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Fifth ISID Forum showcases the Programme for Country Partnership to West Africa



Director General Li Yong and the Prime Minister of Senegal, Mahammed Dionne, inaugurating the exhibition of industrial products during the Forum, with, in the background, the Minister of Industrial Development of Mali, Mohamed Ali Ag Ibrahim, and the Minister of Industry and Mining of Cote d'Ivoire, Jean-Claude Brou.

Co-organized by the Government of Senegal and UNIDO, the fifth UNIDO Forum on Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID) was held from 14 to 15 November in Dakar, Senegal. The Forum focused on the Programme for Country Partnership (PCP) model and the possibility of replicating this model in the West Africa region as a means of addressing some of the challenges impeding Africa's industrialization. It was organized within the context of the United Nations decision proclaiming the period 2016 to 2025 as the Third Industrial Development Decade of Africa.

The Forum also served to promote specific investment opportunities, particularly in large-scale industrial projects of the PCP for Senegal.

The event brought together more than 400 participants including ministers of industry from Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Mali, Niger, and Senegal, as well as high-level government representatives from Cabo Verde, Ethiopia, Mauritania, and Nigeria, and representatives of the Presidents of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). The national and international public and private sectors, as well as leading multilateral and bilateral development partners, were also represented.

Chairing the Forum, Mahammed Dionne, the Prime Minister of Senegal, praised UNIDO for its support to Africa's industrialization efforts and in particular to his country, Senegal.

He noted, "Industry is a prime engine for accelerating growth and job creation. That is why it must reach all segments of society, not just the rich." He stressed that the alignment of the PCP with Senegal's national development plan, the Plan Senegal Emergent (PSE), with its focus on selected flagship industrial projects in sectors with high potential for economic growth, has contributed greatly to expanding the industrial sector.

Forum discussions focus on the PCP model and its potential for the region



From left to right: Mohammed Seid Yimer, Ambassador of Ethiopia in Senegal; Guy Amédée Ajanohoun of the WAEMU; Aly Ngouille Ndiaye, Minister of Industry and Mines of Senegal; Abdul Aziz Tall, Minister to the President of Senegal in charge of the PSE; and Li Yong, UNIDO Director General.

Representatives from Senegal and Ethiopia presented the progress of the PCPs in their respective countries and commended the model as an effective mechanism to move their industrial development agendas forward. Mobilizing the private sector and all relevant regional and international development partners were underscored as key for maximizing impact.

Panellists and participants stressed the importance of regional integration for advancing Africa's industrialization. Guy Amédée Ajanohoun, WAEMU Commissioner for Enterprise Development, Energy, Telecommunications and Tourism, highlighted the key role of regional economic communities (RECs) as building blocks for economic integration. "RECs have contributed to increased competitiveness, improving the business climate and closing gaps in hard and soft infrastructure," said Ajanohoun.





Discussions centred on the potential expansion of UNIDO's PCP model to the West Africa region, based on the early successes of the first two African pilot countries.

"In the ECOWAS sub-region, the PCP model could help expand the industrial base and diversify manufacturing activities, and assist in the operationalization of the West African Common Industrial Policy," stated Kalilou Traore, ECOWAS Commissioner for Industry and the Private Sector.



Opening ceremony of the Fifth ISID Forum at the King Fahd Palace Amphitheater in Dakar.

Final statement by participants as major outcome of the Forum

At the closing of the Forum, participants issued a statement acknowledging the importance of regional integration to underpin Africa's industrialization, highlighting the significant benefits of the PCP approach. They voiced strong interest in having the PCP model disseminated among West African countries and in using the PCPs as the leading mechanism to underpin national industrial development strategies within the region. To read the final statement, please visit: <https://goo.gl/gWoilk>

Showcasing investment opportunities in Senegal

The second day of the Forum focused on introducing the overall business environment in Senegal and promoting investment opportunities in large-scale industrial projects. Representatives of national institutions presented specific investment opportunities in agro-poles, industrial parks and a mining hub, which are key components of the PCP for Senegal.

Such opportunities were further discussed through business-to-business and business-to-government meetings, in particular to explore private and public funding options for the PCP Senegal.

In addition, an exhibition showcasing local industrial products was on display for the course of the event.



Exhibition of local industrial products during the Forum.



Visit to the Integrated Industrial Park of Diamniadio

During the second day, participants took part in a field visit to the integrated industrial park of Diamniadio. The park is located south of Dakar and is a flagship project of the Government of Senegal, supported by UNIDO's PCP. The visit allowed participants to see first-hand the progress being made on the ground.



Diamniadio industrial park.

Meetings on the sidelines of the Fifth ISID Forum

The Director General conducted a series of meetings on the sidelines of the Forum. He met with the Senegal's Prime Minister and ministers to discuss PCP progress in Senegal and agree on concrete measures to speed up implementation, in particular with regard to industrial zones.

Director General Li met with several ministers of industry from the West Africa region and representatives of the WAEMU and ECOWAS to discuss possibilities of expanding the PCP to new countries based on the success of the first pilots.



Meeting with the United Nations Country Team, co-chaired by Li Yong and Bintou Djibo, the United Nations System Coordinator in Senegal.



The Director General also met with the United Nations Country Team and high-level representatives of the national private sector in Senegal to discuss partnership options within PCP projects.

More information, including the final statement of the Fifth ISID Forum, photos and videos can be found at: <https://isid.unido.org/forum-5.html>

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