

General Conference**Eighteenth session**

Abu Dhabi, 3–7 November 2019

Item 9 of the provisional agenda

Forum on industrial development issues**Forum on industrial development issues****Issues paper by the Secretariat**

The present document provides information on the events planned as part of the forum on industrial development issues, to be held in the plenary of the eighteenth session of the General Conference, taking place from 3 to 7 November 2019.

I. Introduction

1. The forum on industrial development issues was introduced via GC.9/Res.1 into the proceedings of the General Conference with the intention of sharing a common understanding of development issues and continuing the thematic examination of fields relevant to UNIDO's activities that could determine its medium- to long-term policy direction.
2. This year's General Conference will take place under the overarching theme "Industry 2030 – Innovate. Connect. Transform our Future". In this context, the forum on industrial development issues will provide a high-level platform for forward-looking dialogue on the role of inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID) in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the transformation of industrial production.
3. The eighteenth session of the General Conference will offer a single, streamlined schedule throughout the duration of the Conference which seeks to minimize the amount of events taking place in parallel. Participants will thus be able to take part in all the Conference's events without having to miss any of the proceedings.
4. Complementing the forum on industrial development issues, a number of interactive discussions will take place on issues related to the mandate of UNIDO and the theme of the Conference. These additional events will explore topics such as: Industry 4.0; gender; circular economy; sustainable energy; industrial parks; and youth and entrepreneurship.

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



5. The events will use innovative formats and technologies to provide Member States and partners with an opportunity for interactive participation.
6. Utilizing an array of innovative and interactive formats, the events of the General Conference will provide a unique platform for an exchange of ideas and information between Member States and high-level development policy experts, private sector representatives, members of academia and development finance representatives. Detailed outlines of these additional events will be provided in GC.18/CRP.6, *Forum on industrial development issues. Issues paper on additional events*.
7. Information on timing and location of the events will be made available to all participants of the Conference, inter alia through the official UNIDO conference website at www.unido.org/gc18.

II. Events of the forum on industrial development issues

(a) The seventh UNIDO forum on inclusive and sustainable industrial development

Background

8. UNIDO regularly organizes forums on inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID). These forums bring together UNIDO Member States and partners to engage in a dialogue on various aspects of industrial development, exchange knowledge, forge partnerships and shape strategies for advancing ISID.
9. The seventh ISID Forum, titled “Partnerships for Industry 2030”, will discuss how innovative partnerships, such as UNIDO’s Programme for Country Partnership (PCP)¹, can support the achievement of national development goals, and highlight how various partners contribute knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources to support industrialization, particularly in Africa.
10. The event will bring together high-level representatives of governments, international and regional organizations supporting Africa’s industrialization, financial institutions, the business sector, and other development partners to share their experience and views.
11. Overall, the event will highlight the crucial role of multi-stakeholder partnerships in helping countries to advance ISID and the 2030 Agenda. At the same time, it will provide an opportunity to illustrate how PCP mobilizes the knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources of various actors to accelerate countries’ development agendas, as well as how different partners contribute to the industrialization process, in particular in Africa.

Issues to be addressed

12. How innovative partnerships can support the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, in particular SDG 9 on industry, infrastructure and innovation.
13. How PCP can facilitate the structural transformation of economies and accelerate the implementation of the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA III).
14. What the distinct and complementary roles of governments, financial institutions, the private sector, United Nations entities and other development partners

¹ PCP is UNIDO’s newest programmatic service to support countries in accelerating inclusive and sustainable industrial development. It is founded on a multi-stakeholder partnership to ensure synergies between different interventions and maximize impact. Each programme is tailored to country needs, aligned with the national development agenda and owned by the host government. PCP focuses on priority industrial sectors and areas essential to the national development agenda. PCP interventions aim to unlock public and private investment for the realization of large-scale industrial projects. PCP delivers an integrated service package by combining UNIDO’s advisory and normative services, technical assistance and convening functions.

in accelerating Africa's industrialization are, and how the various partner initiatives link with PCP.

(b) Launch of the Industrial Development Report 2020

Background

15. The Industrial Development Report (IDR) is a bi-annual flagship publication and the major research output of UNIDO. The Report covers the latest developments and trends in the area of industrial development in a global context, while each issue also focuses on different relevant aspects of industrial development.

16. The 2020 edition analyses the future of manufacturing production and the impact that new technologies are having on the industrialization process of developing countries. In particular, the report focuses on advanced digital production technologies surrounding the concept of smart manufacturing production, including advanced robotics, machine learning, big data analytics and the industrial Internet of things.

17. The launch event will serve to present and discuss the report's main messages, which are expected to bring new insights on how advanced digital production technologies are reshaping the process of industrial development. It will also elaborate on the possible responses that developing countries can take to prepare for these changes.

18. The event further aims to help stimulate thinking on future courses of action in terms of policymaking, development practices, research and advocacy.

19. The theme of the report is closely related to the theme of the eighteenth session of the General Conference. As such, the report will address key conditions necessary for innovation and transformation in industry and will outline relevant policies.

Issues to be addressed

20. Why industrialization continues to be the main avenue for successful development in the current context of rapid technological change.

21. How countries can, through industrialization, build and strengthen the skills and capabilities needed to succeed in the new technological paradigm.

III. Action required of the Conference

22. The Conference may wish to take note of the information provided in this paper.
