



Climate Action: Accelerating net-zero and climate resilient industrial development

Date: Monday, 27 November 2023

Time: 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. (CET)

Location: Vienna International Centre, Vienna, Austria

Issue

Although industrial development can act as a driver of economic growth and innovation, the industrial sector plays a significant role in exacerbating climate change due to its substantial carbon footprint and extensive usage of natural resources. Industry, manufacturing and construction, transport, electricity and heat are currently responsible for 35% of the global CO₂ emissions and demand for these sectors is expected to increase significantly in emerging markets and developing economies.

Industry also finds itself being adversely affected by the changing climate through reduced access to water and other resources, stranded assets, loss and damage of infrastructure and profit as a result of climate-induced disasters. These consequences of climate change go beyond industry, impacting the livelihood and well-being of communities, often disproportionately affecting the most vulnerable groups including women and youth.

Path to its solution

Achieving net-zero emissions by mid-century will not be realized without accelerating decarbonization of heavy industries and unlocking the potential for green industrialization to support economic growth and create jobs. The solutions exist but we need to move from commitments to action. UNIDO has identified the following priorities:

- (1) Accelerate the adoption of existing and emerging low-carbon solutions including hydrogen and scale them-up;
- (2) Drive green industrialization and diversification of supply chains for clean energy manufacturing;
- (3) Promote local innovation and entrepreneurship that enables the energy transition and supports local economic and social development; and
- (4) Empower women, youth and vulnerable communities to participate in the transition.



Panel discussion: “Climate action: Accelerating net-zero and climate resilient industrial development”

The event aims to discuss how to accelerate net-zero and climate resilient industrial development. It aims to identify actions from a policy perspective to strengthen work on industrial decarbonization, developing entrepreneurship and driving innovation in low carbon solutions within the industrial sector such as hydrogen.

Key questions to be addressed

- What are the key challenges and opportunities for a net-zero and climate-resilient industrial development that emerge from the current global context?
- What action is needed to accelerate the adoption and scale-up of existing and emerging solutions in the industrial sector (i.e. electrification, green hydrogen)?
- What is the role of innovation and entrepreneurship in addressing the need for climate change mitigation and adaptation?

Format

The session will feature opening and closing remarks, keynote speech and one moderated high-level panel discussion (Davos-style). It will have simultaneous interpretation in all official languages of the United Nations, and will be livestreamed on UNIDO’s website: <https://www.unido.org/general-conference-20>.