



# UNIDO international expert session

## UNIDO: A Global Platform for the Development of Women's Entrepreneurship

### SUMMARY OF THE EVENT

within the framework of the  
second Eurasian Women's Forum

Tauride Palace

Saint Petersburg

Russian Federation

20 September 2018

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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We take this opportunity to thank Ms. Vera Khutorskaya, Ms. Tsvetelina Miliowska, Ms. Iona Sleptsova, Mr. Simon Schoening, Mr. Valentin Melnikov, Ms. Adelina Iovanesc, Ms. Sofiya Lipenkova and Ms. Mayya Tolkacheva for their contribution to the success of the international expert session.

The organization of the session was the result of the collaborative efforts of the UNIDO Regional Division for Europe and Central Asia, the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Russian Federation and the OPORA RUSSIA Committee on Women Entrepreneurship Development.

Financial support was provided by the Government of the Russian Federation within the project “UNIDO as a platform to promote women’s economic empowerment and entrepreneurship”.

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## BACKGROUND

The mandate of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) is to promote and accelerate Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID). Its relevance as an integrated approach to all three pillars of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental – is recognized under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), namely Goal 9: *Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation*.

UNIDO recognizes that women are key agents of change, who, as economic actors, leaders and consumers, play vitally important roles in every country's drive towards a higher level of sustainable industrialization in their economies. UNIDO elaborated and implements the Policy on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and the Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women Strategy 2016-2019, both of which provide a clear, result-oriented framework and plan of action.

UNIDO works actively in the field of women's economic empowerment, whereby focusing specifically on scaling up women's entrepreneurship. On a macro-level, the Organization supports an inclusive policy dialogue between various stakeholders in order to create a favorable business environment for female entrepreneurs. This is done mostly through knowledge development, establishment of dialogue mechanisms and organization of advocacy events. On the meso-level, UNIDO cooperates with intermediate institutions (e.g. business associations) to address the specific needs of women engaged in business and facilitate their access to markets and financing. On the micro-level, UNIDO provides direct technical assistance to women-led companies and women entrepreneurs by strengthening their business opportunities and ability to mobilize investments in selected value chains.

UNIDO's activities in the field of women's empowerment primarily focus on knowledge, skills, technologies and business support services to enable women to engage in productive economic activities. This is achieved through capacity-building and policies designed to equip women with the necessary tools to seize economic opportunities, gain control of their lives and exert influence in society. UNIDO's activities in this area also concentrate on the creation of an enabling environment for female entrepreneurs, support for youth entrepreneurship and the promotion of clusters and partnerships that facilitate access to information, technology and markets for women.

UNIDO applies mainstreaming strategies that address the needs of women to help realize their economic potential, thereby improving their standard of living. Encouraging women's participation in the economy benefits society by ensuring sustainable economic and social development and enabling prosperity and social cohesion at regional, national and international levels.

Within the project supported by the Government of the Russian Federation, "UNIDO as a platform to promote women's economic empowerment and entrepreneurship", UNIDO is organizing a number of global forum events with the objective of contributing to the global discussion on women's economic empowerment. Among them, was the international expert session organized on the margins of the second Eurasian Women's Forum in St. Petersburg on 20 September 2018. It addressed the topic "UNIDO: A Global Platform for the Development of Women's Entrepreneurship" and brought together key stakeholders with a role in economic development, high-level government representatives from the Russian Federation and other countries, as well as top business executives from a global background.

The event was organized on the basis of the successful experiences gained during SPIEF 2017, when UNIDO hosted the interregional forum, "Women's Entrepreneurship – Challenges and Solutions in Europe and the Arab Region" and during SPIEF 2018, where UNIDO held the international forum "Increasing the Contribution of Women to Economic Growth and Prosperity: Creating an Enabling Environment". It

brought together delegates from Egypt, Turkey, Italy and Germany and created a foundation for future spin-off activities, including UNIDO's intervention at several global forums scheduled for 2019, such as the Global Manufacturing and Industrialization Summit (GMIS) 2019 in Yekaterinburg, the 45<sup>th</sup> WorldSkills Competition in Kazan in 2019 and SPIEF 2019.

## PURPOSE AND GOALS OF THE SESSION

The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Eurasian Women's Forum took place from 19 to 21 September 2018 in St. Petersburg, Russia and attracted delegates from more than 100 countries and 27 international organizations. The forum was attended by high-level government representatives, international officials and top business executives, who gathered to address the issues related to women's contribution to global security and sustainable development. Seizing the opportunity to reach out to multiple stakeholders, UNIDO organized an international expert session titled "UNIDO: A Global Platform for the Development of Women's Entrepreneurship", which was held on the margins of the forum on 20 September 2018.

The aim of the session was to feature the role of UNIDO in scaling up women's entrepreneurship development globally. Presenters were supposed to outline the three main levels of UNIDO's activities for supporting women's entrepreneurship under the Organization's mandate on inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID). The session was organized to inform the audience about the ways in which UNIDO creates an enabling environment for women's economic empowerment, how it cooperates with business associations for capacity-building and investment promotion, as well as how it directly supports individual women engaged in business. The expert session was illustrated by practical cases of UNIDO's intervention.

In particular, the session's participants discussed the following questions:

- How can UNIDO support women entrepreneurs in getting access to international markets, investments and technologies?
- What is the role of cooperation between UNIDO and business associations in supporting women's entrepreneurship?
- Which conditions should be created by the state, the private sector and civil society to scale up the participation of women in ISID?
- How do certain UNIDO projects facilitate the promotion of women's entrepreneurship through skills training programmes and mentoring?
- What is UNIDO doing to support the formation of global networks for women's economic empowerment?

More than 200 participants including high-level Russian and international officials and representatives from the business community attended the international expert session "UNIDO: A Global Platform for the Development of Women's Entrepreneurship". UNIDO's project team mobilized four international participants from four countries (Italy, Turkey, Egypt, and Germany). Additionally, special guests included Ms. Galina Karelova, Deputy Chairperson of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, and Ms. Gulnaz Kadyrova, Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade of the Russian Federation. Within the programme of the session, the audience also witnessed the ceremony of the appointment of Ms. Veronika Peshkova as a UNIDO Goodwill Ambassador and the ceremony of signing of the Joint Declaration regarding the Cooperation between UNIDO and the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Russian Federation.

## SUMMARY OF THE SESSION'S PROCEEDINGS

### THE SESSION'S OPENING AND STRUCTURE



At the session's opening, speeches were delivered by Ms. Fatou Haidara, Managing Director, Directorate of Corporate Management and Operations, UNIDO and Ms. Gulnaz Kadyrova, Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade of the Russian Federation. The session was moderated by Mr. Jacek Cukrowski, Chief, Regional Division for Europe and Central Asia, UNIDO.

Ms. Fatou Haidara, UNIDO's Managing Director on Corporate Management and Operations, noted in her opening speech that women's economic inclusion is a fundamental building block in creating stable, prosperous and peaceful societies, emphasizing that promotion of the women's agenda is impossible without establishment of strong partnerships.

Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade of the Russian Federation, Ms. Gulnaz Kadyrova, underlined the importance of UNIDO activities in the field of women's economic empowerment. She stated that the unified efforts of UNIDO and the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Russian Federation lead to more comprehensive inclusion of women in the economy. Ms. Kadyrova also stressed the importance of defining further concrete steps and projects aimed at supporting women's entrepreneurship.

Thereafter, the session was comprised of a panel discussion, screening of a short video on UNIDO's mandate and two official ceremonies, namely:

- Ceremony of the appointment of Ms. Veronika Peshkova as a UNIDO Goodwill Ambassador;
- Ceremony of signing of the Joint Declaration regarding the Cooperation between UNIDO and the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Russian Federation.

**Ms. Fatou Haidara, Managing Director, Directorate of Corporate Management and Operations,  
UNIDO**



“Global gross domestic product could increase by more than 25 per cent by 2025 if women played the same role in labour markets as men. It is evident that inclusive and sustainable development cannot occur without women’s full participation.”

**Ms. Gulnaz Kadyrova, Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade of the Russian Federation**



“The consistent attention of UNIDO to this topic of women’s economic empowerment can not only contribute significantly to the development of our economies, but also expand the circle of like-minded people.”

**Mr. Jacek Cukrowski, Chief, Regional Division for Europe and Central Asia, UNIDO**



“During the session we will be able to learn more about UNIDO’s activities aimed at supporting women’s entrepreneurial activities under the UNIDO’s mandate of inclusive and sustainable industrial development.”

## PANEL DISCUSSION

### **UNIDO: A Global Platform for the Development of Women's Entrepreneurship**

The panel discussion focused on the role of UNIDO in scaling up women's entrepreneurship development globally. Audience learned about three main levels of the Organization's activities aimed at supporting women's entrepreneurship – creation of enabling environment for women's economic empowerment, cooperation with business associations for capacity-building and investment promotion and provision of direct support to individual women engaged in business.

Special attention was paid to the challenges women entrepreneurs face in today's business environment, and to the instruments that help them overcome barriers and succeed in their endeavours. Among other issues, speakers emphasized the importance of capacity building, improving competitiveness and better access to information.

After a short introduction, the moderator of the panel discussion, Mr. Jacek Cukrowski, invited the first speaker, Ms. Monica Carco, Senior Industrial Development Officer, Focal Point for women economic empowerment and youth employment, UNIDO, to take the floor. Ms. Carco has more than 25 years of experience in the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UNDP, the World Food Programme and UNIDO, where she has held senior managerial positions. Currently, she manages several technical cooperation projects in the area of private sector development, women's economic empowerment and youth employment through entrepreneurship development and is currently responsible for a regional programme in the Arab Region aiming at promoting women's empowerment for inclusive and sustainable industrial development. In her speech, Ms. Carco highlighted important aspects of the practical realization of UNIDO's mandate, including UNIDO's activities related to its cooperation with business associations, networks and advocacy groups for women entrepreneurs.

#### **Ms. Monica Carco, Senior Industrial Development Officer, Focal Point for Women's Economic Empowerment and Youth Employment, UNIDO**



“Women's entrepreneurship development and involvement of women in industrial development is a major target for us at UNIDO.”

After Ms. Monica Carco, Ms. Serena Romano, President of Corrente Rosa, one of Italy's leading women's advocacy associations that promote women's participation in business, institutions and politics, addressed the audience. Ms. Romano has an extensive experience in the area of legal, regulatory and antitrust affairs, notably in European banking and telecommunications sectors. During her intervention, she managed to present a European vision of how to harness the under-realized economic potential of women. Additionally, Ms. Romano highlighted the ways to establish the conditions for long-term, wealth-creating women's entrepreneurship, mentioning several successful practices, including the establishment of a special state

guaranteed fund for SMEs under the control of the Italian Ministry of Economic Development, which offers more favorable lending conditions to women entrepreneurs, the Small Business Act in the USA, which provides specialized outreach to women and minorities, and a project launched by the Association of Greek Women Entrepreneurs (SEGE), which targets male-dominated sectors of the Greek economy and advocates a series of original measures to ensure women’s participation in those sectors.

**Ms. Serena Romano, President, Corrente Rosa, Italy**



“We need to create a network of support for women with a variety of actors to advise them on accountancy, business or legal issues, and markets.”

Ms. Serena Romano was followed by Ms. Amany Asfour, President of the International Federation of Business and Professional Women, Egypt. Ms. Asfour is a Lecturer of Pediatrics at the National Research Center of Egypt and a prominent advocate of women’s economic empowerment. Relying on her experience in the International Federation of Business and Professional Women and in various other advocacy groups for women’s entrepreneurship, Ms. Asfour addressed the issue of how global women networks can operate to support women’s inclusion in the economy. Ms. Asfour’s presentation highlighted the importance of contribution of global women networks to the promotion of the agenda of women economic empowerment on regional and global levels. She specifically stated that such networks are one of the crucial elements required for the progress in the field of women economic empowerment and stressed the need for active cooperation between UNIDO and business organizations in supporting women’s entrepreneurship.

**Ms. Amany Asfour, President of the International Federation of Business and Professional Women, Egypt**



“Our role as civil society is based on four priorities: awareness and building of entrepreneurial culture, access to information, advocacy and lobbying, and access to training and capacity building.”

Ms. Amany Asfour's address was followed by Ms. Sanem Oktar, Secretary General of the Women Entrepreneurs Association of Turkey (KAGIDER), Turkey. Ms. Sanem Oktar has been listed among the top ten Women Entrepreneurs in her country. She established her first company Tribeca Communications in 1997, and therefore spent more than 20 years in the business. In her intervention, Ms. Oktar highlighted her personal entrepreneurial experience as well as the activities of the Women Entrepreneurs Association of Turkey. Additionally, Ms. Oktar's presentation contained valuable ideas on how UNIDO and international associations of women entrepreneurs could build on their complementarities for delivering real value for women's entrepreneurship.

**Ms. Sanem Oktar, Secretary General of the Women Entrepreneurs Association of Turkey (KAGIDER), Turkey**



“In Turkey we have only 100,000 women entrepreneurs, which means that only about 8% of entrepreneurs in the country are women.”

After Ms. Sanem Oktar, the floor was taken by Ms. Elfi Klumpp, Head of Global Business Development Educational Services at Festo Didactic and General Manager of the WorldSkills Foundation, Germany. During her 30 years career at Festo Didactic, where she has been responsible for numerous large-scale international projects in the field of education, qualification and workforce development and active participation in projects of the WorldSkills Foundation, Ms. Elfi Klumpp became a well-known advocate for women's economic empowerment. Ms. Klumpp and UNIDO share a long and fruitful history of cooperation, which includes her participation as a speaker in the international forum “Increasing the Contribution of Women to Economic Growth and Prosperity: Creating an Enabling Environment” organized by UNIDO on the side-lines of the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum on 23 May 2018. In her intervention, Ms. Klumpp stressed the importance of education and skills for empowering women and increasing their share in the economy. She also highlighted digitalization, ICT developments and Industry 4.0 as new sources of opportunities for women and called for the creation of new global networks and partnership for women's economic empowerment.

**Ms. Elfi Klumpp, Head of Global Business Development Educational Services at Festo Didactic and General Manager of the WorldSkills Foundation, Germany**



“In Industry 4.0, in innovative industrial development, we need to invest in women's education, especially in the STEM-related spheres.”

## OFFICIAL CEREMONY OF THE APPOINTMENT OF MS. VERONIKA PESHKOVA AS A UNIDO GOODWILL AMBASSADOR



Within the framework of the international expert session “UNIDO: A Global Platform for the Development of Women's Entrepreneurship”, Ms. Veronika Peshkova, Member of the Expert Council of the OPORA RUSSIA Women's Entrepreneurship Development Committee, has been appointed a UNIDO Goodwill Ambassador. The official open letter from UNIDO's Director General, Mr. LI Yong, on the appointment of Ms. Veronika Peshkova as a UNIDO Goodwill Ambassador was read to the audience by the moderator of the ceremony Mr. Jacek Cukrowski. Ms. Veronika Peshkova was briefed about the role and duties of a UNIDO Goodwill Ambassador by Mr. Sayaphol Sackda, Advocacy and Media Relations Officer, UNIDO.

A speech on the occasion of the appointment of Ms. Peshkova was delivered by a special guest of the ceremony Ms. Galina Karelova, Deputy Chairperson of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, a well-known advocate of strengthening partnership between UNIDO and the Russian Federation and one of the key supporters of Ms. Peshkova's nomination. In her speech, Ms. Galina Karelova highlighted the rich and positive history of cooperation between UNIDO and the Russian Federation and said that with the second Eurasian Women's Forum a new chapter of cooperation has been initiated.

At the end of the ceremony Ms. Veronika Peshkova delivered an acceptance speech in which she stated that as a newly appointed UNIDO Goodwill Ambassador she will be working on strengthening the Organization's engagement with governments, private sector, non-governmental organizations and stakeholders for the promotion of the UNIDO's mandate of Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development. She also proposed several concrete actions, including the creation of women's talent pool and network, the establishment of a mentoring programme for women-leaders and e-learning platforms to further facilitate the involvement of women in the economy, as well as the organization of thematic global forum events and other activities to be implemented in cooperation with UNIDO.

**Ms. Galina Karelova, Deputy Chairperson of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation**



“The Russian Federation and UNIDO have a very positive history of fruitful cooperation. And here, at the second Eurasian Women’s Forum, we are glad to open a new page of this cooperation.”

**Ms. Veronika Peshkova, UNIDO Goodwill Ambassador, the Russian Federation**



“For me, UNIDO is a very special organization. It’s a unique, practice-oriented structure. It has expertise, tools and rich experience in implementing projects aimed at economic growth. I also consider it important to use the mechanisms of the Organization for implementing a wide range of programmes in order to expand the economic opportunities of women.”

**Mr. Sayaphol Sackda, Advocacy and Media Relations Officer, UNIDO**



“We are very appreciative of the cooperation with Ms. Peshkova and would like her, as an international UNIDO Goodwill Ambassador, to contribute to the promotion of Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development, as well as to the promotion and advocating of the role of women and of women’s economic empowerment in the Russian Federation, CIS countries and throughout the world.”

**OFFICIAL CEREMONY OF SIGNING OF THE JOINT DECLARATION REGARDING  
THE COOPERATION BETWEEN UNIDO AND THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND  
TRADE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**



The participants of the international expert session had a chance to witness the signing of the Joint Declaration on Cooperation between UNIDO and the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Russian Federation, which is supposed to further enhance bilateral cooperation in promoting inclusive and sustainable industrial development in the Russian Federation in areas of mutual interest.

By signing the Joint Declaration, sides committed to promote cooperation and advance initiatives for the application of e-commerce, as well as technical cooperation projects in the area of creative industries. It was also agreed to organize global forum events, including the international conference “Empowering Girls and Women in Digitalization and Industry 4.0 through the Power of Skills” within the frameworks of Worldskills Kazan 2019, and a panel discussion on the topic of women’s entrepreneurship and economic empowerment in the context of digitalization on the sidelines of the Global Manufacturing and Industrialization Summit (GMIS) which will take place in Yekaterinburg in 2019.

## PROPOSED FOLLOW-UP INITIATIVES

1. Creation of an e-learning platform for women in business, on which women will be able to take free learning and skills development courses to improve their managerial and entrepreneurial skills and to keep abreast of the new skills, in particular those associated with digitalization and Industry 4.0. This online-course platform could be established on UNIDO's website (e.g. at <https://open.unido.org/>) and will require registration from participants. At the end of every course participants will need to take a test to check their mastery of the material. Examples that can illustrate the general approach to the platform include the HP LIFE e-Learning programme - a free online training course introduced by Hewlett Packard in cooperation with UNIDO (see: <http://www.life-global.org/>), and the UN's women courses on 'I know gender' and many others (see: <https://trainingcentre.unwomen.org/>). The e-learning training platform will allow women to enhance their understanding of entrepreneurship by receiving answers to questions on how to start a business, how to make it successful and on marketing tools and tips for finding sponsors. Cooperation opportunities with established institutions in the field including Coursera (see: <https://www.coursera.org/>) and EdX (see: <https://www.edx.org/>), as well as with leading companies that are already actively cooperating with UNIDO, such as HP, Microsoft, SAP etc. will be explored, and companies will be invited to contribute with their knowledge and networks.
2. Within the framework of the 45<sup>th</sup> WorldSkills Competition in Kazan, Russian Federation, UNIDO and its partners, including the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Russian Federation, the WorldSkills Foundation, WorldSkills Kazan 2019 and FESTO Didactic Germany are planning to organize the international conference "Empowering Girls and Women in Digitalization and Industry 4.0 through the Power of Skills". The overall objective of the conference will be to increase awareness on the importance of worldwide future skills development of girls and women in the field of digitalization and Industry 4.0, and to provide input for potential policy change and national programmes in the area of education and digital skills development. Issues, such as a new approach to education, lifelong learning, adapting labor market regulations and social security systems to new challenges, reduction of barriers to training, and introduction of specific benefits, will be addressed during the conference. International participants will contribute to the event by sharing best-practice policy examples, success stories of programmes and business practices aiming at harnessing women's opportunities brought forward by the digital revolution. Moreover, it is expected that the conference will aid partnership building, the establishment of multi-stakeholder knowledge-sharing platforms, the design of training curricula for new workforce skills requirements etc.
3. During the second edition of the Global Manufacturing and Industrialization Summit (GMIS) 2019 in Yekaterinburg, Russian Federation, UNIDO is planning to hold a panel discussion on the topic of women's entrepreneurship and economic empowerment in the context of digitalization (the concept is to be developed). GMIS, a joint initiative launched by UNIDO and the Ministry of Economy of the United Arab Emirates, aims to promote a roadmap for future industrial development to echo the evolution in the international trade and global best practices. GMIS emphasizes the potential of Industry 4.0, which promotes the achievement of sustainable development and supports equal opportunities for men and women.
4. As Industry 4.0 will have a profound impact on the content and nature of jobs and, as a result, on the skills required to perform them, there is a strong necessity of broadening women's economic rights and opportunities in the industrial sector, digital economy and the new technological environment. Therefore, in addition to online trainings, UNIDO plans to introduce various offline trainings for women in the field of digitalization and Industry 4.0. Potential workshop activities for women will focus on: i) introducing models and practical framework in order to better understand the digital work; ii) development of major skills that are relevant to the digital sector: besides Science,

Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) skills, these could include functional and analytical skills, organizational leadership and team building skills, project and product management, digital literacy, e-commerce, technology exchange, programming, and iii) lectures from top-level experts in the high-tech sectors of the economy accompanied by interactive dialogues with the audience.

5. Establishment of a mentoring programme for women-leaders/women-executives based on existing examples. A disproportionately low number of women holding leadership positions in business remains a pressing issue in the topic of women's economic empowerment. Some countries tackle this problem through the introduction of legislated quotas. Others, like Finland, have decided to focus on promoting self-regulation measures, encouraging the private sector to take the main role in supporting female business leadership. For example, the Women Leaders Program of Finland's Chamber of Commerce aims at facilitating women's access to leading positions not only on boards of companies, but also among the top executives. The main activities include a top-level Mentoring Programme for Women Executives, conduction of annual studies and extensive research. The Government of Finland is encouraging the international community to learn from their achievements in the field: the programme was introduced a decade ago and has already presented significant results. Thus, the experience of Finland can potentially be scaled up internationally with UNIDO's support and through established platforms for women's economic empowerment. The Government of Finland could be invited for cooperation and experience-sharing in the field.
6. Other practice-oriented proposals made by the participants for harnessing the underutilized potential of women in the economic development are welcomed and will be duly considered.

## AGENDA

### International expert session

#### “UNIDO: A Global Platform for the Development of Women's Entrepreneurship”

Organized by UNIDO within the programme of the second Eurasian Women's Forum  
in St. Petersburg

**Date:** 20 September 2018

**Venue:** Tauride Palace, Hall 1

**Organizers:** United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)  
OPORA RUSSIA Women's Entrepreneurship Development Committee  
Organizational support provided by the Roscongress Foundation

*With financial support from the Russian Federation*

**09:30–11:30**  
(Hall 1)

#### **International expert session - UNIDO: A Global Platform for the Development of Women's Entrepreneurship**

The session will feature the role of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in scaling up women's entrepreneurship development globally. Presenters will outline the three main levels of UNIDO's activities aimed at supporting women's entrepreneurship under the Organization's mandate on inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID). The audience will learn how UNIDO creates an enabling environment for women's economic empowerment, how it cooperates with business associations for capacity-building and investment promotion, as well as how it directly supports individual women engaged in business. The expert session will be illustrated by practical cases of UNIDO's intervention. The following key questions will guide the discussion:

- How can UNIDO support women entrepreneurs in getting access to international markets, investments and technologies?
- What is the role of cooperation between UNIDO and business associations in supporting women's entrepreneurship?
- Which conditions should be created by the state, the private sector and civil society to scale up the participation of women in ISID?
- How do certain UNIDO projects facilitate the promotion of women's entrepreneurship through skills training programmes and mentoring?
- What is UNIDO doing to support the formation of global networks for women's economic empowerment?

Moderator: Mr. Jacek Cukrowski, Chief, Regional Division for Europe and Central Asia, UNIDO

Welcoming remarks:

- Ms. Fatou Haidara, Managing Director, Directorate of Corporate Management and Operations, UNIDO
- Ms. Gulnaz Kadyrova, Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade of the Russian Federation

Video screening

Speakers:

1. Ms. Monica Carco, Senior Industrial Development Officer, Focal Point for Women's Economic Empowerment and Youth Employment, UNIDO
2. Ms. Amani Asfour, President, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, Egypt
3. Ms. Serena Romano, President, Corrente Rosa, Italy
4. Ms. Sanem Oktar, Secretary General, Women Entrepreneurs Association of Turkey (KAGIDER), Turkey
5. Ms. Marianela Santos Cabrera, Member of the Coordination Committee, UNIDO Project "Strengthening of the competitiveness, organizational performance and export capacity of the Cuban music industry", Cuba
6. Ms. Elfi Klumpp, Head of Global Business Development Educational Services, Festo Didactic & General Manager of the WorldSkills Foundation, Germany

Questions and answers

Official ceremony of the appointment of Ms. Veronika Peshkova, Member of the Expert Council, OPORA RUSSIA Women's Entrepreneurship Development Committee, the Russian Federation, as a UNIDO Goodwill Ambassador. Special guest:

- Ms. Galina Karelova, Deputy Speaker of the Federation Council, Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation

Closing remarks:

- Ms. Gulnaz Kadyrova, Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade of the Russian Federation

Official ceremony of signing the Joint Declaration regarding the Cooperation between UNIDO and the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Russian Federation

Group photo

<b>11:45–13:00</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>13:00–15:00</b> (Duma Hall)	<b>Opening ceremony of the second Eurasian Women's Forum – Plenary session “Women for Global Security and Sustainable Development”</b>
<b>15:00–15:30</b>	<b>Coffee break and networking</b>
<b>15:30–18:00</b>	<b>Visit to the exhibition of women-exporters' projects “Made in Russia: Exports Created by Women” and participation in other sessions (optional)</b>

**ANNEX II: JOINT DECLARATION REGARDING THE COOPERATION BETWEEN UNIDO AND THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND TRADE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

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**JOINT DECLARATION**

**REGARDING THE COOPERATION BETWEEN  
THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND TRADE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION  
AND  
THE UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION**

WHEREAS the Russian Federation has a longstanding and cooperative relationship with UNIDO and supports the achievement of sustainable and inclusive industrial development globally through the proliferation of advanced technology and advanced production processes, as per the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 9, "build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation;

WHEREAS the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), as a specialized agency of the United Nations, has the unique mandate for promoting inclusive and sustainable industrial development in the developing countries and in countries with economies in transition;

WHEREAS the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Russian Federation and UNIDO wish to record their intentions to further develop interaction in the areas defined during the previous consultations;

DETERMINED to further enhance bilateral cooperation in promoting inclusive and sustainable industrial development in the Russian Federation and globally in line with the Concept of the State Policy of the Russian Federation in the area of international development assistance and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

NOW THEREFORE the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Russian Federation and UNIDO jointly declare:

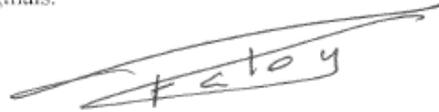
1. Their intention to facilitate cooperation between the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Russian Federation and UNIDO with the objective of attracting UNIDO's expertise for contributing to the efforts of the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Russian Federation towards sustainable and inclusive industrial development;
2. Their commitment to promote cooperation between the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Russian Federation and UNIDO in the following areas:
  - Initiatives for the application of e-commerce platforms;
  - Technical cooperation projects in the area of creative industries, including decorative handicrafts;

- Organization of global forum events, including on issues related to digitalization and Industry 4.0, such as the international conference “Empowering Girls and Women in Digitalization and Industry 4.0 through the Power of Skills” and a panel discussion on the topic of women’s entrepreneurship and economic empowerment in the context of digitalization on the sidelines of the Global Manufacturing and Industrialization Summit (GMIS) 2019 in Yekaterinburg;
  - Any other mutually agreed areas of cooperation.
3. Their desire, subject to availability of the necessary funds, to identify suitable technical cooperation projects related to any other areas of cooperation in accordance with the legislation of the Russian Federation and respective policies, procedures, rules and regulations of the UNIDO.
  4. The Joint Declaration does not give rise to legally binding obligations or financial commitments.

Signed at St. Petersburg at the Second Eurasian Women’s Forum on 20 September 2018 in the Russian and English languages in two originals.



**For the Ministry  
of Industry and Trade  
of the Russian Federation  
(Ms. Gulnaz Kadyrova,  
Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade of  
the Russian Federation)**



**For the United Nations  
Industrial Development  
Organization  
(Ms. Fatou Haidara,  
Managing Director, Directorate of  
Corporate Management and Operations)**