



UNIDO REGIONAL OFFICE HUB
IN ETHIOPIA

Quarterly Newsletter

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FOREWORD

Happy New Year!

The year 2020 tested us all as we were faced with challenges we would never have considered before. Since COVID-19 disrupted our world, travel bans have limited our activities, mandatory quarantines have delayed our executions and heartbreaks due to loss of lives have shaken our resolve.

Nevertheless, we have also achieved important milestones in the delivery of outputs for our ongoing projects. In strengthening our partnership with governments, we have signed key agreements to set new projects in motion and made extensions to existing ones. We have started the formulation process for the Program for Country Partnership (PCP) to run from 2021 to 2025. In response to the pandemic, our projects have mobilized funds and capacitated industries to shift production to personal protection equipment (PPPs). Regular meetings, reporting and monitoring exercises have been undertaken virtually with great commitment by staff from all the countries within the regional hub.

As we embark on the New Year, we look ahead with hope and we build our resilience to cope with the demands of the “new normal”. We sought out new targets to accomplish more in 2021 and we look forward to sharing our progress soon. In the meantime, we invite you to browse through this issue of our quarterly newsletter highlighting major activities, events and our response to the pandemic in Ethiopia, Rwanda, Uganda, Burundi and Madagascar.

Enjoy the reading!

Aurelia Patrizia Calabrò (Ms.)
UNIDO Representative and Director of the Regional Office Hub

Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development



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UNIDO at the Inauguration of the Entoto Park in Addis Ababa



H.E. the Prime Minister of Ethiopia Abiy Ahmed (Ph.D.) and H.E. Ms. Zenash Tayachew, the First Lady of Ethiopia, at the “Entoto” Park

UNIDO Representative and Director of the Regional Office Hub, Ms. Aurelia Calabrò, attended the inauguration of the first-ever natural park built on Mount Entoto, a high plateau just a 20-minute drive north of the capital, Addis Ababa.

The Ethiopian Prime Minister

Abiy Ahmed inaugurated the Park and expressed his gratitude to those who have contributed to its construction, carried out as part of the Beautifying Sheger Project.

The park, which is equipped with various facilities, including sport centres, restaurants, coffee shops, horseback riding and biking

trails, and even a soccer field, has created job opportunities for many people.

During the bilateral meeting held between H.E. the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Dr. Abiy Ahmed (Ph.D.), and UNIDO’s Director General Mr. Li Yong in November 2018, UNIDO pledged 1 million Euros to support the Beautifying Sheger Project promoted by the Prime Minister himself. The project aims at renovating the river basin in Addis Ababa through the development of green and cultural spaces, the recovery of water sources usable for private dwellings and urban agriculture, as well as the creation of job opportunities.

Source: <https://www.fanabc.com/english/entoto-natural-park-inaugurated/>



Right: Ms. Aurelia Calabrò at the National Palace, departing for the inauguration of “Entoto” Park

UNIDO-LISEC Project to Establish Gender Working Groups in the Leather Industry



Middle: Ms. Seble Daniel, UNIDO-LISEC Project National Gender Expert, during the training in Modjo

UNIDO, under one of its flagship projects, UNIDO-LISEC, has given wide attention to gender mainstreaming with the aim to promote gender equality and women empowerment in selected tanneries, slaughterhouses, as well as traders of hides and skins (H&S). Through this, the project also aims at minimizing female migration, while promoting improved labour relations by fostering women's role in business services, including SMEs.

In this context, a working team comprised of experts from LIDI, MoTI and UNIDO was set up to conduct a gender assessment among tanneries, slaughterhouses and H&S traders from Addis Ababa and areas in and around Modjo within a 100-km radius.

Based on the findings of the assessment, the team recommended the introduction of gender working groups at company level with the objective of promoting gender-responsive organizational structures along with flexible and safe work

environments for women.

On 23 November 2020, the UNIDO-LISEC project held a kick-off meeting for the establishment of gender working groups within these beneficiary companies. During the workshop, Mr. Yassin Awale, the Chief Technical Adviser of the UNIDO-LISEC project, noted in his welcoming remarks the importance of gender-related issues and reaffirmed UNIDO's commitment to address them in a systematic manner in terms of institutional ownership, accountability, transparency and technical capacity.

Mr. Wondu Legesse, UNIDO-LISEC National Project Coordinator, provided a brief background of the project, highlighting its three major outputs: 1. Improve Quality and Quantity of Hides and Skins (H&S - including a grading system, training, awareness raising) by supporting the leather value chain from slaughterhouses to tanneries; 2. Support tanneries (processing and producing finished leather) towards integration

into the global leather value chain through Competitiveness Gains/Environmental compliance including the creation of a Leather Industry Development Institute (LIDI) Regional Centre; 3. Promote Investments in/around MLC (including Medium, Small and Micro Enterprise clusters) for both domestic and foreign companies. He further underlined the critical role of gender working groups in enhancing women empowerment in the workplace and in tackling gender-based violence.

The workshop, which brought together experts, owners and managers from tanneries, slaughterhouses and H&S traders, took place in Modjo and Addis Ababa for three days and addressed all targeted beneficiary companies.



Celebration of African Industrialization Day 2020

Addis Ababa, 20 November 2020 - In his capacity as IDDA III AfroChampion, the President of the Republic of Madagascar, H.E. Andry Rajoelina, participated in the Celebration of the AID2020, organized by the African Union Commission (AUC). He addressed the high-level session along with UNIDO DG, Mr. Li Yong, UN Under-Secretary General and Executive Director of UNECA, Mrs. Vera Songwe, as well as H.E. Mohamadou Issoufou, President of Niger and President of the AfroChampions Initiative, among others.

In his speech, he described industrialization as the guarantor of poverty eradication in Africa and in the world, as it stimulates innovation, induces productivity

growth, and generates employment, thus creating the conditions for a more equitable distribution of income.

He defended ISID as a powerful engine for growth and a banner for the economic pride of an entire country and continent, provided it is supported by partners and backed by strong political will.

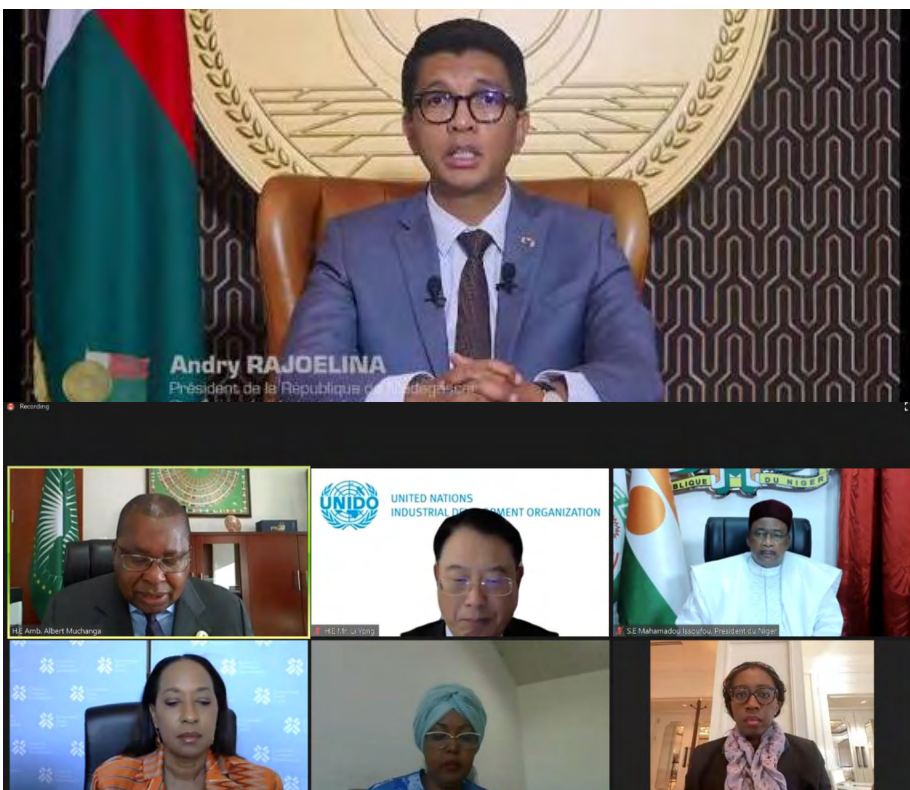
Particularly, in Madagascar, industrialization and food self-sufficiency are the spearhead of the country's emergence strategy for the period 2019-2023. The national vision is simple: Madagascar must produce locally everything that the country and its people need. According to the President, numerous reforms have been undertaken to create a favourable climate for the revival

of investments, the promotion of entrepreneurship and the revitalization of Malagasy industry. "Since I took office in 2019, 42 companies and plants have been opened and restarted. I cite here, for example, the revival of the SASM factory (Madagascar's agricultural sugar company), and Les Minoteries de l'Océan Indien, the largest flour mill in the Indian Ocean which covers 70% of the country's flour needs.

With the COVID-19 pandemic, Madagascar has been able to transform the challenges of the crisis into opportunities to develop initiatives such as the establishment of Pharmalagasy, a state-of-the-art pharmaceutical plant that will produce the drugs the Malagasy people need, based on herbs from Madagascar's biodiversity-rich wildlife, including the Artemisia-based CVO+."

Through the establishment of these 42 plants, the industrialization of Madagascar is on track to achieve our ambitions for the emergence of Madagascar.

The President made a particular case regarding the chronic food crisis affecting the Deep South of Madagascar in recent decades, where millions of people and especially children under 5 years of age suffer from malnutrition. He described decisions to implement innovative and sustainable solutions, in order to reverse this situation and curb the famine in Madagascar in a sustainable way. This action plan includes, among



The President of the Republic of Madagascar, H.E. Andry Rajoelina, participating in the webinar.

other things, the setting up of local product processing plants that will meet the needs of the populations concerned, such as: water bagging plants for 400,000 people per day, a food supplement processing plant, plants for the production of specific nutritional foods designed to treat and prevent the various forms of malnutrition, in partnership with Foundation Mérieux and Nutriset. In this

way, the country not only wants to provide urgent assistance to the local population, but above all, to help them improve their living conditions and become self-sufficient in their nutrition by creating jobs and diversifying opportunities for these regions. The AfroChampion closed his address by mentioning that Africa has the potential to become a global economic powerhouse,

thanks to its youth, its exceptional natural resources and above all its African solidarity. He called for support to the pan-African initiatives and the African private sector, which is one of the major pillars of this transformational agenda.

Celebration of African Industrialization Day 2020 in Madagascar

As every year, UNIDO did not fail to celebrate the Day of Industrialization in Africa, or JIA, on November 20, 2020. The ceremony was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a choice that reflects the vision of the Government to work with its development partners for an enhanced economic diplomacy favourable to the industrial development of Madagascar. For this year, the theme “Inclusive and sustainable industrialization in the era of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) and Covid-19” offered an opportunity to take stock of achievements but also of what

remains to be done in terms of industrialization in the country.

A panel composed of Mr. Hassim Amiraly, President of the Industrials Syndicate of Madagascar (SIM, Syndicat des industries de Madagascar), Her Excellency Mrs. Hawa Ahmed Youssouf, Special Representative of the African Union in Madagascar, Ms. Lantsoa Rakotomalala, Minister of Industry, Trade and Handicrafts, and Ms. Volatiana Rakotondrazafy, UNIDO Country Representative, delivered speeches and outlined the vision and way forward on the celebration day.

The President of the SIM, while opening the ceremony,

challenged everyone on the progress of industrialization and the promotion of the “Malagasy ny Antsika” label (Made in Madagascar). He ended his speech by thanking the European Union for their help and unfailing support, while stressing the need to consolidate Madagascar’s industrialization because “there is no strong country without industrialization”.

Ms. Hawa Ahmed Youssouf then spoke about the processes of industrialization in Africa towards the Agenda 2063, the establishment of and the opportunities offered by the AfCFTA, but also about economic diversification and resilience. She said Madagascar would have to bring together the various partners, and assert industrial interests, by strengthening the dynamics of regional value chains through entrepreneurship development and support to start-ups. It would be imperative to promote the continental frameworks for a competitive industrialization, she continued,



by harnessing potentials for 3Ps and by studying the challenges and advantages that Madagascar could draw from the ratification of the AfCFTA.

Ms. Volatiana Rakotondrazafy, for her part, insisted on the importance of exploiting innovative technological solutions, including digitalization, to make a qualitative leap in advancing the industrialization of the country. She also mentioned the increasing possibility for diversification, the importance of stepping up efforts in supporting the AfroChampions Initiative, of which the President of the Republic is actively part of, and in developing skills to enhance the access of young people and women to employment opportunities in the industry sector. She appealed to the Private Sector and relevant Partners to join hands for resilient industrialization and for “Build Back Better”, a vision that UNIDO and the United Nations seek to promote in this COVID-19 context. In her speech, the Minister of Industry, after recalling the Country Program signed in Abu Dhabi, as well as the various commitments for industrialization by the President of the Republic, did not fail to stress that “despite the pandemic, Madagascar has taken encouraging steps on the path to industrialization”, mentioning the creation of the pharmaceutical industry “Pharmalagasy”, the sugar industry of Brickaville (SASM) and the Flour mill in Tamatave, which is the largest in the Indian Ocean (LMOI), to name but a few examples. Soon, an industrial zone called “Agro-industrial Transformation Park in the South-West region, or

PTASO” would emerge, covering an area of 25 ha. She urged the assembly to support the political will of the State, to adhere to the “One District One Factory” vision (a vision later presented by the Director General of Industry, Mr. Gaëtan Ramindo) and to support the “Malagasy Ny Antsika” (Made in Madagascar) label.

Beneficiaries of the pilot project Trade-Related Facilities (TRF) with SADC gave their testimonials, following one another to share their activities, the benefits brought to them by TRF but also their short, medium and long-term vision. The Director of the Standards Office, Mr. Séraphin Razafimahafaly, made a presentation on the “Malagasy Ny Antsika” (Made in Madagascar) label and the standard process to adhere to it, followed by a Q&A session.

His Excellency, Mr. President

Andry Rajoelina closed the ceremony by videoconference, describing major achievements in the industry sector since he took office in 2019 and urging TFPs, particularly the AU and UNIDO, to join hands and work to support Madagascar’s industrialization priorities for an inclusive development that benefits all, especially youth and women, by improving the resilience of the population. He ended his speech with the following: “Inclusive and sustainable industrialization must not remain at a trial stage; we cannot stand still. We need to achieve this industrial breakthrough. This is not a simple task, I am aware of that, and yet it is crucial. For my part, I am committed to carrying it out with exemplary leadership and determination for the pride of Madagascar, and the prosperity of Africa.”



Director General of Industry, Mr. Gaëtan Ramindo, outlining the Ministry’s priorities and vision

UNIDO IAIP Project Hand over COVID-19 PPE to the Government of Ethiopia

Addis Ababa 2 October 2020 - UNIDO, in collaboration with BMZ, donated Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for protection from Covid-19 to the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MOTI). Materials donated include: face masks, hand sanitizers, water tankers for IAIP and RTCs construction workers; face shields

and infrared thermometers for the Federal and Regional IAIP support institutions.

“The primary aim of the donation is to assist the manufacturing sector to protect from COVID-19 impact,” Ms. Aurelia Patrizia Calabrò, UNIDO Representative and Director of the Regional Office Hub in Ethiopia, said at the

handing-over ceremony.

H.E. Mr. Teka Gebreyesus, State Minister for Trade and Industry, added that the equipment donated by UNIDO came at the right time, as many of the manufacturing industries are victims of COVID-19.



Ms. Aurelia Calabrò (sitting left) and H.E. Mr. Teka Gebreyesus (right) during the handover ceremony

Program for Country Partnership (PCP) in Ethiopia acknowledged as Instrumental for the Promotion of Sustainable Industrial Development in the country

“UNIDO’s efforts in promoting the Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development Agenda in the last few years have been commendable and need to be supported,” said Dr. Arkebe Oqubay, Minister and Senior Adviser to the Prime Minister of Ethiopia in his article titled ; “Achieving Inclusive and Sustainable Industrialization and the SDGs in the post-COVID-19 World”, posted on OECD Development Matters blogging platform.

He also mentioned UNIDO’s Programme for Country Partnership (PCP) in Ethiopia and

its role in supporting the country to achieve Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development Goals.

According to Dr. Arkebe, Ethiopia, like many other African countries, has made a bold and swift response to COVID-19, reducing its negative impacts. Industrial parks have proved resilient in the face of the global crisis, by repurposing their production lines to produce PPE (personal protective equipment) and COVID-19 diagnostic kits.

He further highlighted PCP’s focus on developing light manufacturing capabilities in three sectors that the government has identified

as a priority such as agro-food processing, leather and leather products, and apparel and textiles. He also stated that its impact on poverty reduction and on the social objectives incorporated in the SDGs is immense.

This OECD-development-matters.org blog is part of a series on tackling COVID-19 in developing countries. The OECD has a dedicated page to access OECD data, analysis and recommendations on the health, economic, financial and societal impacts of COVID-19 worldwide.

Source: <https://oecd-development-matters.org>

UNIDO Director General Holds talk with Rwandan Minister for Trade and Industry on PCP and the COVID-19 Response and Recovery



Hon. Minister Soraya Hakuziyaremye (left) and H.E. Mr. Li Yong (right) during the virtual discussion

October 2020. UNIDO Director General, H.E. Mr. Li Yong, held a virtual bilateral discussion with Hon. Soraya Hakuziyaremye, Minister of Trade and Industry of the Republic of Rwanda, on topics of the upcoming PCP and COVID-19 response and recovery. Mr. Li Yong thanked the Minister for the opportunity to meet, mentioned the meeting in Yokohama during the TICAD Conference and congratulated her for her tenure as Minister of Trade and Industry. He further commended the visionary leadership of H.E. President Paul Kagame, who also plays a key role in AfCFTA, the Digitalization of Africa and Africa Industrialization. He also acknowledged the efforts that the Government has already put into the process, including identification of the intervention areas such as: the livestock/leather value chain, textile and garment, Integrated Agro-Industrial Parks, Industry 4.0 among others, which will help speed up the PCP operationalization. The same

sectors were identified in the draft PCP diagnostics.

The Director General noted the delay in the development of the PCP in Rwanda due to COVID-19 pandemic; however, he observed that the light diagnostic exercise currently underway is almost completed, and that, subsequently, the Programme formulation will follow suit. He also pointed out that the PCP document was ready for signature between UNIDO and the Government of Rwanda, with the signing ceremony scheduled towards the end of the year 2020. An invitation was extended to the Minister to take part in peer learning missions to PCP countries like Ethiopia and Senegal to see the PCP implementation first hand in the Integrated Agro Industrial Parks and Agro-poles.

Regarding the COVID-19 impact, the Director General noted that 800 million to 1 billion people risk falling into poverty without a strong COVID-19 recovery scheme. Supporting the promise

to “Build back better and faster”, UNIDO produced a guideline for SMEs development and recovery, and different programs are being implemented along with other UN Sister Agencies in that regard, including among others: PPEs manufacturing and waste management systems.

Digital Infrastructure and connection to new technologies were mentioned by the Director General to be the top priority on the agenda. “Without that, countries cannot leapfrog and digital divide becomes a threat going forward,” the Director General added.

In conclusion Mr. Li Yong reaffirmed UNIDO’s commitment in supporting the Government of Rwanda in its efforts towards inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID) by addressing key industrialization challenges through the PCP and the increased pace of its implementation.

The Hon. Minister Soraya Hakuziyaremye, for her part, highlighted the “Manufacturing Acceleration Committee” that the Government has put in place to assist in reaching export targets and invited UNIDO to work with the Committee through the PCP.

The Minister also reported on government’s progress in developing ISID, including 2 Special Economic Zones (currently operational) and 6 Industrial Parks in secondary cities, and requested support in areas related to technology access,

circular economy, innovation and R&D, and in embedding climate in all programmes. “Our Country cannot develop without Industrial Development,” she added.

The honourable Minister also expressed her interest in visiting the Agro-poles and Integrated Agro-Industrial Parks in Senegal and Ethiopia, as well as her appreciation for the continued support by UNIDO, and thanked the Director General for the invitations.

The meeting was attended, on UNIDO side, by Ms. Aurelia Patrizia Calabrò, UNIDO Representative

and Director of the Regional Office Hub in Ethiopia, Mr. Ciyong Zou, Managing Director PFC and Director, PFC/RFC, Mr. Victor Djemba, Chief, PFC/RFC/AFR, Mr. Andre Habimana, UCR Rwanda, and Ms. Matilda Muweme, Programme Officer, PFC/RFC/AFR.

On the other side, Mr. Samuel Mugisha, DG Industry, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Rwanda, Mr. Christian Twahirwa, Rwanda National Industrial Research and Development Agency (NIRDA), Division Manager, were also in attendance.

program uniquely addressed SDG 9, which is UNIDO’s primary mandate, not only through the promotion of Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID), but also by creating decent off-farm job opportunities and leading skill development efforts that benefit youth and women while fostering livelihood improvements in the process, as well as by supporting the nation’s climate resilient green economy initiative through the promotion of eco-parks and green industries development with zero discharge. As such, PCP ETH phase I was remarkable in the sense that it has managed to leave its mark and contribute to 12 of the 17 SDGs (shown below).

During the continuation phase, in the coming five years, PCP ETH will be concentrating on implementing activities that will be fully in alignment with the Home-Grown Economy Reform Program (GTP III), the COVID-19 National Response Program, UNSDCF 2020-2025 and other strategies and plans influencing the country’s industrial ecosystem including IDDA III.

PCP ETH Cleared to Continue Supporting the Country’s Ongoing Effort to Upgrade & Transform its Industrial Ecosystem



In November 2020, UNIDO EB has approved PCP ETH to continue for another 5-year period following the official request of the Government of Ethiopia and the Independent Terminal Evaluation Team Recommendations.

The Inter-Ministerial Coordination Committee of State Ministers, the apex body spearheading the partnership framework, in its June 2020 meeting has unequivocally passed a resolution to start the processes of institutionalizing and mainstreaming PCP as a proven tool for addressing complex industrial development challenges, and as an indispensable platform in the ongoing quest to build a vibrant

industrial ecosystem in the country.

Indeed, PCP was by all accounts and measurements a resounding success in Ethiopia. It has facilitated the establishment of a state-of-the-art industrial infrastructure and leading institutional capacity-building in strategic sectors, mobilizing a whopping USD 1.9 billion in public and private finance to go with it, and successfully organizing two international industry investment forums, to name but a few, to publicize the conducive environment being created for investment.

The achievements of the flagship



The Achievement of the SDGs in a Post-COVID-19 Era



Left: H.E. Mr. Arkebe Oqubay, Minister and Senior Adviser to the Prime Minister of Ethiopia; Right: UNIDO Director General, LI Yong, with Jeffrey Sachs and Ann Rosenberg (bottom row) on the virtual meeting.

22 October 2020 - The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) jointly organized a virtual event that addressed how the pandemic is impacting the SDGs, specifically SDG 9, and the Agenda 2030. The COVID-19 pandemic has stalled the advancement of the sustainable development goals (SDGs). It is creating many challenges, yet it is also unveiling opportunities to build back better. In this context, inclusive and sustainable industrial development, which is at the core of SDG9, is expected to play a critical role in overcoming the crisis and setting countries back on the path of economic development. The achievement of the SDGs in a post-COVID-19 world will require a holistic approach, including strong commitments towards the promotion of structural changes across all sectors of society. In this context, UNIDO Director General, LI Yong, opened up

the event by emphasizing how the Agenda 2030 is, and should continue to be, the roadmap to recovery. He also touched on the importance of achieving SDG9 to create a more sustainable industrial future and raised the need for reliable statistics and data, including UNIDO Industrial Analytics Platform and SDSN new data platform, SDGs Today. Li stated: “We must seize the opportunity to use the disruptive impact of the pandemic on the global economy to seek collaborative solutions to drive the 2030 Agenda.” Gerhard Küntzle, Permanent Representative of Germany to the UN in Vienna, declared: “It is crystal clear that we must make the next ten years a decade of action and aim to mainstream evidence-based policymaking in the development agenda.” SDSN President, Jeffrey Sachs, highlighted the need for global collaboration and explained how the world should turn toward six transformation pathways to

achieve the SDGs amidst the pandemic. Sachs specifically stressed the need for the first transformation relating to education, gender and inequality, and the sixth transformation relating to a Digital Revolution for Sustainable Development.

“No child can have a future without education,” Sachs said, noting how access to the tools for free digital education for children is achievable with the right global collaboration.

Lastly, Sachs underlined the need for decarbonizing the industry: “Renewable energy is our theme and we must get to zero.”

As Ethiopia has undergone an industrial revolution from agriculture to manufacturing, the next speaker, Arkebe Oqubay, Minister and Special Advisor to the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, discussed lessons learned for the world to apply to achieve progress towards the SDGs. Oqubay highlighted three lessons: 1) Leadership and policymaking will need to be redefined in the new environment; 2) A commitment to green and carbon-neutral industrialization is vital; 3) Smart technologies will enable the wider application and use of green industries.

Last but not least, Dr. Oqubay noted that global collaboration has become the foundation for averting global threats and maximizing opportunities.

Ann Rosenberg, co-founder of UNGC SDG Ambition, provided a private sector perspective and echoed Oqubay’s insights that all companies need to redefine

production lines and industries. She said: “The hope from larger companies is that these smaller businesses and entrepreneurs will come up with new, redefined ways of doing things... There is a collective responsibility for everyone to help.”

Rosenberg stated that it is up to countries to figure out how to collaborate and how to access technology, so that all companies can advance industrially and toward the SDGs. Moreover, Rosenberg highlighted the need for tools to know where we are, so we know how we can close the gap to achieve the SDGs.

Ambassador Martha Lungu

Mwitumwa, Permanent Representative of Zambia to UNIDO and to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva, remarked on the need for more concentrated efforts towards achieving the SDGs: “With the crisis upon us, it will be far more difficult for Least Developed Countries and other low-income countries to achieve SDG 9. In this Decade of Action, we – as Ambassadors in Geneva – have a crucial role to play, in advocating the importance of industry and innovation, in mobilizing more resources towards it, and in fostering partnerships for

leveraging trade, investment and technology to achieve that goal. And, as representatives of our countries to key UN institutions, we can foster greater UN coherence in these matters.”

It was clear that all panellists agreed that global collaboration is imperative to take the world through the recovery from COVID-19. Once out of the recovery stage, panellists stressed how the focus should be on embracing the new, digital world to further three key initiatives: to bring access to education for all, to build sustainable industrialization, and to reach net-zero emissions.

Source; www.unido.org/News

Business Opportunities in the Pharmaceuticals and Medical Supplies Sector in Ethiopia and its Implications under the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)

2 November 2020 - The United Nations Industrial Development Organization Investment and Technology Promotion Office in Korea (UNIDO ITPO Korea), in collaboration with the Ethiopian Investment Commission and the Korea Trade Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA), organized a webinar on the Business Opportunities in the Pharmaceuticals and Medical Supplies Sector in Ethiopia and its Implications under the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). The aim was to foster trade, technological innovation and investments in the Pharmaceutical and Medical Supplies sector between the private sector in Korea and



During the webinar

Ethiopia. The event brought together government regulatory and procurement agencies, business leaders, professionals, policymakers and health practitioners, offering insights on the business climate and sector-specific incentives in Ethiopia.

57 participants attended the webinar and 70 meetings, as business-to-business and

business-to-government meetings were facilitated over the period 26-28 October and 3-6 November 2020. UNIDO ITPO Korea will continue to provide support to participants in identifying and mobilizing investments, technology, and financial resources from Korea to contribute to inclusive and sustainable industrial development and economic growth.

Doing Green Business in Ethiopia

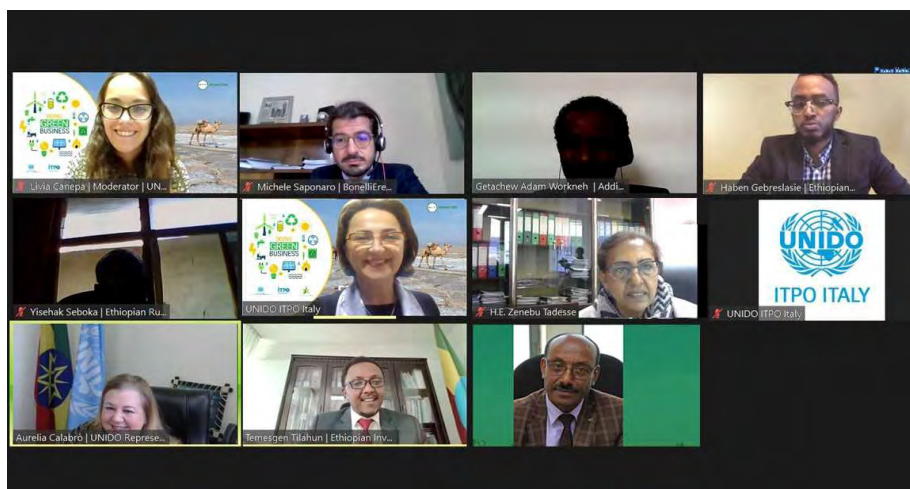
Rome, 21 October 2020 - A webinar on “Doing Green Business in Ethiopia” was hosted by UNIDO ITPO Italy with the aim to promote investment opportunities in the local sectors of renewable energies and environmental technologies, in order to foster technology transfer and trade partnerships among Ethiopian and Italian companies.

The webinar started with a welcome address by Ms. Diana Battaglia, Head of UNIDO ITPO Italy, and opening remarks by H.E. Zenebu Tadesse Woldetsadik, Ambassador at the Embassy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia in Rome, as well as Ms. Aurelia Calabrò, UNIDO Representative and Director of the Regional Office Hub in Ethiopia.

“Ethiopia is expanding investment opportunities in renewable energy and has also integrated climate resilience and green economy strategies into its national development policy”, commented H.E. Ambassador Woldetsadik.

Ms. Calabrò, following her opening remarks, highlighted how UNIDO, with a sizable technical assistance to the Government of Ethiopia under the Programme for Country Partnership (PCP), is currently implementing a number of initiatives in the field of energy.

Speakers at the online conference included Italian and Ethiopian stakeholders from both the public and private sector: Mr. Yisehak



Participants during the webinar

Seboka, Director of the Alternative Energy Technology Development and Promotion Directorate of the Ethiopian Rural Energy Development and Promotion Center, offering an overview of the local renewable energy sector; Mr. Temesgen Tilahun and Mr. Haben Gebreslasie, respectively Deputy Commissioner for Promotion and Policy Improvement and Senior Energy Advisor to the Commissioner at the Ethiopian Investment Commission, focusing on incentives for green technologies and sustainable energies; Mr. Africa Zeleke, Secretary General at the Ethiopian Chamber of Sectoral Associations, presenting the main tools and programmes implemented by ECSA; Dr. Getachew Adam Workneh, Head of the Center of Excellence in Sustainable Energy at the Addis Ababa Science & Technology University, illustrating the current activities of the Center within the renewable energy sector; and Mr. Michele Saponaro, Managing Associate

at BonelliErede Law Firm, providing a legal framework for Italian companies interested in investing in Ethiopia.

With the ultimate goal of contributing to the transition to a low-carbon economy in the country and allowing the private sector in Italy and Ethiopia to benefit from the arising economic opportunities, the event was the fifth episode of the webinar series “Doing Green Business” organized by UNIDO ITPO Italy in the framework of the project “Fostering international partnerships between companies and/or institutions operating in the energy and environment sectors”, funded by the Italian Ministry of the Environment and Protection of the Territory and the Sea.

Source <https://www.unido.it/news.php?id=1262>

UNIDO and the Government of Uganda Start Preparations to Build the First Training Centre for Road Construction Equipment Operators in Luweero



Representatives from the Ministry of Works and Transport (MoWT) of Uganda and UNIDO at the handover ceremony at the project site in Luweero district

To address the industrial skills gap in Uganda, the Government of Japan, the Government of Uganda through the Ministry of Works and Transport (MoWT) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), with technical support from Japanese partner Komatsu Ltd., are building the first dedicated training centre for road construction equipment operators in Uganda. The land for the training centre in Butuntumula, sub-county in Luweero district, has been officially handed over to the MoWT on 17 November 2020. In recent years, the Government has procured road construction and maintenance equipment, such as motor graders, wheel loaders, excavators, bulldozers and backhoes, and distributed them to District Local Governments across the country. The new training centre will allow matching this

investment in road machinery with an equivalent investment in human resources: within the next three years, the training centre will train over 500 Ugandan road equipment trainers, operators and youth seeking employment. Many companies in the road construction sector hire foreign labour instead of Ugandan youth, as there is no training centre for young Ugandans to receive formal training on road construction equipment. At least, this has been

the case so far. The aim of this project is to support the “Uganda Vision 2040” and pave a bright future for Uganda so that young Ugandans can build, maintain, and improve the country’s road infrastructure.

The construction preparation works, such as the topographic survey and geotechnical investigations, already started and a ground-breaking ceremony to begin the construction of the centre is expected early next year.



Representatives from the Ministry of Works and Transport (MoWT) of Uganda and UNIDO at the handover ceremony at the project site in Luweero district

Ethiopian Trade and Industry Minister Points out “Agriculture and Education” as key for the Success of the Industry

9 October 2020 - More than 400 people, 45 speakers, and representatives of ten partners took part in the Learning and Knowledge Development Facility (LKDF) Forum 2020 – three days of interactive sessions deliberating on “Green Skills for a Sustainable Future” and the start of what the World Economic Forum calls “a Reskilling Revolution”.

During the opening of the forum, Abdullahi Ali Hassan, Somalia’s Minister of Commerce and Industry, said: “The LKDF Forum provides a platform to exchange ideas and solutions for green industrial skills, innovation, growth and sustainable development.”

Inger Andersen, UNEP Executive Director, also emphasized that “[the] Forum can help draw attention to skills gaps and build partnerships to ensure that the workforce is equipped for a green economy”.

The LKDF Forum 2020 was organized by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), together with the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), the European Training Foundation, and World Skills International.

UNIDO Director General, Li Yong, said his organization was “drawing on the [LKDF’s] Public Private Development Partnership business model to develop the much-needed green industrial skills and encourage investments in training and lifelong learning”.

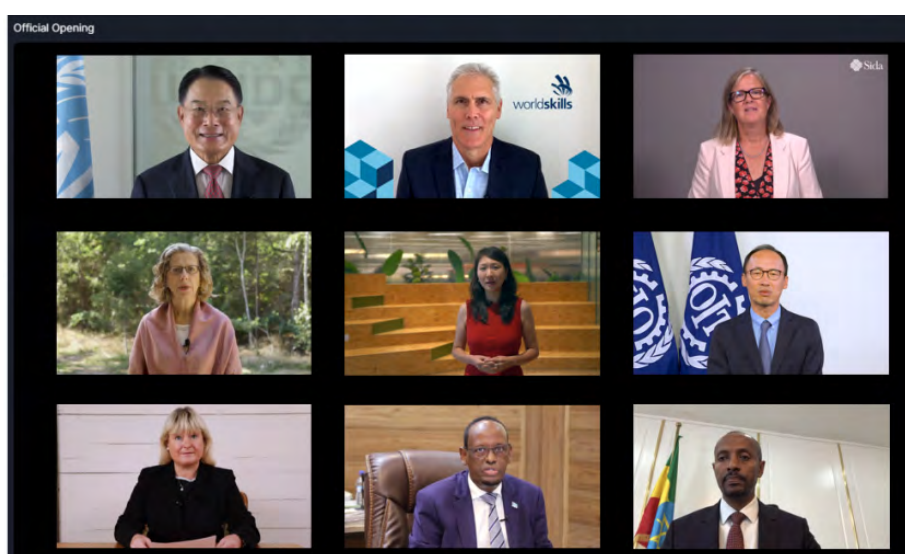
Another speaker, Melaku Alebel, Ethiopia’s Minister of Industry and Trade, said: “We must not forget about sectors like agriculture and education. Without developing these sectors, we cannot hope for success in the industrial sector.”

Saadia Zahidi, World Economic

Forum Managing Director, stated: “Rescaling and upskilling an online-connected workforce is the future of our greening and job revolution moving forward to the jobs of the future.”

Topics discussed during the Forum deliberated on green skills definition(s), the role of policymaking in driving quality and adequate skills development programmes, the future of work as a result of COVID-19 and digitalization, climate diplomacy, and new frameworks for development.

The discussions also highlighted several challenges, including lack of inclusivity in technical education, limited green policies at local and global levels, a narrow focus on outcomes and impact when investing in education, and little context-specific results.



Participants in the webinar

Madagascar Regional Business Forum: “Promoting Key value chain and Industrialization for Regional Emergence”

From 01 December to 03 December in Tulia, the 1st Regional Business Forum, focused on the theme “Regional emergence: promoting key value chains and industrialization”, was organized by the Economic Development Board of Madagascar (EDBM) and the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Handicrafts (MICA). The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries was also present through its Directorate General in charge of Cooperation for Development. This is part of the presidential program for the revitalization and economic recovery of regions. UNIDO, as an agency for the promotion of industrialization in Madagascar, has been invited, in line with the IDDA III AfroChampion Initiative action plan for Madagascar.

The southern region of

Madagascar was chosen to host the event, which was attended by nearly 200 participants, including economic operators, representatives of ministries and local authorities, project leaders, development partners, donors and local commercial banks.

The objective of this forum was to promote agro-industrial investment projects in this vulnerable region, and to create linkages on the ground between local actors and potential investors, whether public or private.

UNIDO partnered with the EDBM and sponsored the event. The UNIDO team, led by Mrs. Volatiana Rakotondrazafy, Country Representative, participated in the official opening ceremony, along with the Minister of Industry, Mrs. Lantsoa Rakotomalala, and the Director General of EDBM,

Mr. Andry Tiana Ravalomanda, as well as in the panel discussion on “Technical and financial support: from production to industrialization”.

The event allowed the Country Office to keep up to date with the Government’s strategic priorities proposed during the forum, as well as the TFPs and major donors’ country priorities and vision. Additionally, it offered opportunities to confirm that priority projects identified under CP are adjusted and in line with such priorities. Moreover, venues for potential partnerships were discussed with other TFPs and donors established locally and, above all, ISID and IDDA III were promoted among economic actors and potential partners.



UNIDO to Introduce Environment and Social Responsibility to the Ethiopian Textile Industry



Sitting Left; H.E Mr. Teka Gebreyesus. Right; Ms. Aurelia Calabrò signing the Agreement.

Addis Ababa, 10 December 2020 -The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) signed a trilateral agreement with the Ministry of Trade and Industry of Ethiopia and the German Agency for Development Cooperation (GIZ) aiming at introducing environmental and social standards for the textile industry sector in the country.

Agro-Industry Processing Division State Minister at the Ministry of Trade and Industry, Teka Gebreyesus, and UNIDO Regional Director and Representative to Ethiopia, Aurelia Patrizia Calabrò, have signed the agreement on behalf of their respective organizations.

The project is funded through a trilateral agreement among the Governments of China, Germany and Ethiopia, focussing on the introduction of ESG targeting particularly, Chinese factories in-

vesting in Ethiopia. UNIDO (China) and GIZ (Germany) are the project executing agencies. The purpose of the agreement is to encourage capacity-building efforts and bring forward sustainable industries that effectively discharge social and environmental responsibilities.

UNIDO Representative and Director of the Regional Office Hub in Ethiopia, Ms. Aurelia Patrizia Calabrò, said during the signing ceremony that UNIDO is committed to effectively imple-

ment the project given its good records in the Ethiopian textile industry.

H.E. Mr. Teka Gebreyesus, State Minister for Trade and Industry, expressed his gratitude to the Government of China and UNIDO for their support to the industrial development endeavours of Ethiopia, pledging commitment to continue working with such international partners for better productivity.



Integrated Agro-industrial Parks (IAIPs) Project holds its Second Steering Committee Meeting

Addis Ababa, 15 October 2020 - The Integrated Agro-industrial Parks (IAIPs) Project held its second Steering Committee Meeting, chaired by H.E. Mr. Teka Gebreyesus, State Minister for Trade and Industry.

While delivering his welcoming remarks, Mr. Teka Gebreyesus underscored that it is impossible to transform the economy without having a strong manufacturing sector. His Excellency furthers the efforts that the government has been putting in place to build up the Agro-processing sector.

“By expanding the industrial parks, the government is planning to integrate the demand side of the food chain with the supply side in an efficient manner, thus improving access to market, technology, and knowledge of smallholder farmers and aligned industries,” his Excellency Teka added.

During the discussion, it was noted that, in countries with an emerging economy like Ethiopia, establishing IAIPs will not at all be an easy task. Hence, the government has

chosen to foster partnerships with development partners in order to mobilize additional IAIP funds and realize the full operation of the IAIPs. Creating a sound governance structure, such as a project steering committee at the federal and regional level, is being instrumental to provide proper leadership to ensure synergies among key actors.

For her part, UNIDO Representative and Director of the Regional Office Hub, Ms. Aurelia Patrizia Calabrò, stated the following: “As we all know, Ethiopia’s economy is mainly based on the agriculture sector that plays an important role in the livelihood system of the country. The sector is the main source of income, leading foreign exchange earner and accounting for 35% of the national Gross Domestic Product.”

In her remarks, Ms. Calabrò added that “the Government of Ethiopia recognizes the importance of developing a strong manufacturing sector for a sustainable transformation of the economy”.

The government has been striving to build a market-oriented agriculture and strengthen the agro-processing sector in the hope of producing and exporting manufactured and value-added products. Local products face several challenges in complying with internationally recognized quality standards.

To lead and support this initiative, the Ministry of Trade and Industry, in collaboration with UNIDO and other development partners, has mobilized resources to support the operations of the pilot project initiative.

IAIPs also help in lowering the costs by reducing post-harvest losses, transportation costs, and energy costs. These parks also ensure higher returns due to high-quality output, off-season availability, better traceability, and enhanced productivity. It is believed that successful implementation of the IAIPs would accelerate the economic transformation process of the country.



Project Steering Committee Members

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