The UNIDO-WU SDGs Innovation Centre

UNIDO-ISO Innovation Seminar
The UNIDO – WU SDGs Innovation Centre
Enhancing the impact of cooperation, innovation and mainstreaming the 4IR

**IMPACT**
Make best use of innovation and technologies in UNIDO programmes and activities

**INNOVATION**
Identify, nurture and scale-up innovative solutions, with focus on startups and MSMEs for the attainment of ISID

**STANDARDS**
Engage in standards setting related to innovation and digital transformation, and mainstreaming its adoption

SDGs Innovation Centre
Theory of Change
SDGs Innovation Centre

1. Strategic framework for the UNIDO SDG Innovation Center
   - Promoting innovation, knowledge creation & sharing
   - Establishing strategic partnerships for scaling-up impact
   - Mainstreaming 4IR & smart TC, with a focus on MSMEs and inclusivity
   - Setting and supporting the adoption of standards & guidelines
   - Advocacy scale-up to support ISID 4.0

2. First pilot phase
   - Inside innovation
   - Outside innovation
   - Digital transformation
   - Integration
   - Scale-up

3. Establishment of the UNIDO SDG Innovation Center
   - Accelerated progress towards Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development, SDG 9 and the 2030 Agenda
### Selection of pilot (9) Projects/Programmes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Potential to innovate</th>
<th>Geographical coverage</th>
<th>Thematic focus coverage</th>
<th>Start-ups and MSMEs orientation</th>
<th>Gender considerations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>EAE/ENE</strong> 150346 – Private Financing Advisory Network (PFAN)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EAE/ENE</strong> 120444 – Joint UNEP-UNIDO Programme to host and manage the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EAE/ENE</strong> 180258 – Global Cleantech Innovation Programme (GCIP) to accelerate the uptake and investments in innovative cleantech solutions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EAE/ENV</strong> 190313 – The Global Greenchem Innovation and Network Programme (GGINP)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DTA/AGR</strong> 150259 – H2O Maghreb</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DTA/AGR</strong> 200118 – Enhancing food regulatory systems and food safety in Suriname</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DTA/AGR</strong> 190362 – Productive Sectors Development (joint-)Programme for Somalia (PSDP)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DTA/DTI</strong> 180298 - Enhancing Business Intermediary Organizations´ Support Services for MSMEs Competitiveness in Paraguay</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DTA/DTI</strong> 190163 – Improving the competitiveness of export-oriented industries in Armenia through modernization and market access: Phase III</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Initial assessment on transformational change

1. System based approach
   - Defines system boundaries and components,
   - Targets the conditions across domains and scales
   - Integrated / mutually supportive interventions

2. Reach in time and space
   - Stakeholder ownership
   - Mechanisms to accelerate change over time and space
   - Capacities to adapt to unexpected conditions

3. Evidence based
   - Plausibility of assumptions
   - Evidence base

4. Coherence
   - Consider win-wins and trade-offs across ISID and SDGs

5. 4IR opportunities
   - Conditions for 4IR to add value to the strategy (human skills, technology penetration, tolerance for risk and enabling environment).
   - Opportunities to integrate 4IR into the strategy / project

- Programmes vary greatly on extent to which incorporate system analysis
- Need attention to contextual conditions such as finances and policies

- Missing opportunities to help connect key agents to the acceleration of system change
- Less efforts dedicated to ensure replication and scaling of demonstrations

- Programmes risks and assumptions tend to be overly optimistic on their assessments
- Opportunities to integrate local and traditional knowledge

- Analysis tends to focus on short terms consequences not examining broader potential consequences of interventions

- Introduction of specific technologies at points constraining the value chain are likely to yield benefits when carefully targeted
- Need of enabling ecosystem of collaborating agents operating in diverse supportive roles
The SDGs Innovation Centre

The SDGs Innovation Centre will harness the power of disruptive innovations and transformational technologies to bring the SDGs to life.
Our approach

The SDGs Innovation Centre will develop and conduct a set of structured research, training and coaching elements aiming at:

- **Scaling up the impact** of SDGs-oriented innovations
- **Creating awareness and a better understanding of the SDGs** as an economic opportunity and driver for innovation
- Providing transdisciplinary expertise in research and practical application
- Enabling innovators to **monitor and assess the impact of their innovation** together with tech-network partners in the areas of virtual and augmented reality, blockchain, big data, artificial intelligence, etc.
Creating networks and partnerships

Creating multi-stakeholder partnerships

- Learning for change – multiperspective lense towards strategic and technology foresight
- Building bridges and connecting science, business and society
- Providing innovative arenas for new partnerships between SDGs business pioneers

UNIDO // WU partnership:

- SDGs Innovation Center as a bridge between applied research and concrete needs and experiences of ISID.
Creating something unique

**Impact oriented** (understanding, assessing, upscaling)
- Enabling start-ups, MSMEs and UNIDO to implement, monitor and assess the impact of their SDG-oriented innovations
- Providing new bridges between impact investing and impact-oriented business
- Driving out of the box – thinking approaches in the context of the SDGs

**Lean approach** of 1-year strategic development and pilot phase
- Living the principle of innovation and iterations within our conceptualization
- Series of tools as pilots to be tested...
SDGs innovation boot camps

Our boot camps shall support the scaling-up process of existing SDGs-oriented innovations through a better understanding

- of their **impact on the SDGs**
- of their **transformational context** (multipliers, barriers, opportunities, partners)
- of their opportunities to use the **power of digitalization**

This goes hand in hand with higher opportunities for **global acceleration** while also creating a greater chance for related **impact investment**.
Thank you!

UNIDO, Alejandro Rivera-Rojas (a.rivera-rojas@unido.org)
WU-RITA, Laura Carlotta Hohoff (lhohoff@wu.ac.at)