faced by Africa's industrialization and the importance of regional integration; and
- (f) Sharing the experience and results of PCP implementation in the three pilot countries of Ethiopia, Peru and Senegal to sensitize African countries to the principles of ISID.

#### **Issues to be addressed**

18. UNIDO has been piloting the PCP in Ethiopia, Senegal and Peru, and is about to expand the piloting to also cover the Arab region, Central Asia and South-East Asia, to gain experience from all geographic regions. The PCPs seek to operationalize

<sup>1</sup> The PCP is a multi-stakeholder partnership approach aimed at accelerating ISID under the strong leadership of the national Government. A PCP is aligned with the national industrialization priorities of the benefiting country and the national programmes relevant for advancing ISID. It is also aligned with the priorities of financial institutions that provide credit lines for large-scale infrastructure development and financing for private investment. Other partners in a PCP include United Nations sister organizations, bilateral donors and the private sector.

the Organization's ambition to partner for impact and indeed for achieving the SDGs at national level. From a substantive point of view, the PCP differs from the traditional country programme through a stronger country analysis, a proactive engagement with international finance institutions (IFIs) and the private sector, a much stronger positioning of UNIDO at the core of the host country's industrial policymaking, and a strategic focus on assisting the host country in coordinating flows of resources from public investment (possibly with the support of IFIs) and private investment.

19. To support the Organization in developing a standardized approach for the PCPs to facilitate mainstreaming them throughout the work of UNIDO, a midterm evaluation of the ongoing pilot PCPs is currently being undertaken and scheduled to be finalized in October 2017. The results thereof will subsequently be shared with Member States. It is expected that the evaluation will provide a number of important findings that will identify best practices and assist in the development of standard procedures.

20. Against this backdrop, the sixth ISID forum will present some of the key findings and lessons learned from the midterm PCP evaluation and how UNIDO will incorporate these into the proposed PCP mainstreaming strategy, with the vision to generate larger development impact compared to the Organization's traditional *modus operandi*. The forum will also discuss and present how the mainstreaming will be conducted starting in 2018.

### (c) UNIDO Donor Meeting 2017

#### Background

21. UNIDO has been hosting the Donor Meeting since 2014. All previous meetings, provided participants with the opportunity to learn about UNIDO's success stories. These are presented through engaging storytelling videos and interactive panel discussions. This year, the event will feature three panel discussions. They will present selected success stories from UNIDO's technical cooperation portfolio, with a focus on their impact and relevance in the implementation of the SDGs.

#### Issues to be addressed

22. The three panels will highlight different aspects of how UNIDO's partnerships with some of its strongest donors contribute to the implementation of a number of SDGs:

(a) Fittingly, the first panel will focus mainly on the first Sustainable Development Goal, "no poverty", complemented by Goals 7 "affordable and clean energy", 9 "industry, innovation and infrastructure" and 13 "climate action". The discussion will virtually encompass all aspects of industrial development from reduction of poverty and bolstering human security through trade and investment facilitation, to engaging with the private sector in the areas of energy, the environment and climate change, drawing upon examples of programmes aiming to promote rapid deployment and global dissemination of new low-carbon technologies and services to enhance access to clean, reliable and sustainable energy in Africa, and those falling under the thematic area of implementing the SDGs and the humanitarian-development nexus;

(b) "Industry 4.Future": this panel discussion will move the discussion to Goals 4, 8 and 17. UNIDO's impact on "quality education", "decent work and economic growth" and "partnerships for the Goals" will be the focus of this segment of the event. It will highlight some of the work done towards establishing efficient market-oriented vocational training systems, in Africa by facilitating knowledge sharing and supporting a wider innovative approach for public-private development partnerships in skills development;

(c) The event will close by featuring UNIDO's main SDG, Goal 9 as well as Goal 8 "Decent work and economic growth", Goal 12 "Responsible consumption and production" and Goal 17 "Partnerships for the Goals". In this panel discussion, the

emphasis is on how the Organization aims to achieve inclusive and sustainable industrial development objectives, inter alia through the diverse contribution of the quality infrastructure system and the resulting international trade. The discussion will be illustrated by examples from UNIDO's work on the national quality infrastructure in Nigeria.

### **III. Action required of the Conference**

23. The Conference may wish to take note of the information provided on the various events.

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