



UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

First International Entrepreneurs Investment Forum

On

“Entrepreneurship and Investment for Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development”

(Under the Patronage of HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa,
Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain)

Aide-Mémoire

January 19th to 21th, 2015
Ritz Carlton Hotel & Spa
Manama – Kingdom of Bahrain



Context

The Lima Declaration, signed by all UNIDO Member States, in December 2013 towards “Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID)”, recognizes that industrialization is a driver of development as it increases productivity, contributes to job creation and generates income. Moreover, industrialization offers opportunities for social inclusion by means of empowerment of women and creating decent employment for the youth. The Declaration also acknowledges the challenges that many countries continue to face, such as “unemployment and poor access to financial resources”. Therefore, in its efforts to contribute to inclusive and sustainable industrial development, UNIDO focuses on “enhancing productive capacities in a way that supports the structural transformation of the economy; encourages economic growth and the creation of decent jobs, particularly, in the small and medium-sized enterprise sector”. The Lima Declaration states that “Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID)” recognizes that “economic growth is driven by entrepreneurship, continuous economic diversification, growing trade relations, industrial upgrading and technological innovation”.

Effective economic development can be achieved through Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID) promoting economic empowerment and the creation of decent jobs for all, including youth and women. Therefore, UNIDO promotes inclusive economic development contributing to maximizing job creation and a competitive private sector through entrepreneurship training, access to financial services, sectoral studies, investment promotion, upgrading of companies, technical training and institutional capacity building

It is in this framework that the Forum will be organized by UNIDO. The Forum will showcase and discuss the main issues facing entrepreneurs worldwide. Stakeholders from the Public and Public Sectors, Private Sector Associations, Academia, Entrepreneurs, Development Agencies, Multi- bilateral Finance Institutions, and Civil Society Organizations will take part in the forum to capitalize on each other’s expertise and experience in the area of entrepreneurship development and investment promotion, while building new partnerships and investment opportunities geared towards economic development through entrepreneurship development.

Due to the high-level and variety of participants, the forum will be an important opportunity for all stakeholders to acquire the latest expertise in the field of entrepreneurship development, to expand their networks, to build new partnerships and to develop new joint projects for entrepreneurship development and investment promotion.

Forum's Rationale

Due to changing economic realities, it is not possible for the government to absorb all the unemployed youth in public sector. It has been recognized that the answer to employment generation lies in the promotion of the private sector – notably the entrepreneur – through the promotion of investments, both foreign and domestic. Many governments deem the creation of long-term, decent and productive work a priority. The private sector is a primary driver of economic growth, creating 9 out of 10 jobs globally. However, in many countries women and men face obstacles in engaging in productive activities: the educational and training system does not provide them with the skills required to land a job in the private sector; they are perceived as high-risk due to their age and limited entrepreneurial experience, consequently finding it difficult to access capital to start-up or grow their business; business development services are often lacking, hard to access, and not geared towards the particular needs of young entrepreneurs; and they are often less knowledgeable about networks, markets and investment opportunities and sources of information than older players.

To tackle these issues and boost employment, entrepreneurship and inclusive and sustainable industrial development, UNIDO provides services that assist governments and support structures to serve young women and men. Services are geared to increase young people’s employability and provide them with the necessary tools to create and develop sustainable enterprises, and ultimately improve their livelihoods.

MSMEs contribute to poverty reduction, as they are the main source for economic activity that supports bottom-up economic growth, structural change and innovation. They create employment and generate income for the entrepreneur, the employees and often suppliers, and hence reduce economic and social disparities.

Moreover, it is becoming increasingly clear that women are, and will continue to be, powerful drivers of development. When men and women become more equal, economies grow faster, fewer people remain in poverty, and overall well-being increases. Studies have reported that raising female employment to male levels can have a direct impact on GDP growth rates, increasing it by as much as 34% in some countries, and that countries’ productivity can increase by as much as 25 % if discriminatory barriers against women are



removed. Therefore, the Forum will also elaborate on the role of women in entrepreneurship and investment, i.e. how women are and can be engaged in upgrading existing enterprises and/or in new enterprises.

Thus, entrepreneurship development contributes to economic empowerment through job creation in two folds: (i) through expanding existing MSMEs; and (ii) the creation of new enterprises leading to job creation for the entrepreneur him-/herself and in due course with the right growth support structures and services he/she will in turn recruit others.

Therefore, the objective for all stakeholders involved (Government, private sector, financial institutions, civil society, educational institutions, and academia) will have to focus on: (1) strengthening existing entrepreneurs so that they can become active actors in the economic development of their countries, and (2) developing an enabling eco-system for the creation of new enterprises.

The Forum will act as a platform for Governments, private sector, academia, financial institutions, civil society and entrepreneurs from around the globe to explore possibilities of cooperation, joint investments and business partnerships with potential counterparts.

Forum Objectives

The major objectives of this Forum are the following:

- 1 Raising the interest of young graduates and institutional stakeholders in entrepreneurship,
- 2 Presenting methodologies (UNIDO and partners),
- 3 Introducing international good practices, experience and successes,
- 4 Facilitating business partnerships and investments for domestic enterprise creation and expansion in employment intensive sectors,
- 5 Providing recommendations for the governments from Africa and the Eurasian region on productive and sustainable job creation,
- 6 Developing new projects in the area of entrepreneurship.

Side Events

“Arab Youth Conference”, 22-23 January 2015, under the theme “Entrepreneurship and Innovation”, organized by HRH Prince El Hassan Bin Talal of Jordan, President of the Arab Thought Forum (ATF).

“Bahrain International Green Economy and Technology Forum 2015”, 20-21 January 2015, will be organized by the Bahrain Supreme Council for environment in cooperation with UNIDO.

Featured Topics

- Innovative SMEs and Entrepreneurship
- Fostering Entrepreneurship Development
 - EDIP
 - Intel Programme for Entrepreneurship and Innovation
 - Infrastructure facilities Agro growth poles (case of the Islamic Development Bank, World Free Zone Association.
 - Role of chambers of Commerce in supporting Entrepreneurs
- Gender Dimensions on Entrepreneurship
- Parallel Panels on Entrepreneurship Development covering different Regions

Potential Participants

Consisting of:

- Entrepreneurs from across the world
- Participation of major developmental organizations and Funds
- Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture, and economic associations and entrepreneurs networks.



- Specialized entrepreneurship and MSME agencies
- Universities and academicians
- Major financial institutions.
- Technology providers and investors.
- Corporates Leaders in all sectors.

Partners & Sponsors

- General Union of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, and Agriculture for Arab Countries (GUCCIAAC)
- Arab International Center for Entrepreneurship & Investment – Bahrain
- Islamic Development Bank
- Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa
- European Investment Bank
- Global Entrepreneurship Network
- International SME Network (INSME)
- MENA OECD Investment Center
- Federation of GCC Chambers of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture
- Al Baraka Bank
- EU-Africa Chamber of Commerce
- Enterprise Asia

Language

The Forum will be conducted in English.

Dates and Venue

19 – 21 January 2015

Ritz Carlton Hotel & Spa, Manama, Bahrain

Financial and Administrative Arrangements

UNIDO-ITPO Bahrain will cover the meeting facility expenses of the Forum, including catering during meeting hours.

UNIDO-ITPO Bahrain will provide financial support to invited entrepreneurs subject to resource availability:

- For invited entrepreneurs from Africa (max. 100) and Middle East and North Africa (max. 75) with economy airfare tickets to/from Manama, Bahrain, and hotel accommodation and local logistics. The itinerary will be sent to the selected participants for their approval of the same. Upon receipt of approval, e-tickets will be issued and the participant informed accordingly.
- For invited entrepreneurs (max. 25 each) from Europe, Asia, and Latin America and Caribbean with only hotel accommodation and local logistics.

All invited entrepreneurs must register and accordingly the suitable entrepreneurs will be selected for the sponsorship.

Detailed information on logistical arrangements and accommodation will be communicated upon registration.

Visa arrangements

Before leaving the home country, participants should complete all formalities regarding entry and transit visas, which they may require for the trip to Bahrain. UNIDO ITPO Bahrain will assist by providing a Note Verbale (Invitation Letter) for the participant to obtain an entry visa to Bahrain; accordingly passport copies should be submitted to the following address h.hutton-mills@unido.org; ieif2014bh@arceit.org on or before **18th December 2014**.



Enquiries and Correspondence

UNIDO-ITPO Bahrain

Hashim Hussein, Head, UNIDO ITPO Bahrain

Tel: +973 17 536881

Fax: +973 17 536883

Email: ieif2014bh@arceit.org

UNIDO HQ

Henry Hutton-Mills

Business, Investment & Technology Services Branch

Tel: +43 1 26026 4845

Email: h.hutton-mills@unido.org

UNIDO and the host country will not assume any responsibility for the following expenditures, which may be incurred by participants:

- Compensation for salary and any related allowance during the period of the forum.
- Travel and any other costs incurred by dependents.
- Costs incurred in respect of travel and accident insurance, as well as medical and hospitalization bills in connection with attendance at the forum.
- Compensation in the event of death, disability or illness of the participant.
- Loss or damage to personal property while attending the forum.
- Purchase of personal belongings and compensation in the event of damage caused to them by climatic or other conditions.
- Other unforeseen expenditure.