



Industrial Development Board

Forty-eighth session

Vienna, 23–25 November 2020

Item 12 of the provisional agenda

UNIDO activities in the environment and energy

UNIDO activities in the environment and energy

Report by the Director General

The present document reports on the implementation of General Conference resolution GC.18/Res.7 and provides information on latest developments. It supplements the information contained in the report presented to the Industrial Development Board in document IDB.47/18.

I. Introduction

1. In line with the strategic priority of safeguarding the environment of the medium-term programme framework 2018–2021¹, UNIDO is advancing environmentally sustainable industrial development. It provides Member States with a package of services that integrate its four complementary core functions: (i) technical cooperation; (ii) analytical, research and policy advisory services; (iii) normative function; and (iv) convening and partnerships.

II. Response to the COVID-19 pandemic

2. As part of the international community's COVID-19 response, UNIDO's efforts focus on its mandate of inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID). A number of UNIDO-supported programmes, initiatives and networks are refocusing their activities in support of COVID-19 recovery measures. Examples of this include alumni of the Global Cleantech Innovation Programme's (GCIP) designing new products to support pandemic-related containment measures, and efforts by the Private Financing Advisory Network (PFAN) to help energy entrepreneurs ensure business continuity through the pandemic period. UNIDO is also assisting several developing countries in improving medical and health care waste management

¹ IDB.45/8/Add.2

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



processes, arranging procurement of personal protective equipment and producing hand sanitizers.

III. Technical cooperation

3. General Conference resolution GC.18/Res.7 requested UNIDO to continue integrating its energy and environment activities, focusing on supporting governments and industries to:

(a) Provide sustainable and resilient soft and hard infrastructure for industrial development;

(b) Contribute to climate neutrality and the circular economy;

(c) Fulfill national commitments under multilateral climate and environmental agreements.

4. In response to this request, under the first focus area mentioned above, UNIDO is scaling up resource efficiency in numerous ways, including:

- Implementing the Global Eco-Industrial Park Programme in Colombia, Egypt, Indonesia, Peru, South Africa, Ukraine, and Viet Nam;
- Promoting an industry-urban symbiosis approach in Thailand;
- Assisting Egypt, Jordan, the Philippines, the Republic of Moldova and Tunisia in deploying e-mobility infrastructure;
- Facilitating the transfer of digital and innovative technologies in Ethiopia, Kenya and Morocco;
- Collaborating with the city of Beijing in the establishment of an international hydrogen energy center for South-South and triangular cooperation.

5. UNIDO has developed a methodology for a comprehensive economic valuation of water-related ecosystem services, to support informed decision-making and improve governance of transboundary waters.

6. Under the second focus area mentioned in paragraph 3(b), UNIDO and its European Union partners are implementing the “SWITCH to circular economy value chains” initiative, assisting Eastern European countries to scale up cleaner production through the EU4Environment programme, and stimulating the creation of new businesses and jobs in the Southern Mediterranean through the SwitchMed II programme. Additionally, through the Climate Technology Centre and Network, UNIDO has supported the creation of the Regional Coalition on Circular Economy for Latin America and the Caribbean. UNIDO is also promoting circular economy practices in the textile and garment sectors in Ethiopia, Lesotho, Madagascar, and South Africa.

7. UNIDO is addressing the growing global concern over plastic pollution by, inter alia, supporting South Africa in strengthening local industry capacity to produce alternative materials and carry out plastic recycling. On the similarly pressing environmental concern of electronic waste, UNIDO is implementing programmes in 13 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as in the Philippines.

8. GCIP was extended to another six countries and held its Forum in 2019 for the first time in Vienna, in conjunction with the Vienna Cleantech Week. Furthermore, the PFAN extended its investment facilitation services to climate and clean energy project developers in the Caribbean and the Pacific. During 2019–2020, the activities of GCIP and PFAN contributed to the establishment of 55 new cleantech enterprises, supported the design of an estimated 60 investment-ready proposals from 35 developing countries, and helped 56 projects secure financing amounting to a total of \$250 million. UNIDO and its partners launched an Industrial Energy Efficiency Accelerator platform and assisted 10 countries in completing diagnostic assessments.

In 2019, these activities resulted in emission reductions of roughly 6 million tons of CO₂e, and improved energy management practices in approximately 200 enterprises.

9. UNIDO further expanded its capacity-building, awareness-raising and knowledge-sharing services to governments and industries through various green initiatives. For example, UNIDO organized a Green Industry Summer Course and a Circular Economy for Policy-makers training course. Under this Global Green Chemistry initiative, six train-the-facilitator workshops and four regional webinars were conducted, and a Green Chemistry Guidance Document was published.

10. Under the third focus area mentioned in paragraph 3 (c), UNIDO is assisting 90 countries by:

- Implementing phase-out management plans in 86 countries and institutional strengthening projects in over 70 countries under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer;
- Carrying out enabling activities for early ratification of the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol in 25 countries;
- Advising 60 countries on the development or update of their national implementation plans under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs);
- Undertaking assessments under the Minamata Convention on Mercury in 26 countries and implementing national action plans for artisanal and small scale gold mining in 12 countries;
- Conducting technology needs assessments in eight countries to support the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement.

11. In 2019, projects implemented under the Stockholm Convention resulted in 89,238 metric tons of POPs avoided; 1,339 metric tons of materials recycled or reused; best available techniques and best environmental practices implemented by 4,718 companies; 117 sustainable businesses established; 100,235 women trained; and 231 environmental policies and regulations adopted. Projects under the Montreal Protocol resulted in avoided emissions of a total of 42,348,429 tons of CO₂e in 2019.

IV. Analytical, research and policy advisory services

12. Building strong legal and institutional frameworks is central to many of UNIDO's projects. Examples include the formulation of regulations for end-of-life vehicles in Côte d'Ivoire; a national action plan on sustainable consumption and production in Viet Nam; a national action plan on circular economy in Uruguay; and a regional policy on electric vehicles in the Pacific region. Through the Partnership for Action on Green Economy, UNIDO is active in 20 developing countries and leading a team of five United Nations agencies in four countries, providing policy advice, capacity-building, and advocacy support to key industry sectors that can drive macroeconomic transformation and create green jobs.

13. UNIDO, in collaboration with the World Health Organization, supported the preparation of health and pollution action plans in Colombia, Ghana, Kyrgyzstan, the Philippines and the United Republic of Tanzania. An expert group meeting on electric mobility² was organized to take stock of the experiences from e-mobility projects in China, Malaysia and South Africa, resulting in a publication titled "Best practices in electric mobility". In cooperation with the International Center on Small Hydro

² www.unido.org/sites/default/files/files/2020-08/UNIDO_Electric_Mobility_Paper.pdf.

Power, UNIDO published the World Small Hydropower Development Report 2019³ and the Small Hydropower Technical Guidelines.

14. UNIDO provided substantive contributions to a common United Nations response to the 2030 Climate Target public consultations and the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy of the European Union, highlighting the role of industry in boosting climate change mitigation and adaptation action.

V. Normative function

15. Regional standards for energy performance are an important vehicle to drive transformational changes at the national level. UNIDO's Energy Efficient Lighting and Appliances project helps East and Southern African countries introduce minimum energy performance standards, compliance certification and market surveillance measures. Together with the European Commission and the Climate Parliament, UNIDO is organizing virtual roundtables to build the capacity of lawmakers from Africa and the Middle East to draft energy and climate-related legislative initiatives.

16. In cooperation with the World Bank and the German Agency for International Cooperation, UNIDO contributed to the update of the normative side of eco-industrial parks development through the preparation of the publication titled "An International Framework for Eco-Industrial Parks – Revised Version 2020".

VI. Convening and partnerships

17. UNIDO assisted the Board in preparing an input document for the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) held in July 2019. This submission highlighted the role of ISID in enabling industries to adopt practices that contribute to low-emission climate-resilient development, strengthen institutional capacity, create green jobs, and increase access to clean energy.

18. In preparation for the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly in 2019, UNIDO collaborated with 36 sister agencies to develop a "Joint Appeal from the UN System to the Secretary-General's Climate Action Summit" and contributed to the work of the Summit's Industry Transition Track. During the Summit, UNIDO and its partners convened two high-level events: "Accelerating technology diffusion to promote low-emission industrialization"; and "Sustainable Cities: Hubs of climate action and innovation". UNIDO subsequently joined the Three Percent Club initiative.

19. For the HLPF 2020, UNIDO collaborated with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the International Maritime Organization to co-organize an official session titled "Sustaining efforts to ensure access to sustainable energy", at which the UNIDO Director General participated as a keynote speaker. UNIDO contributed to three policy briefs on Sustainable Development Goal 7 and co-organized two side events relating to innovation, green economy and COVID-19 recovery.

20. UNIDO promoted circular economy practices at numerous events, including the Circular Economy, Impact Financing and Industry 4.0 conference and the International Conference on Industrial Parks for Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development held in Peru; as well as a high-level regional conference held in Senegal titled "Circular Economy, Green Industries and Jobs in West Africa".

21. At the United Nations Climate Change Conference, held in December 2019 in Madrid, UNIDO coordinated a United Nations system side event and an exhibition on Goal 9; participated in a side event on Goal 7, held at the level of Heads of United

³ www.unido.org/our-focus-safeguarding-environment-clean-energy-access-productive-use-renewable-energy-focus-areas-small-hydro-power/world-small-hydropower-development-report.

Nations agencies; and presented at a large number of events. To enhance strategic partnerships in the areas of climate change and sustainable energy, UNIDO signed Joint Declarations with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the International Renewable Energy Agency, and became a member of the NDC Partnership.

VII. Outlook

22. To accelerate the implementation of SDGs by 2030, the United Nations Secretary-General called for a Decade of Action to mobilize all sectors of society to effectuate the required structural transformation. UNIDO will therefore amplify its efforts to assist Member States in achieving targets of SDGs relating to the environment, climate change and sustainable energy, through ISID approaches.

23. UNIDO will promote circular economy practices as a viable solution to the climate emergency and environmental degradation. Particular emphasis will be placed on building resilience of industrial and energy infrastructure, as well as preserving ecosystems to ensure access to ecosystem services for human well-being and productive uses. UNIDO will assist Member States in taking full advantage of opportunities offered by the Fourth Industrial Revolution to help tackle most pressing global environmental challenges, boost decarbonization of industry and accelerate progress towards affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all. Having obtained accreditation to the Green Climate Fund on 20 August 2020, and in line with resolution GC.18/Res.7, UNIDO will strive to facilitate access of Member States to climate finance.

24. To prepare for the Vienna Energy Forum, which was postponed to July 2021, a virtual series will be held to advance dialogue on a green COVID-19 recovery in end-use sectors through sustainable energy, innovation and digitalization.

VIII. Action required from the Board

25. The Board may wish to take note of the information provided in the present report.
