

UNIDO participating in the 5th GEF Assembly

Cancun • Mexico • 24-30 May 2014

5th GEF Assembly

The GEF Assembly meets every four years and is the only governing body of the Global Environmental Facility that brings together representatives of all 183 member countries at Ministerial level, as well as the GEF Implementing Agencies including UNIDO, Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel, Independent Evaluation Office and Civil Society representatives.



The 5th GEF Assembly was held back to back with the **46th GEF Council meeting** and has attracted more than 1000 participants drawn from a select roster of prominent environmentalists, parliamentarians, business leaders, scientists, NGO leaders, ministers from member states and other country authorities. The GEF Assembly combined plenary and high-level panels, exhibits, side events and GEF project site visits and has marked the closing of the GEF-5 cycle and the launch of GEF-6.

The 5th GEF Assembly as a milestone for further enhancing the scope of UNIDO-GEF partnership

A substantial delegation of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, headed by Director General, LI Yong, actively participated in the 5th GEF Assembly and the associated meetings and side events.

As a result of the participation and efforts of the entire delegation, UNIDO was amongst the most visible GEF partners during the Assembly.

Members of the delegation chaired, or actively engaged in, several side events and interacted with the GEF CEO and staff, as well as with the Executive Director of the Multi-Lateral Fund for the Montreal Protocol. Finally, the UNIDO team conducted bilateral meetings with over 20 delegations during these five days.

UNIDO received strong support from the GEF Secretariat and the GEF OFPs around the world. As the GEF moves to comprehensive, integrated approaches where environment considerations are interwoven with broader concerns of socio-economic progress, the alignment with UNIDO's ISID strategy becomes increasingly apparent. Looking ahead to the GEF-6 Replenishment Cycle (2014-18), UNIDO is expecting to further expand the UNIDO GEF partnership to serve the Member States of the GEF and UNIDO alike.

Director General led the UNIDO delegation in the 5th GEF Assembly in Cancun

Director General LI Yong, as the Head of the UNIDO delegation, participated as a panelist in a high-level round table on **Financing Green Growth** where he outlined how UNIDO could facilitate a better engagement from the private sector while promoting cleaner production, competitiveness, greater investments, and stronger partnerships.



At the **plenary meeting**, the Director General, as sole Head of Agencies present in Cancun, reflected on the proceedings of the 5th GEF Assembly.



Li Yong, UNIDO Director General, said, “With a trend towards greater economic deprivation, social inequality and environmental degradation, it becomes necessary to envisage and develop innovative strategic partnerships that focus on not only achieving global environmental benefits at scale but that actively contribute towards poverty eradication. We need to harness the full potential of our strategic partners in order to achieve the goals of inclusive and sustainable industrial development.”



On the sidelines of the conference, the Director General held several intensive **bilateral meetings** with high-level participants, such as H.E. Mr. Leonardo Beltrán, Vice-Minister of Energy of Mexico; H.E. Ms. Laurentia Mallam, Minister of Environment of Nigeria; the Vice-Minister of Environment of Guatemala, H.E. Mr. Vinicio Montero Suarez; H.E. Mr. Paul Oquist Kelley.

Meetings with other distinguished GEF Assembly participants included Minister and Private Secretary of the Citizen’s Power for National Policies of Nicaragua; as well as H.E. Mr. Rémi Allah-Kouadio, Minister of Environment and Development of Côte d’Ivoire; H.E. Ms. Judi Wakhungu, Cabinet Secretary at the Ministry of Environment, Water and Natural Resources of Kenya; Mr. Magdy Martínez-Solimán, Director a.i. of the Bureau for Development Policy at UNDP; and Ms. Naoko Ishii, CEO and Chairperson of the GEF.



UNIDO sharing experience and lessons learned during side events in the 5th GEF Assembly

On May 27, UNIDO successfully organized a side-event on **Strategic Partnerships** where participants stressed that the move towards cleaner, low carbon production pathways is critical for industries to make a valuable contribution to inclusive and sustainable industrial development. High-level representatives of various UNIDO partners taking part in the side event highlighted the significance and potential of strategic partnerships, and showcased best practices from the field.



They explored the role of such partnerships in tackling the root-causes of environmental degradation, contributing to the target areas of the projects and programmes to be implemented under the 6th replenishment cycle of the GEF.

UNIDO contributed to a **Private Sector** side event that introduced innovative ideas for expanding the private sector engagement with the GEF partnership.

The event featured a panel discussion where UNIDO was represented by its partners Cleantech Open and Nomura Kohsan.



The panel discussion was followed by a networking (or speed-dating) session. The speed-dating session gave all side event participants, including UNIDO, Cleantech Open and Nomura Kohsan, a unique opportunity to discuss the partnership models, outstanding results and achievements, and potential future concepts with delegates from a multitude of delegations.

The **Climate Change and Food Security** side event featured perspectives from FAO, IFAD, UNEP, WORLD BANK and UNIDO on food security as one of the imminent challenges that the global environment faces.

UNIDO was represented by Mr. Philippe Scholtès, who highlighted that agribusiness development is a strategic priority for UNIDO because of the critical role the sector plays in food and nutrition security, economic development, sustainable reduction of

poverty, creating jobs and raising incomes, triggering growth in other sectors, expanding domestic markets and reducing rural-urban migrations.

Mr. Scholtès additionally stressed that UNIDO technical assistance services in food processing technology, rural entrepreneurship development, and the organization of supply chains and markets, contributes to the sustainable growth in the supply of safe food as well as adequate access to it.

The UNIDO delegation organized the Final Steering Committee for the project on **Integrated Assessment and Management of the Gulf of Mexico Large Marine Ecosystem**, a bi-national project between Mexico and the United States of America with UNIDO as the Implementing Agency. There is a common understanding by all stakeholders involved that the results of this project will be an excellent baseline for a GEF-6 project which will focus on the actual implementation of the Strategic Action Plan (SAP) for the Gulf of Mexico Large Marine Ecosystem.



UNIDO showcased its comparative advantage in the 5th GEF Assembly

One of the events during the 5th GEF Assembly was the GEF Assembly Exhibition, which gave participating organizations an opportunity to highlight their activities, partnerships and solutions.

UNIDO has underlined interventions developed under its core mandate of Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development in the GEF Focal Areas of Climate Change Mitigation, Climate Change Adaptation, International Waters and Chemicals.

UNIDO took the opportunity, to also distribute the relevant information materials to the visitors. Electronic copies of the distributed materials, including the “Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development” and the “Environmental mission: enhancing the scope of UNIDO-GEF cooperation” brochures can be found under the UNIDO GEF website.



UNIDO highlighted in the GEF Annual Monitoring Report 2013 presented in Cancun

Among others, the following successful UNIDO projects were highlighted in the GEF Annual Monitoring Report 2013:

- A GEF/ UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) project in Russia is implementing an innovative MFA project to achieve multiple strategic objectives. The implementation rating (IP) of the project is highly satisfactory. The successful design and implementation experiences from this innovative project are expected to greatly benefit future GEF project design and implementation.
- The UNIDO project in Macedonia exceeded its target through phase-out and clean-up of 124 PCB-containing transformers in most critical condition.
- The MedPartnership project supports the SustainableMed program, with the objective of lever-

aging reforms and catalyze investments that address transboundary pollution reduction and marine and coastal biodiversity conservation priorities identified in the SAPs for the Mediterranean basin.

One prominent success has been the successful leverage of the private sector in pollution reduction. Project results include the work of UNIDO’s TEST approach (Transfer of Environmentally Sound Technology), which has been completed with great success, and now being scaled up in a follow up project named The SWITCH-MED sustainable consumption and production program with about 6 million USD for TEST-Med.

Upcoming events

UNIDO is planning to participate in the upcoming GEF related events:

- Sustainable City Conference in Mexico, 16-18 June, 2014
- Consultative meeting on the implementation arrangement of the Sustainable Cities Integrated Approach Pilot in Washington DC, 21-22 July, 2014
- Chemicals Task Force meeting in Washington DC, 21-22 July, 2014
- Green Chemistry meeting in Washington DC, 21-22 July, 2014
- GEF 47th Council Meeting in Washington DC, 28 - 30 October, 2014

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UNIDO-GEF Coordination Unit:

Juergen Hierold, J.Hierold@unido.org
Ganna Onysko, G.Onysko@unido.org
UNIDO GEF Coordination, gef@unido.org