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High-ranking officials to participate in second UNIDO Forum



The Prime Minister of Senegal, Mohammed Dionne, has responded favourably to an informal invitation to participate and deliver a speech at the opening session of the second UNIDO Forum.

Official invitations are going out to a range of high-level officials: ministers, heads of UN agencies, including Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, leaders of multilateral and national development institutions, bilateral aid agencies, industrial associations, chambers of commerce, as well as to the academia and representatives of the private sector.

Former CNN journalist Todd Benjamin will moderate the discussions at the Forum.

To mobilize all relevant stakeholders to attend the Forum, UNIDO is engaging all internal and external field networks, such as its Investment and Technology Promotion Offices (ITPO), South-South Industrial Cooperation Centres (UCSSIC), the Subcontracting and Partnership Exchange (SPX) network, and Investment Promotion Agencies (IPA) of respective Member States.

Senegal pilot programme

UNIDO officials have returned from a preparatory mission to the capital of Senegal, Dakar, where they held discussions with government officials and potential partners on the scope of cooperation based on Senegal's development priorities. This will form the central part of the Programme for Country Partnership. The mission also helped secure high-level participation in the second ISID Forum.

Before the mission, the UNIDO Representative in Senegal, Victor Djemba, established contact with Prime Minister Mohammed Dionne, a former UNIDO staff member, and other potential partners, including the UN Resident Coordinator in Dakar, Bintou Djibo. Djibo confirmed that Helen Clark, the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has expressed UNDP's readiness to be involved in the pilot initiative in Senegal. The same view was expressed by representatives of the World Bank, who, during the Director General's latest visit to the World Bank Headquarters in July, committed to working with UNIDO in the two pilot countries, Ethiopia and Senegal.

During the three-day mission, Managing Director of UNIDO's Programme Development and Technical Cooperation Division, Philippe Scholtès; Senior Advisor on Partnerships, Ciyong Zou; and Industrial Development Officer, Tidiane Boye, held a total of over 20 meetings, including with the Prime Minister, as well as with representatives of the Ministry of Industry and Mines; the Ministry of Economy, Finance and Planning; the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development; the Ministry of Investment, Partnerships and State e-services Development; the Ministry of Trade, Informal Sector, Consumption and Local Products; the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Equipment; the Ministry of Energy and Renewable Energy Development; the EU Delegation; the Agence Française de Développement; the Italian Development Cooperation; the Confédération Nationale des Employeurs du Sénégal; the Embassy of China; the Embassy of Luxembourg; the UN Country Team; and the African Development Bank, the World Bank, and representatives from private sector organizations.

Following the release in February 2014 of the Plan Sénégal Emergent (PSE), a comprehensive development strategy that aims to elevate the country to the status of an emerging economy by 2035, UNIDO has been working on a multi-disciplinary technical cooperation programme that will address the most urgent matters relating to Senegal's development strategy.

“At the second Forum we intend to weave partnerships among Member States, aid agencies, development finance institutions and the private sector around shared development programmes for ISID, and to facilitate the mobilization of resources needed for the implementation of these projects.”
Director General Li Yong



UNIDO's programme is expected to focus on supporting the implementation of the PSE through partnering and synergizing with development finance institutions, bilateral aid agencies and the private sector. It will generate tangible, short-term results, which will build confidence in Senegal's PSE and demonstrate the benefits of UNIDO's partnership approach.



A UNIDO technical mission will be deployed to Dakar – where 90 per cent of the country's industrial activity is concentrated – in the second half of September, and will produce, together with the National Task Force, an action-oriented document that will be presented at the second ISID Forum.

Sneak preview

Next week's issue of the newsletter will flag the latest UNIDO mission to Ethiopia which focused on developing a Programme for Country Partnership.

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The ISID Forum Newsletter

This newsletter – published regularly until the second ISID Forum – will provide details about the most salient aspects of the preparation for the event. Upcoming issues will also focus on pilot initiatives for implementing ISID country programmes, and feature updates on confirmed participants, and other relevant and practical information.

For more information on the second Forum, please visit www.unido.org