



## **General Conference**

### **Seventeenth session**

Vienna, 27 November-1 December 2017

Item 18 of the provisional agenda

### **UNIDO activities related to the Vienna Ministerial Declaration for the Least Developed Countries**

## **UNIDO activities in support of least developed countries**

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

In compliance with resolution GC.16/Res.4 on the Vienna Ministerial Declaration for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), the present document provides information on the implementation of the resolution and the activities that have been undertaken in support of the least developed countries.

## **I. Introduction**

1. UNIDO's operational strategy towards least developed countries (LDCs) (2011-2020)<sup>1</sup> is based on an approach derived directly from the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA). UNIDO's strategy offers concrete solutions leading to inclusive growth, sustainable industrial development and, ultimately, structural transformation of the LDCs' economies.

2. In 2016 and 2017, UNIDO continued to provide its expertise through a wide array of services, and strongly reaffirmed its commitment to support LDCs' graduation through its mandate of inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID), as adopted in the Lima Declaration in December 2013 (GC.15/Res.1). Furthermore, UNIDO has confirmed its unique position as a key specialized agency in eradicating poverty and addressing the specific structural transformation needs of LDCs. The Organization has achieved this status by, inter alia, advocating for and supporting the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 9: "Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation", within the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

<sup>1</sup> The full list of LDCs is available from: [www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/wp-content/uploads/sites/45/publication/ldc\\_list.pdf](http://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/wp-content/uploads/sites/45/publication/ldc_list.pdf).

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



3. UNIDO contributes to gender equality by ensuring greater participation of women in various industrial sectors and fostering the involvement of youth in entrepreneurship development. The Organization also promotes the critical role of South-South and triangular cooperation, in addition to the traditional North-South cooperation.
4. The following report offers a snapshot of UNIDO's activities geared towards structural transformation and graduation of LDCs.

## **II. Contributing to the development of least developed countries**

5. UNIDO is determined to provide policy and advisory services to LDC Governments, while mainstreaming industrialization into their national development visions and plans through its technical cooperation activities and contribution to General Assembly resolutions, global forums and agendas.
6. UNIDO participated in the comprehensive High-Level Midterm Review of the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA), held in May 2016. A UNIDO delegation under the overall leadership of the Director General participated in all parts of the conference, including as panellists in five sessions and side events, reaffirming the Organization as a key LDC development partner. The Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States acknowledged UNIDO as a strong implementing partner of the IPoA.
7. The Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA3) resolution [70/293](#) adopted by the General Assembly on 25 July 2016, specifically calls on UNIDO "to develop, operationalize and lead the implementation of the programme for the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa, in accordance with its mandate and through voluntary contributions". It also invites UNIDO "to scale up its technical assistance to African countries in order to promote inclusive and sustainable industrial development."
8. Progress on the implementation of the Programmes for Country Partnerships (PCPs) in the two pilot LDCs, Ethiopia and Senegal, remained steady for the period under review. As of 2016, start-up activities for the PCPs are being rolled out in both LDCs. The First International Agro-Industry Investment Forum was held in Addis Ababa in October 2016 to mobilize additional private investment in light manufacturing, with a particular focus on food processing, textiles and garments, and leather. The fifth ISID Forum was held in Dakar in November 2016 to showcase the PCP to the countries in the region, and attract investment for the Diamniadio industrial platform and agro-poles.
9. Similarly, UNIDO has developed country programmes (CPs) for 27 LDC countries. Some CPs have already been included in new national development strategies. Additionally, other LDCs benefited from UNIDO's technical cooperation, which aims to support the implementation and mainstreaming of Goal 9 and other SDGs.
10. Technical and Financial Partners Roundtables were organized in Burkina Faso, Chad, Guinea, Niger, Togo, Rwanda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. These Roundtables were successful, attracted multiple donors and leveraged discussions on potential partnerships with UNIDO in the implementation of the CPs in LDCs.
11. In close cooperation with the Government of Canada, UNIDO has recently implemented a \$11 million project entitled "Upgrading the fishery sector in South Sudan" that addresses fishing communities and actors along the entire fisheries value chain.
12. With the assistance of UNIDO, the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the Rwanda Bureau of Development, has established Community Processing Centres to

drive post-harvest value addition for selected commodities and supported operationalizing the anchor Brera Community Processing Centre on a sustainable commercial basis.

13. In Malawi, UNIDO developed and disseminated a National Quality Strategy and assisted in the strengthening of the capacity of the Malawi Bureau of Standards to deliver business services and achieve financial sustainability.

14. In Zambia, with support from the Swedish International Development Agency and the Volvo Group, a new training programme will be developed in consultation with the local industry, to ensure that courses are demand driven and meet the current needs of the work environment.

15. UNIDO has developed and implemented the Inclusive Development and Entrepreneurship for All programme in Senegal within the framework of UNIDO's PCP, which aims at strengthening the vocational training system of Senegal's human resources, in particular for women and youth. This has contributed to the creation of about 200 enterprises and 385 direct jobs for young women and men.

16. With financial support from the Global Environment Facility, UNIDO is assisting Guinea-Bissau in the promotion of renewable energy investments to reduce the dependence on expensive fossil fuel imports and to expand rural electrification. In an additional partnership, UNIDO, the African Development Bank, the Austrian Development Bank, and the Gambian River Basin Development Organization have started the development of the medium-scale run-of-river hydropower project Saltinho. This project has an estimated electric capacity of 19 megawatt and an overall investment of \$60 to \$80 million.

17. In partnership with the Austrian Development Agency and SIDS DOCK,<sup>2</sup> UNIDO has established the Caribbean Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, which responds to the urgent need for enhanced South-South cooperation and regional capacities to promote sustainable energy investments, markets and industries in the Caribbean. Moreover, the Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency was inaugurated in April 2017 in Nuku'alofa, Tonga. The Centre is part of a wider partnership for the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, which aims to establish a network of regional sustainable energy centres for SIDS in Africa, Caribbean, Pacific and Indian Ocean. The partnership contributes to the SDGs — particularly SDG 7, SDG 9 and SDG 13 — and to the Regional Framework for Action on Energy Security in the Pacific.

18. UNIDO assisted the Governments of LDCs in building their industrial policy plans and strategies by providing tailored advisory services. The "Industrial policy capacity-building support programme" aims to assist countries, such as the United Republic of Tanzania, in formulating and implementing evidence-based industrial policies and strategies. Furthermore, UNIDO assisted the United Republic of Tanzania by training national statistical authorities in collecting, compiling and disseminating global industrial statistics. The project is now being replicated and scaled up to all East Africa Community countries, as well as other regions of the continent.

19. UNIDO is developing customized projects to foster economic recovery targeting impacted populations by reintegrating them within productive activities. As such, a special emphasis is put on building up and strengthening local human and transformative capacities, especially targeting youth and women. For instance, in Mali, UNIDO and the United Nations Development Programme are implementing a joint project, supporting the resilience capacity of youth and women in the Gao and

<sup>2</sup> The initiative is called SIDS DOCK because it is designed as a "DOCKing station" able to connect the energy sector in small island developing states (SIDS) with the global markets for finance, sustainable energy technologies, and with carbon markets in the European Union (EU) and the United States of America (US). The initiative enables SIDS to trade the avoided carbon emissions in those markets. Estimates place the potential value of the US and EU markets between \$100 to \$400 billion annually.

Timbuktu regions after armed conflict. This project is funded by the United Nations Peace Building Fund and aims to consolidate the reconciliation and peace-building process by providing technical and operational tailor-made training and skills development, access to finance to youth and women and by creating spaces for discussion and exchange.

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

20. The Conference may wish to take note of the information contained in the present document.

---