



Opening remarks by LI Yong, UNIDO Director General  
at the peer learning session for the Programme for Country Partnership  
(PCP) on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, via Zoom

---

Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to welcome you today as we convene for the first time to facilitate the exchange of experiences and best practices on selected topics relevant to advancing inclusive and sustainable industrial development within the framework of the Programme for Country Partnership (PCP).

We are fortunate to have with us highly distinguished guests from governments, permanent missions, and experts from current PCP countries as well as others interested in the PCP model participating in our meeting today.

Despite an extraordinary and unprecedented year brought about by the pandemic, I am pleased to say that the PCPs were able to quickly adapt to the new realities of 2020. Thanks to comprehensive COVID-19 mitigation plans, our PCP development and implementation continued despite the challenges and limitations. We were able to initiate the PCP in Tanzania and support the transition of PCPs from the programming phase to its implementation phases. Our PCP in Ethiopia continued to make progress, including mobilizing funding for large-scale industrial projects. We have also observed an increased interest in the PCP model from our stakeholders. The statements made by Member States expressing continued support for the PCP approach at the Industrial Development Board sessions last November was highly encouraging.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

The PCP is UNIDO's flagship programme to support countries in accelerating inclusive and sustainable industrial development. First introduced in 2014, its piloting phase comprised six countries across all the regions of the globe: Ethiopia, Senegal, Peru, Morocco, Cambodia and Kyrgyzstan.

In 2019, UNIDO initiated the formulation of new PCPs for Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Rwanda and Zambia. Going forward, the programme will gradually expand to additional countries. This expansion underscores the success of the PCP framework and culminated in the recent approval of the PCP in Tanzania as well as initial discussions on a potential PCP in Nigeria.

In the past seven years the PCP has proven itself as an effective framework to support ISID and the achievement of SDG 9, through leveraging partnerships and resources for large-scale industrial projects.

The high-level commitment and PCP ownership at the national level by Member States affirms support to the PCP as an innovative workable approach to help deliver and upscale ISID impact for development.

Member States have also, on several occasions, expressed their wish to learn from each other when it comes to the PCP approach. During the 18th session of UNIDO's General Conference, Member States specifically called on the Secretariat to facilitate the sharing of experiences and best practices among current and prospective PCP countries. This workshop today is a direct response to this call.

I am therefore pleased that we are gathered virtually today to discuss these elements, particularly from the Programme's development and implementation. Sharing experiences, concrete examples and lessons learned will help shed light on effective strategies for stakeholder coordination, partnership and resource mobilization for flagship industrial projects, which will, in my view, further enhance the Programme's effectiveness in the future.

Our efforts here today is also reflective of our aim and ability to use knowledge as a strategic asset to support and to contribute to the achievement of ISID, and the 2030 Agenda in our Member States. I have no doubt that we can further enhance the efficacy of our PCP model so that it can be applied to many more countries in support of their industrial development priorities in the coming years.

With the COVID-19 pandemic it is more essential than ever that UNIDO supports its Member States to build back their economies in an inclusive and sustainable manner. It is my firm believe that the PCP can play an important role in this process. Through its multi-stakeholder partnership approach, the PCP is uniquely positioned to bring together Governments, Financial Institutions, Development Agencies, and the business sector, among others. Together with other various stakeholders we can support the recovery of priority industrial sectors in PCP countries while also contributing to COVID-19 national recovery plans of PCP Member States.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all of you for your participation and for your support to UNIDO. It is only with your active engagement that we can ensure that we are able to meet the development needs of our Member States, particularly during this time where we are striving to accelerate the use of innovative solutions towards the SDGs.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Today's workshop presents an excellent opportunity to learn from best practices to successfully develop and implement a PCP, how to mitigate the effects of the current crisis, and how to support the achievement of the 2030 Agenda through the acceleration of inclusive and sustainable industrial development within the framework of the PCP.

I look forward to the fruitful discussions and wish you a productive and insightful day.

Thank you.