As 2014 nears its end, we move closer to the commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. This newsletter will highlight UNIDO’s work in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action over the last 20 years as well as recent events that have helped to strengthen UNIDO’s overall efforts in the advancement of gender equality and women’s economic empowerment in the context of inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

UNIDO and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

In 1995, 50,000 women and men from the civil society, international organizations and national governments travelled to Beijing for the United Nations’ Fourth Conference on Women. A key outcome of the conference was a groundbreaking road map for the advancement of gender equality and the empowerment of women: the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

In July 2013, the UN Economic and Social Council requested that the Commission on the Status of Women review the progress made on the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, 20 years after its adoption. The review comes at a pivotal moment as the global debate on gender equality and the empowerment of women in the post-2015 context continues and the Millennium Development Goals come to a close.

In addition to the global review, UN entities have been invited to participate in other opportunities in the lead up to the Beijing +20, including thematic events as well as communication and advocacy campaigns to commemorate the anniversary.

To showcase its own contributions to the Beijing Platform for Action, UNIDO has developed a brochure, "Empowering Women—Empowering Humanity: UNIDO and the Beijing Platform for Action". The brochure highlights the Organization’s efforts and achievements in the last 20 years that have helped advance gender equality in the Beijing Platform’s priority areas of education and vocational skills training, economy, environment, poverty, and power and decision making.

Taking Action: ECC Gender Mainstreaming Training Workshop

In coordination with the Gender Mainstreaming Steering Committee (GMSC), the Energy and Climate Change Branch (ECC) organized a gender mainstreaming training workshop for all ECC staff in November.

The training is part of a broader effort by the GMSC to strengthen the gender mainstreaming capacity of all of UNIDO’s technical branches.

The Director of ECC, Mr. Pradeep Monga, opened the workshop sharing
stories of his own experiences with gender mainstreaming and describing the benefits of gender equality in general, as well as specific to the Branch’s work. Moreover, he stressed that gender equality could not move forward without the active involvement and participation of both men and women. The workshop introduced theoretical concepts relating to gender and energy as well as explained the practical application of mainstreaming gender dimensions into technical cooperation projects. A key component of the workshop was the small breakout sessions. The group work allowed participants to put into practice the gender mainstreaming processes and tools developed by the GMSC. This included a brainstorming session on gender responsive outputs, activities and indicators specific to sustainable energy interventions. In the coming year, the ECC Branch and the GMSC hope to coordinate on more specialized training opportunities building on the learnings from this workshop.

Women Ambassadors Network in Vienna Event

Last month, the first meeting and reception of the Women Ambassadors Network in Vienna were held. The Permanent Representative of Slovakia to UNIDO, H.E. Ms. Olga Algayerova, helped launch the event alongside the Director General of UNIDO, Mr. Li Yong, at the Vienna International Centre. Ms. Algayerova explained that the Women Ambassad-

ors Network in Vienna will not only serve as a platform to speak about gender issues, but will also act as a forum to facilitate networking and the sharing of experiences and on gender and work related issues. She stressed that the Network is not exclusively for women, but was created to include men in the discussion.

Mr. Yong congratulated the initiative and stressed its importance, particularly for UNIDO and its efforts in advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women. He also expressed appreciation to be included at the first launch event which was attended by several representatives of UNIDO’s senior management as well as women ambassadors based in Vienna. The initiative was well received by those present and topics of concern included efforts to increase advocacy for the equal representation of women at all levels of the labour force, including decision making roles.

The next meeting is scheduled to convene in 2015.

Close the GAP!

Watch

Video: Women as entrepreneurs: example, not exception

Ted Talk by Gayle Tzemach Lemmon, author, journalist and fellow of the Council on Foreign Relations

Get active

End violence against women: In December 2014, take a stand against gender-based violence with #OrangeSer

See how violence against women relates to your work: Women and the economy

Women and the environment

Learn

The Gender Counts Database is now on the Intranet and on OpenText! You can find a short report and relevant resources. We also updated our tools on Gender Mainstreaming.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Best wishes from the Gender Team: Nilgün Tas, Karen Cadondon, Theresa Tomaschitz and Anne-Sophie Veyrier

For any comments, further information or contributions, please contact: gender@unido.org