

From the Managing Director

Welcome to the 8th edition of our newsletter!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the cooperation and positive feedback since the launch of our newsletter in April this year.

As we approach the end of 2020, the Nov-Dec issue features notable milestones, new opportunities amid the challenges and impact of COVID-19, specifically in our field operations.

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

Have a safe and joyful holiday season!

With best regards,

Ciyong Zou

ADVANCING STRATEGIC APPROACHES

UNIDO ACCREDITATION TO THE ADAPTATION FUND

Led by PFC's Partnership Coordination Division and with strong support from various UNIDO services, another milestone in the field of environmental sustainability has been reached. As per the intersessional [Decision B.35-36/2](#) of the Adaptation Fund Board, UNIDO has been accredited as a Multilateral Implementing Entity (MIE) of the [Adaptation Fund](#) for five years. The Adaptation Fund was established under the Kyoto Protocol of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, and since 2010 has committed US\$ 720 million to climate adaptation and resilience activities, including supporting 100 concrete adaptation projects. Thus, in its efforts to help vulnerable communities in developing countries adapt to climate change, the Fund finances projects and programmes that are based on country needs, views and priorities. The partnership with the Fund will therefore, allow UNIDO to expand its involvement in climate change adaptation interventions to support vulnerable communities as they strive for climate resilience and improved livelihoods. UNIDO, for example by supporting innovative MSMEs to develop and boost demand-driven climate technologies and services, building on extensive experience

in agri-business and a novel approach in addressing and engaging the private sector, in particular MSMEs, among others. UNIDO's mandate of inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID) can add a lot of value to the scope of projects supported by the Fund.

FOURTH INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION ALLIANCE LAUNCHED



PFC through its Partnership Coordination Division (PFC/PPC/PCD), has helped colleagues from the Investment and Technology Promotion Division of the Directorate of Digitalization, Technology and Agri-business (DTA/DTI/ITP) to set up UNIDO's Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) Alliance, in recent months. The alliance brings together more than 30 policy, industry, business and knowledge partners to tap into opportunities of the 4IR for promoting Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development. The 4IR Alliance was officially launched at the Fourth Industrial Revolution and Smart

Mobility Forum on 6 November 2020 in Shanghai. PFC/PPC/PCD cooperated with DTA/DTI/ITP colleagues by conducting due diligence screenings of the Alliance's business sector entities for their environmental, social and governance (ESG) performance. It is expected that a second batch of business partners will join the 4IR Alliance, hence this fruitful collaboration between the DTA/DTI/ITP and PFC/PPC/PCD will continue in the coming weeks.

FIRST GEF COUNCIL MEETING CHAIRED BY NEW CEO

The Global Environment Facility's (GEF) 59th Council Meeting, chaired for the first time by the newly appointed GEF Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Mr. Carlos Manuel Rodriguez, held virtually from 7 to 11 December 2020. In addition to the approval of operational policies, the Council will agree on a Work Programme amounting to US\$ 475 million. UNIDO's concepts in the areas of climate change and chemicals & waste, requesting over US\$ 21 million in project financing, have been included in the programme. Pending final Council approval, UNIDO will provide support to five Member States, namely, Ethiopia, Paraguay, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Thailand in their efforts to

address urgent environmental challenges. The successful proposals submitted by the Directorate of Environment and Energy will be developed into fully-fledged projects, contributing to UNIDO's active project portfolio as net approvals in 2022/23.

ONLINE TRAININGS HELD FOR FIELD OFFICES ON PARTNERSHIP WITH IFIs

To support UNIDO's Regional Coordination Divisions and Field Offices in structuring country-level partnership discussions with Governments and International Financial Institutions (IFIs), PFC through its Partnership Coordination Division (PFC/PPC/PCD) delivered two targeted training briefings to Regional Coordination Divisions of Africa, Europe and Central Asia and the respective Field Offices. The online sessions covered an overview of UNIDO's IFI partnership modalities and recent cooperation examples. It also provided avenue for UNIDO Representatives and UNIDO Country Representatives to share ideas on emerging partnership opportunities, as well as highlight some bottlenecks that should be considered as this line of work continues to grow.

ENHANCING COOPERATION FOR THE LANDLOCKED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (LLDCs)



UNIDO presented its ongoing advisory and technical work in LLDCs during the 11th Inter-agency Consultative Group (IACG) Meeting, organized virtually by UN-OHRLS, on 12 November 2020. UNIDO presented the most recent developments and priority projects in LLDCs related to

South-South Cooperation, value-addition and agribusiness, environment, and public-private dialogue. The inputs serve as direct contributions to the UN Roadmap for Accelerated Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for the remaining five years. Additionally, on 27 October 2020, at the request of Kazakhstan as Chair of the LLDCs group, UNIDO briefed virtually the LLDC permanent missions in New York on the Organization's priorities in LLDCs in the context of the newly adopted UN Roadmap on LLDCs and the formulation of the 2020 Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR). UNIDO remains engaged in the development of the QCPR Resolution, especially on sections related to structural economic transformation and diversification, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and trade facilitation. Relevant information on the UNIDO Programme for Country Partnership was submitted to the Chair of the LLDCs group, at the request of the permanent missions.

IDB WELCOMES PROPOSED WORKPLAN FOR PARTNERING WITH MICs

At its 48th session on 23-24 November, UNIDO Industrial Development Board (IDB) welcomed the Secretariat's proposal of the workplan of the Strategic Framework for Partnering with Middle-Income Countries (MICs). The workplan was prepared following the resolution of the 18th regular session of the UNIDO General Conference (GC.18/Res.9) which adopted the UNIDO Strategic Framework for Partnering with MICs and requested the Secretariat to present a workplan for its implementation. Ensuring coherent alignment with the strategic priority areas established by the Strategic Framework, the proposed workplan focuses on three action/impact areas, namely: (i) technological upgrading and capacity-building; (ii) upskilling training and education; and (iii) environmental sustainability. It also introduces a series of UNIDO ISID tools and instruments, aligned with the specific

needs of MICs, for its consistent and coherent operationalization, including: the COVID-19 Industrial Recovery Programme (CIRP), the Global Quality and Standards Programme (GQSP), the Entrepreneurship Curriculum Programme (ECP), the Enterprise Development and Investment Programme (EDIP), or the Global Cleantech Innovation Programme (GCIP). The IDB requested the Director General to finalize the workplan through a series of informal consultations with Member States. The Regional Coordination Division for LAC will lead the consultations at the beginning of 2021 and will serve to finalize the process ensuring full ownership on the outcome document by Member States.

UNIDO LAUNCHES WEBINAR SERIES ON SIDS

PFC through the Regional Coordination Division of Asia and the Pacific is launching a series of webinars to support the implementation of UNIDO's Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Strategy. The webinars started on 30 November and will continue regularly throughout 2021, with the support of relevant UNIDO technical departments. The webinars would attempt to address some of the most pressing development challenges of SIDS, ranging from the impact of digitalization in mitigating isolation and in facilitating trade integration, to the role of green energy and circular economy in frail ecosystems, to the analysis of the positive link between strong agri-food value chains and stable employment. The planned series of webinars will facilitate the transfer of knowledge among SIDS to accelerate Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID). The goal of this series of webinars is to advocate for UNIDO's interventions in SIDS and potentially replicate successful interventions in other regions. The webinars will also be an occasion to engage donors, who have expressed interest in cooperation with SIDS.

REGIONS IN FOCUS: SELECTED PIPELINE AND ONGOING INITIATIVES

AFRICA



AFRICA INDUSTRIALIZATION WEEK 2020 (AIW2020)

The 2020 edition of the [Africa Industrialization Week](#) (AIW2020) concluded successfully in collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the African Union Commission (AUC), the AfroChampions Initiative, the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) and the Government of Niger. The AIW2020, held from 16 to 20 November under the theme “Inclusive and sustainable industrialization in the AfCFTA era” featured a series of 29 highly interactive virtual panel discussions and attracted over 2,500 participants drawn from a multi-stakeholder base comprising AU Member States, Regional Economic Communities, among others. DG Li Yong participated in several sessions to deliberate on ways to accelerate Africa’s industrialization and rally the desired political momentum, resources and partnerships towards an Africa-Industrialization drive in light of the start of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). The AfCFTA is scheduled to begin in January 2021, amid the urgency to recover better, faster from the COVID-19 pandemic. The AIW2020 commemorations were capped by a High-Level Session on 20 November 2020 attended by Heads of

State (IDDA III Champions) including H.E. Mr. Andry Rajoelina and other high-level representatives during which H.E. Mr. Mahamadou Issoufou, President of Niger, was honoured as a Champion for AfCFTA and for driving the industrialization agenda on the continent.

UNIDO & UNECA FOR PRIVATE SECTOR LED ECO-INDUSTRIAL PARK IN NIGERIA



UNIDO and UNECA have agreed to partner in support of Waltersmith Petroman Oil Ltd to develop an industrial park at the Ibigwe oil field in Ohaji/Egbema, Local Government Area of Imo State, Nigeria. As part of its commitment to developing the industrial park, Waltersmith commissioned a 5,000bpd refinery on 24 November 2020. President Muhammadu Buhari, Grand Commander of the Federal Republic (GCFR), virtually

commissioned the 5,000bpd refinery and conducted the ground breaking ceremony of the 45,000bpd expansion project. The events were attended by notable dignitaries including the Governor of Imo State, Honourable Minister of State for Petroleum, Honourable Minister of State for Education and Honourable Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment ably Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Oil and Gas Free Zones Authority. Mr. Jean Bakole, UR and Mrs. Ngone Diop, UNECA Director for Sub-Regional Office for West Africa, represented UNIDO and UNECA respectively at the event. The development of industrial park is an integral part of the Country Programme for ISID in Nigeria, envisaged to serve as a successful model for promoting and propelling private sector investments in eco-industrial park development in Africa.

UN DSG's VISIT: OPPORTUNITY TO SHOWCASE UNIDO IN SIERRA LEONE

The Deputy Secretary-General (DSG) of the United Nations, Ms. Amina Mohammed visited Sierra Leone as part of her solidarity mission to West Africa and the Sahel region. The DSG visited Nigeria, Niger, Ghana, Mali and Sierra Leone to hold discussions on how to Build Back Better their economies post-COVID-19. On 14 November 2020, DSG attended a meeting in Freetown with Ms. Mariatu Abiono Swaray, UNIDO Country Representative who showcased the Organization’s joint intervention with the Barefoot Women Solar Engineer Association of Sierra Leone (BWSEASL). The Association is the Government’s key

implementing partner for the flagship programme on “Rural Electrification through Solar Energy”. UNIDO has been providing technical capacity building activities for the Association, in order to establish income-generating enterprises in the RE sector and to become active proponents of Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency. The initiative has been warmly welcomed by Ms. Mohammed and acknowledged by the UN Country Team, expressed that a firm commitment and sustained investment in human capacity development is crucial for attaining inclusive and sustainable industrial development.



SUPPORTING WASTE RECLAIMERS IN SOUTH AFRICA THROUGH UNIDO-JAPAN PROJECT

UNIDO responded to the waste management industry by working with stakeholders to provide personal protective equipment (PPE) to members of the South African Waste Pickers Association (SAWPA). Support provided at four pilot integration sites in the Free State, KwaZulu-Natal, and the Western Cape, followed by the donation of a 4-tonne truck to African Reclaimers Organization (ARO) to contribute to a safer and more secure working environment

for waste pickers. These initiatives form part of the USD 135 million flash appeal launched by the UN in South Africa in April 2020, aimed at assisting up to 10 million people addressing challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. The project is funded by the Government of Japan and executed jointly with partner institutions in the country. One of the outputs of the project is specifically designed to support ongoing processes related to waste picker integration, such as the formal recognition of waste pickers and their support in the design and implementation of separation at source and other recycling initiatives.



ARAB

SUPPORTING ALGERIA TO ACHIEVE ITS COMMITMENTS UNDER THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL



Over 50 representatives from the Algerian Government, universities, manufacturing and services sectors, training centers, as well as national environment specialists took part in a workshop organized in October by UNIDO in collaboration with the Algerian Ministry of Environment. The objective of the workshop was to develop an action plan and explore opportunities for collaboration under preparation of the HPMP (Hydrofluorocarbons Phase Out Management Plan) Stage II and Enabling Activities for the Kigali Amendment projects. The success of the workshop will contribute significantly to Algeria's achievement of its commitments under the Montreal Protocol. The workshop, which was inaugurated by the Secretary General of the Ministry of the Environment and by the UNIDO Representative in Algeria, is part of the Algerian Government's strategy for the protection of ozone layer and the fight against climate change, in line with the country's commitments to the Montreal Protocol. Field Office in Algeria works closely with EAE/ENV/MPD on this initiative.

RESPONSE TO THE CALL FOR PROPOSALS OF THE UN JOINT SDG FUND

In Egypt, UNIDO, as a lead agency, jointly with UNDP and FAO submitted a programme proposal entitled "Catalyzing

Private Investments for a Green and Competitive Egyptian Economy" to the UN Joint SDG Fund. The JP aims at supporting the Government of Egypt's SME development efforts through promoting a green economy transition. Given their importance to the Egyptian economy, the JP has a particular focus on green SMEs, including early-stage businesses, in the agriculture and manufacturing sectors. PFC/RFC/FLD/EGY cooperates with DTA/DTI/ITP, EAE/ENE and EAE/ENV for the joint proposal. In Jordan, UNIDO submitted a programme proposal named "SDG Accelerate", jointly with UNDP, the lead agency, and UN Women. This JP aims at accelerating private capital towards SDG Investing in Jordan. SDG Accelerate applies both the gender and the climate lens and combines an evergreen fund-of-funds with TA. This JP will catalyze jobs, sectors and opportunities that are more inclusive and innovative, and in the context of COVID-19, will help Jordan 'build forward better'. Field Office in Jordan and EAE/ENV/IRE worked together for the elaboration of the proposal.

PCP EGYPT: MEASURING THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR THROUGH IPI



UNIDO Regional Hub in Egypt, in collaboration with the Industrial Modernization Centre (IMC) of the Ministry of Trade and Industry, produced an Industrial Performance Index (IPI) to measure the impact of COVID-19 on the manufacturing sector. IPI was initiated in

the frame of PCP programming phase as follow up on the industrial diagnostics to understand the implication of COVID-19 on the manufacturing sector with specific focus on the PCP priority sectors. Survey was conducted to 1,300 industrial firms (large, medium and small) in the key manufacturing sub-sectors. IPI has successfully informed policy makers about the performance of manufacturing sector during the crisis. It triggered a lot of consultations and discussions with relevant PCP stakeholders including Egypt line ministries, UNCT, the World Bank, OECD, national research centres and think tanks, as well as social media platforms. The IPI will be measured periodically by the IMC, after UNIDO's provision of a capacity building programme covering IPI methodology, sampling, analytical tools and report writing. The sustainability of the IPI will benefit the PCP implementation phase. The report could be accessed [here](#).

FOSTERING JORDAN'S TRANSITION TOWARDS RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND CLEANER PRODUCTION (RECP)

In the context of Switch-Med II, 15 companies in the food and beverage, chemical and plastic sectors have signed an agreement to demonstrate RECP/TEST (Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production/Transfer of Environmentally Sound Technologies) approach. The companies will get on-the-job training on RECP/TEST assessment by UNIDO's national partners, the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) together with locally capacitated service providers. This training will involve the academia in the national programme to enhance, sustain and scale up the implementation of RECP/TEST. At the same time, Jordan's Ministry of Environment and its Green Economy Unit in their efforts for a transition towards a greener economy, based on the National Green Growth Strategy, have started taking actions to incentivize the implementation of RECP in the industrial

sector. To this end, an agreement was signed between the Ministry of Environment and King Abdullah II Center for Excellence to reactivate King Abdullah II Award for Excellence in the area of environment sustainability with a special focus on RECP within the industrial sector.



PCP MOROCCO: SIGNING OF US\$ 3.7 MILLION GRANT AGREEMENT WITH MCA-MCC

On October 2020, the Millennium Challenge Account-Morocco Agency (MCA-MCC) and UNIDO signed a US\$ 3.7 million grant agreement to support the design and the implementation of a technical assistance and capacity building programme under the industrial parks component of the PCP Morocco. The programme will include a diagnostics study on industrial zones and a roadmap for performance improvement; development of a capacity-building programme to the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Green and Digital Economy, as well as other main stakeholders related to industrial zones and development of a national electronic platform on industrial zones. Field Office in Morocco works closely with EAE/ENV/IRE on this new initiative in the country.

UNIDO-AfDB: ASSESSMENT OF THE COVID-19 IMPACT ON MOROCCAN AGRIBUSINESS SECTOR

UNIDO in partnership with the African Development Bank (AfDB) published a report entitled "COVID-19 Pandemic Management: Study of the Impact on the Moroccan Agri-business Industries and a Proposal of Recovery Strategy". This initiative, part of the PCP Morocco, is a product of UNIDO's close collaboration with relevant local stakeholders, notably the Moroccan Agri-Business Federation (FENAGRI) and the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Green and Digital Economy. Fourteen webinars were conducted with associations representing the different sub-sectors of agri-business sector in Morocco. The study identifies fifteen strategic recommendations to help the sector recovering and ensuring a long-term development. As a follow up of this study, UNIDO and AfDB are discussing the way forward for implementing the priority recommendations in the framework of PCP Morocco Agri-business component. PFC/RFC/ARB & PFC/RFC/FLD/MOR worked together with ERP/PRS/RPA and DTA/AGR/SFS on this initiative.



ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

REGIONAL RETREAT HELD TO REFLECT ON 2020 ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES

PFC through its Regional Coordination Division for Asia and the Pacific organized a virtual year-end retreat from 2 to 3 December, with the participation of all twelve UNIDO Representatives and Country Representatives from the region. Mr. Ciyong Zou, Managing Director, PFC in his opening remarks highlighted the crucial role of Field Offices throughout 2020 in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis, especially considering the major disruption to regular TC delivery posed by lockdowns and restrictions. The discussions revolved around the region's achievements and challenges encountered in 2020, followed by an analysis of key joint objectives and proposals for organizational innovation for 2021. Key focus of the discussions was on COVID-19 response, which in the ASP region included series of survey assessments of the impact of the pandemic on MSMEs, the design of knowledge products, repurposing of existing projects, as well as quick response projects in the field of procurement of PPEs and medical waste management.

UNIDO AT THE 2020 AFGHANISTAN CONFERENCE ON PEACE, PROSPERITY AND SELF- RELIANCE

The 2020 Afghanistan Conference on Peace, Prosperity and Self-reliance was held in a virtual format on 23 to 24 November, co-hosted by the Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Government of Finland and the United Nations. The event took place under extraordinary circumstances, at the beginning of the final four-year cycle of the Transformation Decade, shortly after the

start of the Afghanistan Peace Negotiations and during the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Ciyong Zou, Managing Director of PFC, delivered a speech at the Plenary session on 24 November, highlighted the organization's programmatic support and operations through the ongoing Country Programme for Afghanistan and in line with UNIDO strategy for post-conflict/crisis situations. UNIDO is supporting the country in particular through creating an enabling environment for nourishing, developing and expanding MSMEs that are a vital instrument for employment generation, especially for vulnerable groups, and for improving stability in the country.

UNIDO ENGAGES WITH ASEAN ON QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE

On 24 November, Mr. Bernardo Calzadilla-Sarmiento, Managing Director of Digitalization, Technology and Agri-Business at UNIDO participated in the 54th ACCSQ meeting and shared the organization's vision on strengthening cooperation with ASEAN Consultation Committee for Standards and Quality (ACCSQ), including research on quality policies, capacity building of SMEs, and assessment of investments in Quality Infrastructure, among others. In 2019, the 51st ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting (AEM) recommended UNIDO to engage with the Chair of the Senior Economic Officials Meeting (SEOM) in 2020 (Viet Nam) to discuss potential cooperation under the framework of ASEAN. The Regional Coordination Division of Asia & the Pacific will follow-up proactively with the ASEAN Secretariat, with support of the field office and the Quality Infrastructure & Smart Production Division, with the view to advance the discussions through joint activities and a potential relationship agreement.

PCP CAMBODIA REACHED NEW MILESTONES



On 10 December 2020, UNIDO Director General and H.E. Mr. Cham Prasidh, Senior Minister of Industry, Science, Technology and Innovation of the Royal Government of Cambodia met virtually to sign the PCP Cambodia Programme Document for 2020-2023. The official signing of the document kickstarts the implementation phase of the PCP and will further strengthen the already solid portfolio of ongoing projects. The ceremony was attended by the UN Resident Coordinator in Cambodia, Ms. P. Tamesis, who stressed how "the PCP can also enable the United Nations in Cambodia at large to successfully implement the socio-economic response framework to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19" as well as by some of the key donors and development partners active in the country. In particular, H.E. Ms. Carmen Moreno, Ambassador of the European Union to Cambodia, highlighted that: "the PCP provides us with a very useful framework to explore further

possibilities to work with the Cambodian Government and UNIDO to fully harness Cambodia's industrial development potential". Another milestone within the framework of PCP is the UNIDO and SDC cooperation on a new project in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. With Swiss funding of about US\$ 1 million and co-funding from the Royal Government of Cambodia, UNIDO's CapFish project and the private sector in the amount of \$ 475,000, it builds synergies with the EU funded CapFish project, in order to deliver a comprehensive response to the COVID-19 crisis through PCP interventions. The project aims to increase the resilience of Cambodian agro-food and tourism MSMEs in the context of the pandemic, as they are particularly vulnerable and inevitably severely affected by the economic crisis.

SIGNING OF THE NEW UNSDCF CHINA

UNIDO signed the 2021-2025 United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) in China in November this year. The UNSDCF will systematize and guide UN system's interventions in China for the next five years. In response to China's new development paradigm of high quality growth, and based on widespread consultations with the Chinese Government led by the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China (MOFCOM), three strategic priorities were identified. The priorities were crafted around the overarching UN principles of "leaving no one behind", human rights and dignity for all, gender equality, sustainability and resilience. The UNSDCF reflects UNIDO's mandate towards the achievement of SDG 9 and ISID, and the Country Programme 2021-2025 will make sure to align to it, among others things by continuing to place focus on green industry, innovation, poverty reduction and supporting China's international cooperation.

PHILIPPINES: UNIDO PARTICIPATES IN TWO UN JOINT RESEARCH PROJECTS

UNIDO will participate in two joint research projects with various UN agencies, funded by the UN Resident Coordinator's Office in Philippines. The research projects would supplement the knowledge gaps following the assessments undertaken by UN Agencies, including UNIDO in July 2020. The work on "Unlocking Opportunities to Build a Better Normal: Toward Gender Responsive and Resilient MSMEs in the Manufacturing & Support Industries in the Philippines" will be jointly implemented by UNIDO, ILO, and UN Women. Its main objective is to have a gender-sensitive analysis of the current state of manufacturing MSMEs. Another joint research titled "Economic Diversification, Productive Employment and Skills Development through Labour Market and Supply Chain Analysis" will be implemented by UNIDO, ILO, and UNDP. The goal is to addresses key knowledge gaps and policy issues related to increasing employment creation, among others in the context of COVID-19. Both projects will contribute to the UN Socio-Economic and Peace Framework in the Philippines, consistent with the government's "We Recover as One" initiative.

EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

A NEW JOINT PROJECT FOR THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN IN ARMENIA



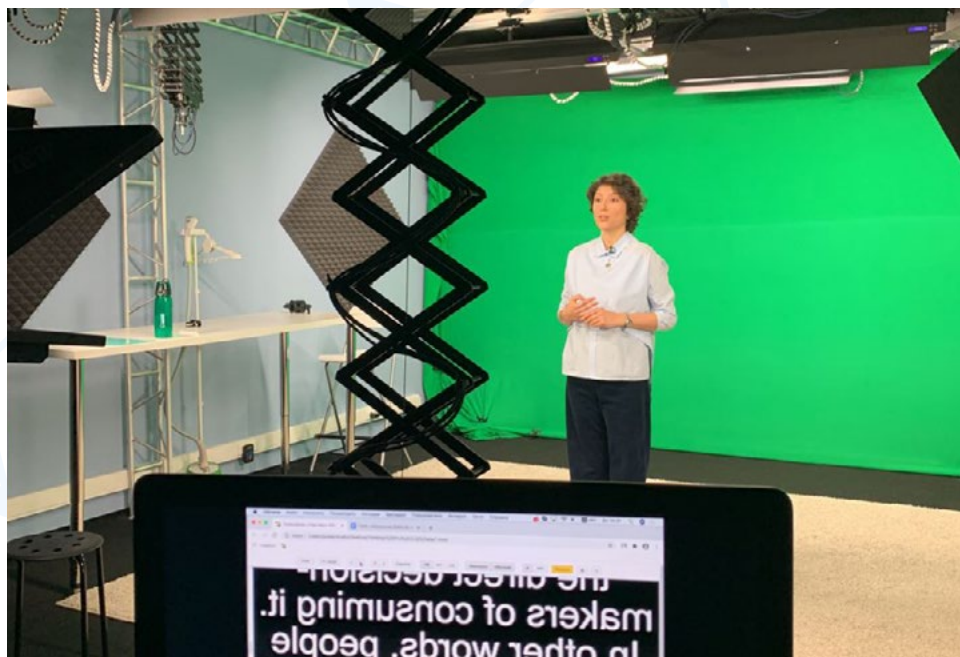
In November 2020, the UN granted funds from the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Multi-Partner Trust Fund (COVID-19 MPTF) for the implementation of the project in Armenia on “Accelerating women’s empowerment for economic resilience and renewal: the post COVID-19 reboot”. The project, with a duration of one year and 2 months will start in the beginning 2021 and will be implemented by UNIDO in partnership with UNDP, UN Women and UNICEF. Key objective of the project is to address gender equality and the empowerment of women (Gender Marker 3) by supporting creation of new sources of income and livelihood opportunities for vulnerable women affected by COVID-19. To achieve this goal, UNIDO will provide entrepreneurial knowledge and skills to young women through its signature “Innovation, Development and Entrepreneurship for All” (IDEA) programme and facilitate women-led SMEs access to Revolving Fund to realize their business ideas. Under the project, 40 young women will be trained and 30 women-led enterprises will receive financing through the Revolving Fund.

UNIDO-BELARUS COOPERATION FRAMEWORK SIGNED

Marking the 40th anniversary of membership of the Belarus at UNIDO, DG LI and H.E. Andrei Dapkiunas, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Belarus, signed the new Cooperation Framework (CF) on 10 December 2020 in Vienna. The CF prepared under the lead of RFC/EUR in cooperation with the Government and the Permanent Mission of Belarus, guides UNIDO’s programming work in the country for the initial period of five years. It serves to support identification of specific interventions in such areas, as environment and energy, SMEs development, quality infrastructure, strengthening of agro-industrial sector and other mutually agreed fields of action. Currently, UNIDO implements two regional projects with participation of Belarus: “EU4Environment” funded by the EU and “Coordinated Management of ODS and POPs Disposal” funded by GEF. On 2 December, with funding from the Russian Federation UNIDO launched a project “Leveraging the potential of Fourth Industrial Revolution technologies to realize smart manufacturing in Belarus”. It focuses on employment generation, human capacity development and establishment of innovative ecosystems underpinned by the envisaged accelerated application of 4IR technologies.

SCALING UP COOPERATION WITH THE EU

UNIDO has been intensifying its cooperation with the EU Delegations (EUDs) and the Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR) in the region for building a fruitful and long-lasting relationship in the area of inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID) in light of the new cycle of the EU Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for 2021-2027. In November 2020, UNIDO held virtual introductory meetings with representatives of the EUDs in Albania, Moldova and Montenegro aimed to introduce its thematic priorities and explore cooperation opportunities in the context of the UNIDO country programmes (CPs) currently under implementation and the programme of the EU. Mr. Ciyong Zou, PFC Managing Director led UNIDO delegation in the aforementioned meetings. A series of technical level meetings involving representatives of the EUDs and UNIDO have been organized and planned to identify synergies and potential opportunities for cooperation, within UNIDO’s mandate and services. PFC/RFC/EUR is leading this initiative and in close consultations with the UNIDO Liaison Office in Brussels, Strategic Relations and Resource Mobilization Division and technical directorates. PFC/RFC/EUR will further coordinate UNIDO’s programming work in the ECA region delivering high quality services to its Member States in line with their ISID related objectives and strengthening cooperation with the EU in the common priority areas.



NEW DIGITAL TOOLS TO SUPPORT WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS AND MANAGERS

Within the framework of the project funded by the Russian Federation and aimed at fostering the participation of women in economic processes, UNIDO has been wrapping-up the development of the pilot online training course “Digital Innovations for Women Entrepreneurs and Managers”. The new phase entailed the development of additional three training modules in e-commerce, social media marketing and customer relationship management. To provide future

training beneficiaries with cutting-edge knowledge, the Regional Coordination Division for Europe and Central Asia carried out interviews with potential experts and selected three women with unique expertise in subject fields who then participated in the recording of one-hour video lessons. The relevance of virtual education for the advancement of digital skills has been exemplified by the severe impact of the COVID-19 crisis on women, as highlighted in the recent UNIDO article. The online training course, consisting of six modules, is expected to be finalized by May 2021 and piloted at the UNIDO e-learning platform.

ENGAGEMENT WITHIN UNCTs: NEW UNSDCFs SIGNED

UNIDO, through its Regional Coordination Division for Europe and Central Asia (PFC/RFC/EUR) proactively engaged in the finalization of new UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs) in the region. In November, UNIDO signed UNSDCF North Macedonia 2021-2025, whereas the Organization is included under several outputs of Outcome 3 on healthy environment. This stems from UNIDO's broad project portfolio in the country within the priority of safeguarding the environment. UNIDO continues its day-to-day engagement with UNCTs in the region supporting the finalization of still to-be-signed UNSDCFs, namely, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Serbia and Turkey. For the countries with UNSDCFs rolling out in 2021-2022 (e.g. Albania, Moldova, Montenegro, Ukraine), PFC/RFC/EUR has been contributing to the development of Common Country Analyses (CCA) by the provision of comprehensive Country and Industry Profiles.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN



A MORE SUSTAINABLE APPROACH FOR MANUFACTURING TACKLED AT THE REGIONAL SESSION OF GMIS 2020

On 17 November 2020, UNIDO hosted a regional session of GMIS 2020, moderated by Mr. Diego Masera, Chief, Regional Coordination Division for LAC featured experienced speakers in the field of industrial development, who exchanged views on the reactivation of the manufacturing sector and the post-pandemic economic growth in the region. Ms. Silvia Hooker Ortega from Peru, Manager of International Affairs at the National Society of Industries, shared about the redefinition of the global panorama towards a 'glocalization' and rethinking the LAC's economic model. As Ms. Ortega said: to "allow us to grow in the region, generate decent employment and ensure that a crisis such as the current one does not affect us so drastically in the development of our countries". Mr. Clemente Ruiz Duran from Mexico, Researcher of the National Council of Science and Technology, referred to the positive impact of digitalization which

allows countries to upgrade to more sustainable production systems. He stated that the pandemic has provided countries with an opportunity to re-design strategically their production systems, leaving behind the current system which harms the environment. Mr. Tomás Karagozian from Argentina, President of the Young Argentine Industrial Union, highlighted the reduction on social and environmental costs and regional decentralization as spillover effects of the interruption of value chains. Mr. Karagozian emphasized the crucial role that young people and women are having in the industry and called for systems that provide incentives for MSMEs to formalize. Mr. Masera concluded the session stating that this is a chance for the LAC region to focus on the profitability of sustainability and to change the approach of the manufacturing sector towards a more inclusive, sustainable and people-centered development. The Regional session can be accessed at: <https://www.gmisummit.com/watch-gmis2020/> (Session 14).

UK-FUNDED ENERGY PROGRAMME FORMS PARTNERSHIP WITH BRAZIL GEF BIOGAS PROJECT

The Brazil Energy Programme (BEP) of the UK Prosperity Fund, and the Brazil GEF Biogas Project, which is coordinated by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovations (MCTI) and implemented by UNIDO's field office in Brazil, are joining forces to accelerate the transformation of waste into energy in Brazil. The partnership aims to increase the use of biogas and biomethane in Brazil's energy mix. These biofuels are low-carbon energy sources that can help Brazil reduce its greenhouse gas emissions and dependence on fossil fuels. The partnership will facilitate the exchange of data and information, and strengthen exchange on policies and regulations that promote a low carbon energy transition by developing the biogas and biomethane market. To know more about this new partnership, [click here](#).



INTERNATIONAL INDUSTRY DAY IN COLOMBIA: MSMEs AS KEY ACTORS FOR ECONOMIC REACTIVATION

UNIDO Field Office in Colombia organized an international panel to discuss the role of the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in the economic reactivation post-COVID 19. The panel was held in the context of the International Industry Day celebrated in Colombia on 19 November. Technology,

digitalization and the strengthening of an industrial policy in Colombia were some of the main topics discussed by the speakers from the public and private sectors, UNIDO's Field Office in Colombia as well as the Industrial Policy and Quality Infrastructure and Smart Production Divisions. The importance of bringing, sharing and adapting the best international practices into national contexts, and the strengthening and promotion of capacity-building and knowledge-transfer to actively support MSMEs in the country, were some of the main conclusions derived from the discussions. The panel was organized in cooperation with ACOPI- Association of Colombian MSMEs and the Catholic University of Colombia, two main partners of UNIDO in the country.

CIRCULAR ECONOMY FORUM HELD IN PARAGUAY



Paraguay has started the road towards a circular economy and a greener and more sustainable future. The third edition of the "Latin American Circular Economy Forum" was held on 17 November in Paraguay with the purpose of inspiring, energizing and activating the community to promote the transition towards circular economy in Paraguay and Latin America. With more than 1140 registered participants and 20 speakers from all around the globe, the "Latin American Circular Economy Forum" established a space for dialogue and exchange of knowledge and experiences around Circular Economy. It also contributed

to the formulation of a circular economy roadmap and the promotion of other related initiatives that are being developed in the country. UNIDO was represented by Mr. Stephan Sicars, Managing Director of the Directorate of Environment and Energy and Mr. Manuel Albaladejo, UR for Uruguay, Argentina, Chile and Paraguay. The execution of the MiPYME COMPITE, a programme funded by the European Union and implemented by UNIDO and four other partners to improve the competitiveness of micro, small or medium-sized enterprises is an important milestone towards achieving circular economy in Paraguay.

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