



From the Managing Director

Welcome to the 5th edition of our newsletter!

In this edition, we are happy to share with you some of the recent milestones of the organization given PFC's role and concrete contribution such as UNIDO's accreditation to the Green Climate Fund, efforts in expanding cooperation with multilateral partners namely UNECA, OACPS, World Bank, IFC as well as scaling up partnerships with the private sector.

PFC continues to feature pipeline and ongoing initiatives on UNIDO response to COVID-19 across five regions including Field Office led initiatives, in close cooperation with technical departments and other relevant units in house.

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

With best regards,

Ciyong Zou

ADVANCING STRATEGIC APPROACHES

BOOSTING UNECA-UNIDO COOPERATION IN THE CONTEXT OF IDDA III



On 26 August, DG LI Yong held a virtual meeting with Ms. Vera Songwe, Executive Secretary, UNECA as part of a joint effort to bolster partnership and cooperation between the two complementary UN entities. The cooperation discussed was in the context of supporting Africa's own efforts towards ISID while tackling the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 crisis under IDDA III implementation and the African Continental Free Trade

Agreement (AfCFTA). Both principals expressed satisfaction with the progress in the implementation of the joint work plan as agreed on 30 April 2020. Areas of cooperation discussed included the private sector-led initiative for the development of an Industrial Park in Nigeria, preparation of the Summit on Africa Industrialization and Economic Diversification, IDDA III implementation, development of partnership programmes at national (PCP) and regional level, among others. Moving forward, UNIDO and UNECA will cooperate in strengthening the local production of pharmaceutical products and in promoting coherence of UN support to Africa's response to COVID-19.

ACCREDITATION TO THE GREEN CLIMATE FUND: A MAJOR MILESTONE IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

During its twenty-sixth meeting held virtually from 18-21 August 2020, the Board of the GCF accredited UNIDO to access funding for projects with a size of up to USD 50 million. This will allow UNIDO to scale up and increase impact when collaborating with developing countries towards their climate change goals of

the Paris Agreement. The accreditation follows lengthy negotiations with the GCF led by the Partnerships Coordination Division and a strong commitment to the vision of the Fund expressed by the DG in his bilateral interactions with the Executive Director of the GCF, Mr. Yannick Glemarec. UNIDO will, under the leadership of the Directorate for Environment and Energy, target at generating high-impact interventions to promote clean energy transition, deep industry decarbonization, circular economy-based business practices, among others. In order to achieve these interventions, UNIDO will pursue establishing innovative and scalable partnerships modalities leveraging additional resources from International Financial Institutions and the private sector.



PARTNERING WITH THE WORLD BANK TO SUPPORT GOVERNMENTS WITH COVID-19 RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

UNIDO is currently in discussions with various financial institutions to assist Member States in their efforts to respond to the COVID-19 crisis with the view to rehabilitate and transform national productive and manufacturing activities. UNIDO FOs and the Partnerships Coordination Division, have engaged in dialogues with national counterparts and the WB country offices on the services that the Organization can offer as a way to support Governments' WB-financed COVID-19 response operations. For instance in the Philippines, at the recommendation of the National Economic and Development Authority, UNIDO has proposed its technical cooperation services to the Ministry of Health as a way to assist them with the implementation of the medical waste management activities under a WB-financed [COVID-19 Emergency Response Project](#). Similarly, upon the request of the Government of Somalia, UNIDO is partnering with the WB and the International Finance Corporation (IFC) in conducting an enterprise survey on the impacts of COVID-19 on SMEs to be published in September 2020.



SCALING UP PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE BUSINESS SECTOR

UNIDO strives to engage more with business associations as strategic partners towards efficient delivery of ISID and outreach to a larger number of business partners. One recent example of such collaboration, initiated by the PCD and implemented by AGR, is a project [Sustainable textile investment and operation in Ethiopia](#), where UNIDO is partnering with the Ethiopian Textile Industry Development Institute (ETIDI) and China National Textile and Apparel Council (CNTAC). The project is designed to support the Chinese and Ethiopian textile industries, environmental, social and governance performance. UNIDO is also collaborating closely with the UN Global Compact (UNGC) to conduct trainings and prepare awareness raising campaigns on Ten Principles of the UNGC. Other project partners include the Ministry of Trade and Industry of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, the Ministry of Commerce People's Republic of China, the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany, as well as GIZ. PFC through PCD further seeks to identify systematic partnership models, by conducting in-house interviews, gathering lessons learned, among others.

STRENGTHENING OACPS-UNIDO COOPERATION

On 20 July, DG LI Yong and the Secretary of the Organization of African, Caribbean and the Pacific States (OACPS), H. E. Georges Rebelo Pinto Chikoti, agreed to enhance the partnership and strengthen UNIDO's support to OACPS Secretariat and Member States in the context of Post-Cotonou agreement. DG LI Yong said: "UNIDO and OACPS have a joint commitment of ISID for poverty alleviation, we are ready to support the 79 OACPS Member States in this endeavor". The transition from the ACP Group of States to the OACPS in April highlights a change of perspective from the organization willing to become one of the leading international organization promoting multilateralism. As OACPS SG expressed during the meeting: "given the current pandemic crisis, economies are collapsing, unemployment is rising. There is a challenge for the international community, I am willing to expand OACPS-UNIDO partnership to address these challenges". Moving forward, collaboration in the upcoming Africa's Industrialization Summit, institutionalizing an OACPS-UNIDO Day, supporting implementation of the recent OACPS work programmes, among others are foreseen as part of the efforts to strengthen the cooperation between the two organizations.

REGIONS IN FOCUS: SELECTED PIPELINE AND ONGOING INITIATIVES

AFRICA

VIRTUAL BRIEFING HELD FOR THE AFRICA GROUP IN VIENNA

On 28 July, a virtual briefing for the African Permanent Missions in Vienna took place under the leadership of the Republic of South Africa acting as the Chair of the Africa Group in Vienna. The Chief of UNIDO's Regional Coordination Division-Africa presented UNIDO's strategic priorities in terms of COVID-19 response on national, regional and global levels. [The UNIDO COVID-19 response framework](#) "Responding to the Crisis: Building a better future", was presented including concrete examples on COVID-19 related work in selected African countries. The briefing also included information on the progress of preparations for the Africa Industrialization Summit, foreseen to take place in November 2020 in Niamey, Niger. The Permanent Missions were also informed about the Comprehensive Overview of Programmes and Projects, launched in May to support the [IDDA III](#) implementation as requested by Member States during the 18th Session of the UNIDO General Conference.

PROMOTING PPP ON RENEWABLE ENERGY INITIATIVES IN BURUNDI



An awareness-raising virtual workshop was organized by the Department of Energy (EAE/ENE), FO Ethiopia and the Regional Coordination Division-Africa on 4 August in Burundi, as part of the ongoing GEF funded project: "Promotion of Small Hydro power for Productive Use and Energy Services

in Burundi". The workshop aimed at sensitizing institutional decision makers on business-based public and private partnerships (PPP) for the deployment of renewable energy - small hydropower mini-grid systems in the country. RFC/AFR, in its introductory remarks, emphasized that GEF projects require strong PPP capable of bringing additional sources of funding. Representatives from Songa Energy, Virunga Power and the Ministry of Hydraulic, Energy and Mines, including the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, and UNIDO participated in the workshop. There was a well-balanced participation from public and private sectors, enabling direct interactions that could lead to joint solutions to the country's challenges in the RE sector.

SUPPORTING A NEW STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN IN CABO VERDE



The Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Energy of Cabo Verde organized a virtual workshop entitled "Industry and External Trade: Ambition 2030" on 13 August. The event served as a platform to discuss relevant approaches for a new strategic development plan: Cabo Verde Ambition 2030. The Minister of Industry, Commerce and Energy, the National Director of Planning as well as the UR covering Cabo Verde were part of the high-level introduction of the workshop. UNIDO contributed notably on i) Advanced Digital Production technologies, Industry 4.0, ii) Fostering a new generation of parks and industrial zones, iii) PCP as an innovative

multi-stakeholder partnership model for accelerating ISID, and iv) Proposals for Cabo Verde's New Industrial Policy. Moreover, trade capacity building, industrial upgrading towards Industry 4.0 and industrial parks are expected to constitute a major part of the future Country Programme for Cabo Verde, which is currently under formulation.

CP GAMBIA: FORMULATION PHASE UNDERWAY

The formulation of CP Gambia is moving steadily. UNIDO organized a virtual technical meeting with the Ministry of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment (MOTIE) on 29 July, following exchanges, consultations regarding the preparation of CP document, and briefed on the overall progress of the new CP. The CP formulation phase coincides with the launch of the [Gambia national component](#) under the [West Africa Competitiveness Program](#) (WACOMP). Under the umbrella of the new CP, this new project would focus on increasing competitiveness through enhanced quality and compliance along the onion value chain, with an estimated total budget of USD 4 million. Moving forward, planning and implementing of key activities are underway such as finalization, validation of the CP document, mobilization of stakeholders to establish the CP Steering Committee and joint mobilization of resources with MOTIE to expand the country's portfolio, thereby ensuring the envisioned impact of the CP in Gambia.



ARAB

COVID-19 MANUFACTURING GUIDELINES LAUNCHED IN EGYPT

UNIDO launched the COVID-19 guidelines for the manufacturing sector in Egypt in partnership with the Industrial Modernization Center (IMC) of the Ministry of Trade and Industry. FO Egypt proactively worked on the initiative in line with IMC's efforts to help the manufacturing sector cope with COVID-19 crisis. The guidelines document contains fifteen measures with respect to production processes, including entry-screening protocol for staff and visitors, use of PPE, air ventilation, among others. In addition, UNIDO is supporting the formulation of a help desk at the IMC. A training programme, took place on the 28 July for IMC experts to sharpen their skills in communicating and promoting the preventive measures of COVID-19. The Arabic version of the guidance document is under preparation for circulation publication through social media platforms. The English version of the guidelines can be accessed here: https://www.unido.org/sites/default/files/files/2020-08/COVID19_Guidelines_Egypt.pdf.



PALESTINE: LAUNCHED DESIGN CENTER UNDER JAPAN FUNDED GARMENT AND TEXTILE VALUE CHAIN PROJECT



In July, the Ministry of National Economy, the Representative Office of Japan in Palestine and UNIDO joined hands for the official opening of KHITAN – the Creative Fashion Design Center and launched its tailored services targeting both designers and entrepreneurs operating in the garments and fashion sectors in a bid to upgrade the industry value chain in Palestine. KHITAN – Creative Fashion Design Center is an initiative under the umbrella of ongoing “Employability for Women and Youth in the State of Palestine through supporting the Garments and Textile Value Chain” project in partnership with the Ministry of National Economy. The launching ceremony was held under the auspices of H.E. the Minister of National Economy Mr. Khaled Osaili, H.E. Ambassador Mr. Masayuki Magoshi, Representative of Japan to Palestine, and Mr. Ahmed ElFarra, Technical Programme Officer, UNIDO Palestine, in collaboration with DTA/AGR, EAE/ENE and Regional Division- Arab on this initiative.

PROVISION OF CREDIT FACILITY FOR SOMALI SMEs

To unlock further the potential contribution of Somali SMEs to the overall growth of the country's economy, UNIDO has collaborated with the International Bank of Somalia (IBS) to launch the Credit Facility that offers enterprise loan products for SMEs that may be willing to diversify their operations, start up new ventures or to boost their productivity. UNIDO's intervention for access to finance is in addition to the enterprise development support offered to Somali network of Enterprise Development Units (EDUs) in Mogadishu, Kismayo and Baidoa. The credit facility is part of the ongoing Italy funded project entitled “Agro-Technology Development for Economic Growth in South and Central Somalia” in close cooperation with the Somali Government. PFC through its Regional Coordination Division- Arab covering Somalia is closely cooperating with DTA/AGR that is leading the technical implementation of this initiative.



ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

SUPPORTING REMOTE ASSESSMENT OF INDONESIA'S FISHERIES SECTOR



UNIDO and the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF) of Indonesia jointly organized a series of workshops starting from 16 July on remote assessment to promote remote fish inspection, attended by over 700 officers from MMAF and the private sector. Given the current pandemic crisis, inspection of seafood processing plants and products certification are facing operational challenges, due to travel restrictions and health-related risks. Thus, implementing remote assessment for fish inspection using IT is a valid, practical and accurate alternative solution. Considering the vast areas of Indonesia and the limited resources for physical inspection, remote assessment is a useful tool in the aftermath of COVID-19. MMAF is planning to implement remote assessment as complementary means of inspection and audit, especially for low risk seafood products. UNIDO has committed to support the strengthening of remote assessment for fisheries under the current GQSP Indonesia SMART-Fish 2 in collaboration with MMAF. FO Indonesia is supporting DTA/DTI/QIS that is leading the technical implementation of the project.

UNIDO PUBLISHED ASSESSMENT OF THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF COVID-19 AND CONTAINMENT MEASURES ON PHILIPPINE ENTERPRISES

FO Philippines recently published report entitled: "Assessment of the Socio-economic Effects of COVID-19 and Containment Measures on Philippine Enterprises". This initiative is a product of UNIDO's close collaboration with relevant local stakeholders, notably the Philippines' Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the nodal counterpart of the organization in the country. Gustavo González, UN Resident Coordinator commented: "This timely report sheds light on the myriad impacts of quarantine and social distancing on the operations and financial positions of MSMEs. This assessment will play an important role in enhancing the national response and recovery to the COVID-19 crisis, and I am grateful to our UNIDO colleagues for their valuable contribution". UNIDO's collaboration with DTI will continue and aim at creating a conducive, digitalized environment that will enable MSMEs to adopt quality and safety standards and diversify production. The publication can be accessed at <https://xfiles.unido.org/index.php/s/nF6tbdiWqTxFJ5>



FOUNDATION STONE CEREMONY FOR CINNAMON PROCESSING CENTRE IN SRI LANKA

On 10 August, UNIDO and the European Union Delegation in Sri Lanka, contributed to the laying of the foundation stone for the Cinnamon Processing Centre at the Cinnamon Training Academy (CTA), a public private training institute established with support of UNIDO. The CTA is expanding its existing training premises by adding a cinnamon processing centre with the objective of optimizing their performance and financial sustainability. The new addition will generate year-round income, particularly during the harvest season when the demand for training is lower and the demand for processing is higher. The processing centre would purchase cinnamon trees at farm gate, removing the need for a middleman, enabling upstream value chain actors, particularly smallholders in Balapitiya, Karadeniya and Ambalangoda to achieve a higher margin on their products.



EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

HIGH LEVEL REPRESENTATION AT THE VIRTUAL CONFERENCE ON WOMEN IN INDUSTRY AND INNOVATION

During the international virtual UNIDO conference on [Women in Industry and Innovation](#) held on 15-17 July, high-level speakers from Armenia, Cyprus, Georgia, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, the Russian Federation and Turkey prominently represented the region. Strategic messages were conveyed at the event, such as from UNIDO Goodwill Ambassador, Veronika Peshkova who emphasized the need to promote women's economic empowerment and entrepreneurship as a backbone of ISID. The Deputy Minister of Economy of Armenia, Naira Margaryan highlighted the multifaceted nature of challenges women face nowadays, including access to finance, education, among others. Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia Khatia Tsilosani emphasized that women have a unique role in inspiring, encouraging and leading the prosperous societies, economies and industries. The event was also addressed by the Executive Secretary of UNECE Olga Algayerova, who stressed that transformation of policy frameworks fostering progressive approaches and innovative thinking is required. PFC/RFC/EUR mobilized the participation of the speakers from the region.



THE CZECH REPUBLIC: SUPPORT TO ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT PROJECTS



UNIDO and the Czech Republic cooperation remains strong over a time span of more than two decades. With funding support from the country and as part of the UN Coordination Group on Youth in Georgia, UNIDO supported the development of the National Youth Policy Concept for 2020-2030 aimed at ensuring the economic empowerment of young people. The Parliament endorsed the policy document in July 2020. Moreover, with funding support from Czech Republic, UNIDO undertook mapping exercises to identify the most promising terroir products in Georgia and organized workshops on terroir products as an engine for ISID. The mapping results serve as a basis for setting up the national contest of terroir products in the country that will be implemented under the Swiss-funded PAMPAT project (Project for Market Access of Typical and Agroindustrial

Products). PFC/RFC/EUR will explore further areas of cooperation with the Czech Republic.

ROLL-OUT OF THE GLOBAL CLEANTECH INNOVATION PROGRAMME

GCIP is being rolled out in Kazakhstan, Moldova and Ukraine, while the Programme's regional reach continues to expand. GCIP has been successfully implemented in Armenia and Turkey. In both countries, the Programme was instrumental for training of over 50 Cleantech experts, organizing an innovative Cleantech business ideas competition and selecting the most promising start-ups for provision of further support. In June 2020, UNIDO received the formal endorsement from the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism of Montenegro for the preparation of the UNIDO project, "Accelerating clean technology innovations for a sustainable tourism sector, fostering entrepreneurship, investments and job creation" for 2020-2023. The total GEF grant financing for the project is foreseen under the GEF-7 cycle, in the amount of USD 1 million. It will spur the diversification of employment opportunities in the country's tourism-driven economy, which is especially important in current COVID-19 situation. PFC/RFC/EUR, FOs support EAE/ENE that is leading the roll out of the GCIP in the region.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

IAEA-UNIDO: STRENGTHENING COOPERATION IN THE REGION

Building on the cooperation agreement signed in June 2020 between UNIDO and IAEA on peaceful uses of nuclear technology for ISID, PFC through its Regional Coordination Division for LAC met on 21 July with its IAEA counterparts to explore synergies and strengthen cooperation in the region. The meeting resulted in the identification of opportunities for partnership in areas such as food security and aquaculture, energy planning, capacity building activities through webinars as well as support in coordinating high-level visits and meetings. Moving forward, both organizations agreed to cooperate under the umbrella of their respective regional project on aquaculture sector. UNIDO EB has recently approved the second regional project on aquaculture entitled "Fostering regional coordination in aquaculture value chains for productive employment generation" in LAC, while the IAEA is currently implementing its first regional project on aquaculture.

REGIONAL APPROACH: CONSULTATION HELD WITH GRULAC MEMBERS

On July 30, UNIDO through its Regional Coordination Division-LAC conducted a consultative meeting with GRULAC members on regional approach. GRULAC members commended UNIDO for its efforts in the preparation of the strategic approach that provides an overview of the region, challenges, areas of interventions, as well as info on pandemic crisis from an industrial point of view. "The approach has to be flexible to adapt to the challenges of COVID-19



response and recovery", as expressed by the members given that the region has been affected the most by the pandemic crisis. In addition, GRULAC members emphasized the importance of implementing projects such as the regional SDG 9 Accelerator to support countries in rebuilding their economy. The consultation meeting was a follow up to the strategic briefings held for GRULAC members in June and July this year and part of PFC's ongoing efforts to strengthen relations with Member States.

PIVOTAL ROLE OF ECUADOR IN ADVANCING CIRCULAR ECONOMY

UNIDO has been actively supporting the country's efforts in advancing circular economy. Recently, FO Ecuador with technical support from the Department of Energy, played a vital role in facilitating a strategic partnership between the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) and the Government of Ecuador. These efforts resulted in a regional project to assess the current status of the circular economy for developing a roadmap in Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador and Paraguay. As part of the CTCN technical assistance programme, the project was launched on 4 August this year. UNIDO is also cooperating with the Ministry of Production in developing a project proposal to promote circular economy with the view to advance the implementation of Ecuador Circular Economy Pact with concrete actions. Moving forward, UNIDO will further support the Government of Ecuador in mobilizing funds for the project proposal.



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