



## **Industrial Development Board**

### **Forty-eighth session**

Vienna, 23–25 November 2020

Item 7 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, in line with resolutions GC.15/Res.1 and GC.16/Res.2, and in accordance with the Programme and Budget Committee conclusion 2016/6 and Board decision IDB.44/Dec.9(e)(i).

## **I. Overview**

1. Following the SDG Summit in 2019, the Secretary-General of the United Nations launched the Decade of Action<sup>1</sup> to call for the acceleration of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. At the SDG Summit, the United Nations Member States reaffirmed the transformative vision of the 2030 Agenda, while expressing concern over the slow rate of progress in many areas.

2. With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the need to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is critical as the international community uses the opportunity of recovery to move towards a greener, more inclusive, stronger and resilient economy. Industry has an important role to play in the response to the crisis, emphasising the significance of inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID) as embedded in Goal 9<sup>2</sup>. Industries provide essential goods, food products, medical and pharmaceutical products. In addition, Industry is an evolving sector with advances in technology and digitization that continues to provide jobs and generate income.

\* Reissued for technical reasons on 22 October 2020.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/decade-of-action/>

<sup>2</sup> See A/75/158.

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

3. At the global level, UNIDO participated in the first virtual HLPF 2020 themed “Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development”. The HLPF 2020 provided UNIDO with an opportunity to highlight the continued importance of its mandate to promote and accelerate ISID.

4. UNIDO contributed its expertise to pre-HLPF consultations in three of the six thematic sessions on sustainable energy, inequality and sustainable development, and bolstering local action to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Due to the extraordinarily restrictive working modalities arising from the pandemic, the UNIDO Industrial Development Board was unable to submit its position to this year’s HLPF.

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

5. As the custodian agency for the six industry-related indicators under Goal 9, UNIDO introduced a composite measure, the SDG-9 index, designed to support its Member States to assess the extent to which countries have industrialized while promoting social inclusiveness and minimizing natural resource use and negative environmental impacts.

6. As part of its normative function, UNIDO released its flagship publication, the Industrial Development Report 2020 in 2019. The report examines how countries can make progress in Goal 9 by building the necessary capabilities to adopt advanced digital production technologies. UNIDO also released the publication “Industrialization as the Driver of Sustained Prosperity”, which explains the key role of Goal 9 in advancing the SDGs by elucidating the positive links between industrialization and the socio-economic and environmental SDGs. Considering the crucial role Goal 9 plays in the attainment of the 2030 Agenda, the UNIDO Analytical Platform incorporated a tool to monitor and evaluate individual countries’ progress on Goal 9.

7. The operationalization of the Programme for Country Partnerships (PCPs) in 10 countries<sup>3</sup> remains a key programmatic focus for UNIDO as the PCPs continue to strive to achieve developmental impact in implementing countries. For example, with 20 development partners collaborating under strong leadership from the government, the PCP in Ethiopia has been able to facilitate the leveraging of public and private resources amounting to over \$ 1.2 billion towards large-scale industrial projects such as the development of agro-industrial parks. Other than the PCPs, UNIDO is also implementing as many as 45 Country Programmes across different regions.

8. The strengthening of ongoing and forging of new partnerships (Goal 17) remains a fundamental approach for UNIDO to fulfil its mandate. With the beneficiary government taking ownership of the process, UNIDO engaged with a wide range of partners to leverage financial resources to achieve scalable developmental impact. Cooperation with international financial institutions, such as the African Development Bank and the World Bank, as well as investment and technology transfer projects with the private sector, have been instrumental to accelerate the achievement of ISID. Partnerships with multilateral funds, such as the Global Environment Facility and the Multilateral Fund for the Montreal Protocol, as well as an emerging partnership with the Green Climate Fund remain vital to UNIDO’s environment portfolio. Cooperation with other United Nations agencies, from the International Labour Organization (ILO) to the World Health Organization and in particular entities

<sup>3</sup> Cambodia, Côte d’Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, Peru, Rwanda, Senegal, and Zambia as of August 2020.

within the United Nations, country teams have supported the creation of stronger synergies.

9. Prior to the pandemic, with the convergence of the digital and traditional manufacturing sectors, the fourth industrial revolution (4IR) was bringing rapid and unprecedented change to the manufacturing sector. With the extraordinary COVID-19 lockdown, the pandemic unexpectedly accelerated digitization, as feasible technological solutions helped to minimize disruptions in business continuity and supply chains. UNIDO shows how the crisis opened unique opportunities for the utilization of 4IR technology to future-proof productive sectors and foster long-term resilience towards the building of a better future in its publication “COVID-19, Implications & Responses. Digital Transformation & Industrial Recovery” released in June 2020.

10. UNIDO continues to assist its Member States’ industries to contribute to climate neutrality and the circular economy by adopting energy and resource efficient manufacturing practices and innovation. UNIDO supports Member States to fulfil national commitments under different multilateral environmental agreements, including the Paris Agreement and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. UNIDO is also facilitating access to affordable green and climate finance, contributing to a just transition towards sustainable industrialization. This is undertaken via a wide range of projects supporting the achievement of multiple SDGs.

11. UNIDO updated its Policy on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women to strengthen its organizational gender architecture and accountability framework in 2019. UNIDO Member States also adopted the 2020-2023 Strategy for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, and a policy on panel parity was adopted to ensure equal representation of women in events organized by or under the auspices of UNIDO. In July 2020, a three-day high-level online conference entitled “Women in Industry and Innovation” was organized to help build women’s resilience to global challenges and emerging crises.

12. In 2019, UNIDO collaborated with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Governments of Finland, Norway and Sweden, to organize the first annual Vienna Discussion Forum, a platform to call for action on gender equality within the context of the SDGs. The Forum discussed ending violence against women through economic empowerment, crime prevention and criminal justice responses. It delivered policy and operational recommendations for implementation. On International Women’s Day 2020, UNIDO and the Vienna-based United Nations organizations launched an advocacy campaign under the initiative #WeMustDoBetter, calling for the acceleration of progress on gender equality.

13. Organizationally, internal operations support and enhance organizational effectiveness, contributing to programme effectiveness towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda:

(a) With the continued strong support of UNIDO’s partners from the public and private sector, UNIDO’s portfolio of projects and programmes for future implementation reached an unprecedented amount of \$586.6 million;

(b) The UNIDO Office of Legal Affairs negotiated and concluded over 130 agreements and arrangements with governments, international organizations, national organizations, and other entities in 2019. The majority of these agreements and arrangements relate to funding and cooperation activities of the Organization in support of the 2030 Agenda;<sup>4</sup>

(c) The UNIDO Office of Evaluation and Internal Oversight participates in the United Nations Evaluation Group and the United Nations Representatives of Audit Services, providing value-adding and timely diagnostics, insight and advice to further

<sup>4</sup> See Appendix G of the UNIDO 2019 Annual Report.

enhance UNIDO's systems of governance, accountability, risk management and results reporting;

(d) Despite the pandemic, UNIDO Liaison Offices in Brussels, Geneva and New York continued to actively advocate, communicate and participate in intergovernmental and inter-agency dialogues, supporting the strategic positioning of UNIDO's work that contributes to the 2030 Agenda, particularly SDGs 1, 2, 8, 9, 12, 13 and 17. The international community is continually sensitized to issues related to Goal 9, and its interlinkages with the other SDGs. UNIDO joined forces with the United Nations system in its response to COVID-19 through its engagement in New York, whilst operational partnerships with Geneva-based agencies were strengthened, notably with the International Trade Centre, the ILO, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the International Telecommunication Union, especially in support of the third Industrial Development Decade for Africa, IDDA III. The outreach to Europe-based institutions, including the European Union (EU), has resulted in ongoing UNIDO projects of €179 million, and hard pipeline projects of approximately €69.8 million. The impact of the EU-UNIDO partnership is documented in "UNIDO and the EU: State of the International Partnership 2020".

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

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

---