



General Conference

Eighteenth session

Abu Dhabi, 3–7 November 2019

Item 16 of the provisional agenda

Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa

Update on the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA III)

Report by the Director General

In its decision IDB.46/Dec.13, the Industrial Development Board requested the Director General to regularly report on the progress made on the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA III) in the annual reports of the Director General to the Programme and Budget Committee, the Industrial Development Board and the General Conference, and to the informal working group on PBC-related issues, on a quarterly basis. The present report provides an update to the last such regular report, contained in [IDB.47/12](#) and should be considered together with Chapter 7 of the *Annual Report of UNIDO 2018*, and with the Note by the Secretary-General on the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (2016–2025) ([A/74/199](#)).

I. Introduction

1. In July 2016, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted resolution [70/293](#), proclaiming the period 2016–2025 as the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa. Furthermore, the African Union Commission (AUC), the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), and specifically UNIDO were requested to develop, lead and operationalize the implementation of IDDA III. The resolution further called on UNIDO to scale up its technical assistance to African countries. UNIDO was also invited to foster partnerships, as appropriate, with other relevant United Nations entities and to promote the necessary linkages to develop joint initiatives in favour of industrialization.

II. UNIDO's activities in support of the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA III)

2. As requested in IDB.46/Dec.13, UNIDO is developing a comprehensive overview of initiatives, including programmes and projects, of all international organizations and donors, being implemented to support Africa's industrialization.



Apart from providing a picture of current initiatives, the overview will help determine existing gaps in ongoing initiatives, identify additional efforts to be undertaken and will serve to promote, where possible, necessary linkages for joint interventions to increase the development impact. The overview is expected to ultimately contribute to the establishment of a comprehensive database and associated information system for use by various stakeholders.

3. In line with resolution [70/293](#), UNIDO also continued to scale up its technical assistance to African countries. In particular, it intensified its efforts through Programmes for Country Partnerships (PCPs). The implementation of PCPs in the initial pilot countries Ethiopia and Senegal has gained momentum. In Senegal, support provided by UNIDO resulted in the establishment of a new industrial park formally opened in November 2018. Several companies are operating in the park, producing garments, polyvinyl chloride pipes, packaging, magnetic e-cards, and electric bikes. The park is expected to generate at least 23,000 jobs. In addition, the mobilization of partners including the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the Belgian development agency (Enabel), allowed the launch of comprehensive feasibility studies for the establishment of three regional agropoles in the northern, central and southern regions of Senegal. In Ethiopia, four Integrated Agriculture Industrial Parks (IAIPs) are being built and are due for completion by the end of 2019. The IAIPs aim to provide agri-businesses with access to common infrastructure, utilities and business services, while catalyzing investments and job creation. In addition to the two initial pilot PCPs, implementation in a further five African countries was approved in 2018, namely Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Morocco, Rwanda, and Zambia.

4. Cooperation with the AUC has also been strengthened. Further to the memorandum of understanding and the Implementation Coordination Unit mentioned in [IDB.47/12](#), UNIDO is exploring how to effectively support the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), whose operational phase was launched in July 2019.

5. UNIDO also continued to strengthen its engagement at the regional level. In April 2019, UNIDO and the Secretariat of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa jointly developed a five year regional programme entitled "Enterprise Competitiveness and Access to Markets Programme (RECAMP)". Funded by the European Union, the programme is expected to contribute to increased private sector participation in regional and global value chains, by improving the investment and business climate and enhancing competitiveness. In West Africa, a new phase of the competitiveness and quality infrastructure programme, funded by the European Union, was launched in October 2018. It builds on the work of previous phases, which achieved several key results. These include the development and adoption of a regional quality policy; the establishment of the Economic Community of West African States Agency for Quality, together with three accreditation bodies; and the training of over 4,000 technicians in the areas of standards, quality and metrology. In the Economic Community of Central African States, UNIDO provided support to regional and national quality infrastructure institutions to reinforce the competitiveness and diversification of productive sectors. In East Africa, a €35 million programme to upgrade market access, funded by the European Union, was initiated in collaboration with the International Trade Centre and the German development agency (GIZ). It aims to increase exports of agriculture products, such as avocado, cocoa, coffee, spices, tea, and horticulture, and to promote regional integration.

6. At the national level, the following examples of projects being implemented in Africa provide a sense of the different areas being covered by UNIDO's interventions:

(a) **Agro-industrial development:** a UNIDO project to improve the rosemary value chain in Morocco provided 3,000 new cooperatives with new machinery and related skills development. In Namibia, a project funded by Finland was initiated to promote the sustainable bush-processing value chain. In January 2019, UNIDO and

the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) agreed to support South Africa's efforts to improve the international competitiveness of indigenous essential and vegetable oils. In Tunisia, a project co-funded by the European Union and Italy, focuses on artisan and design value chains to create employment for vulnerable populations in the country, especially women.

(b) **Energy and the environment:** UNIDO assisted the establishment of the Southern African Development Community Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, in collaboration with the Austrian development agency. Inaugurated in October 2018 in Windhoek, the new centre is serving as a hub for knowledge and technical expertise. A project to promote low-carbon and climate-resilient industrial development was implemented with funding from Japan. It covers Egypt, Kenya, Senegal, and South Africa. In Kenya, for instance, an innovative drying and withering process was introduced in a tea factory and helped cut energy usage by 60 per cent. Following the entry into force of the Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer in January 2019, UNIDO increased assistance to African countries to enable them to ratify the Amendment. Projects on hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) phase-out management plans are currently under implementation in 34 countries in Africa, and HFC enabling activities in 11 countries.

(c) **Industry 4.0:** UNIDO is also supporting a number of countries to take advantage of the opportunities presented by the Fourth Industrial Revolution. In collaboration with key actors, UNIDO is piloting the implementation of block-chain technology in Ghana, to enable access to reliable information along the value chain, as well as to minimize and offset the environmental damage caused by cocoa farming. In Morocco, UNIDO supports the establishment of a smart factory to showcase the potential application of technologies of the Fourth Industrial Revolution in fast-moving sectors such as the aerospace industry. The project also includes a digital observatory, which will provide a platform to monitor the trends and statistics of the integration of Industry 4.0 in the country. In Cabo Verde, UNIDO helped strengthen the national system of innovation.

(d) **Women and Youth Empowerment:** UNIDO continued to implement projects focused on empowering youth and women. For instance, in Nigeria, under a project funded by Japan, UNIDO helped 7,515 students from six schools in Nigeria gain technical, trade and entrepreneurial skills needed to promote social stability and economic development in areas where there are high concentrations of internally displaced young people. In Liberia, a project is under implementation to promote social stabilization by creating jobs and livelihoods for vulnerable people and communities, in particular youth, in key sectors of economic growth. In Madagascar, UNIDO collaborated with the United Nations Development Programme to implement a creative industry project, to develop productive activities in the handicraft sector, with a focus on women. Over 1,000 vulnerable rural women and 200 artisans and small and medium-sized enterprises, were trained and equipped to make high-quality chairs, bags, tables and mats. In 2018, the first generation of 20 students graduated from the Masters of Design and Innovation course supported by UNIDO.

7. In terms of global forums, the third IDDA III high-level event will be co-organized by UNIDO, AUC, UNECA, AfDB, and the African Export-Import Bank, in the margins of the 74th session of the General Assembly. Further to the events mentioned in [IDB.47/12](#), UNIDO hosted a pre-TICAD in Vienna. The discussion focused on how TICAD 7 can support the implementation of IDDA III. The official TICAD side-event, co-organized with the AUC and AfDB, was held on 27 August 2019 under the theme of "Promoting Africa's structural transformation and economic diversification in the context of AfCFTA/IDDA III/TICAD7: Partnering for Africa's future".

III. Outlook

8. *Finalization of a joint roadmap and related joint IDDA III projects and programmes, in cooperation with concerned development partners:* The joint projects and programmes aim to enhance synergies and development impact of industrial initiatives in Africa.

9. *Finalization of a comprehensive overview of Africa-centred programmes and projects of all international organizations and donors,* as requested by the Industrial Development Board (IDB.46/Dec.13).

10. *Continued implementation of the “IDDA III Champions” initiative:* The initiative is expected to leverage the political leadership of the Champions to promote IDDA III initiatives.

11. *Enhancement of institutional capacity to strengthen the IDDA III implementation:* A dedicated joint secretariat will be set up to facilitate the implementation of the joint roadmap. In line with the discussions at the second workshop of IDDA III focal points held in Geneva in July 2019, additional support to the joint secretariat will be elicited from other development partners. The experience of the joint UNIDO, UNECA and AUC secretariat during IDDA I and IDDA II will be leveraged while taking into account the changed circumstances.

IV. Action required of the Conference

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