



# United Nations Industrial Development Organization

Distr.: General  
14 October 2014

Original: English

## Industrial Development Board

### Forty-second session

Vienna, 25-27 November 2014

Item 8 of the provisional agenda

### UNIDO activities in environment and energy

## UNIDO activities related to environment

### Report by the Director General

The present document reports on the implementation of resolution GC.15/Res.4 and provides information on latest developments. It supplements the information contained in the *Annual Report of UNIDO 2013* (IDB.42/2, chapter 4).

## I. Introduction

1. In the context of fulfilling its renewed mandate of promoting inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID) on a global level, UNIDO helps countries improve the environmental performance of their industries and create industries delivering environmental goods and services. Given the growing demand for UNIDO's environment-related services and a strong portfolio increase, particular attention has been paid to ensuring that UNIDO's mandate in the area of environmental management is adequately reflected in the formulation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the post-2015 development agenda.

2. New partnerships and areas of cooperation are also emerging, for instance with the United States Environmental Protection Agency, which seconded a staff member to UNIDO to assist in the development of projects on mercury and lead management in industry. Similarly, UNIDO is working with China's Ministry of Industry and

For reasons of economy, this document has been printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies of documents to meetings.

V.14-05757 (E) 170914 180914



Please recycle The recycling symbol, consisting of three chasing arrows forming a triangle.

Information Technology as well as the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development, to help develop the conceptual framework for an eventual national Green Industry strategy in China. Additionally, UNIDO is formulating a “Green Chemistry” pilot project aimed at increasing the sustainable and safe use of chemicals in global manufacturing.

## **II. UNIDO Green Industry initiative**

3. The Green Industry Platform, jointly run by UNIDO and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to catalyse, mobilize and mainstream action on Green Industry around the world, has grown to encompass 200 members, a national chapter in China and a chapter dedicated to women in Green Industry. UNIDO has promoted Green Industry policies and practices through its involvement in several key global forum events.

4. UNIDO held three successful Green Industry training courses in 2014: a national training course in China for policymakers, a regional course in Bahrain for countries of the Arab and North African regions, and a Green Industry summer school in Hungary.

5. UNIDO is providing specialized inputs to the Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) in the form of tools and methodologies to develop and assess national Green Industrial policy.

## **III. Resource-efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP)**

6. Membership of the global network for RECP (RECPnet) has expanded to 65 organizations worldwide, providing support for knowledge management, capacity-building and advocacy on RECP methodologies. Moreover, UNIDO rolled out multi-country thematic RECP initiatives on eco-industrial parks, innovative chemical management solutions and low-carbon industry development.

7. New RECP entities are being established in partnership with the Government and business sectors in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Georgia, Mauritius and Myanmar, funded by, among others, the Governments of Austria, Mauritius, Slovenia and Switzerland, as well as by the European Commission.

## **IV. Electronic waste (e-waste)**

8. UNIDO has widened its technical cooperation activities to support Member States in the development of comprehensive e-waste management systems for advanced resource recovery and safe management and disposal. First pilot projects were initiated in Cambodia, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania, with funding from the Governments of Austria, the Republic of Korea and the One UN Programme.

9. A Global Environment Facility (GEF)-funded pilot project supporting the scaling up of e-waste collection and dismantling in Ethiopia was developed, in addition to a regional project for the Latin America and Caribbean region.

10. UNIDO has assumed the lead for the topic of e-waste in the Global Partnership for Waste Management, and continues to develop and implement its e-waste programme through multiple partnerships with original equipment manufacturers, recycling industries, non-governmental organizations and knowledge institutions.

## **V. Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN)**

11. In the recently operationalized CTCN, UNIDO is leading the establishment of the climate technology network and is tasked with implementing relevant procedures and delivering training. By the end of August 2013, the CTCN has received 10 formal requests for technical assistance from developing countries, and is discussing 12 more with National Designated Entities.

## **VI. Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)**

12. UNIDO continues to build capacity and strengthen national environmental planning in 52 countries through projects assisting the review and update of National Implementation Plans (NIPs) of the Stockholm Convention. UNIDO is organizing a global forum event on South-South cooperation in the context of NIP updates and their evaluation in November 2014. The meeting will provide opportunities for countries to share experiences and learn from successful approaches to NIP development, as well as identify and discuss areas of further cooperation.

13. UNIDO is currently implementing a large suite of projects assisting countries in the elimination of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), targeting the management of PCBs in electricity generation and distribution networks. In several countries, this assistance has successfully commissioned non-combustion plants to decontaminate transformer oils and safely dispose of PCBs.

14. UNIDO further supports the global recycling industry and industrial sectors with POPs linkages — such as e-waste, medical waste and metal value chains — through multiple activities. These include a regional project on e-waste covering 13 countries in Latin America and a seven-country project in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region.

## **VII. Water management**

15. The UNIDO programme on the Transfer of Environmentally Sound Technologies (TEST) has expanded to include the European Commission-funded SWITCH-Med programme, promoting sustainable production and consumption in nine countries of the South Mediterranean region, and the MED TEST II project promoting the development of Green Industry in the region. UNIDO acts as implementing agency of SWITCH-Med's demonstration and networking

components to support relevant industrial sectors, emerging green entrepreneurs, civil society stakeholders and policymakers through policy development assistance, demonstration activities and networking facilitation.

16. In cooperation with the Norwegian Institute for Marine Research, UNIDO continues to provide technical assistance to assess the status of renewable marine resources in the Red Sea State, Sudan.

## **VIII. Mercury**

17. UNIDO, with support from the GEF, has developed a series of national capacity-building projects aimed at facilitating the ratification of the Minamata Convention on Mercury. In addition to its leading role in the activities related to artisanal and small-scale gold mining, UNIDO has also developed projects related to mercury in products and mercury-containing wastes and is currently expanding its portfolio with projects focusing on the chlor-alkali process.

## **IX. Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer**

18. UNIDO is providing assistance to 73 countries through a total of 202 ongoing projects funded by the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol (MLF), the GEF and bilateral donors. In 2013, more than 70 of these countries have successfully frozen hydrochlorofluorocarbon (HCFC) consumption. Currently, UNIDO is helping ensure countries' compliance with the next phase-out target: a 10 per cent reduction in HCFC consumption by 2015.

19. UNIDO provides support to almost 70 per cent of methyl bromide (MeBr) phase-out activities in developing countries. UNIDO-assisted countries are on track for a complete phase-out of MeBr in developing countries by 1 January 2015. UNIDO is also exploring strategies to promote alternatives to MeBr in quarantine and pre-shipment applications in global trade.

20. The 2013 yearly performance assessment of the MLF has awarded UNIDO, for the eleventh consecutive time, the highest score among all implementing agencies for its achievements in the implementation of the 2012 Business Plan.

21. Pilot projects for the disposal of obsolete ozone depleting substances (ODSs) are presently under implementation in Algeria, China, Mexico Nigeria, Turkey and in the Europe and Central Asia region. Furthermore, UNIDO and the Government of Germany are assessing the feasibility of a global project to reduce and eliminate the use of a flame retardant in the manufacture of polystyrene foam, as an addition to existing ODS replacement projects in that sector.

22. UNIDO has taken the initiative to link activities related to the disposal of ODSs with activities financed by the GEF. As a result, a GEF-funded project focused on the management of ODS and POPs disposal in Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation and Ukraine was approved. Similar projects are being developed for Egypt, Mexico and Nigeria.

23. UNIDO is currently conducting 14 projects providing institutional support to local authorities to manage Montreal Protocol-related activities, including revisions of internal regulations, policy enforcement, establishment and management of import quotas, as well as facilitating inter-ministerial dialogue among interested institutions.

24. Furthermore, UNIDO is leading the phase-out of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) in the refrigeration and foam sectors by demonstrating the technical feasibility to phase down HFCs and introducing Low-Global Warming Potential Alternatives in existing projects. As a consequence, UNIDO became an implementing agency of the Climate and Clean Air Coalition and was granted funds to implement a demonstration project in Jordan and to start HFC inventories in Jordan and South Africa.

## **X. Action required by the Board**

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

---