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UNIDO activities in environment and energy

UNIDO activities related to environment

Report by the Director General

The present document reports on the implementation of Board decision IDB.40/Dec.7 and provides information on latest developments. It supplements the information contained in the Annual Report of UNIDO 2012 (IDB.41/2, chapter 4).

I. Introduction

1. In its effort to increase the uptake of resource efficient and cleaner modes of production, UNIDO is now achieving a greater level of integration with an ever-expanding landscape of international initiatives while still maintaining a highly specialized niche targeting the manufacturing industry, with a focus on assisting developing countries in their transition to a green economy.

2. Consequently, UNIDO is fully involved in the debate on the post-2015 development agenda and the formulation of the Sustainable Development Goals. UNIDO has provided specialized inputs to a series of national consultations in over 100 developing countries, as well as eleven global thematic consultations and has also put forward a group of international experts who took part in the high-level Leadership Meeting on Environmental Sustainability to review the results of the first phase of thematic consultations, and identify areas of consensus and further action.

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II. UNIDO Green Industry initiative

3. The Green Industry Platform, jointly run by UNIDO and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), is developing first activities on the ground to mainstream and scale up the use of green industrial policies and practices in global manufacturing. The Platform's Technical Expert Committee and Advisory Board held their first meetings in late March and early April to deliberate on the operational outlook of the Green Industry Platform, elaborate on the Platform's direction and strategy, and decide on key action points for the short- and medium-term. Concrete activities involving the Platform's diverse global membership were agreed on, with initial projects set to target the food and beverages, as well as the textile sectors.

4. Through the Green Industry Initiative, UNIDO has succeeded in integrating its resource-efficient and cleaner production services into the global Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE). Through PAGE, UNIDO officially joins UNEP, the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) to build national green economy strategies that will generate new jobs and skills, promote clean technologies, and reduce environmental risks and poverty.

5. In an additional effort to create synergies and avoid duplication in the field of environmental sustainability, UNIDO joined the Green Growth Knowledge Platform (GGKP) as acknowledged partner. The GGKP is jointly hosted by the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, UNEP and the World Bank. It aims to enhance and expand efforts to identify and address major knowledge gaps in green growth theory and practice, and help countries design and implement policies to move towards a green economy.

6. At the country level, UNIDO launched a project with the GGGI on green growth for the manufacturing sector in India. This project will contribute to the inclusion of green growth and Green Industry concepts, practices and instruments in the implementation of manufacturing and related industrial policies. Similar country strategies for Green Industry are being developed and implemented by UNIDO, with support from the Government of Japan, in Cambodia, Egypt, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Senegal and South Africa, based on the successful precedent set by the Green Industry country strategy for Viet Nam.

7. In order to address the critical intersection of gender and environmental concerns in industrial production and consumption, UNIDO is also sponsoring a SEED Initiative Gender Equality Award in 2013. This award aims to identify and support the most promising and innovative women-led social and environmental start-up enterprises in countries with developing and emerging economies.

8. Building on the success of the first course held in summer 2012, UNIDO, the Central European University (CEU), the University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Northwestern Switzerland and the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs of Switzerland (SECO) are organizing a summer course in 2013 entitled "Green Industry: Pathways Towards the Industry of the Future". More than 150 participants from 40 countries already took part in the e-learning course, which ended mid-April, and will be followed by the selection of 25 participants to attend the training course at CEU in July.

III. Resource-efficient and cleaner production

9. UNIDO and UNEP recently established National Cleaner Production Centres (NCPCs) in Indonesia and Ukraine, bringing the total of operating centres worldwide up to 50. For both these centres, SECO will provide financial support and will join UNIDO and local relevant authorities in the implementation of activities to enhance efficiency, productivity, competitiveness and environmental performance of local companies, in particular SMEs.

10. In April this year, the Viet Nam NCPC celebrated 15 years of operation and successful provision of services in the areas of cleaner production assessment, in-plant demonstration and capacity development.

11. Regional chapters of the global Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) network (*RECPnet*) are being launched in Africa, the Arab region, the Caucasus and Central Asia, Eastern Europe, as well as in Latin America and the Caribbean. In addition, the global RECP knowledge management platform is operational and is being populated with approved RECP-related documents.

12. UNIDO is closely cooperating with the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) in the implementation of a project strengthening the organizational and management capacities of selected NCPCs to effectively elaborate their business and financial plans, and achieve institutional and financial long-term sustainability.

13. UNIDO is also undertaking a variety of technical cooperation projects, with international and private sector partners, promoting the environmentally sound management of e-waste and life cycle approaches in developing countries. Ongoing projects are taking place in Cambodia, Ethiopia, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania.

14. UNIDO and the Agence Française de Développement (AFD), together with the Sustainable Europe Research Institute (SERI), co-published a book entitled: “Green Growth — From Labour to Resource Productivity: Best Practice Examples, Initiatives and Policy Options”. The book outlines different institutional, economic and operational aspects of green and equitable growth, and highlights the urgent need for a reassessment of current modes of industrial production.

IV. Climate Technology Centre and Network

15. In a competitive bidding process held under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, UNIDO, together with UNEP and a consortium of 13 institutions, was selected to establish and host the new Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN). The CTCN has the mandate to build or strengthen the capacity of developing countries to identify technology needs; to facilitate the preparation and implementation of technology projects and strategies to support action on mitigation and adaptation; and to enhance low-emission and climate-resilient development. UNIDO’s participation, as co-leader of the Centre, will help to bring about wider impacts of technology development and transfer, and scale up support to developing countries in their efforts to address climate change.

V. Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

16. In addition to around 40 countries, which UNIDO is assisting with the update of their National Implementation Plans (NIPs), 20 NIP-update projects have been approved since late 2012 by the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

17. Additional projects in the area of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) reduction, municipal waste and medical waste, were approved by the GEF for funding, and include interventions in Bangladesh, Senegal and Serbia. UNIDO, together with the GEF, also successfully assisted the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia with the decontamination and detoxification of 150 tons of transformers and oils, both at end-of-life and in operation, contaminated by PCB. In the Philippines, a UNIDO-commissioned non-combustion persistent organic pollutants (POPs) treatment facility reached a key milestone in March 2013 with the treatment of 22 tons of PCB waste.

18. UNIDO recently extended a key project on the environmentally sustainable management of medical wastes in China. The project, funded by the GEF and co-financed by the Government of China, aims to reduce and ultimately eliminate the release of unintentionally produced POPs and other globally harmful pollutants into the environment, and assist China in implementing its relevant obligations under the Stockholm Convention.

19. In Latin America and the Caribbean, a large-scale project aimed at strengthening national initiatives and enhancing regional cooperation amongst 11 countries on the environmentally-sound management of e-waste is being developed. The project will involve two regional centres of the Basel Convention and two Stockholm Convention centres in addition to the regional platform on e-waste management for Latin America and the Caribbean (RELAC).

VI. Water management

20. With support from the GEF, the UNIDO programme on the Transfer of Environmentally Sound Technologies (TEST) has recently been expanded from Latin America, the Mediterranean and South-East Asia to also cover the Russian Federation. Based on the positive results achieved in the TEST programme for the Mediterranean region, the European Union has pledged €17 million for the replication of the programme in nine countries through its SWITCH programme on the promotion and adoption of sustainable production and consumption patterns.

21. UNIDO is currently implementing a project with the Centre for Development Cooperation in Fisheries of the Norwegian Institute of Marine Research to assist the Government of Sudan in scaling up the development of its fishery industry up to sustainable levels. New and updated information on renewable marine resources in Sudan's coastal waters will be supplied to strengthen national capacities and build opportunities for the transfer of knowledge and know-how to develop a sustainable semi-industrial fishery in Sudan.

22. UNIDO played an active role in the UNEP-led negotiations to develop an internationally binding treaty on mercury. The treaty's wording was finalized and agreed upon in January 2013 and UNIDO was designated as lead agency for

activities related to artisanal and small-scale gold mining. In this connection, UNIDO secured co-financing from the Government of France and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) to implement projects addressing the management and reduction of mercury in Burkina Faso, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Mali, Peru, the Philippines and Senegal.

VII. Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer

23. In 2012, UNIDO was again, for the tenth consecutive time, ranked as the top implementing agency of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol. UNIDO is currently providing assistance to nearly 80 countries through a total of 220 ongoing Montreal Protocol projects funded by the Multilateral Fund of the Montreal Protocol, and bilateral agencies. UNIDO also has three ongoing GEF projects in countries with economies in transition.

24. The next two years will be critical for hydrochlorofluorocarbon (HCFC) phase-out management plans (HPMPs) as countries had to freeze their HCFC consumption at the baseline level by the beginning of 2013 and will have to reach the 10 per cent reduction target by 2015. The different tranches of the HPMPs account for more than half of all ongoing projects. Additionally, 19 projects account for the phase-out of methyl bromide, 31 ensure that the complete phase-out of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) is maintained, and 12 provide support in institutional strengthening. UNIDO is also carrying out five demonstration projects for ozone-depleting substance (ODS) disposal in China, Mexico, Nigeria, Turkey and four countries in the Europe and Central Asia region, and is preparing for two additional demonstration projects in Algeria and Lebanon. UNIDO is also implementing a technical assistance project on ODS destruction for six countries in Central Africa. Montreal Protocol projects are continuing to target the promotion of new technologies with zero ozone-depleting potential coupled with low global-warming potential. Progress is steadily being made towards the development of a suitable scheme for accounting climate benefits from Montreal Protocol-related activities and leveraging of financial support from outside the scope of the Multilateral Fund.

VIII. Global forum activities

25. Together with AFD and with support from UNEP, UNIDO recently staged in France the Paris Forum, an international high-level conference on the theme "Towards a Sustainable Economic Paradigm: From Labour to Resource Productivity". The event brought together around 500 participants who debated on the need for a paradigm shift in global economic development from a model based heavily on labour productivity, towards one revolving primarily around resource-efficiency and productivity. Speakers included ministers, senior European Union officials, chief executive officers and heads of international organizations. Participants agreed that the existing model of economic development was under unprecedented strain and that a reduction in resource use and fewer negative environmental impacts was urgently needed on the part of global industry.

IX. Action required by the Board

26. The Board may wish to take note of the information provided in the present document.
