



UNITED NATIONS  
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION



# PROGRESS BY INNOVATION

Shaping the industry of tomorrow –  
for a fair globalization



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INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

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Published by the United Nations  
Industrial Development Organization  
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# “It’s not the time for business as usual! It’s time to act now!”

UNIDO is a bridge and platform for global technology and knowledge transfer, investment and partnership.

We are one world. Together, and with stronger global solidarity, we can change the world into a better place, with peace, justice and prosperity for all.

#### **We know what to do!**

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Paris Agreement and the Convention on Biological Diversity are the global framework that the world has already agreed on. Today, the world is facing several crises – climate change, global conflicts and wars, energy and food crises are some of them. The poorest people in

developing countries are being hit the hardest.

#### **It is time to act now!**

We have to take responsibility and mobilize huge investments in development, in innovation and in solutions which are needed specifically in the Global South. Industrialized countries must fulfill their commitments to reach the SDGs. We have the technology and the knowledge to end hunger, mitigate climate change, pursue a green industrial transition, and create jobs for millions of young people.

Also, the business sector needs to invest more in sustainable development and private investments need to be aligned with the SDGs.

UNIDO is ready to take up these tasks, and we have reformed the organization to make it more efficient, with a new spirit and new priorities.

UNIDO is the bridge and platform for technology and knowledge transfer, investment and partnership, and for strengthening economies and societies in the Global South.

**Our main priorities** are innovation and cooperation for **sustainable industrialization focusing on renewable energy, hydrogen, food security and sustainable agriculture, sustainable supply chains, as well as the use of digitalization and artificial intelligence (AI) throughout all sectors.**

Developing countries need local value added, better access to the global market, and fairer global trade. For that, UNIDO provides normative advice and technical support.

**Empowering women is key to development!** Investing in gender equality benefits the whole society, economically as well as socially. Women’s economic empowerment and gender equality is taking centre stage in the planning and implementation of our programmes in all sectors.

**Our vision** is zero hunger, access to energy for all, and jobs for a growing population, especially in countries in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, as well as Latin America and the Caribbean. Necessary investments in infrastructure require partnerships with

business partners and global financial institutions. UNIDO provides a platform for such partnerships.

**Progress by innovation** is our guiding principle to find solutions for the big challenges of today.

We have a dedicated team at the headquarters in Vienna and in 48 field offices around the world. Special thanks to all 172 Member States and so many international partners for their great support in our joint mission to make the world more just and to protect the planet and the global common goods.



## “Together we can change the world into a better, more just and peaceful place.”

**Gerd Müller**, Director General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization

# UNIDO at a glance



## Senior Management Team



**Ciyong Zou**, Deputy to the Director General and Managing Director of the Directorate of Technical Cooperation and Sustainable Industrial Development



**Cecilia Ugaz Estrada**, Director of the Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women Unit, and Special Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean



**Yuko Yasunaga**, Deputy to the Director General and Managing Director of the Directorate of Corporate Services and Operations



**Josef Karl Pelikan**, Chief of Staff and Special Representative for Eastern Europe and Central Asia



**Fatou Haidara**, Deputy to the Director General and Managing Director of the Directorate of Global Partnerships and External Relations



**Manuel Mattiat**, Chief Advisor to the Director General and Head of the Director General's Office



**Gunther Beger**, Managing Director of the Directorate for SDG Innovation and Economic Transformation



Find out more

## Who we are

UNIDO is a specialized agency of the United Nations with a unique mandate to **promote and accelerate sustainable industrial development**.

**Our mandate** is reflected in **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 9**: “Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation”, but UNIDO’s activities contribute to all the SDGs.

We deliver value to our 172 Member States through **four complementary core functions**:

- **Technical cooperation**
- **Action-oriented research and policy advisory services**
- **Normative standards-related activities**
- **Fostering partnerships for knowledge and technology transfer**



Our work is concentrated on the following **priorities**:

- **Clean energy and climate action** – using renewable energy and energy efficiency to reduce industrial greenhouse gas emissions and applying nature-based solutions for adaptation to and mitigation of climate change.
- **Ending hunger** – by reducing post-harvest losses and developing sustainable agribusiness value chains and promoting innovative yet affordable agro-technology for improved food security and quality.
- **Sustainable supply chains** – by promoting fair and environmentally responsible local industrial production so that developing country producers get a fair deal and scarce resources are preserved.



Cutting across these priorities we pursue the creation of decent jobs, women’s economic empowerment, innovative technology and knowledge transfer, digitalization and artificial intelligence (AI), investment promotion, training and skills development, the circular economy and environmental protection.

# UNIDO worldwide



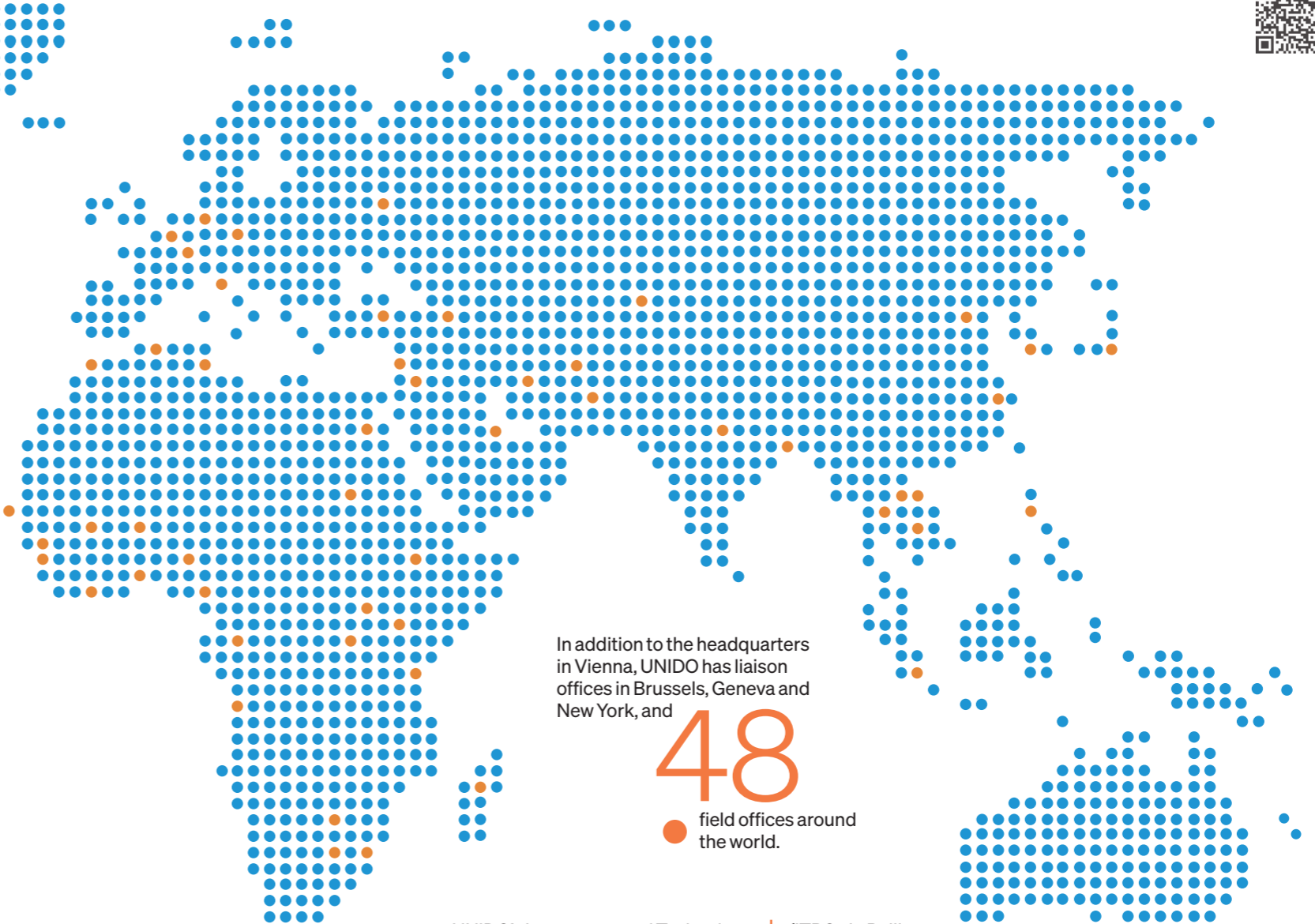
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UNIDO has  
**172**

Member States, which provide assessed contributions to fund a regular budget for the organization's administration, research and other regular expenses. Member State representatives guide the principles and policies of the organization and approve its budget and work programme.

UNIDO is implementing around  
**1,000**

technical cooperation projects and programmes in more than 120 of its Member States. The main non-country donors are the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the European Union, and the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol.



In addition to the headquarters in Vienna, UNIDO has liaison offices in Brussels, Geneva and New York, and

**48**

field offices around the world.

UNIDO's Investment and Technology Promotion Network consists of 10 Offices (ITPOs). They contribute to UNIDO's work by brokering investment and technology agreements between developed and developing countries.

(ITPOs in Beijing, Berlin, Bonn, Lagos, Manama, Moscow, Rome, Seoul, Shanghai and Tokyo)



# Clean energy and climate action

The poorest of the poor are affected the most by the impacts of climate change, yet the regions where they live in are responsible for emitting the least amount of greenhouse gases. Sustainable energy production, especially on the basis of renewable energies, is essential for climate protection.

Rapid global population growth and sustainable development, specifically in the least devel-

oped countries, will lead to an increase in worldwide energy demand of around 50% by 2050.

The decoupling of economic development from harmful emissions is necessary to mitigate climate change and achieve a global clean energy transition.

Inclusive and sustainable industrialization is a key element of an effective climate change strategy, and UNIDO is

helping developing countries to accelerate their economic development in line with the Paris Agreement on climate change.

UNIDO promotes policies, technologies and practices to reduce industrial greenhouse gas emissions, and mitigate as well as adapt to the impacts of climate change. A global transition to affordable clean energy for all is key to limiting global warming.



Find out more

## Our programmatic solutions

- **Renewable and clean energy:** boosting the use of renewable and clean energies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and achieve climate-resilient development
- **Energy efficiency:** harnessing expertise, technologies and knowledge networks to ensure sustained performance improvements in global industrial energy use
- **Industrial decarbonization:** facilitating technology and knowledge transfer to decarbonize industry, especially the steel and cement industries, and create market demand for low-carbon industrial materials
- **Green hydrogen:** exploring diverse uses of renewable energy, including for green hydrogen, to achieve significant industrial emissions reductions
- **Nature-based solutions:** managing and using natural ecosystems to expand natural carbon sinks and benefit biodiversity and human well-being

Rapid population growth and economic development are creating a massive increase in demand for energy.



# Impact initiatives

## Renewable and clean energy

A transition to renewable energy, together with more efficient use of energy, could achieve more than half of the emissions reductions needed to meet the 1.5°C Paris Agreement target.

UNIDO assists regional economic communities in the creation and operation of sustainable energy centres, which drive and accelerate the energy transition from the region for the region. The

**Global Network of Regional Sustainable Energy Centres (GN-SEC)** is an innovative South-South and triangular multi-stakeholder partnership.

Today, the GN-SEC network comprises 11 operating centres in Africa, the Arab region, Asia and the Pacific, as well as in Latin America and the Caribbean.



Find out more



## Green hydrogen

Green hydrogen can contribute to a clean, carbon-neutral industry and can be a long-term option for energy storage on a large scale. It can help developing countries and emerging economies achieve a clean energy transition, enhance their national energy security, and address climate mitigation objectives.

UNIDO's **Global Programme for Hydrogen in Industry** works with the ISO on standards, the World Bank on financing, and

the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) on enabling mechanisms for green hydrogen production and its industrial up-take. UNIDO is also supporting the establishment of green hydrogen clusters, and to this end, is advising the Governments of Egypt, Morocco, South Africa and Tunisia.



Find out more



## Industrial decarbonization

Steel and cement production account for just over 50% of all industrial emissions. The need for continuous high-temperature heat to produce these vital materials requires huge amounts of energy, much of which is still dependent on fossil fuels. Moreover, the chemical processes involved in producing these materials are themselves a major source of emissions. Decarbonizing the steel and cement industries will not only require new and more reliable technologies, companies will also need to transform whole production processes.

The **Industrial Deep Decarbonization Initiative (IDDI)** is a UNIDO-led global coalition of public and private organizations working to stimulate demand for low and near-zero emission steel and cement/concrete. In collaboration with Governments, the IDDI works to harmonize emissions measurement methodologies, establish ambitious public and private sector procurement targets, incentivize investment in low-carbon product development, and design industry guidelines.



Find out more





# Ending hunger

Over the past 30 years, the number of people suffering from hunger worldwide has almost halved. However, due to global conflicts, climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic and growing inequality, the numbers have been rising again in recent years. Over 800 million people are unsure where their next meal is coming from.

Climate change is having a dramatic impact on food production, as resources are becoming scarcer. Ten million hectares of cultivated land are

lost every year, for example through soil degradation and erosion. Water scarcity is a growing problem. At the same time, the world's population is growing rapidly, which will require an increase in food production of around 60% by 2050.

But a world without hunger is possible – through sustainable industrialization, technology and knowledge transfer, and investment in agribusiness. Large areas of land that could be cultivated for agriculture

are lying unused. Harvests only reach 20–30% of their potential because seeds are poor quality, irrigation is inadequate, and machinery is unavailable.

UNIDO tackles these issues and also focuses on food safety and food quality control, which are key not only to safeguarding people's health, but also to improving livelihoods. When food safety is assured, food exports can access regional and international markets.



Find out more

A world without hunger is possible – through sustainable industrialization, technology and knowledge transfer, and investment in agribusiness.



## Our programmatic solutions

- **Sustainable agribusiness:** developing sustainable food systems and local processing to reduce post-harvest losses and food waste through technology and knowledge transfer
- **Food safety and quality:** promoting safe and high-quality production and processing in agribusiness through capacity development as well as standards
- **Agro-technology and innovation:** promoting smart digital technologies, AI and other innovations to improve efficiency in agricultural value chains
- **Infrastructure development:** establishing strategic infrastructure systems for a resilient agribusiness sector in the Global South
- **Local value addition:** promoting sustainable agribusiness and value chain development to create decent jobs, share prosperity and advance economic competitiveness



# Impact initiatives

## Reduction of post-harvest losses

Up to 40% of food produced does not reach consumers due to a lack of investment in the post-harvest sector.

The **Agrifood Systems Transformation Accelerator (ASTA)** is a global programme – co-led by UNIDO and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) – working with countries to transform their agrifood systems by facilitating investments in selected

value chains and creating partnerships between the public and private sectors.

UNIDO is developing other new initiatives with the FAO, the World Food Programme and the International Fund for Agricultural Development to optimize investments in post-harvest technology, dry and cold storage, processing, packaging and marketing along the food value chain.



Around 800 million people are unsure where their next meal is coming from.



Find out more

## Agro-industrial parks

UNIDO is working with several countries to upgrade rural transformation centres, and to conceptualize and establish **agro-industrial parks**.

In Ethiopia, UNIDO has supported the Government to establish four agro-industrial

parks, which has led to double the wheat harvest per hectare over three years. Three agro-food parks are under development in Senegal and others are in the design stage in Kenya, Tanzania and Zambia, amongst others.

Gerd Müller, UNIDO Director General, on a site visit to an agricultural commercialization cluster for wheat farmers near the Bulbula integrated agro-industrial park in Oromia state, Ethiopia.



Find out more

## Food safety

In partnership with other organizations, UNIDO is supporting the participation of developing countries in the international food safety standard-setting process and helping design and implement more robust food safety systems.

With decades of experience in supporting its Member States

to develop, improve and implement standards across a range of industries, UNIDO provides valuable technical know-how and institutional knowledge through its capacity-building projects.



Find out more



# Sustainable supply chains and fair trade

Globalization has led to companies outsourcing many production steps to developing countries. Globalization has created a lot of economic growth, but at the same time the reality for millions of workers is exploitation, and difficult and unsafe working conditions.

Supply chains are essential to trade, and trade is essential to job creation, but these supply chains must be fair

and sustainable. There are an estimated 450 million people working in global supply chains.

The global community has a responsibility to ensure fair and environmentally responsible conditions along the entire global supply chain – because at each step of every supply chain, there is a human being!

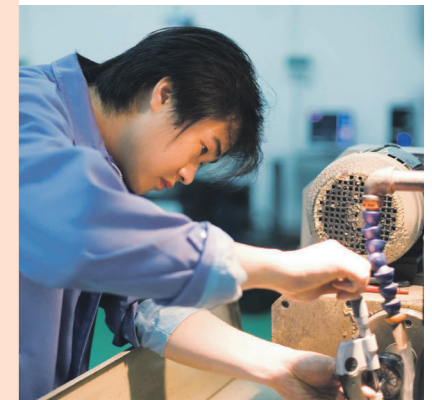
UNIDO is striving for a fair globalization, for a global regulation that requires all

companies to comply with minimum environmental and social standards, such as the prohibition of child and forced labour. We promote pioneering companies that are already applying these standards and show how responsible supply chains can go hand in hand with economic success. UNIDO offers solutions to improve sustainable supply chain operations.

## Our programmatic solutions

- **Local value addition:** promoting the integration of countries into domestic, regional and global value chains in a socially just, environmentally sustainable and economically inclusive manner
- **Youth, women, SMEs:** empowering youth, women and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) with the skills, technology and resources needed to successfully participate in sustainable supply chains
- **Sustainability standards and trade:** promoting compliance with social and environmental standards to facilitate market access
- **Sustainable investment:** building institutional and policymaking capacities to foster a conducive business environment for sustainable industrial development and support infrastructure by unlocking investments for lasting growth
- **Circular economy:** promoting eco-design and resource efficiency to contribute to environmentally sustainable supply chains

Supply chains are essential to trade, and trade is essential to job creation, but these supply chains must be fair and sustainable.



A fair world trade with global, environmental and social standards is a prerequisite for sustainable industrialization. Sustainable and fair supply chains are paramount to create equal opportunities and inclusive economic growth in the Global South.



Find out more



# Impact initiatives

## Standards

To compete in export markets, developing countries strive to increase the volume and range of the products they sell and export. To do so, countries must comply with the increasingly stringent market requirements on product quality, safety, health and environmental impact. UNIDO assists Member States and their industries in complying with many of these international standards.

UNIDO's **Global Quality and Standards Programme** (GQSP) assists countries worldwide to boost their competitiveness in

14 specific sectors. Through an innovative approach developed by UNIDO, GQSP identifies quality-related challenges and makes targeted interventions at every single stage of the value chain, thereby increasing compliance with international market requirements and ultimately helping countries to engage in global trade.



Find out more



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## Learning and knowledge development

Over the course of several decades, UNIDO has promoted the adoption of safe and environmentally sound production practices in the textile and leather industries of many countries through skills development. This has included connecting tanneries with local and international markets, providing access to the latest technology based on international best practices, and improving occupational health and safety.

UNIDO's **Learning and Knowledge Development Facility** (LKDF) promotes industrial skills development among young people in developing economies. Working with the private sector through Public Private Development Partnerships, the LKDF supports local industrial training academies to help meet the labour market's increasing demand for skilled employees. For example, in Liberia, UNIDO has worked

with six Technical Vocational Education and Training schools to promote entrepreneurship and connect with the private sector. In Morocco, UNIDO has established a training hub for students and professionals in the areas of water management and wastewater treatment.



Find out more

## Circular economy value chains

Many UNIDO projects already address various building blocks of a circular economy. Some support resource-efficient and cleaner manufacturing of products, others help develop safe, easy-to-recycle products with longer lifetimes and still others deal with the recovery of resources at the end of a product's life.

UNIDO's programme **SWITCH to Circular Economy Value Chains** supports enterprises within selected value chains to adopt circular economy practices. European multinational companies have influence over

their products from the research and development, through the manufacturing and distribution, up to the usage and post-consumption cycle. Building on this leverage, the programme uses pilot projects in the textiles and plastics value chains to demonstrate how small to medium-sized enterprises can be empowered to implement circular economy practices in developing countries.



Find out more

# Cross cutting priorities

- **Job creation** – creating decent jobs for the more than 70 million unemployed young people and for a growing population. Creating quality jobs and reaping the demographic dividend are particularly important for the political, social and economic stability of developing countries.

- **Gender equality and women's economic empowerment** – enhancing the role of women as drivers of poverty reduction, promoting female investors and entrepreneurs.

- **Innovative technology and knowledge transfer** – the transfer of innovation, technology and knowledge from industrialized to developing countries is key to sustainable development. Production conditions, efficiency and product

quality can be improved and greenhouse gas emissions can be avoided.

- **Digitalization and AI** – the rapid development of digital technologies offers a new angle for creating jobs and entrepreneurial opportunities. Digitalization and AI open new possibilities for improved quality, safety and more efficient industrial production.

- **Investment promotion** – facilitating the process of identifying and mobilizing capital, knowledge and technological resources for a more targeted investment with development impact. We help entrepreneurs, businesses, investment institutions and countries to mobilize investment at all steps in the process.



The transfer of innovation, technology and knowledge from industrialized to developing countries is key to sustainable development.

- **Training and skills development** – providing technical skills and know-how to open up entrepreneurial and employment opportunities. A focus lies on training young women and men to drive inclusive economic growth and address some of the most pressing socioeconomic challenges.

- **Circular economy** – designing products and processes so as to eliminate pollution and waste, preserve value over time and avoid using non-renewable resources. This contributes to better health, preserves the environment and resources, and supports the economy by creating job opportunities, and saving materials and costs.

- **Environmental protection** – focusing on cleaner and more resource efficient productive processes to protect our planet. Natural resource use and environmental impacts need to be decoupled from economic growth.

# Gender equality and women's economic empowerment

Women and men must equally lead, participate in, and benefit from inclusive and sustainable industrial development. UNIDO recognizes that gender equality and the empowerment of women lie at the heart of its mandate. We are committed to addressing gender inequalities in industry and to harnessing women's full potential as leaders and agents of change, thereby transforming economies and generating inclusive growth. Promoting gender equality is contributing to achieving all the Sustainable Development Goals. Economies grow faster when gender equality is advanced, less people remain in poverty, and overall well-being increases.

UNIDO is implementing many projects that are helping create a world where both men and women can thrive. For this, UNIDO collaborates with partners across the UN system and the private sector. For example, together with the FAO and UN Women, UNIDO supports the development of women-led enterprises in strategic value chains such as agrifood, biocosmetics, and plastic and textile recycling in the MENA region, providing women with increased business and job opportunities. The focus is on improving access to finance as well as helping them to access markets at national, regional and international levels.



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There are an estimated 450 million people working in global supply chains. Approximately 190 million of them are women.

# Partnerships

The main external partners for UNIDO in ensuring the promotion and acceleration of sustainable industrial development include UNIDO's Member States, other United Nations entities, intergovernmental

organizations, development partners, industry and the business sector, academia and research institutions, as well as multi-stakeholder initiatives.



Find out more



UNIDO Director General Gerd Müller (first from left) with WTO Director General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala (third from left)

## Business sector

UNIDO's partnerships with the business sector deliver significant developmental impact by collectively achieving more than the sum of their parts.

Through our business partnership approach, companies can leverage their resources and know-how to work towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and promoting inclusive and sustainable industrial development.



UNIDO's partnerships with the business sector are guided by five principles of engagement: transparency, integrity, compliance with environmental, social, and governance standards, and equity and respect.

## Examples of UNIDO impact initiatives with the business sector

### UNIDO and Illy: improving the sustainability and inclusiveness of the Ethiopian coffee value chain

Coffee production and its trade are the main sources of livelihood for about 20 million Ethiopians.

UNIDO's public-private partnership with illycaffé S.p.A. and the Fondazione Ernesto Illy improves the Ethiopian coffee supply chain through support for small producers and cooperatives:

- the adoption of good agricultural practices increases yields
- the transfer of technical skills and agricultural equipment optimizes the post-harvest process
- the establishment of quality control laboratories improves quality
- the establishment of a training centre at the Ethiopian Coffee and Tea Authority imparts skills along the supply chain, from field agronomists to baristas

### UNIDO and Volvo: promoting youth's access to qualified employment in the heavy-duty equipment sector in the Democratic Republic of Congo

UNIDO's public-private development partnership with the Volvo Group is:

- supporting two vocational training centres with upgraded facilities, training equipment and tools, and a modernized curricula
- creating industry-related training opportunities for young men and women that ultimately will lead to job creation
- helping to modernize the technical and vocational education and training.



Get involved through projects, events and platforms, as well as our Programmes for Country Partnership, partner expert programme, data and policy dissemination, investment and technology promotion, and procurement.

Become part of a global platform for knowledge and technology transfer, innovation and investment that engages, inspires, informs and empowers partners, Member States and citizens to drive progress by innovation for all.



Find out more about our partnership opportunities



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