



**OPENING REMARKS BY MS. FATOU HAIDARA, MANAGING DIRECTOR, DIRECTORATE
OF CORPORATE MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS (CMO)**

PROGRAMME FOR COUNTRY PARTNERSHIP (PCP) PEER LEARNING SESSION,
2 FEBRUARY 2021

Session: Establishment of industrial parks/special economic zones

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am very pleased to be introducing the second segment of this important event which will highlight UNIDO's experiences in supporting the development of sustainable industrial parks or economic zones.

UNIDO's mandate of inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID) is central to the achievement of the 2030 Development agenda as reflected in Sustainable Development Goal 9: "Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation". It is also at the core of the PCPs.

The Abu Dhabi declaration, adopted at the UNIDO General Conference in 2019, further anchored the link between PCPs and the attainment of the SDGs. Meeting SDG9 requires a functioning and resilient infrastructure for industry. Historically, industrial parks, special economic zones and export processing zones have played an important role in fostering industrial development and structural transformation by providing physical infrastructure, institutional and policy frameworks and one-stop-shop services. These infrastructures help attract capital and investment, stimulate innovation and foster environmental safeguards generate productivity and create jobs including for women and youth.

Specifically for women, the framework of sustainable industrial and economic zones can offer new opportunities. In many developing countries, fewer paid jobs and occupations are available to women as compared to men in the labour market, and women remain disproportionately responsible for care work at the household level also due to lack of access to childcare facilities..

As the role of manufacturing for social inclusiveness and improved living standards evolve, sustainable industrial and economic zones have the potential to allow women to join new industrial sectors and occupations previously precluded to them. This will in turn allow emerging sectors to thrive by making full use of richer and more diverse skill sets.

In this sense, our work on industrial parks and economic zones can offer opportunities to mitigate occupational segregation and the under-representation of women in technical fields.

Targeted interventions aimed at removing the root-causes of women's low participation in manufacturing sectors and STEM fields include:

1. Programmes aimed at challenging gender-stereotypical attitudes in the wider public, as well as among employers' such programmes include initiatives that provide apprenticeships to women graduating from STEM fields as well as on-the-job training.
2. Another component of targeted interventions is the access to safe transport to the industrial parks, the provision of on-site child-care facilities, as well as support to company initiatives that promote gender equality such as equal pay and zero-tolerance to harassment.

Gender-responsive design of industrial parks and economic zones could play an important part in realizing these multi-faceted objectives.

We are proud of our work to support gender equity as part of DG's vision for inclusive and sustainable development. A vision that he also shared with us as an "International Gender Champion".

Ladies and gentlemen,

For over forty years, UNIDO has been actively involved in the planning, design, and management of industrial parks and economic zones around the world. Industrial parks and economic zones in emerging and developing countries provide not only modern services and a physical and social infrastructure but also an institutional framework. The concentration of companies can foster innovation, technological learning and economic growth.

As part of its normative and policy advisory functions, UNIDO produces guidelines, toolkits and operational manuals aimed at providing a framework for the development of sustainable industrial parks and economic zones. We have further assisted our Member States in the planning and design of pilot industrial parks, in supporting them to attract investment and also through technical cooperation projects.

Currently, we are developing a digital management tool that will provide industrial parks knowledge solutions for Member States which will be accessible later this year. The tool is called Sustainable Industrial Park Platform (SIPP).

UNIDO also acts a convener and facilitator of industrial parks knowledge transfer, by providing platforms for networking and cooperation. The development of inclusive and sustainable industrial parks and economic zones is an important component in the implementation of the Programme for Country Partnership. Through the PCP, UNIDO provides technical support in infrastructure development, and complements this with appropriate policy analysis and advice to support the operationalization of industrial and economic zones.

UNIDO also supports Member States to mobilize partners, financial resources, and knowledge in order to create the synergies required to promote and implement the development of eco-industrial parks, special economic zones, integrated agro-parks and agro-poles to maximize development opportunities following their establishment.

I would like to highlight a few examples of this successful approach.

In Peru, UNIDO supported the Government to develop the National Strategy on Industrial Parks Development, over several years.

In Senegal, we are assisting the Government in completing the first phase of Diamniadio, Senegal's first integrated industrial park.

In Ethiopia, we are assisting in the establishment of four integrated agro-industrial parks (IAIPs) as a priority initiative of the Government.

This snapshot of our achievements shows that the PCP is an effective development framework for the creation and operation of industrial parks, which has enormous potential to accelerate ISID for the benefit of our Member States. I am also confident that in today's session, we can learn from similar examples and share knowledge and experiences in this area.

Once again, thank you for joining us today.