UNIDO AND PINN COLLABORATE TO PROMOTE INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE NIGER DELTA REGION OF NIGERIA

ABUJA, OCTOBER 2014

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the Foundation for Partnership Initiatives in the Niger Delta (PINND) and signed a Joint Declaration on Thursday 16 October 2014, to establish a framework for strategic cooperation, in the area of poverty reduction through productive activities in the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria.

The Niger Delta region, home to seven (7) states in the country: Abia, Imo, Delta, Edo, Rivers, Bayelsa, Cross River, Akwa Ibom and Ondo, is known for its rich diversity, dynamic human capital and vast natural resources. However, infrastructural and industrial development, job creation and enterprise development are major issues the region is struggling to deal with.

UNIDO is entering into this strategic cooperation with PINND to establish a framework for the identification, conceptualization, and implementation of projects/programs around common thematic areas which both organizations share, such as: the development of rural entrepreneurship, agri-business development, agro-processing and value addition, promotion of human security, sustainable natural resource management, the establishment of creative industries; and any additional areas that may subsequently be determined by the Representative and Director of UNIDO Regional Office in Nigeria and the Executive Director of PINND.

In his remarks at the signing ceremony, Mr. Sam Daigo, the Executive Director of PINND (represented by Mr. Akala, the program Director), said the
joint partnership is aimed at strengthening the capacities and competitiveness of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and is expected to promote equitable economic growth and advance the region’s industrial sector.

UNIDO and PIND will bring value added expertise and experience within their areas of comparative advantage. For example, UNIDO will offer its technical assistance through a comprehensive range of services that are customized for countries and regions such as the Niger Delta.

These will range from industrial policy advice to entrepreneurship and SME development, technology diffusion to sustainable production and the provision of rural energy for productive uses. PIND will bring its knowledge of the Niger Delta region to ensure economic development through advocacy, capacity and peace building to the benefit of the partnership.

Mr. Patrick Kormawa, the UNIDO Representative in Nigeria said “this partnership is in line with the organization’s mandate to promote inclusive and sustainable industrial development, which in part aims at collaborating with regional governments, relevant NGOs and organizations including those from the private sector that also have the capabilities of reducing poverty and fostering sustainable development in the country”.

The primary beneficiaries of the joint declaration are the men, women and youth of the Niger Delta. Other beneficiaries include relevant and several MDA’s, institutions and non-government organizations located within the region.