Dear esteemed Partners,

We are delighted to present this edition of UNIDO in Nigeria Newsletter to you. There is no doubt that the Regional Office Nigeria (RON) has witnessed a flurry of significant activities within the last quarter of 2016, and we are happy to share them with you.

This edition has an update on our partnership with the Nigerian government, partners and stakeholders in critical economic areas such as industrial policy development and implementation; investment promotion and technology transfer; trade capacity building and quality infrastructure, as well as efforts to promote green and safe environment.

From the report on policy-makers and business leaders’ x-ray of UNIDO activities in Nigeria as the Organization globally marks its 50th Anniversary by November this year; to the remarkable efforts made by UNIDO and the Federal Government of Nigeria towards elimination of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) across the country, and EU’s growing confidence in UNIDO’s global expertise in supporting Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID), this edition has a rich blend of useful information for you.

Going forward, we shall continue to serve you with invaluable information on UNIDO activities in Nigeria and the West African Sub-region. More importantly, we shall continue to strengthen our partnership with all key stakeholders in our collective and crucial journey towards achieving Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID).

We shall be delighted to read your comments/suggestions. Please, feel free to contact us via email through: office.nigeria@unido.org; or Telephone: 09-2205009.

Dr. Chukwuma Ezedinma,
For: UNIDO Representative in Nigeria, ECOWAS and Director Regional Office, Nigeria.

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Policy-makers, including manufacturers and business leaders in Nigeria, have appraised and commended UNIDO’s work within the last 50 years and pointed the way forward on what the Organization should do more in order to help Nigeria achieve Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID).

Speaking during a documentary interview on UNIDO@50, Former President of Nigeria, and member of the Africa Progress Panel (APP), Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, said, “For the past 50 years, UNIDO has made its mark in promoting Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID) particularly in developing countries like Nigeria. However, to make the world fully industrialized by ensuring that no country is left behind (including Nigeria) UNIDO should pay more attention to supporting the growth and development of Small and Medium Enterprises.”

According to the National President, Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN) Dr. Frank Jacobs, “Manufacturers in Nigeria have benefitted immensely from UNIDO’s technical assistance and international linkages. However, UNIDO can help Nigeria to attain ISID faster by providing more technical assistance to the industrial sector in order increase the capacity utilization of industries so that they can create more jobs and reduce unemployment.”

Similarly, the National President, Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI), Dr. Mrs Nike Akande, said, “UNIDO has been very useful to Nigerian businesses especially the SMEs by providing feasibility studies and other technical assistance. For Nigeria to attain ISID faster, we want UNIDO to increase its technical assistance to the organised private sector and the government.”

In his comment, the Chairman, United Bank For Africa Plc, and Founder, Tony Elumelu Foundation, Mr. Tony Elumelu, said “Going through the Lima Declaration, I can say that UNIDO has done well. However, the Organization should not relent because we still have poverty in Nigeria, Africa and the world. Going forward, we expect UNIDO to continue to mobilise the private and public sectors in Nigeria so that we can pull resources together to achieve Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development by tackling poverty because poverty anywhere in the world is a threat to mankind.”

According to its Lima Declaration, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) aims to eradicate poverty through Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID). UNIDO advocates that ISID is the key driver for the successful integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions, required to fully realize sustainable development for the benefit of our future generations.

Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development means that every country achieves a higher level of industrialization in their economies, and benefits from the globalization of markets for industrial goods and services. - no one is left behind in benefiting from industrial growth, and prosperity is shared among women and men, young and old, rural and urban dwellers alike, in all countries. - Broader economic and social growth is supported within an environmentally sustainable framework.

Also, ISID entails that unique knowledge and resources are combined of all relevant development actors to maximize the development impact. The enormous potential of ISID to deliver upon the multi-dimensional aspirations of development has also been recognized by all members of the United Nations, which adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including SDG-9 “Build Resilient Infrastructure, Promote Inclusive and Sustainable Industrialization and Foster Innovation.”
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SEEKS UNIDO'S SUPPORT IN IMPLEMENTATION OF NIGERIA'S INDUSTRIALIZATION PLAN

The Minister Industry, Trade and Investment, (MITI), Dr. Okechukwu Enelamah, has solicited the support and partnership of UNIDO towards the successful implementation of industrialization plans, policies and programmes by the ministry. He said such support and partnership would ultimately help the country achieve economic diversification, poverty reduction, employment generation and wealth creation.

The Minister disclosed this during a two-day Retreat and capacity building themed, "Addressing Unemployment Through the Development of SMEs and Industrialization". The Retreat, organized by UNIDO for MITI and all its industrial policy implementing agencies and parastatals in Onne, Port Harcourt, held on 20-22 May, 2016.

"We need the support and partnership of credible International developmental agencies like UNIDO in the implementation of our economic diversification plans, policies and programmes such as the Nigeria Industrial Revolution Plan (NIRP). UNIDO has the technical expertise and global interconnectivity so they can help us to connect the dots", Enelamah stated.

The minister thanked UNIDO for its past and present assistance towards enhancing Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development in Nigeria and pledged that MITI would continue to work with UNIDO to develop country’s industrial sector.

"For us a government, we appreciate the importance of UNIDO as development partner in enhancing Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development in Nigeria. The role of UNIDO in the implementation of the Nigeria Industrial Revolution Plan cannot be over emphasized. We appreciate their support and partnership and need more of it in the implementation of the NIRP."

Areas where UNIDO is already providing support for MITI and the Nigerian Government include industrial policy development and implementation; investment promotion and technology transfer, trade capacity building and quality infrastructure development.

With the launch of the Nigeria Industrial Revolution Plan, the Federal Government of Nigeria has outlined its roadmap to inclusive and sustainable industrial development. To support the successful
The project tagged “Capacity Strengthening For Sustainable industrial development in Nigeria” is projected to have the following outcome:
I. Strengthened human and institutional capacity for the design and implementation of industrial, trade and investment policies.
II. Effective and efficient implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the NIP and NIRP.
III. Development of an Industrial Performance Monitoring System.

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EBONYI STATE GOVERNOR COMMENDS UNIDO FOR SUPPORTING INDUSTRIALIZATION, SOLICITS ASSISTANCE ON SOLID MINERALS DEVELOPMENT IN EBONYI

Ebonyi State Governor, Mr. Dave Umahi, has commended UNIDO for supporting Inclusive and Sustainable Development in the state. Governor Umahi, who gave the commendation when he visited UNIDO Regional Office, in Abuja, explained that he was in UNIDO Office to solicit support and partnership in industrializing the state.

According to the Governor, "We are in UNIDO's office to thank the organization for its assistance, support and intervention aimed at enhancing industrial development and poverty reduction in the state especially with the rice milling plant, and biomass plant, which UNIDO is doing in our state. We are highly impressed with UNIDO's support and commitment so far. Presently, we have large deposits of salt in Ebonyi state which we want to develop and we want this to be on the priority list of UNIDO for assistance."

Responding, the Officer in Charge, UNIDO RON, Dr. Chuma Ezedinma, said, "We have already done the demonstration with a gasification plant for the 5MW power because UNIDO strongly believes that power is critical for industrialization. Working with our partners, we are trying to find an alternative to large grid systems that can help embedded generation to support productive activities. Basically, this is what UNIDO is trying to demonstrate in Ebonyi. Once we complete the power plant, it will be a good example of how embedded generation can be used for industrial purposes."

UNIDO, in partnership with the Ebonyi State Government is implementing a 5MW Biomass power plant project worth $14.6 million (USD) in the state. This project is an offshoot of the recently concluded project in the State-Energy Efficiency in Rice Mills which was also implemented by UNIDO. The rice husk produced from the milling operations in the rice mill clusters will be used as the fuel source for the power plant. The development of the 5MW power plant will not only provide access to sustainable electricity for businesses and residents of the communities but will also facilitate the Federal Government's drive to improve access to electricity supply. In addition, a 32 KW demonstration plant has been completed in the State. UNIDO is planning to implement similar green projects across Nigeria.
CHINA CAMC IDENTIFIES PARTNERSHIP WITH UNIDO AS NECESSARY STEP FOR INVESTING IN NIGERIA’S AGRO-INDUSTRIAL SECTOR

Partnership and collaboration with UNIDO has been identified as a major step towards exploring the investment opportunities in Nigeria’s agro-industrial sectors. The leader of the China CAMC Engineering delegation to Nigeria and General Manager, Mr. Yu Tao, disclosed this during an official visit to UNIDO Regional Office in Nigeria. Other members of the China CAMC Engineering delegation who accompanied Mr. Tao were Yang Xiaoyu, Project Manager and Fan Yi, Deputy Manager.

“UNIDO has been working for the promotion of the well-being of the Nigerian people in agri-business, industrial development and other relevant areas for many years and China CAMC Engineering believes that working together with UNIDO is a necessary step towards investing in Nigeria,” Tao said. He explained that the company’s desire to work together with UNIDO was based on UNIDO’s track record of promoting inclusive and Sustainable Development in Nigeria.

“Nigeria is one of the countries China CAMC Engineering is interested to investing in. We have great interest to open our businesses here in Nigeria by partnering UNIDO, the government of Nigeria and the private sector. I believe that there is a lot we can do in Nigeria in the area of agricultural collaboration. So with UNIDO’s support and partnership, China CAMC Engineering believes we will be able to do more projects in Nigeria.”

In her welcome address, the Head of UNIDO Investment and Technology Promotion Office in Nigeria, Mrs. Adebisi Olumodimu, assured the China CMCA delegation of UNIDO’s partnership and support in the area of investment and technology promotion.

Olumodimu, who was represented by the Deputy Head, UNIDO ITPO Nigeria, Mrs. Safiya Usman, said “UNIDO Nigeria ITPO, which is the first of its kind in Africa, is responsible for promoting investment, and technology acquisition in Nigeria and Africa. We are ready to support and partner China CAMC to achieve their investment goals in Nigeria.”

In his remarks, the Officer in Charge of UNIDO Regional Office in Nigeria, Dr. Chuma Ezedinma,
said UNIDO would support and partner China CAMC Engineering to promote and attract investment into Nigeria in line with the Organization’s mandate and thematic areas of focus.

Chuma said, “UNIDO’s mandate and thematic areas of focus covers investment, entrepreneurship, poverty reduction environment, renewable energy and trade. Our interest in China CAMC Engineering is to showcase some of the investment opportunities that we have in Nigeria through the UNIDO ITPO. China CAMC’s mission in Nigeria has been organized in such a way that they will meet with relevant Federal Government agencies and state governors where the investments are located. Also, we are using this event to show the synergy between our various UNIDO Programmes in Nigeria and at the same time support the Nigerian government to proactively promote investment inflows into the country.”

China CAMC Engineering is a publicly listed company engaged in industrial, agricultural and water treatment and communication projects across the world. Currently, it has 44 representative or branch offices around the world. The company has already received the endorsement of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture as well as Governors of Anambra, Enugu and Ebonyi States to invest in agro-industrial sectors in Nigeria.

UNIDO STRENGTHENS CAPACITY OF NIGERIA’S INDUSTRY, TRADE AND INVESTMENT MINISTRY FOR INDUSTRIAL POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment (MITI) Dr. Okechukwu Enelamah, (5th from the right) Permanent Secretary, MITI, Mr. Aminu Bisalla (6th from the right) and a cross section of participants, including UNIDO staff and Heads of Parastatals under MITI, during the two-day Retreat and capacity building themed, "Addressing Unemployment Through the Development of SMEs and Industrialization", organized by UNIDO for MITI and all its industrial policy implementing agencies and parastatals in Onne, Port Harcourt, on 20-22 May, 2016.

In line with its mandate of promoting Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) has continued to support Nigeria as one of its member States in the area of industrial development.

As part of deliberate efforts to support the present government in Nigeria, (with a CHANGE Mantra) to achieve ISID by diversifying the productive base of the economy, UNIDO organized a two-day Retreat for top management of the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment (MITI), and Heads of Agencies and parastatals.
under the ministry. The theme of the Retreat, held on May 20-21 2016, in Onne, Rivers State, was, “Addressing Unemployment and Poverty through the Development of SMEs and Industrialization.” The Retreat was aimed at harnessing the resources of Government under the purview of MITI for a pointed drive towards industrializing Nigeria through joint visioning, awareness raising, consensus building for collective delivery, and synergy development. It featured diverse presentations ranging from the vision of MITI under the current administration, its mandate as well as pragmatic initiatives being undertaken to resolve specific issues in Nigeria’s industrial sector.

Other critical issues discussed at the Retreat included: how to create an enabling environment for Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development; facilitating infrastructural development; Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) development; proactively attracting local and foreign direct investments; and strengthening ties with strategic partners and international organizations to foster regional and international trade.

Speaking during the Retreat the Officer in Charge, UNIDO Regional Office, Nigeria, Dr. Chuma Ezedinma, said “As a trusted development partner and specialized agency of the United Nations that promotes industrial development for poverty reduction, inclusive globalization and environmental sustainability, UNIDO will continue to support the Nigerian government and Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment in those four key industrial development pillars already identified by the minister. These pillars are: creating an enabling environment for industry, trade and investment; creating jobs to achieve inclusive growth; proactively attracting long-term local and foreign investments and implementing the Nigeria Industrial Revolution Plan.”

Speaking at the end of the Retreat, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment, Dr. Okechukwu Enelamah thanked UNIDO for organizing the event, adding that MITI would continue to collaborate with relevant and well-meaning international development partners such as UNIDO in order to successfully implement government’s industrialization policies and programmes. “I am extremely delighted with the outcome of the two-day capacity building Retreat organized by UNIDO for the Ministry and all its parastatals. As a matter of fact, anytime I think of UNIDO, I think of a credible, global institution that means well in terms supporting Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development not only in Nigeria but across the world” the minister noted.
Ms. Paola De Caro, EU’s International Relations Officer; Francis Ray, Head of Unit, ACP and Development Issues, European Commission’s Directorate – General for Agriculture and Rural Development, Brussels; Reuben Bamidele, National Programme Officer, UNIDO Regional Office, Nigeria; Yomi Banjo, Environment Expert, UNIDO, Simeon Umukoro, Technical Coordination Expert, National Quality Infrastructure Project, and Julien Schmitt, Chief Technical Adviser, Investment Promotion Division, Trade, Investment and Innovation Department, UNIDO, Vienna, during a meeting at UNIDO office, in Abuja.

EU HIGHLIGHTS NEED TO LEVERAGE UNIDO’S GLOBAL EXPERTISE FOR AGRO-INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

A delegation from the European Commission comprising Francis Ray, Head of Unit, ACP and Development Issues, European Commission’s Directorate - General for Agriculture and Rural Development, Brussels, and Ms. Paola De Caro, EU’s International Relations Officer, visited the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) Regional Office in Nigeria, and highlighted EU’s willingness to leverage UNIDO’s global expertise to develop agro-industries, create jobs, and tackle the root causes of poverty and migration in Nigeria and Sub-Saharan Africa”, said Francis Ray.

“The EU is interested in the development of agribusiness sector in Nigeria. Our special relationship and partnership with UNIDO over the years provides us with the opportunity to leverage UNIDO’s global expertise so that we can collaborate to develop agri-business sector as well as promote investment into that sector”, Ray added. The meeting was a follow up to the Joint Work Plan Agreement signed in June this year between Jerzy Bogdan Plewa, the Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI) of the European Commission, and Mr. Li Yong, UNIDO Director General. The Agreement aims at developing technical exchanges and cooperation on agro-industrial policies; fostering private sector
investment in agri-business and agro-industrial value chains; encouraging business linkages, matchmaking between Africa and EU in the area of agribusiness; promoting value adding activities, including value adding schemes and increased export through capacity building, knowledge sharing, and training, and increasing interaction in the area of food quality norms and standards.

In his presentation to the European Commission’s delegation, the National Programme Officer, UNIDO Regional Office, Nigeria, Reuben Bamidele, highlighted the organization’s work in Nigeria in the areas of agribusiness and agro-industries development (with emphasis on the Staple Crops Processing Zones), renewable energy (small hydro power, biomass and solar) for productive uses; investment and technology promotion; development of national quality infrastructure (NQI) (funded by the EU); strengthening of capacity for the implementation of the Nigerian Industrial Revolution Plan (NIRP), skills and entrepreneurship development especially for youth and women, and environmental management through Minamata Convention Initial Assessment and National Action Plan on artisanal gold mining.

(L-R) Dr Idris Goji, Deputy Director, Federal Ministry of Environment (FME); Dr. Bukhar Hassan, Permanent Secretary, FME; Mallam Ibrahim Jubril, Minister of State, FME; Mr. Oluyomi Banjo, Environment Expert, UNIDO Regional Office, Nigeria, and Prof. Babajide Alo, Former Deputy Vice Chancellor, University of Lagos, during a National Stakeholders Workshop, in Abuja.

UNIDO, STAKEHOLDERS COMPLETE NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR ELIMINATION OF PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS IN NIGERIA

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), working in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Environment and other stakeholders, have finalized Nigeria’s National Implementation Plan for the elimination of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) across the country. POPs, which are mostly found in pesticides, industrial chemicals and by-products, constitute grave danger
to human health and the environment. The elimination of these harmful pollutants from the environment is a major requirement from countries like Nigeria who are signatories to the Stockholm Convention.

The Stockholm Convention is an international treaty developed to protect human health and the environment from Persistent Organic Pollutants. It was adopted in 2001, but came into force in 2004, the same year Nigerian ratified the Convention. As a party to the Convention, Nigeria is obligated to develop Enabling Activities that will identify and develop appropriate structures for the implementation of programmes and activities geared towards meeting the Convention's requirements.

In April 2009, with UNIDO’s assistance, Nigeria submitted its National Implementation Plan to the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention. Subsequently, UNIDO has collaborated with the Federal Ministry of Environment to review and update Nigeria’s National Implementation Plan for the Stockholm Convention. With the successful completion of the NIP, the country is now expected to direct efforts and focus its attention on short, medium and long term strategies for developing programmes for the elimination of POPs which will ultimately help to improve human lives and safeguard the environment.

According to the Officer in Charge, UNIDO Regional Office, Nigeria, Dr. Chuma Ezedinma, “UNIDO is committed towards working closely with the Government of Nigeria, development partners and other stakeholders towards achieving the desired result. In respect of this, UNIDO will continue to make available to the Federal Ministry of Environment and other stakeholders, its capacity and capabilities to support the development and implementation of programmes relating to the Stockholm Convention.”

“UNIDO is currently working in partnership with 48 countries, assisting them in reviewing and updating their NIPs and has already begun the process of developing projects to implement some of the recommendations of the completed National Plan.”

Speaking on efforts made by UNIDO to support Nigeria towards elimination of POPS in Nigeria, the UNIDO Environment Expert, Regional Office, Nigeria, Mr Oluyomi Banjo, said, “I want to commend the efforts of the Federal Ministry of Environment, international development and donor partners, the Organized Private Sector and various stakeholders for putting structures in place and for their partnering with UNIDO towards making our environment a safer place to live.

Banjo added “The expected outcome of the NIP update for the Stockholm Convention in Nigeria includes the establishment of effective and efficient coordination mechanisms and organizational process for the elimination of POPS, among other things.”

(L-R) Mr. Chukwumeke Ezekiel, Media and Communication Expert, UNIDO Regional Office Nigeria; Mr. Tony Elumelu, Chairman, UBA Plc, and Founder, Tony Elumelu Foundation, and Mr. Tajudeen Bello, Communications Officer, CCMR Division, UNIDO Vienna, during a documentary production on UNIDO @50 in Lagos.

Participants at the Stakeholders Workshop for the Preparation of the Stage II of the Hydrochloroflorocarbon Phase-Out Management Plan (HPMP) for the Refrigeration and Air-conditioning Manufacturing Sector in Lagos.

Participants at a Stakeholders Meeting on Inauguration of the Inter-Ministerial Standing Committee on Zero Reject on Agricultural Commodities organized by EU-UNIDO National Quality Infrastructure Project in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment, in Abuja.