



From the Managing Director

Welcome to the 4th edition of our newsletter!

I am pleased to share with you the fourth issue of PFC newsletter keeping you informed about the directorate's milestones, progress of work highlighting FOs role and substantive contribution in close collaboration with relevant departments at HQs.

Given its strategic importance, PFC continues to feature pipeline and ongoing initiatives showcasing UNIDO response to COVID-19 across five regions in cooperation with Member States, other UN entities, IFIs, private sector, among others through our newsletter.

For further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

With best regards,

Ciyong Zou

ADVANCING STRATEGIC APPROACHES

AfDB-UNIDO INITIATIVE TO ANALYZE IMPACT OF COVID-19



UNIDO is collaborating with the African Development Bank (AfDB) to develop joint knowledge products to inform and guide policymaking for the design and implementation of economic recovery and resilience measures for the industrial sector, setting back African economies on high and sustained growth paths and supporting their economic transformation. The main objective of this joint AfDB-UNIDO initiative is to analyze the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the industrial sector, understand the drivers of its resilience and identify policy reforms and actions aimed at speedy economic recovery after the crisis. Nine countries were selected namely Tunisia,

Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, South Africa, Rwanda, Mauritius, Zambia, Kenya, and Senegal to constitute the sample for this initiative. The results of the joint undertaking will guide Governments in designing economic growth recovery programs through stimulating industrial sector productivity and resilience.

UNDS REFORM: VIRTUAL MEETING HELD WITH THE NEW UNRC IN THAILAND



On 30th June, Mr. Zou, Managing Director of PFC held a virtual meeting with Ms. Gita Sabharwal, the newly appointed United Nations Resident Coordinator (UNRC) in Thailand, as part of UNIDO's efforts in

strengthening its engagement towards the UNDS reform. The meeting provided an opportunity for Ms. Sabharwal to enhance her understanding on UNIDO's ISID mandate, activities including the scope of the current work in the country and the foreseen priority areas of intervention under the Strategic Cooperation Framework (SCF) 2018-2021. Ms. Sabharwal expressed full appreciation for the briefing and commended UNIDO for the successful launch of the Impact Assessment of COVID-19 on Thai Industrial Sector, as an important contribution to support the Government's efforts towards strong economic recovery. The UNRC also pledged full support to the new GEF-funded project on green chemistry for low emissions and POP-free industrial development, which is of strategic importance in Thailand's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

UNIDO AT THE HLPF SIDE EVENT FOR LANDLOCKED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

On 9 July 2020, UNIDO participated at the [High-Level Political Forum \(HLPF\)](#) virtual side event entitled

“UN Roadmap for Accelerated Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action (VPoA) for Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) in the Decade for Action and COVID-19 era”, organized by the Permanent Mission of Kazakhstan/Chair of the Group of the LLDCs and UN-OHRLS. The event aimed at sharing

among partners the experiences in dealing with the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 in LLDCs. DG Li Yong, commended on the recently held 10th Inter-Agency Consultative Group Meeting on the implementation of the VPoA for LLDCs, on 23 June 2020. The Director General expressed UNIDO's support towards the UN

Roadmap for the remaining five years of implementation of the VPoA. UNIDO is included in the UN Roadmap contributing to several priority areas of the VPoA related to the socio-economic transformation of LLDCs, during and beyond COVID-19.

REGIONS IN FOCUS: SELECTED PIPELINE AND ONGOING INITIATIVES

AFRICA



IMPROVING AIR QUALITY IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE

On 25 June 2020, Mr. Joseph Séka, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development received two mini-stations for Ivorian Antipollution Center (CIAPOL) for the Abidjan region in Côte d'Ivoire. This GEF funded initiative aims to reinforce efficiency in the assessment of air quality and improve local competence in response to the environmental degradation through sustainable approaches. UNIDO and the AfDB are jointly implementing the GEF-Abidjan sustainable city project. UNIDO, in close coordination with the Ministry of Environment and

Sustainable Development through CIAPOL is implementing Component 2 of the project entitled “Assessment and Improvement of Air Quality” which aims to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) in the industrial sector. Mr. Tidiane Boye, UR in Côte d'Ivoire highlighted the importance of the newly received stations to provide empirical data imperative for development, implementation and monitoring of appropriate strategies to combat the improvement of air quality. FO is supporting EAE/ENV that is leading the technical implementation of this initiative and will be considered among the focus areas of PCP Côte d'Ivoire.

SUPPORTING WOMEN AND YOUTH AMID COVID-19 IN MADAGASCAR



UNIDO FO in Madagascar together with other UN entities in the country jointly developed an initiative to prevent the COVID-19 propagation among prison communities. As part of the One UN Action, the handover of PPE and healthcare equipment to the Ministry of Justice in Madagascar took place on 23 June 2020. As part of the collective response of the UN in Madagascar under Gender and Human Rights, the PPE and disinfectant gels locally produced by SMEs will be provided to women and children in prisons. UNIDO's contributions include 3,000 pieces of washable masks and 1,000 disinfectant gels for approximately 2,000 women and 1,000 children. This initiative calls for SMEs in Madagascar to provide local support, amid the urgency of the COVID-19 pandemic crisis.

TACKLING ECONOMIC RESPONSE TO COVID-19 AT THE INDUSTRIAL FORUM IN MOZAMBIQUE

FO in Mozambique represented UNIDO at the first Industrial Forum held on 9 July 2020 organized by the Soico Foundation (FUNDASO) and the Industrial Association of Mozambique (AIMO). Discussions at the forum included topic such as the local manufacturing of industrial parts, as an economic response to the fluctuating demand and supply curve caused by COVID-19. This initiative contributes to SME development, job creations and import substitutions in Mozambique. Alongside Mr. Rogério Samo Gudo, President of AIMO and Mr. Chimombo Chade and Mr. José Novais, Representatives of Mozal, Mr. Jaime Comiche, UNIDO Country Representative (UCR) of Mozambique highlighted the local manufacturing of industrial parts as a prevalent step to improve Mozambican industrialization through the implementation of the Industrial Policy and Strategy. The Industrial Forum was broadcasted as a webinar through Zoom and streamed on SOICO TV to reach a wider public, which enhanced UNIDO's visibility in Mozambique.

UNIDO AT THE 2020 UN MSME DAY IN NIGERIA

On 30 June 2020, UNIDO through its Field Office in Nigeria, in partnership with the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment (FMITI) and Small & Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN) co-organized the annual MSME Day with the theme entitled "COVID-19: The Great Lockdown and its impact on Small Businesses". During the virtual event, Mr. Jean Bakole, UR

in Nigeria delivered message on behalf of UNIDO on its support for growth and development in MSMEs, as part of the COVID-19 recovery response. The ongoing initiatives include strengthening MSMEs for economic growth and job creation through mitigating challenges and the development of start-ups. Nearly 400 participants attended the event including a high-level participation by the Representative of the Office of the Vice President. The event strengthened UNIDO's visibility and promoted organization's mandate and services in the country.



COMBATING COVID-19 THROUGH INNOVATIVE YOUTH-LED INITIATIVES IN SENEGAL

UNIDO has been supporting emerging innovations in response to COVID-19 through a project funded by the Special Initiative (SI) on Training and Job Creation (Sonderinitiative Ausbildung und Beschäftigung) - an initiative of the German government in response to youth unemployment challenges in Africa. In Senegal, many students have initiated projects to help the government with the current sanitary, economic and social crisis. For instance, a prototype automatic gel dispenser with an infrared sensor has been developed by a start-up established

by young engineering graduates of the Ecole Supérieure Polytechnique de Dakar. A research & development programme related to cashew and mango oil extraction for the production of organic hydro-alcoholic solutions and other by-products will be developed and supported, not only to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, but also to explore opportunities for job creation through circular economy in the country. Youth led initiatives for job creation are in line with the priorities of Programme for Country Partnership (PCP) Senegal. FO is supporting DTA/AGR on these initiatives.

ONLINE COURSE ON ENTREPRENEURSHIP UNDER A JOINT INITIATIVE IN ZAMBIA

Under the PCP Zambia umbrella, UNIDO, in collaboration with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) and HP Foundation have advanced the Mashrou3i project through an online workshop in Northern Technical College (NORTEC) in Ndola, Zambia from 22 June to 26 June 2020. the e-learning course entitled "HP LIFE – Zambia 2020" successfully took place amid the COVID-19 pandemic. During the two-day online workshop, 22 participants from the Zambian Industrial Training Academy (ZAMITA) have undertaken the course, led and coordinated by HP LIFE Master Trainer and an Entrepreneurship & MSME Development Expert. The aforementioned interventions are in line with Programme for Country Partnership (PCP) Zambia's focus area on industrial skills development.

ARAB



EGYPT: MULTI-STAKEHOLDERS STRATEGIC FORESIGHT FOR THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR

UNIDO through FO in Egypt jointly with the UN Resident Coordinator are supporting a Multi-Stakeholders Strategic Foresight for the manufacturing sector, in cooperation with the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development (MoPED). Three webinars were organized in June and July, with prominent, active participation and provision of insights of UNIDO on emerging trends to support stakeholders' dialogue. UNIDO is involved in drafting the future scenarios encompassing: No Change, Marginal Change, Adaptive Change, and Radical Change. Furthermore, UNIDO supported the organization of an expert reference group of private sector representatives to strengthen proposals around future economic scenarios and to provide policy recommendations that can best manage the economic outlook and accelerate the move to a better-off future. The resulting report will feed Government policy formulation and planning as well as guide future technical cooperation activities

of development partners, including the UNIDO Programme for Country Partnership (PCP) in Egypt.

A JOINT PRODUCTIVE SECTORS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME LAUNCHED IN SOMALIA

With funding from Italy of around US\$2 million to the Multi-Partner Trust Fund, the joint Productive Sectors Development Programme (PSDP) was launched and kick started its activities in Somalia. UNIDO, FAO and ILO, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and relevant line ministries join hands for the implementation of PSDP. The PSDP reflects the UN commonly agreed framework for the economic development of Somalia. UNIDO has provided relevant policy recommendations to the Somali government contributing to an effective response to the country's socio-economic impact of COVID-19. As co-chair of the Working Group economic development pillar (UNCF for 2021-2025) with UNDP, UNIDO will have the opportunity to mainstream

its TC in Somalia in line with UNCF for the development of Somali productive sectors through inclusive and sustainable approach. PFC through its Arab Regional Coordination Division coordinates with DTA/AGR/AIS that is leading the implementation of this initiative.

SUDAN'S RENEWED COMMITMENT TO INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

The Comprehensive Industrial Survey (CIS) led by the Federal Ministry of Industry and Trade was launched in Sudan on July 6, 2020. The country's Minister of Industry & Trade, Khartoum State Minister of Industry and Investment, Director General of Central Bureau of Statistics, and the Undersecretary of Ministry of Industry & Trade attended the high-level launch event. The milestone event included the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Ministry of Industry & Trade, and the Sudan Central Bureau of Statistics. The importance of this initiative is twofold: on one hand, this indicates the renewed commitment of the country to the industrial development agenda; and on the other, the timely need to carry out a new industrial survey. UNIDO is part of Sudan's High Committee of CIS, which is the overall governing body of the survey. The Government requested UNIDO's technical support and PFC through FO in Sudan, RFC/ARAB are working closely with EPR/PRS on this initiative.



ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

REVIVING INDIAN MSMEs FROM COVID-19 IMPACT: 2020 MSME DAY

UNIDO and India Small and Medium Entrepreneurs Forum organized a virtual conclave on Reviving Indian MSMEs from COVID19-Impact on the occasion of UN MSME Day 2020 on 27 June. The Conclave discussed current scenario and received an update of government policy for the sector through message of Hon. Nitin Gadkari, Minister for MSME, and an address by Mr. D.K Singh, Development Commissioner. UNIDO presented an update on its ongoing [B3C initiative](#), Building Back Business from Crisis. Consecutive deep dive sessions focused on manufacturing, pharma and healthcare, food systems and financing. Throughout the conclave entrepreneurs reported on their efforts to restart and recover business, admittedly often shambling. The conclave drew in 1,500+ participants and with strong support from the Development Commissioner at the MSME, Product and Process Development Centre and United Nations India Business Forum.

NEW EU-UNIDO PARTNERSHIP ON POVERTY ALLEVIATION IN PAKISTAN



The Delegation of the European Union in Pakistan selected UNIDO as the implementing agency for the EU-funded Poverty Alleviation and Inclusive



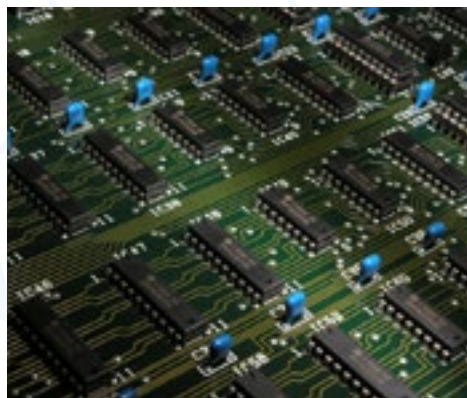
Development across Rural Sindh (PAIDAR) Programme. The PAIDAR programme has a budget of approximately EUR 50 million and expected to be launched by the end of 2020 for implementation over the next four years, upon approval by the EU Commission. Under the PAIDAR programme, UNIDO will support the government and communities of the province of Sindh in their efforts to alleviate poverty across rural areas, through the implementation of Sindh's Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS). The programme's interventions aimed at supporting poverty reduction-driven governance and at creating employment opportunities offered by competitive SMEs, thus increasing the employability of women, men and youth in Sindh province. PFC through ASP Regional Coordination Division, FO Pakistan are closely following up at the country level for the overall institutional arrangements of this Programme.

REINFORCING PARTNERSHIP ON HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT IN PHILIPPINES

Benefiting from UNIDO's technical Assistance, 12 Secretaries of the Philippine Government have signed the Implementing Guidelines (IG), institutionalizing the Inter-Agency Committee on Environmental Health (IACEH). UNIDO, within the framework of the EU-funded project Mitigating Toxic Health Exposures in Low-and Middle-Income Countries: Global Alliance on Health and Pollution, prepared and handed over to the government the draft IG and the Health and Pollution Action Plan (HPAP). The HPAP and IG were developed as a direct response to the worsening health threats caused by pollution in the Philippines. "UNIDO's contribution clearly demonstrates the strong partnership between the United Nations and the Philippine government. The ongoing pandemic is challenging our knowledge, technology, response capacities and leadership. Thus, reinforcing our partnership becomes an imperative," said Gustavo González, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Philippines.

EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

AZERBAIJAN- UNIDO: EXPLORING NEW AVENUES FOR COOPERATION



On 19 June 2020, the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan to OSCE and Vienna based UN Organizations, Mr. Galib Israfilov, met DG LI Yong and expressed interest of the Republic to cooperate with UNIDO in the areas of digitalization and 4IR. In particular, Azerbaijan seeks UNIDO's technical expertise within the Phase II of the OSCE Project "Promoting Green Ports and Connectivity in the Caspian Sea Region", implemented in 2020-2023. The activities focus on "greening" selected seaports in the Caspian and Black Sea Region, establishment of a common digital trade platform, among others. New areas of cooperation have been included into the planned Cooperation Framework between UNIDO and Azerbaijan for 2021-2025. With financial contribution from Slovenia, UNIDO is implementing a project on development of an innovation ecosystem and support infrastructure, including a Digital Education and Innovation Centre in Azerbaijan. PFC/ RFC/EUR is cooperating with DTA on new areas of cooperation with Azerbaijan.

STRENGTHENING LINKAGES BETWEEN RESEARCH AND INDUSTRY IN MOLDOVA

Within the Country Programme for Moldova (2019-2023), UNIDO has prepared a project proposal on "Development of Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Technology Transfer (IET) platforms for strengthening linkages between research and industry in Moldova". In May-June 2020, a study of the innovation ecosystem in the country was conducted to assess the existing innovation systems and linkages among stakeholders in three regions: Chisinau, Bati and Cahul. The study aimed to determine the actual needs and analyze opportunities with the view to strengthen the R & D sector. Part of the results, the Government recognizes the importance of digitalization of public services to minimize social contact in pandemic situations. The study serves as a basis for further digitalization of Moldova, transfer of technology into traditional sectors of economy and reduction of the negative impact of the COVID-19 crisis in a sustainable manner.

POLAND: SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE ENERGY TRANSITION

An emerging donor in the region, Poland has recently provided funding for the preparatory phase of UNIDO project in Georgia entitled "Strategies for transition of Georgian regions and communities towards sustainable energy" (STGSEF). The project aims to develop and accelerate actions towards energy transition for Georgian communities through increased penetration of renewable energy and energy efficiency. Poland has been a long-term key partner to the Vienna Energy Forum (VEF) and recently supported a completed project in Moldova on enhancing local manufacturing capacity of solar thermal energy systems. In addition, Poland actively supported one of UNIDO's flagship events in 2019, "the Bridge for Cities", with the participation from the most industrialized Polish region, Silesia. PFC through its RFC/EUR closely liaises with the Government of Poland on UNIDO programmatic activities.



LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

GEF GOLD+ BOLIVIA: SUPPORTING ARTISANAL AND SMALL-SCALE GOLD MINING (ASGM)



UNIDO has worked closely with the Ministry of Environment for the approval of the concept (PIF) with a preparatory GEF grant of \$200,000, which will allow the preparation of a Full-Size Project with a GEF grant of \$6,583,500. The programme will support the ASGM mainly through fostering ASGM formalization; enhancing the access to financing through the attainment of better gold prices; promoting the uptake of mercury-free

technologies; and knowledge building and local capacity building support. Bolivia is one of the largest importers of mercury, which is used in artisanal gold mining where it is released into soil and rivers, contaminating the environment, and putting at high risk the miners' health and their communities. The GEF project will address some of these challenges while at the same time building local capacities to support artisanal and small-scale gold mining. PFC through FO Bolivia and PCD provide support and collaborate with EAE/ENV on this initiative.



STRATEGIC BRIEFINGS HELD FOR GRULAC MEMBERS

UNIDO through its new three directorates namely DTA, EAE and PFC had the opportunity to brief GRULAC members in June and July to discuss technical cooperation programmes as well as regional approach in Latin America and the Caribbean in light of the current pandemic crisis. Mr. Zou, Managing Director of PFC highlighted that inclusive and sustainable industrial development plays a critical part in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and turning this crisis into an opportunity. UNIDO presented its approach for the region, taking into consideration UNIDO response framework to COVID-19 aligning its interventions with needs of Member States, and focusing on country level impact with the different national project and programmatic frameworks in the region. A follow-up technical meeting will be organized with GRULAC representatives to address their feedback on UNIDO's approach in detail.

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