



From the Managing Director

Welcome to the 7th edition of our newsletter!

In this edition, we are happy to share with you some progress, updates on PFC's areas of work, including contribution to UNIDO's efforts, initiatives in light of Covid-19 crisis in cooperation with relevant departments.

Featured under regions in focus, with selected contribution from our Field Offices in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and Central Asia as well as Latin America and the Caribbean.

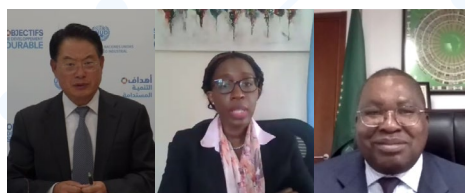
For further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

With best regards,

Ciyong Zou

ADVANCING STRATEGIC APPROACHES

MEETING OF PRINCIPALS OF CO-ORGANIZING INSTITUTIONS OF THE AFRICA UNION SUMMIT



On 8 October, DG LI Yong participated in the 2nd Meeting of the Heads of the co-organizing institutions for the African Union Summit on Industrialization and Economic Diversification. The meeting was also attended by the African Union Commissioner for Trade and Industry, the Executive Secretary of UNECA, a representative of the Minister of Industry of Niger, a representative of the Chief Executive Officer of AUDA-NEPAD, and a representative of AfroChampions. The Summit was scheduled from 16-20 November 2020 has been postponed due to COVID 19 and will be held in November 2021. In order to keep the momentum towards the Summit, a series of pre-events are foreseen to be organized with various stakeholders throughout the course of 2021. A number of other platforms will also be leveraged this year including the Africa Industrialization Week to be held

from 16 to 20 November during which period, various thematic sessions will be organized. A special high-level session is planned to be held on 20 November to be attended by high-level stakeholders including selected Heads of States (IDDA III Champions). Other platforms that will be leveraged for the Industrialization Summit include the AU Summit on AfCFTA and the Conference of African Ministers of Industry that will be held in November and December respectively.

EXPLORING COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS TECHNOLOGY BANK FOR LDCs

DG LI Yong had a bilateral discussion with Mr. Joshua Phoho Setipa, Managing Director of the United Nations Technology Bank (UNTB) for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) on 15 October to discuss potential areas for cooperation between the two organizations. Headquartered in Gebze, Turkey, the UN Technology Bank actively currently serves 47 LDCs and is a global organization dedicated to enhancing the contribution of science, technology and innovation for sustainable development

in the world's least developed countries. The strategic meeting aimed to enhance developing countries' technological capacities during COVID-19 situation and beyond. Mr. Setipa shared about the Tech Access Partnership (TAP) initiative launched by the Bank in May 2020 with UNDP, UNCTAD and WHO that assesses countries' technological needs as well as potentials to develop local manufacturing lines for medical equipment. This could be a potential avenue for UNIDO, hence UNTB suggested that a concept note be drafted reflecting areas of future collaboration between UNIDO and UNTB with a view to respond, adapt and be resilient to pandemics and beyond. UNIDO on coordinated partnerships for scaling-up technology transfer were discussed to promote the benefits of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) in LDCs.

UNIDO CONTRIBUTION TO THE UN-OHRLLS REPORT ON LDCs

UNIDO through Regional Coordination Division- Africa supported the preparation of the UN-OHRLLS report on LDCs through a comprehensive survey and substantive contributions at the Inter-

agency Consultative Group meetings on LDCs (IACG). UN-OHRLS is currently finalizing the release of the report, which presents the work that the UN system has done in the LDCs with the purpose of bringing coherence across the UN system. In this regard, the report provides an overview of measures carried out so far and outlines recommendations to strengthen support to the LDCs in the period of the next programme of action and preparations for the Fifth UN Conference on Least Developed Countries (UNLDCV) scheduled to take place in January 2022. The report reflects UNIDO inputs with more than 50 citations related to its best practices undertaken to support LDCs' in progressing towards the goals of the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

BUILDING A STRONGER COLLABORATION WITH THE UN GLOBAL COMPACT

The recent months have witnessed an accelerated collaboration between UNIDO and the UN Global Compact (UNGC), the world's largest corporate sustainability initiative. First, UNIDO's Director General participated at the [UNGC Private Sector Forum](#), organized to allow CEOs and UN principals to engage in high-level discussion of their respective commitments to strengthening global cooperation. This was followed by a virtual bilateral meeting between UNIDO's DG and the new CEO and Executive Director of the UNGC, Sanda Ojiambo. During the

meeting, the two agencies reaffirmed their commitment to continue their joint work on mobilizing a global movement of sustainable companies and stakeholders worldwide. Currently, UNIDO's Field Office in the Philippines and the UNGC Local Network in the country are jointly organizing Business Express Group Meetings with a goal to generate thought leadership and spur collaborative action between businesses and the government on policy coherence and investment opportunities in the aftermath of COVID-19.

2020 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS: WBG AND IMF

PFC through its Partnership Coordination Division represented UNIDO, in its role as an Observer, at the 2020 Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the World Bank Group (WBG) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), held virtually from 12-18 October 2020. The event focused on the recession caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and actions needed to fight the ongoing crisis towards building a better future. Overall, the event stressed the importance of global action and strengthened multi-stakeholder cooperation, including with the private sector and UN agencies, to overcome the ongoing pandemic and build a more inclusive and sustainable future. Recognizing the urgency of the COVID-19 pandemic, UNIDO Field Offices and the Partnerships Coordination Division,

have engaged in dialogues with national counterparts and the WB country offices on supporting Governments with the implementation of the medical waste treatment components under WB-financed response operations. Partnership opportunities are foreseen to be explored in a number of countries that are benefitting from the WB-financed [COVID-19 Fast Track Facility](#).

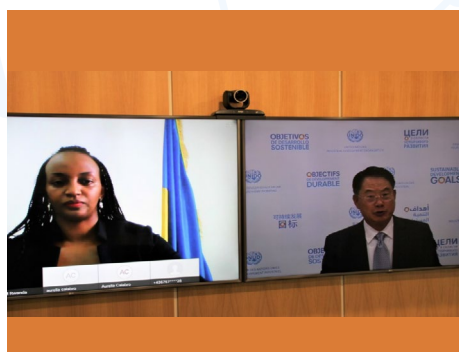
KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM THE BRIDGE FOR CITIES 2020 EVENT

The Bridge for Cities 2020 event, held virtually on October 5, provided a forum to discuss the green, social and technological innovations to assist cities to recover from the COVID-19 crisis and to accelerate the achievement of SDGs at the urban level, especially as the UN, local, national and global partners enter the Decade of Action. Gathering over 500 participants, the event allowed more than fifteen Mayors to share their cities' best practices on COVID-19, which will be compiled into an agile knowledge product. The event was instrumental to establish new linkages between UNIDO and participating cities, as well as to strengthen existing ones, notably with Vienna and Tehran. The Mayor of Tehran praised the strong cooperation with UNIDO through the Bridge for Cities platform, which resulted into the Smart Tehran Program, a \$1.5 million initiative aimed to accelerate the transformation of Tehran into a smart and sustainable city.

REGIONS IN FOCUS: SELECTED PIPELINE AND ONGOING INITIATIVES

AFRICA

UNIDO-RWANDA TOWARDS A STRONGER COOPERATION



On 9 October, DG Li Yong held a bilateral discussion with H.E. Soraya Hakuziyaremye, Minister of Trade and Industry in Rwanda. Among various cooperation issues discussed during the meeting was the progress made in the development of the Programme for Country Partnership (PCP) including the light diagnostic study exercise that is near completion. The PCP which is expected to be signed by the end of the year is foreseen to cover concrete priority sectors including livestock and leather value chain, textile and garment, Integrated Agro-Industrial Parks, and Industry 4.0. Other areas discussed as being crucial to

the successful implementation of the PCP included technologies access, circular economy, innovation and R&D, and climate change. Peer learning missions to PCP countries like Ethiopia and Senegal to see the PCP implementation first hand, will be organized jointly with UNIDO. The discussions also highlighted the need for enhanced manufacturing capacities and in empowering the private sector to be ready for the AfCFTA. The Government of Rwanda stands committed to implement ISiD, IDDA III and promotion and participation in the Industrialization Summit.

BRIEFING HELD WITH THE PERMANENT MISSION ON THE PROGRESS OF PCP ZAMBIA

UNIDO organized a virtual briefing in August for the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Zambia to the UN Office and other international organizations in Geneva. The meeting focused on the progress of the PCP Zambia programming phase, such as finalization of the UNIDO country diagnostic and its

validation by the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry (MCTI), finalization of ToR of the National Coordination Body (NCB), preparation of the programme document, and the way forward. H.E. Martha Mwitumwa Lungu, the Permanent Representative of Zambia, expressed her commitment in supporting the PCP, particularly its focus on multi-stakeholder partnerships and women empowerment. Moreover, she indicated that H.E. Mr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia, plans to use his Chairmanship of the Group of 77 and China, Co-chairmanship of the Friends of Industry and Innovation and IDDA3 champion initiative to increase the visibility of the PCP Zambia and contribute to its partnership and resource mobilization.



ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

PCP PROGRAMME DOCUMENT APPROVED BY THE ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF CAMBODIA



On 30 September the Government of Cambodia, represented by H.E. Cham Prasidh, Senior Minister of Industry, Science, Technology and Innovation (MISTI) approved the revised PCP Programme document, paving the way for the start of the PCP implementation phase. The Minister stressed that “The Royal Government of Cambodia recognized the important contribution of UNIDO’s PCP in advancing the industrial development agenda and in helping Cambodia to accelerate industrialization and achieve its development goals”. UNIDO and MISTI, in consultation with other relevant Ministries and stakeholders, worked closely to extensively revise the programmatic approach to UNIDO’s interventions in the country. Building on the large portfolio of ongoing projects, PCP Cambodia will focus on two main components – namely 1) agro value chain development and 2) industrial diversification, innovation and development of SEZs – reinforced by cross-cutting interventions such as support to industrial policy and quality infrastructure development, circular economy and sustainable energy, as well as women’s empowerment and youth employment.

UNIDO AND ILO TO CONDUCT AN INDUSTRY 4.0 ASSESSMENT FOR CAMBODIA GARMENT SECTOR

As a response measure to the COVID-19 pandemic affecting the country, the RC Office in Cambodia allocated its coordination funds to conduct a quick assessment of the impact of the crisis on the garment sector, one of the key industrial sectors in the country and one of the main sources of employment, especially for women. UNIDO will join hands with ILO in conducting the assessment, which will have initially a targeted geographical scope as a first step, to then eventually scale it up at a later stage. The joint initiative builds on the complementary expertise of each entity and serves as an example of UNDS cooperation with quick, targeted actions in response to the COVID-19 crisis. The initiative resonates with the objectives and priorities of the Programme for Country Partnership (PCP) Cambodia, in particular in fostering youth employment and women’s empowerment.



ADDRESSING A NATIONAL EMERGENCY OPERATION THROUGH THE SECIM PROJECT

Due to ongoing drought and to the upcoming harsh winter, Mongolia launched a national emergency operation aimed to store sufficient meat reserves (up to 40,000 tn). Mongolia’s Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry (MOFALI) requested UNIDO to support this initiative by supporting training on use of technical

tools (e.g. knives, SFF) and Training of Trainers on safe animal slaughtering and flaying, building upon one of the outputs of the EU-funded Support to employment creation in Mongolia (SECIM) project. With the decisive support of Mr. Tapan Mishra, UN Resident Coordinator in Mongolia, AGR Project Coordinator and ASP Regional Coordination Division worked together to conduct a Training of Trainers (TOT) on 19 October at the General Staff of Mongolian Armed Forces (GSMAF) premises. Practical training was conducted in Makh Market factory abattoir for 36 senior army officers and included veterinary and safety guidance. The officers will be fielded to six provinces and they will train 2000-3000 other soldiers in the field.

PARTNERSHIP FOR ACTION ON GREEN ECONOMY (PAGE) INITIATIVE IN THAILAND

UNIDO is the lead agency of PAGE in Thailand, an initiative that brings together five UN agencies, eight funding partners and twenty countries that work together to transform economic policies and development planning into drivers of sustainability. Under this framework, UNIDO Regional Hub in Thailand and the Department of Environment worked together on the proposal aimed at evaluating how the government’s economic and social recovery projects in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis would contribute to the country’s transition towards a de-carbonized and resource efficient economy. Based on the findings of the analysis, UNIDO will develop policy guidance and improve the discourse on green and inclusive recovery. The project has been developed in close cooperation with the UN Resident Coordinator (UNRC) Thailand with an estimated budget of EUR 400,000 to be funded by the Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety of Germany.



PARTNERSHIP FOR ACTION
ON GREEN ECONOMY

EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

TACKLING INDUSTRIAL RECOVERY AT THE REGIONAL SESSION OF GMIS 2020



UNIDO hosted the Regional Session of GMIS 2020 on 6 October 2020, entitled “Industrial recovery in Europe and Central Asia: Accelerating digital transformation for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs)”. The session, moderated by Mr. Jacek Cukrowski, Chief, RFC/EUR featured a number of prominent speakers from the region who discussed the challenges MSMEs face in the times of the global COVID-19 crisis, as well as the emerging

opportunities for their sustainable recovery and enhanced resilience. Mr. Taras Kachka, Deputy Minister for Development of Economy, Trade and Agriculture of Ukraine talked about the effects of the COVID-19 crisis on the integration of MSMEs in the regional and global economic processes, markets and value chains. “SMEs are the key drivers of regional economic growth, but the lockdown measures put in place in every country has impacted their ability to produce, trade and serve their communities as supply chains were disrupted,” the Deputy Minister said. Ms. Naira Margaryan, Deputy Minister of Economy of the Republic of Armenia talked about the undergoing economic transformation in Armenia, where specialized programmes are aimed at boosting employment and building capacities of entrepreneurs, especially women and youth. The Vice President of the European Economic and Social Committee and the Secretary-General of the Bulgarian Industrial Capital Association (BICA), Ms. Milena Angelova touched upon the topic of national and regional response measures to the COVID-19 crisis, with due consideration of interests of the business community and young and innovative MSMEs. As Ms. Angelova said: “The European Union has already begun this endeavor with the ambitious recovery strategy outlined in March, which includes unprecedented and ambitious financial and solvency support mechanisms, along with pledges to contribute educational and skills support in the form of innovation hub and facilitation of the free movement of data”. Ms. Maja Tomanic Vidovic, Director of the Slovenian Enterprise Fund

identified digitalization and access to new technologies as the main leverages of economic recovery. Mr. Jacek Cukrowski, in closing the session highlighted that the aftermath of the crisis creates unprecedented time whereas embracing innovative and digital solutions can accelerate the global economic adaptation and stimulate the engagement of MSMEs into regional and international markets and value chains. The Regional session can be accessed at: <https://www.gmisummit.com/watch-gmis2020/> (Session 11).

ENGAGEMENT WITHIN UNCTs: NEW UNSDCFs SIGNED

UNIDO through the Regional Coordination Division for Europe and Central Asia proactively participated in the formulation process of UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) in Georgia and Uzbekistan. UNIDO's active engagement contributed to the representation of the ISID agenda in the final document of the UNSDCF for Georgia 2021-2025, signed on 2 October 2020. UNIDO will contribute to the achievement of the targets presented in Outcome 3 on sustainable, inclusive and resilient economy and Outcome 5 on environment and climate change. UNIDO also provided inputs for the formulation of the UNSDCF for Uzbekistan 2021-2025 that was signed on 30 September 2020. Despite being a non-resident agency, UNIDO is featured under two important outcomes of the document – Outcome 3 on inclusive and equitable economic growth and Outcome 5 on efficient management of natural resources.



UNIDO INTENSIFIES STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT WITH EMERGING DONORS

On 7 October 2020, UNIDO through the Regional Coordination Division for Europe and Central Asia organized a virtual briefing for the Permanent Missions of the region to introduce UNIDO's new project on "Reinvigorating a Business Model of Strategic Engagement with Emerging Donors: Building the Capacities of National Counterpart Institutions and Raising Awareness about the Benefits of Cooperation with UNIDO". The briefing moderated by Mr. Jacek Cukrowski, Chief of

RFC/EUR was attended by representatives from Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Romania, the Russian Federation and Turkey. PFC Managing Director, Mr. Ciyong Zou underlined that this initiative demonstrates determination of UNIDO to better translate its commitment to meet the arising needs of the Member States into concrete actions. "We give our utmost consideration to the evolving priorities and challenges of our Member States. It is our duty to stay vigilant and provide a strategic guidance on how to adapt to the new realities," as said by Mr. Zou. The crucial role of the Emerging Donors'

Permanent Missions in Vienna in helping UNIDO better design activities and further steps under the project was pointed out by Mr. Cukrowski. The project's key milestones, outputs and opportunities for mutually reinforcing cooperation as well as plans to hold a high-level regional conference in 2021 were introduced by Ms. Solomiya Omelyan, UNIDO Project Manager. As a way forward, UNIDO will kick-start preparation of the concept note and agenda of the conference, among others.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

CIRCULAR ECONOMY BUSINESS MODELS FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY

UNIDO held a webinar on “Circular Economy and MSMEs: Opportunities for recovery after the health crisis” in cooperation with the Ministry of Economy of El Salvador on 30 September. Recognizing the key role of MSMEs as engines of economic development, the webinar explored the important role of the circular economy in the recovery of business economies after the COVID-19 pandemic crisis. In these times of great economic challenges caused by the COVID-19, it has become more imperative to improve the profitability and competitiveness of companies. For this reason, more governments in the region are promoting the adoption of the circular economy principles, which focus on the efficient use of resources and innovation through SW23 the reduction, reuse and recycling of materials that allow for significant savings in production processes. The speakers from the Ministry of Economy of El Salvador, UNIDO, the Konrad Adenauer Foundation and the private sector emphasized the benefits of the circular economy for the environment, the society and the economy. PFC/RFC/LAC works closely with EAE/ENV/IRE and the field on this initiative.



DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES ON REDUCING ECONOMIC IMPACT OF COVID-19 IN BRAZIL

UNIDO FO Brazil, in collaboration with the LAC Regional Coordination Division, released a Technical Note discussing how advanced digital production (ADP) technologies can reduce COVID-19's economic impacts in the country. The new study also analyses public policies that could enhance the private sector's readiness for ADP technologies, such as the modernization of Brazil's digital infrastructure, capacity building and international partnerships. Brazil's gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to decrease by 8% by the end of 2020. In reaction to the looming economic crisis, 83% of leading Brazilian CEOs agreed that they had to accelerate the implementation of artificial intelligence, big data analysis, internet of things, advanced robotic, and other ADP technologies to try to cope with the effects of the pandemic in local production and commercial chains. The new Technical Note can be accessed [here](#).



UNIDO RECOGNIZED FOR PROTECTING THE OZONE LAYER IN ECUADOR

On 15 September, the Ministry of Production of Ecuador recognized UNIDO and two indigenous industrial companies UNACEM (cement producer) and INDUGLOB (domestic refrigerators manufacturer). Under UNIDO leadership, both industries participated in projects for the destruction of unwanted ozone depleting substances (ODS) and high Global Warming Potential (GWP) substances under the Montreal Protocol and technology reconversion projects, for blowing agent and refrigeration, to natural substances. Mr. Jackson Torres, Vice Minister of Production, referred to the successful implementation of the Montreal Protocol in Ecuador and praised the support and joint efforts of UNIDO Montreal Protocol Division, Field Office Ecuador and the Ministry of Production. This was followed by the handover of recognition plates to UNIDO and industries for the support in the efforts to protect the ozone layer and reduction of global warming gases emissions.

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