



Dear readers,

The opening of the 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly provides one of the main platforms for dialogue on Africa, and particularly the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa 2016-2025 (IDDA III) – in which UNIDO plays a paramount guiding role.

Africa is still the world's least industrialized continent, with its share of global manufacturing value added at around 1.8 percent. IDDA III seeks to advance inclusive and self-sustaining industrial development along new paths, with new support, leveraging greater national buy-in and amid a radically changed global economic environment. Plus, with lessons learned from the previous two Decades.

The UN resolution that adopted IDDA III tasked UNIDO with leading the implementation of programmes in collaboration with the African Union Commission, the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the Economic Commission for Africa. In concrete terms, this means facilitating, and mobilizing resources for, industrialization initiatives, such as technology transfer, product diversification, agro-value chain development, industrial policy, special economic zones and industrial parks, climate change and renewable energy and energy efficiency – all through country, regional and global actions.

This year's High-Level Event on IDDA III organized by UNIDO and partners – the fifth to take place on the margins of the General Assembly – is devoted to renewable energy and green transformation. The outcomes of this gathering will provide insights to the preparations for the UNIDO-co-sponsored [African Union Summit on Industrialization and Economic Diversification](#), scheduled for November 2022 in Niger. Both of these high-level events are aimed at further advancing priorities stipulated in the IDDA III resolution as well as in key development frameworks and plans on Africa.

We hope you enjoy this issue and, as always, welcome any comments.

With best regards,

UNIDO New York Office



UNIDO and IDDA III: From Political Commitments to Actions on the Ground



The hybrid event, bringing together high-level dignitaries from Africa and the international community, will spotlight challenges and opportunities to "energize" industry and the manufacturing sector, and is expected to result in new initiatives on energy efficiency and sustainability. Taking place at the African Union premises in New York, the high-level event is organized by UNIDO in cooperation with the African Union Commission, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, the African Export-Import Bank, and the AfroChampions Initiative.

- Key objectives of the high-level event include:
- Highlighting tangible action areas, solutions and required policy measures to boost energy access and the new energy economy in African countries focusing on multifaceted industrial sectors.
  - Exploring innovative solutions for the systemic barriers hindering the development of the continent's renewable energy industries.
  - Discussing approaches for mobilizing domestic and foreign direct investment for Africa's renewable energy sector, which encompass green industrial job creation and social inclusivity.

Africa has enormous energy resources and renewable energy potential. While the continent has achieved some progress over the years in terms of energy access and use, around 600 million people (around 43 per cent of the population) still lack access to electricity, and 890 million people cook with traditional fuels. With surging energy demand in industry, freight and agriculture, the electrification of the energy sector, powered by renewables (including green hydrogen), will be paramount for Africa's economic and industrial progress.

Register [here](#)

UNIDO's Director General

DG hails Madagascar President as a Champion of IDDA III at UNIDO visit, 12 August

UNIDO's Director General Gerd Müller praised Madagascar's President Andry Rajoelina's efforts to support industrialization through the Madagascar Emergence Plan at an award ceremony celebrating Rajoelina as a champion of IDDA III. The Plan seeks to provide energy and water for all and to digitize and modernize agriculture as a path to sustainable growth of the country.

"Madagascar's Emergence Plan can be the path for sustainable growth," Müller said, adding that the upcoming Summit on Africa's Industrialization and Economic Diversification would present a historic opportunity for African leaders to tackle the challenges facing the continent and to build on its own potential. The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is also a game changer in achieving the continent's 2063 aspirations, including sustainable industrialization goals. The award ceremony and a bilateral meeting between President Rajoelina and Müller was part of a Madagascan delegation visit to UNIDO headquarters aimed at further strengthening cooperation between the two parties.

The IDDA III Championship initiative, awarded to 10 African Heads of State thus far, is aimed at leveraging high-level political leadership to spur the continent's industrialization.



UNIDO DG calls for fairer global trade system at WTO opening session, 28 July

UNIDO's Director General Gerd Müller took part in the World Trade Organization's Eighth Aid for Trade Global Review with the theme "Empowering Connected Sustainable Trade". In his introductory remarks at the Opening Plenary session, Müller called for a move towards a fairer global trade system, with increased investment in productive capacity in developing and least developed countries. Moreover, he declared it a "moral must" that international social and ecological standards be established, respected and enforced to prevent the exploitation of nature, people, and especially children, in global supply chains.

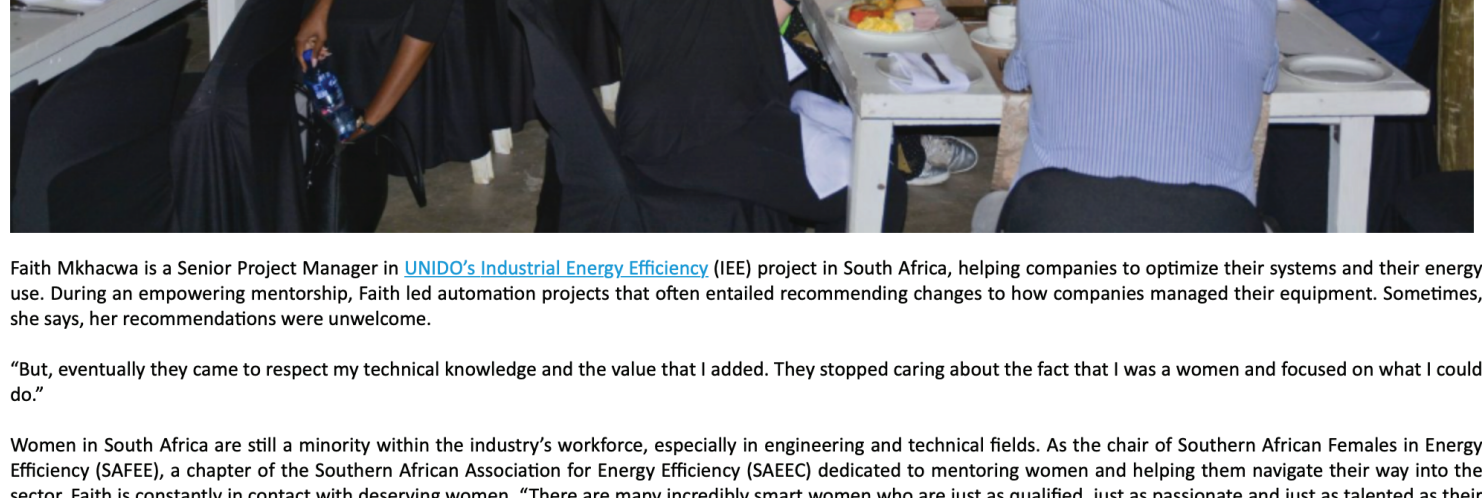
As part of his official agenda in Africa, Müller met with Geneva-based Permanent Representatives to UNIDO with whom he shared his vision for the investment and plans for enhanced cooperation in Africa, the Caribbean Region and Asia. The Ambassadors, for their part, called on UNIDO to facilitate the mobilization of Organization and the transfer of technology.

UNIDO DG speaks at Morocco's Green Hydrogen Conference, 22 June

UNIDO's Director General Gerd Müller emphasized the future of green hydrogen as a lever for the transition towards more sustainable industry in his opening address at the World PIX Summit in Marrakesh, Morocco. The World PIX Summit is organized jointly by the Moroccan Research Institute for Solar Energy and New Energies (IRESEN) and the Mohammed VI Polytechnic University with the aim of creating a regional platform dedicated to green hydrogen (see [UNIDO news release](#)).

UNIDO's impact on the ground

South Africa: [More women in the driver's seat on energy transition](#)



Faith Mkhawza is a Senior Project Manager in UNIDO's Industrial Energy Efficiency (IEE) project in South Africa, helping companies to optimize their systems and their energy use. During an empowering mentorship, Faith led automation projects that often entailed recommending changes to how companies managed their equipment. Sometimes, she says, her recommendations were unwelcome.

"But, eventually they came to respect my technical knowledge and the value that I added. They stopped caring about the fact that I was a woman and focused on what I could do."

Women in South Africa are still a minority within the industry's workforce, especially in engineering and technical fields. As the chair of Southern African Females in Energy Efficiency (SAFE), a chapter of the Southern African Association for Energy Efficiency (SAEE) dedicated to mentoring women and helping them navigate their way into the sector, Faith is constantly in contact with deserving women. "The data collected and stored by the IoT system will help us make informed decisions on the maintenance we need to carry out", said Harrison Keteer, acting operations manager at KenGen. "It will also help us to project the needs we require in the near future."

The IEE project has helped increase the number of women participating in the national energy sector. Female energy consultants and experts are being trained and matched with companies in need of their services. The number of female entrepreneurs in the sector is also growing, a move that Faith celebrates because "they will be the ones who, in turn, will get a lot more women involved in the space," she says.

The IEE project assists companies with their climate change mitigation endeavours through CO<sub>2</sub> emission reduction projects.

Kenya: [UNIDO and Japan upgrade geothermal power station through Internet of Things \(IoT\) technology](#)

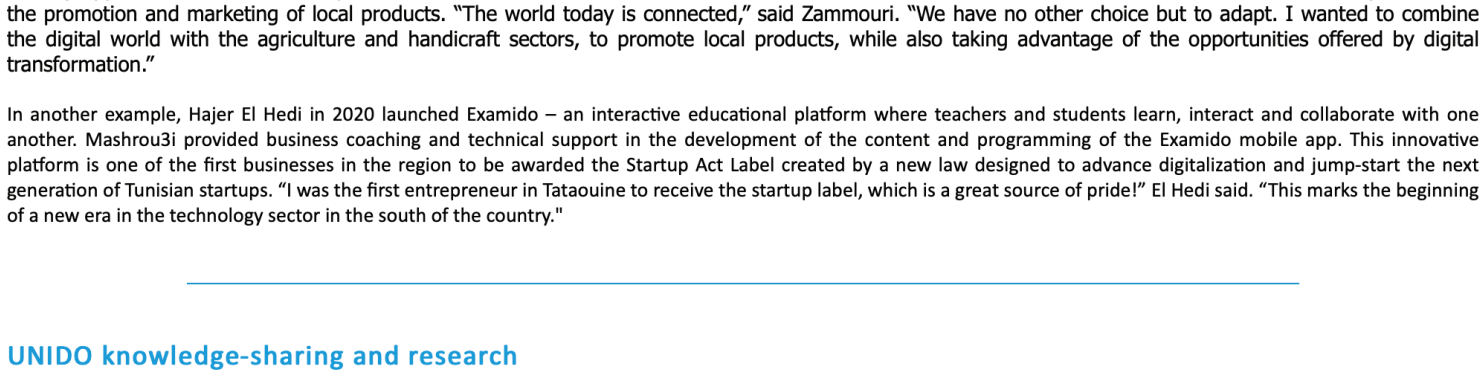


In August 2022 UNIDO launched a project to install IoT technology at the Olkaria Geothermal Power Station in Kenya in a drive to boost efficiency and productivity. UNIDO's partners in the project, funded by the Government of Japan, are the Japan International Cooperation Agency, the KenGen of Kenya, and the Kenya Electricity Generating Company PLC (KenGen).

Overall, the IoT project – fully aligned with SDGs 7 and 9 – aims to install the IoT technology at the Olkaria geothermal power station in conjunction with the provision of awareness raising and technical trainings. The project will further centralize, accumulate, and analyse operational data at a data centre equipped with specialized servers as well as collection and transmission systems. "The data collected and stored by the IoT system will help us make informed decisions on the maintenance we need to carry out", said Harrison Keteer, acting operations manager at KenGen. "It will also help us to project the needs we require in the near future."

The experience and knowledge gained through the IoT project will inform other power plants as well as the wider industry sector – in the country and beyond – on the opportunities afforded by innovative technologies to address efficiency and productivity-related constraints.

Tunisia: [Digitalization is driving entrepreneurship](#)



Entrepreneurs in Tunisia are overcoming barriers to fully exploit the potential of digital technologies with help from the [Mashrou3i project](#). Implemented by UNIDO in partnership with the United States Agency for International Development, the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation and the HP Foundation, the project provides training, coaching and technical assistance to support the development of new enterprises in Tunisia.

As an example, the young entrepreneur Ayoub Zammouri took advantage of the Mashrou3i project to improve his digital marketing, discover new online tools and identify opportunities for market expansion and sales. Based in In Medenine, a town in south-eastern Tunisia, he launched Makhtout, an online platform for the promotion and marketing of local products. "The world today is connected," said Zammouri. "We have no other choice but to adapt. I wanted to combine the digital world with the agriculture and handicraft sectors, to promote local products, while also taking advantage of the opportunities offered by digital transformation."

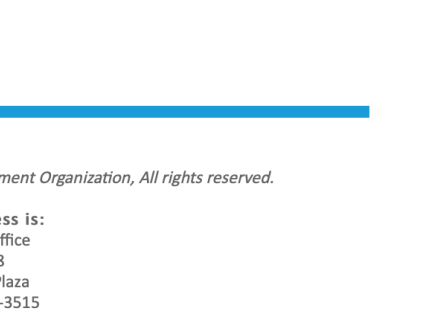
In another example, Hajer El Hedi in 2020 launched Examido – an interactive educational platform where teachers and students learn, interact and collaborate with one another. Mashrou3i provided business coaching and technical support in the development of the content and programming of the Examido mobile app. This innovative platform is one of the first businesses in the region to be awarded the Startup Act Label created by a new law designed to advance digitalization and jump-start the next generation of Tunisian startups. "I was the first entrepreneur in Tataouine to receive the startup label, which is a great source of pride!" El Hedi said. "This marks the beginning of a new era in the technology sector in the south of the country."

UNIDO knowledge-sharing and research

[Joint Roadmap: Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa \(IDDA III\) 2016-2025](#)

This comprehensive roadmap for the implementation of IDDA III developed by UNIDO and partners addresses four issues that are critical to the Decade's success: (i) ensuring government ownership and leadership – including a clear vision, commitment and resolve on the part of African Governments; (ii) strengthening an enabling business environment that includes having appropriate policies, infrastructure, knowledge and skills, financing, technologies and market institutions; (iii) prioritizing sectors that have high potential for growth and which can meaningfully contribute to the alleviation of poverty; and (iv) building strong partnerships for financial and non-financial resource mobilization at the multilateral, regional and bilateral levels.

Besides the four core principles, the roadmap lays out six interconnected strategic objectives that are then split into action areas and further subdivided into programmes and projects with specific targets. Also covered are the technical and financial resources that are needed and a monitoring, evaluation and reporting framework for IDDA III.



[Can Africa's Third Industrial Development Decade deliver?](#)

"Half-way through IDDA III, is there hope of success where previous initiatives failed?" The article, posing this question, delivers compelling reasons why the answer is a qualified yes.

The goals of IDDA III are not only supported by UNIDO and the African Union but by other UN agencies, African governments at the highest level, the private sector, development organizations and financial institutions. There has also been a turnaround in support for industrial development policy, which is [now recognized as playing a key part in achieving economic development and social goals on health, education and well-being](#), as well as a fresh approach to its implementation through the creation of new business models and an innovation drive. This scale of commitment brings dynamism and funding that were previously lacking, leading to a step-up in the number of technical assistance projects and programmes by UNIDO and other partners.

Moreover, many countries have made significant strides in boosting their industrial and agro-processing sectors, and there is a thriving entrepreneurial sector in many countries – often missed in industrial statistics because of small company size and the large number of firms still operating in the informal economy. AfCFTA should improve allocation of resources, raise competition, boost competitiveness and contribute to more sustainable growth in the long run

Nevertheless, some old obstacles persist, such as resource dependency, high business costs and low productivity, while a new threat, the COVID-19 pandemic, has dealt a devastating economic blow to many African countries. Despite the challenges, the article concludes, Africa's transformation and commitment to change at both national and international level mean "the goals of IDDA III are now more achievable than at any time in the past".

[Africa's interregional trade and regional value chain integration: Facts and policy for future policy action](#)

(This UNIDO paper was prepared for the side event on "Building resilient regional value chains in Africa: From diagnostics to the planning of action" in preparation for the upcoming African Union Summit on Industrialization and Economic Diversification.)

This paper provides evidence, based on international data, of the level of regional value chain (RVC) integration in Africa and the continent's participation in global trade. Development of RVCs is a means to reboot industrial development in Africa, building the necessary industrial capacity for Africa's integration, the paper states. "RVC development can also be viewed as part of the bigger plan to increase manufacturing value added on the continent, increase the consumption of African products, boost both competitiveness and exports and grow industries. RVCs and the integration of its regional economic commissions will support Africa's industrialization – and offset the many uncertainties and challenges of global competition."