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UNIDO and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

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Report by the Director General

This document provides information on the contribution of UNIDO to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It is submitted in line with General Conference resolutions GC.15/Res.1 and GC.16/Res.2, and in accordance with the 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 (HLPF). This report builds on the report by the Director General presented at the forty-fifth session of the Board (IDB.45/12).

I. Introduction and strategic framework

1. In line with GC.16/Res.2, the alignment of UNIDO's strategic framework, programmes and activities with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has been further consolidated since the sixteenth session of the General Conference. The medium-term programme framework (MTPF) 2016-2019 already provided the strategic and programmatic framework for UNIDO's alignment with, and contribution to, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
2. The updated MTPF for the period 2018-2021, taken note of by the Board in decision IDB.45/Dec.12, took further steps towards establishing a closer and formal link between UNIDO's results and the SDGs. More specifically, the MTPF 2018-2021 reflects the alignment of UNIDO's mandate of inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID) with the SDGs: as a component of Goal 9 and a critical enabler of other SDGs. In addition, the MTPF establishes a link to the Organization's integrated results and performance framework (IRPF), which includes a set of SDGs

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in one of its four levels, to monitor and report UNIDO's impact at the global level.¹ With the adoption of the MTPF 2018-2021, the alignment of UNIDO's strategic and programme framework with the 2030 Agenda is therefore fully consolidated.

II. Contribution to the 2030 Agenda

3. In line with resolutions GC.16/Res.1 and GC.16/Res.2, and the MTPF 2018-2021, all UNIDO activities that support Member States in achieving ISID have been aligned to the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs. Accordingly, all reporting tools were adapted to highlight UNIDO's contribution to the relevant SDGs.

4. Responding to decision IDB.44/Dec.2, and as recognized in decision IDB.45/Dec.5, the Annual Report 2016 was prepared with a view to reporting on the "implementation of the medium-term programme framework and on UNIDO's contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals, as well as its follow-up and review mechanism". The Annual Report 2016 therefore details UNIDO's programmatic activities in support of the 2030 Agenda, as well as the corresponding results indicators. The documents on the Organization's activities in the areas of gender, energy and environment, and agribusiness, trade capacity-building and job creation (GC.17/7, GC.17/9 and GC.17/10) contain the specific thematic contributions.

5. UNIDO also continues to work with Member States and other partners to further spur the international cooperation for ISID since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda. An important milestone in this context was the adoption of United Nations General Assembly resolution [70/293](#), which proclaimed the period 2016-2025 as the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA III). The resolution called on UNIDO to lead with partner organizations the implementation of IDDA III. In addition, UNIDO's input to the work of the Group of 20 (G20) led, inter alia, to the adoption of the G20 initiative on supporting industrialization in Africa and least developed countries (LDCs). The Organization also supported the deliberations of the Brazil, Russian Federation, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) 2017 summit. These are examples of UNIDO's strategy to contribute to the international efforts towards ISID and industry-related SDGs with its technical and analytical expertise, as well as its convening and normative function.

6. In addition, UNIDO has a long standing expertise as facilitator and broker for technology transfer to implement international industrial cooperation and development. On this basis, the Organization has played a leading role in the United Nations system-wide Science Technology and Innovation (STI) activities. UNIDO's involvement encompasses the Inter-agency Working Group on a Technology Facilitation Mechanism (IAWG), the collaborative Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for SDGs (STI forum), and the work of the United Nations Inter-agency Task Team on Science, Technology and Innovation for SDGs (IATT). While contributing to all work streams of the IAWG programme, UNIDO has specifically taken a leading role in organizing discussions and actions of the IATT on STI capacity-building. In this context, UNIDO participated in the second STI forum in May 2017 and co-organized a side event on "The Implications of Technology and Innovation for the Future of Manufacturing". The issue of advanced manufacturing for sustainable development was also at the core of UNIDO's contribution to the Global Manufacturing and Industrialization Summit (GMIS) co-organized by the Organization in Abu Dhabi in March 2017.

III. UNIDO and the high-level political forum 2017

7. The review of progress on the SDGs at the annual high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF) provides an opportunity to assess the relevance and

¹ Document IDB.45/8/Add.2, figure 1.

effectiveness of UNIDO's support of Member States in achieving the SDGs. The 2017 HLPF, with the theme "Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world", was particularly significant for UNIDO, as it featured an in-depth review of six SDGs, including Goal 9. UNIDO contributed to the review by providing substantive input to the HLPF through its Industrial Development Board, which included analysis and evidence of the status, gaps, lessons learned, and policy recommendations for the eradication of poverty through ISID.²

8. UNIDO also contributed to various preparatory activities to the HLPF. In May 2017, UNIDO, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), supported the President of ECOSOC to organize a special meeting on "Innovations for Infrastructure Development and Promoting Sustainable Industrialization". This event discussed the challenges and opportunities associated with the achievement of Goal 9. Prior to the special meeting, UNIDO and selected United Nations organizations also assisted the President of ECOSOC to organize two expert group meetings: one in Dakar, Senegal, on 26 March 2017, and another one in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, from 24 to 26 April 2017. Both meetings helped to generate consensus on new norms and standards, which ECOSOC would use to promote infrastructure and industrialization. The event in Zimbabwe also provided new impetus for the partnership with FAO and other partners for a renewed African Agribusiness and Agro-industries Development Initiative (3ADI).

9. Furthermore, UNIDO contributed to the "United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14", or "The Ocean Conference", which was held in June 2017 in preparation for the HLPF 2017. In the general debate, UNIDO underlined its importance in achieving Goal 14. The Organization also organized two side events. At the inaugural ECOSOC forum on "Financing for sustainable development: follow-up to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA)" in April 2016, UNIDO delivered a presentation at a side event on investment, promotion and facilitation measures for the LDCs, in which it highlighted the Programme for Country Partnership (PCP) model.

10. At the HLPF 2017 itself, UNIDO intervened in numerous thematic sessions and in the implementation reviews of Goal 5 and Goal 9. In the general debate of the HLPF, UNIDO delivered a statement highlighting its mission and pivotal role in reducing multidimensional poverty. During the session on Goal 9, the Organization delivered the first statement of the interactive session. The Organization also organized a side event with the Permanent Missions of Austria and Zambia, as well as the Office of the High Representative for the LDCs, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States. The title of the event was "Accelerating inclusive and sustainable development in landlocked developing countries through structural transformation: Pursuing policy at the nexus of infrastructure and industrialization".

11. These interventions led to a greater general appreciation of UNIDO's mandate and the importance of inclusive and sustainable industrialization for the achievement of sustainable development. During the general debate, His Excellency Mr. Tekeda Alemu, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations in New York, spoke on behalf of the 35 UNIDO Member States which make up the Group of Friends of ISID. He stated that efforts must be made to promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization in developing countries in order to eradicate poverty. Mr. Alemu also highlighted the important role of UNIDO and called for its former Member States to rejoin the Organization. The President of ECOSOC and representatives from FAO recognized and thanked UNIDO for its contribution on various occasions. They also requested that both the PCP and the renewed 3ADI are further elaborated and fully implemented. Through various side events, UNIDO also reinforced strategic partnerships with many of its Member States, as well as private sector organizations and universities. UNIDO also received recognition in some of

² https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/14570Industrial_Development_Board_of_UNIDO.pdf.

the Voluntary National Reviews of implementation submitted to the HLPF, most explicitly in the reports by Azerbaijan, Cyprus, Indonesia, Togo, and Uruguay.

12. Looking ahead, the HLPF 2018 will address the theme of “Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies”. It will review Goals 6 on water and sanitation, 7 on energy, 11 on cities, 12 on consumption and production, 15 on land, and 17 on partnerships, some of which are central to UNIDO’s work. UNIDO will continue to build on the momentum of this year’s HLPF and on the widening support for inclusive and sustainable industrialization. It will continue to scale up its policy advisory, normative and convening function, as a complement to its well established technical cooperation function. And it will participate in various forums.

IV. UNIDO and the United Nations reform

13. With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, the United Nations development system (UNDS) embarked on a reform process to make the system “fit for purpose” to deliver on its vision and goals. Consultations on this reform were held during the preparations for the latest quadrennial comprehensive policy review (QCPR) resolution [71/243](#). In this resolution, the Member States of the United Nations mandated the Secretary-General to outline his vision of the repositioning of the UNDS in two reports in 2017. Specifically, the QCPR resolution asked the Secretary-General to:

- (a) Carry out a system-wide outline of present functions and existing capacities of the UNDS;
- (b) Develop a system-wide strategic document;
- (c) Present a comprehensive report on how to improve the accountability and overall coordination of the entities;
- (d) Present a comprehensive proposal on further improvements to the Resident Coordinator system.

14. The first Secretary-General’s report entitled “Repositioning the UN development system to deliver on the 2030 Agenda — Ensuring a better future for all” was published on 5 July 2017.³ It presents an early sense of direction and concrete recommendations for what will be the most far-reaching reform of the UNDS in the past twenty years. Country-level activities will take centre stage in the planning, implementation and performance assessment of the UNDS contribution to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

15. Until the second report by the Secretary-General is presented at the end of 2017, consultations at various levels will intensify. UNIDO has been actively involved in the work of the United Nations Development Group and the relevant Results Groups. Through its field representation, UNIDO will intensify its efforts to further promote the Organization’s contribution at the country level.

16. In addition to UNIDO’s direct contribution to the process, the PCP model highlights the Organization’s efforts in developing partnerships for ISID. This contribution to increased coordination across the UNDS is a key principle of the QCPR and the 2030 Agenda, and is specifically recognized in Goal 17.

V. Action required of the Conference

17. The Conference may wish to take note of the information contained in this document.

³ <https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/node/1213351>.