



Industrial Development Board

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UNIDO and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

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Report by the Director General

The present document provides information on the contribution of UNIDO to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in line with General Conference resolutions GC.15/Res.1 and GC.16/Res.2, and in accordance with Programme and Budget Committee conclusion 2016/6 and Industrial Development Board decision IDB.44/Dec.9(e)(i).

I. Overview

1. As the world faces multiple global crises and conflicts, the aspirations set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are in jeopardy. Poverty is far from eradicated, inequalities are growing and climate change is causing destruction.
2. The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic caused disruptions that set back decades of development progress. The fragile economic recovery shows disparities and is impaired by conflicts. The decline in the supply of important commodities and products, particularly in the food and energy sectors, is increasing inflation globally.
3. To avoid a climate catastrophe, we must urgently adopt low-emission, climate-resilient, circular and inclusive development pathways that will reduce emissions, conserve resources and ecosystems, transform food systems, create better jobs and advance the transition to a greener, more inclusive and just economy.
4. These current global crises serve as a reminder that the proper functioning of global economic and industrial production systems is essential to all nations and societies. Inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID) can directly and indirectly contribute to the achievement of the economic, social and environmental targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

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5. For the international community, including for UNIDO, the 2030 Agenda and its 17 goals remain the compass in the remaining years of the Decade of Action. While the direction remains clear, the Secretary-General calls for an urgent rescue effort of the SDGs.

II. Our Common Agenda and outlook for 2023

6. In September 2021, responding to a request by the General Assembly in its Declaration on the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations (resolution [75/1](#)), the Secretary-General released the report titled “Our Common Agenda” ([A/75/982](#)).

7. In the course of consultations on the report in 2022, Member States emphasized the importance of ISID for the implementation of proposals of Our Common Agenda, for instance in the context of the formation of a high-ambition coalition to promote green and digital economy job creation.

8. With more than half of the proposals in the report deriving from the SDGs and designed to serve as a booster shot for achieving the goals, their implementation is important for the 2030 Agenda. Other proposals are designed to look to the future and fill gaps that have emerged or grown since the adoption of the SDGs in 2015.

9. While the details have yet to be determined, these proposals may possibly come together in the Summit of the Future. The Summit is proposed to take place in September 2024 in conjunction with the opening of the seventy-ninth session of the General Assembly, and preceded by a preparatory ministerial meeting in September 2023. The Summit is expected to adopt an outcome document entitled “A Pact for the Future”, agreed in advance by consensus through intergovernmental negotiations.¹

10. Our Common Agenda proposes a Global Digital Compact to be agreed at the Summit of the Future. The compact is expected to “outline shared principles for an open, free and secure digital future for all”. Led by the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Technology, appointed in June 2022, the preparations of the compact will involve a range of stakeholders, including governments and the United Nations system.²

11. The seventy-eighth session of the General Assembly in 2023 will also feature the second SDG Summit, which is the second high-level political forum on sustainable development under the auspices of the General Assembly. The Summit will mark the midpoint in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and should demonstrate an unwavering commitment to its realization. The Summit will adopt a political declaration with transformative policy recommendation developed through a multilevel and multitrack preparatory process. Regional forums on sustainable development could serve as regional preparation for the Summit. The HLPF in July 2023 will serve as the last preparatory event for the SDG Summit in September 2023.

12. The General Assembly High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development will be held after the SDG Summit and is expected to start mobilizing new financing for the SDGs.

13. These processes are decisive for the remaining years towards 2030 and for the political consensus beyond. UNIDO thus appreciates the support of Member States and their Permanent Missions to the United Nations in New York to emphasize the importance of ISID for the SDGs, the advancement of Our Common Agenda and current and future global crises.

¹ The proposed modalities for the Summit of the Future are contained in draft resolution [76/L.87](#).

² www.un.org/techenvoy/global-digital-compact.

III. Follow-up and review at the global level

14. At the global level, and as part of the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda, the Industrial Development Board (IDB) submitted substantive inputs to the HLPF 2022.³ Themed “Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, the HLPF 2022 reviewed SDGs 4, 5, 14, 15 and 17.

15. The submission of the IDB highlights the importance of ISID to support countries in the post-pandemic recovery process. The document also notes the Decade of Action and Our Common Agenda as means to trigger the required transformation towards economies with sound and efficient resource management that are more resilient to future pandemics, climate change impacts and other global challenges. Post-pandemic economies need to be able to create jobs at all skill levels, and must enable the transfer of environmentally sound technologies, including decarbonizing technologies, to developing countries.

16. The submission was reflected in the Ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the 2022 session of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the 2022 HLPF (E/HLS/2022/1).

17. The HLPF 2023 will address the theme “Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels”. It will conduct an in-depth review of SDGs 6, 7, 9 and 11, in addition to the annually reviewed SDG 17.

18. The HLPF 2023 will thus be an important opportunity to review progress on SDG 9 and highlight the role of ISID for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. Voluntary national reviews, the reports of the five regional forums on sustainable development, discussion papers on the theme of the HLPF, and the submissions of intergovernmental bodies (such as the IDB) will inform the forum.

19. The seventh Financing for Development Forum was convened by the President of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in April 2022 to discuss the long-term SDG financing landscape against the background of an uneven and uncertain global economic situation. In the outcome document (E/FFDF/2022/L.1), Member States requested the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development (IATF) to analyse “how countries can use a mix of public and private finance to support inclusive and sustainable growth and development, as well as industrial transformation, and how the international community can support them in such efforts” and to provide “analysis on industrial policies and pathways to sustainable industrialization”.

20. Accordingly, the Financing for Sustainable Development Report 2023 will focus on the theme of industrialization. As an active member of the IATF, UNIDO will engage closely with the task force and contribute to the forthcoming report.

21. As per its mandate to reflect on the main theme of ECOSOC, the United Nations Committee for Development Policy, during its twenty-fourth session in 2022, specifically “focused on how industrial policies can be used to address the simultaneous challenges faced by Governments as they build forward from the COVID-19 crisis as well as the pre-existing crises of climate change and inequality”.⁴

22. Following the established biennial cycle and in accordance with General Assembly resolution 75/231, UNIDO submitted the General Assembly report on industrial development cooperation in July 2022 (A/77/138).

23. Section I of the report focuses on recent trends in industrial development, as well as the impact of three defining global crises: the COVID-19 pandemic and recovery; global consequences of conflict, including on food, energy security and

³ <https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2022/IDB%202022.pdf>.

⁴ See report E/2022/33.

finance; and the triple planetary crisis. Section II describes the role of industrial development cooperation in implementing the 2030 Agenda. A message by the UNIDO Director General concludes the report.

24. The report will form the basis for discussions under agenda item 22 (b) of the Economic and Financial Committee (Second Committee) of the General Assembly scheduled for mid-October 2022, leading to the negotiations of a resolution on industrial development cooperation.

IV. Supporting progress towards the 2030 Agenda

25. Given its mandate to maintain worldwide industrial statistics, UNIDO serves as the custodian agency collecting and compiling data for six industry-related indicators under SDG 9. In this role, the Organization provided data and narratives for the Secretary-General's 2021 report on *Progress towards the SDGs* (E/2022/55), the *Sustainable Development Goals Report 2021* and the *Sustainable Development Goals Progress Chart 2021*.

26. The 2021 edition of the *Statistical Indicators of Inclusive and Sustainable Industrialization* presented an analysis of global progress towards ISID. Based on the six SDG 9 indicators related to industrialization, the report introduced two supplementary tools to help countries track progress towards achieving SDG 9. These tools are available on the Industrial Analytics Platform as the SDG 9 Industry Tracker.

27. The publication of the flagship *Industrial Development Report 2022: The future of industrialization in a post-pandemic world* provided evidence at the country, industry and firm levels, documenting the impacts of the crisis and examining the drivers of resilience and vulnerability.

28. The strengthening of ongoing and forging of new partnerships (SDG 17) remain a fundamental approach for UNIDO. The Organization continued to scale up its engagement with international financial institutions (IFIs) by assisting its Member States in formulating and implementing IFI-financed development investment operations from the African Development Bank, the World Bank, the International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation and others. UNIDO signed a joint declaration with the European Investment Bank in March 2022 to strengthen its cooperation and continues engaging through project concept and staff exchange proposals, including on green hydrogen and the recovery of Ukraine, among others. UNIDO continued growing and cultivating its cooperation with the Global Environment Facility, the Green Climate Fund and the Adaptation Fund.

29. UNIDO is also currently engaged in business sector partnerships with more than 100 entities in over 55 countries across the world, leveraging private sector expertise, technology and resources to advance ISID. UNIDO is adapting its internal operations on South-South and triangular (industrial) cooperation. Programmatically, the operationalization of the Programmes for Country Partnership (PCPs), supporting large-scale industrial infrastructure projects, is currently ongoing in 13 countries.

30. At the midway point in the implementation of the 2020–2023 UNIDO Gender Strategy, UNIDO continued to be on track to achieve its goal to ensure that UNIDO programmes and projects significantly contribute to gender equality and the empowerment of women (SDG 5). In 2021, 46 per cent of UNIDO projects approved were assessed to have at least significantly contributed to gender equality and the empowerment of women, exceeding the 2023 target of 45 per cent.

V. Action required of the Board

31. The Board may wish to take note of the information contained in the present document.