



Driving a just hydrogen transition: Key enablers for clean hydrogen uptake and de- risking of investments

Date: Tuesday, 28 November 2023

Time: 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. (CET)

Location: Vienna International Centre, Vienna, Austria

Overview

Clean hydrogen¹ is being promoted as the fuel of the future for being clean, storable and portable. While it can serve as a clean energy carrier and storage option for renewable energy, clean hydrogen also has the potential to substitute fossil fuel to decarbonize “hard-to-abate” economic activities and creates unique opportunities for net zero industrial development for developing countries that have abundant renewable power potential.

According to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), to achieve the 1.5°C scenario, we would need to reach 518Mt of clean hydrogen production and usage annually by 2050. At present, the majority of hydrogen is currently produced from fossil-fuel-based sources such as natural gas and coal, also defined as “grey hydrogen”, accounting for more than 95% of global hydrogen production.

Transitioning industrial processes with clean hydrogen and enabling net-zero industrial development is crucial. However, the investment committed to hydrogen projects in developing countries remains low due to several persisting barriers and uncertainties in regulatory, economic and financing aspects. To overcome such barriers, countries require adequate policy and regulatory frameworks, investments, technical assistance, knowledge and skills development and increased capacity to support their hydrogen industry. A ramp-up in the deployment of financing and technical assistance across the clean hydrogen supply chain is needed for developing countries to attain the full potential of socio-economic and industrial development.



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UNIDO's Global Programme for Hydrogen in Industry (GPHI) supports developing countries and transition economies to fully benefit from the new opportunities that clean hydrogen can bring for net zero industrial development and local value addition. It paves the way for job creation, skills upgrading, investment mobilization, and drive the development of a diversified and knowledge-based economy. Promoting tangible projects to accelerate the local uptake of clean hydrogen in industries of developing countries and transition economies is a key element of the Program.

The event 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>.