



United Nations Industrial Development Organization

Distr.: General
27 August 2019

Original: English

General Conference

Eighteenth session

Abu Dhabi, 3–7 November 2019

Item 15 of the provisional agenda

UNIDO and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

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Report by the Director General

The present document provides information on the contribution of UNIDO to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It is written 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 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 update by the Director General on the implementation of the Lima Declaration in document GC.16/7, which provided an action plan for supporting and monitoring progress towards achieving inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID), as a concrete follow-up to the industry-related development goals of the 2030 Agenda.

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



I. Overview

1. The medium-term programme framework (MTPF) 2018–2021 provides the strategic guidance for UNIDO to realize its mandate to promote inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID). The MTPF 2018–2021 also reflects the long-term vision of UNIDO Member States, as stated in the 2013 Lima Declaration.¹
2. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are interlinked by nature, and the MTPF 2018–2021 management objective to integrate and scale up enables the Organization² to ensure that progress is made towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

II. Follow-up and review at the global level

3. At the global level, and as part of the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda, UNIDO, working with the Board, submitted inputs to the HLPF 2019 themed “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality”. The inputs provided by the Board to the HLPF 2019 showed how the SDGs under review (4, 8, 10, 13, 16 and 17) were vital for the achievement of ISID, and vice versa. Some of the key messages included:

(a) Industrial development is a vehicle for poverty reduction through the generation of income-earning opportunities for the poor. Manufacturing jobs provide greater opportunities for skills upgrading and offer higher employment security and benefits, particularly for women and young people;

(b) Industry is a key generator of viable solutions to global development challenges, and these solutions need to be adapted, scaled up and deployed at the pace that would ensure a worldwide achievement of SDGs;

(c) Emerging digital solutions for the energy-water-food nexus enable the development of new business models in the industrial sector while helping increase resilience to the adverse effects of climate change. Digital technologies help enhance resource-efficient production and heighten environmental standards in industries.

4. An SDG Summit was held on 24 and 25 September 2019 at the 74th session of the General Assembly under the HLPF. This was the first United Nations summit on the SDGs since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda in September 2015. It comprehensively reviewed progress made in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 SDGs.³

III. Supporting achievements towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

5. UNIDO continues to fulfil its mandate and role in the maintenance of the global industrial statistics database, which has gained increased relevance in recent years for the purpose of SDG monitoring. As the custodian agency for the six industrialization-related indicators under SDG 9, UNIDO supports the work of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group (IAEG) on SDG indicators, and contributes to the global annual report and data platform on sustainable development. The Organization participates in inter-agency and expert groups on SDG indicators through a sustained engagement

¹ 2013 Lima Declaration, para. 1.

² The integration and scale-up of UNIDO organizational effectiveness (level 4) and programme management effectiveness (level 3) cascading up to delivering country results with UNIDO support (level 2) contributing to global development results (level 1).

³ In addition to the SDG Summit, several other high-level meetings will be held alongside the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly, including the Secretary-General’s Climate Action Summit, a High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage, a High-Level Dialogue on Financing for Development and a High-Level Review of the SAMOA Pathway.

with national statistical offices and international agencies concerning their implementation. In 2019, UNIDO published its 2nd biennial report⁴ on the progress achieved by Member States towards industrialization, which analyses the trends of the SDG indicators including those relating to target 9.2 concerning the share of manufacturing in GDP and employment. UNIDO also undertakes a number of national and regional technical cooperation projects to enhance the statistical capacity of Member States.

6. In July 2019, UNIDO rolled out its Industrial Analytics Platform (IAP)⁵. IAP is an innovative tool featuring data on select indicators of industrial development and relevant research by leading experts. It enables policymakers to explore, compare and analyse a country's manufacturing development against regional and global benchmarks. The platform is anticipated to support the development of evidence-based industrial policy by Member States.

7. In pursuing its mandate to promote and accelerate ISID, UNIDO has developed areas of expertise and a portfolio of concrete activities that contribute to various SDGs. The Organization's Open Data Platform⁶ tracks the percentage of UNIDO's technical cooperation portfolio dedicated to each SDG at any given point in time.

8. UNIDO is also operationalizing a total of 10 Programmes for Country Partnership (PCPs),⁷ covering both middle-income countries (MICs) and least developed countries (LDCs). The integrated approach of the PCP enabled programme effectiveness and supported the upscaling of the Organization's development impact. To enhance contributions to the 2030 Agenda, UNIDO is revising its country programmes (CPs), aligning its programmatic services to the SDGs. Key PCP features are being incorporated in the development and implementation of CPs. UNIDO PCPs and CPs are aligned to the priorities of the United Nations Cooperation Framework for Sustainable Development.

9. The strengthening of cooperation and forging of new partnerships will continue to be the fundamental approach towards achieving ISID and the 2030 Agenda. In addition to governments and local authorities, UNIDO cooperates with the private sector, academia, and multilateral organizations such as the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, including the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and UN Environment. Examples of effective multi-stakeholder collaboration and private sector engagement can be seen through the work of the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN), co-hosted by UNIDO and UN Environment, the Global Network of Regional Sustainable Energy Centres (GN-SEC) and the Global Cleantech Innovation Programme (GCIP).

10. Cognizant of the advancements in digital technologies associated with the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR), and its continued influence on industrialization as a driver of development and shared prosperity, UNIDO provides knowledge-sharing and project development platforms to facilitate the introduction of policies and strategies to ensure that no one is left behind when digital technologies are deployed. UNIDO's organization of the Global Manufacturing and Industrialization Summit (GMIS) and participation in the Hannover Messe are examples of such knowledge-sharing platforms.

11. UNIDO has strengthened its efforts to mainstream gender responsiveness both programmatically and organizationally. UNIDO is cooperating with UN Women to implement two flagship programmes with the advancement of gender equality and women's empowerment as the primary objective. During the 63rd session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), two side events were held on: (i) women

⁴ See https://www.unido.org/sites/default/files/files/2019-05/SDG_report_final.pdf.

⁵ See <https://iap.unido.org/>.

⁶ See IDB.46/CRP.5, section III.

⁷ Cambodia, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, Peru, Rwanda, Senegal and Zambia as of April 2019.

and digitalization in the MENA region, in partnership with UN Women, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); and (ii) the gender dimensions of infrastructure in the energy and industry sectors, in cooperation with UN Women. UNIDO also collaborated with Vienna-based Organizations, the United Nations Office at Vienna (UNOV), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), to co-organize the “Men as Champions of Gender Equality” event to commemorate the 2019 International Women’s Day.

12. Organizationally, internal operations have been strengthened to enhance organizational effectiveness, contributing to programme effectiveness towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda:

(a) The total amount of funds mobilized in 2018 reached an unprecedented level of \$273.5 million. Significant efforts have been made to engage with climate action-financing mechanisms, financial institutions, the business sector and civil society to leverage human, technical, political and financial resources to achieve scalable and sustainable development results;

(b) A Countries Engagement Strategy (CES) enabling a structured engagement with United Nations Member States, with a particular focus on former Member States of UNIDO, is being implemented. The CES highlights the contribution of ISID to the 2030 Agenda, as well as its relevance to the respective countries’ official development assistance priorities. As of April 2019, Antigua and Barbuda and the Federated States of Micronesia joined UNIDO, increasing the Organization’s membership to 170 Member States;

(c) The continuous and active advocacy, communications and participation in intergovernmental and inter-agency dialogues undertaken by the UNIDO Liaison Offices in Brussels, Geneva and New York have supported the strategic positioning of UNIDO’s work contributing to the 2030 Agenda, including Goals 1, 2, 8, 9, 12, 13 and 17. As a result, the international community is continually sensitized to issues related to Goal 9, and its interlinkages with the other SDGs. UNIDO successfully positioned ISID in the Aid for Trade initiative, highlighting its contribution to economic diversification and employment. UNIDO also fostered collaboration with Geneva-based United Nations and non-United Nations agencies, including ILO, ITU, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). In addition, the outreach to Europe-based institutions, including the European Union, has resulted in funding from the European Commission to (i) ongoing UNIDO projects (\$181.9 million) and (ii) pipeline projects (approximately \$1.07 million);

(d) UNIDO’s gender marker tool was updated to monitor financial resource allocation to projects with gender-related activities, in addition to increasing the measurement accuracy of its programmatic contribution to Goals 5 and 9;

(e) Since October 2018, UNIDO has been publishing monthly under the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) to inform and support global efforts towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

(f) In June 2019, UNIDO became a partner in the UN SDG:Learn,⁸ One Platform, One Partnership and One Programme that was launched at the High Level Political Forum in July. UNIDO-developed courses related to ISID are included on the platform to support an effective, coherent and inclusive approach to learning about the SDGs;

⁸ <https://www.unsdglearn.org/>.

(g) A comprehensive training programme is in place to enable UNIDO staff to upgrade their technical skills and general competencies, including in emerging areas of industrial development.

IV. Action required of the Conference

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