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UNIDO activities related to energy and environment

UNIDO activities related to environment

Report by the Director-General

The present document supplements the information contained in documents IDB.39/8/Add.2*, IDB.39/8 and IDB.38/16, by providing updates on issues of relevance to UNIDO activities related to the environment.

I. Introduction

1. In the pursuit of goals related to the promotion of environmentally sustainable industrial development and in the context of the green industry initiative, UNIDO undertakes a range of activities and projects aimed at encouraging resource efficient and cleaner production (RECP) processes, environmentally sound technologies and environmental practices to improve water productivity in industry and prevent discharge of industrial effluents into international waters, as well as eliminating the release of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) under the Stockholm Convention.

II. Raising levels of awareness

2. The May 2011 publication entitled *UNIDO Green Industry: Policies for supporting Green Industry* outlines the broad range of policy measures required by national governments to promote and facilitate green industry i.e. the greening of industries and the creation of green industries. The report highlights the effectiveness that can result in supporting the greening of industries by illustrating existing best practices of national strategies, policies and integrated governance structures. The recent release in October 2011 of a publication entitled *UNIDO Green Industry Initiative for sustainable industrial development* also highlights the

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importance of green industry in the manufacturing and allied industry sectors so that they can contribute more effectively to sustainable industrial development. It demonstrates that green industry is thereby the sector-strategy for the realization of green economy and green growth in the industry sector.

III. Global forum and other activities related to green industry

3. In October 2011, UNIDO actively participated in the Third Meeting of the Regional 3Rs — reuse, reduce, and recycle Forum in Asia. UNIDO prepared a background paper entitled *Best practices and available technologies in the 3Rs — Achieving economic growth while improving resource efficiency*, and identified policies and institutional frameworks for the promotion of relevant technologies in the region, including those that attract investment and promote business to business technology transfer. Furthermore, UNIDO made recommendations on how best to identify opportunities for collaborative actions and partnerships including bilateral, multilateral and regional supporting mechanisms to promote 3R technology transfer, and continue efforts in contributing towards enhanced regional input to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) by addressing 3R technologies related to the green economy.

4. Also in October 2011, the Second Global Network Conference on Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) took place in Nairobi, Kenya. The Conference elaborated on emerging trends and new applications in RECP, and further established a vibrant community of practice among member RECP service providers. This biannual global event was organized under a joint programme on RECP, which is coordinated by UNIDO and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

5. UNIDO is currently in the process of designing an Action Plan for Green Industry. This initiative will provide a platform for all relevant stakeholders to come together to establish a partnership between UNIDO, the private sector, financial institutions, and civil society so as to advance the implementation of green industry policies and strategies in developing and emerging economies.

IV. Resource efficient and cleaner production

6. Continued effort is being undertaken to promote and support the network of National Cleaner Production Centres (NCPCs). With support from donor countries, including Austria and Switzerland, UNIDO recently established a NCPC in Ukraine. The initial project duration will be five years, and is intended to ensure nationwide coverage and upscaling of activities to build the capacity of national experts with regard to RECP, implementing RECP assessments and supporting RECP technology projects in companies from selected priority sectors and regions. The Centre will adopt a sector-based approach, concentrating on national priority sectors, namely chemicals, agro-processing, metallurgical and metal processing industries.

7. In mid-2009, UNIDO, with support from the Government of the Czech Republic, implemented the preparatory stage for the establishment and operation of a National Cleaner Production Programme (NCPP) for the Republic of Moldova. This included training of national experts in plant assessments in

five companies, institutional capacity-building and review of past cleaner production experiences and achievements. In 2011, UNIDO designed a three-year plan and is actively strengthening the NCPP by fostering domestication and institutionalization of knowledge, expertise and service delivery capacity of RECP in Moldova, and implementation of RECP practices, technologies and policies in the country. The NCPP is adopting a sector focus on food beverage industries, construction materials and municipal services (schools, hospitals, district heating, waste and sanitation services), as these are sectors generally considered most promising for vitalizing the economy and improving the quality of life of the peoples of the country.

8. Several cleaner production initiatives have been completed in Indonesia through various private and public sector initiatives. With the support of Switzerland, UNIDO has been able to develop and implement a RECP intervention, in particular in the design of a results framework, agreement on institutional set up and governance mechanisms, and detailed planning and budgeting, to address in a balanced manner national socio-economic development objectives. Also, UNIDO has been able to design a UNIDO country strategy and global UNIDO-UNEP RECP strategy. The Organization is supporting Indonesia to establish an appropriate business support structure for RECP, tentatively through a National Cleaner Production Network (NCPN). The mission of the NCPN will be to provide businesses, governments and providers of business support services, with the technology and finance including value-adding services that will enable the implementation of RECP in a manner that is most beneficial, while also improving environmental performance and resource productivity.

9. In Viet Nam, UNIDO has recently designed a project aimed at increasing the transfer, deployment and diffusion of clean technologies and practices for the minimization of hazardous waste, greenhouse gas emissions and water pollutants as well as the sound management of chemicals in industrial zones of the country. The project is in accordance with the multi-focal strategies of the Global Environment Facility (GEF). Specifically, in terms of climate change, the project aims at the deployment and diffusion of commercially available technologies to improve energy efficiency and production process re-design in numerous companies of selected industrial zones through investment and local capacity-building. The application of new technologies will also facilitate water use efficiency in industrial zone industries thus helping to preserve groundwater sources. In relation to chemicals, the project seeks to reduce the release of dioxins and furans from industrial activities in the industrial zones through the application of best available techniques (BAT) and capacity-building on best environmental practices (BEP).

V. Technology transfer

10. In Mexico, UNIDO has taken a prominent lead in the integrated approach of transfer of environmentally sound technologies (TEST), specifically in the overall water and sanitation objectives of the Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund. The Organization has also supported activities in the country aimed at reducing effluents from industrial activities, which has led to the development of a follow-up project on this matter.

VI. Global Mercury Partnership

11. Since 2008, UNIDO has been an active member of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership with a leading role in the area of artisanal and small-scale gold mining, and participated in numerous projects related to the industrial use of mercury. In August 2011, the first GEF medium-sized project on artisanal and small-scale gold mining was approved for Burkina Faso, Mali and Senegal. An associated project to be financed by the French Global Environment Facility (FFEM) is also currently being prepared.

VII. Persistent organic pollutants

12. As outlined in document IDB.39/8/Add.2*, UNIDO has been involved in a global project to construct a facility in the Philippines aimed at the destruction of persistent organic pollutants (POPs). By way of update, the commissioning and training of operators at the Philippines facility was completed in July 2011. In time, this facility will help to demonstrate the importance of removing barriers that impede the adoption and successful implementation of available non-combustion technologies for destroying POPs.

13. The UNIDO project Environmental Sustainable Management of Medical Waste in China that was launched in 2008 is nearing completion. The project particularly benefited from its mixed form of agency and national involvement, which proved to be an efficient implementation model. Good opportunities to attain financial support to promote POPs elimination arose from the inclusion of BAT/BEP requirements for medical waste management in national and local economic, environment and social development plans. This project was the first one in China to explore and apply BAT/BEP to substantially reduce and eliminate the release of unintentionally produced POPs.

VIII. Action required by the Conference

14. The Conference may wish to take note of the information provided in the present document.
