UNIDO AS A PLATFORM TO PROMOTE WOMEN’S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the Government of the Russian Federation have been forging a long-standing cooperation resulting in a number of joint global forum and capacity-building activities aimed at mainstreaming women’s agenda in the region of Europe and Central Asia as well as globally.

**Women’s Economic Empowerment in Focus of UNIDO’s Work**

UNIDO, as a specialized United Nations (UN) agency promoting inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID), fosters international multi-stakeholder partnerships to support women’s economic empowerment and gender equality. The UNIDO Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women Strategy 2016-2019 provides a clear result-oriented framework and a plan of action in this regard.

UNIDO advocates that economic empowerment of women has a tangible impact on social development and economic growth, constituting a key to prosperity, accelerated ISD and cohesion at all levels. Hence, strengthening the role of women in global economies directly contributes to SDG 9 on industry, innovation and infrastructure, and to SDG 5 on gender equality.

Although women’s empowerment has been high on the global development agenda in recent years, consolidation of efforts is much needed.

While women all over the world increasingly launching their own businesses and gaining more economic independence, they are still notably underrepresented in their own businesses and gaining more economic empowerment and gender equality. The UNIDO Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women Strategy 2016-2019 provides a clear result-oriented framework and a plan of action in this regard.

**Women Represent a Key Driving Force for Job-Creation, Innovation, Investment and Business**

There is growing evidence that women’s empowerment and gender equality have a multiplier effect on families, communities, businesses and sustainable economies at large.

Decreasing gender disparities and promoting diversity in economic and industrial development leads to improved decision-making, higher performance, and, as a result, greater outputs.

**Diversity Brings Benefits!**

Women contribute to the establishment of a broader talent pool, better understanding of customer’s needs and greater coherence within the organization.

Women are more conscious users of resources and as such can have a significant positive impact on an organization’s sustainability.

**Why Should We Act Now?**

The new era of industrialization, marked by the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR), digitalization and innovation, provides new evolving opportunities for women in pursuing professional growth in industries. UNIDO is striving to help women and girls acquire necessary knowledge and skills demanded by the new technological environment to further strengthen their competitive advantage on the global labor market.

**Why Should We Intervene?**

- **34%** of managerial positions on a global scale are held by women (2018)
- **25%** of global businesses don’t have a single woman in senior roles (2018)
- **2025** (125%) of global GDP, if women are equal to men at the labour market

Panel session at SPIEF 2019

Women executives in building successful business models

**UNIDO Promotional Event**

“UNIDO: A GLOBAL PLATFORM FOR THE PROMOTION OF WOMEN’S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT – INITIATIVES IN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA”

The event, held in Vienna, showcased showcased recent activities, selected projects and near-term plans of UNIDO and its key interlocutors in the field of women’s economic empowerment, allowing it to mainstream the topic far beyond the existing network.

**2nd Eurasian Women’s Forum**


UNIDO organized a panel at GMIS 2019 in St. Petersburg, Russia, to discuss how the international community can respond to the challenges and opportunities of the new technological environment, when it comes to the global women’s agenda.

**Women’s Economic Empowerment – Challenges and Solutions in Europe and the Arab Region**

The UNIDO International Forum brought together some 220 representatives of regional and national governments, as well as large businesses. It served as a unique platform for partnership building in the field of women’s entrepreneurship.

2017: 1-2 June
2018: 23 May
2019: 8 February
2020: 6 June
10 July