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Update for the United Nations Industrial Development Organization

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Committee Overview

Recent Developments

In the latter half of 2015, the United Nations (UN) Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) coordinated and participated in several meetings to further its mandate of promoting inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID).¹ From 30 November to 4 December 2015, UNIDO organized the 16th session of its General Conference, a meeting of UNIDO's main policymaking entity, where Member States and high-level government officials met to devise an action plan for the next several years, review previous accomplishments, and attend to organizational matters.² As part of the General Conference, UNIDO published its flagship *Industrial Development Report*, detailing ongoing plans for the organization and specifically the impact of technology and innovation on industrial development.³ UNIDO has also continued to organize ISID forums to bring together different actors with the ultimate goal of fostering discussion and interaction on how to further ISID.⁴ Through the above series of events and its involvement in others, such as the recently concluded 2015 Conference of the Parties (COP21) to the *UN Framework Convention on Climate Change* (UNFCCC), UNIDO continues to highlight ISID.⁵

The theme for the recently concluded General Conference was “Sustainable industrialization for shared prosperity,” with emphasis on the newly adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).⁶ Member States articulated UNIDO's future vision as relating to enabling prosperity, ensuring better economic outcomes for individuals across the world, and “safeguarding the environment.”⁷ To concretely achieve this vision, the General Conference identified SDG 9, “Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation,” and its targets as the key focus of UNIDO going forward.⁸ There was a renewed emphasis on developing partnerships with Member States and other international institutions to ensure that SDG targets are properly monitored on both regional and national levels.⁹ UNIDO's Director General, Li Yong, detailed UNIDO's comprehensive approach for ensuring that Member States achieve ISID and the several targets of SDG 9.¹⁰ As part of this approach, Li highlighted the need to expand UNIDO's current partnership programs, as well as for Member States to establish review and monitoring capabilities for tracking progress on ISID.¹¹

As part of the General Conference, UNIDO also published its 2016 *Industrial Development Report*.¹² The *Industrial Development Report* examines the role of technology and innovation in helping to transform a developing economy, especially the manufacturing sector, into an industrial economy with improved economic outcomes for practitioners.¹³ The report promotes diversification, optimized capital allocation, and increased use of modern technology for stimulating the manufacturing sector in an emerging economy.¹⁴

UNIDO has also continued to organize and participate in a variety of events to raise awareness of issues pertinent to its mandate. With other UN agencies, UNIDO organized a high-level event that coincided with the Sustainable Development Summit in September 2015 on “Operationalization of the 2030 Agenda for Africa's industrialization.”¹⁵ The event focused on ways that African Member States can “forge stronger regional, inter-

¹ UNIDO, *General Conference, 16th Session, Vienna, Austria 30 November - 4 December 2015*, 2015; UNIDO, *ISID Forum: Inclusive and Sustainable Development*, 2015.

² UNIDO, *General Conference, 16th Session, Vienna, Austria 30 November - 4 December 2015*, 2015.

³ UNIDO, *Technology can deliver inclusive and sustainable industrial development: Industrial Development Report 2016*, 2015.

⁴ UNIDO, *ISID Forum: Inclusive and Sustainable Development*, 2015.

⁵ UNIDO, *UNIDO supports COP21*, 2015.

⁶ UNIDO, *General Conference, 16th Session, Vienna, Austria 30 November - 4 December 2015*, 2015.

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ *Ibid.*; UNIDO, *ISID Newsletter: Issue No. 21*, 2015, p. 1.

⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰ UNIDO, *Implementation of the Lima Declaration: Towards inclusive and sustainable industrial development (GC.16/7*)*, 2015, pp. 7-9.

¹¹ *Ibid.*

¹² UNIDO, *Technology can deliver inclusive and sustainable industrial development: Industrial Development Report 2016*, 2015.

¹³ UNIDO, *Industrial Development Report 2016: The Role of Technology and Innovation in Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development*, 2015, pp. 1-8.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁵ UN OSAA, *Operationalization of the 2030 Agenda for Africa's Industrialization (26 September 2015)*, 2015.

regional and global cooperation” for ISID.¹⁶ UNIDO also organized its fourth ISID Forum alongside the General Conference in November 2015.¹⁷ Thematically, the forum focused on SDG 9, as well as UNIDO’s partnership efforts with entities such as the European Investment Bank and the African Development Bank.¹⁸

In addition to the ISID Forum, UNIDO held the 6th UNIDO Least Developed Countries’ Ministerial Conference from 26 to 27 November 2015.¹⁹ The conference focused on operationalizing ISID for developing countries.²⁰ Along with other UN organizations, UNIDO also hosted several events during COP21 that were targeted at high-level state officials and other COP21 participants.²¹ The events focused on raising awareness about ISID and providing participants with information on how to develop sustainable manufacturing sectors.²²

Towards the later part of 2015 and the beginning of 2016, UNIDO has continued to focus on ISID within the context of the SDGs, especially SDG 9. In 2016, UNIDO will participate in and organize events, such as the Arab Youth Forum on “green growth and job creation” in the Middle East and North Africa, which took place in Alexandria, Egypt, from 31 January to 2 February 2016.²³ In addition, UNIDO looks to develop and expand its national partnership programs with Member States. Going forward, UNIDO will continue to take a leadership role in developing a framework for sustainable industrial development.

¹⁶ UN OSAA, *Operationalization of the 2030 Agenda for Africa’s Industrialization (26 September 2015)*, 2015.

¹⁷ UNIDO, *ISID Newsletter: Issue No. 20*, 2015, p. 2; UNIDO, *Fourth ISID Forum*, 2015; UNIDO, *ISID Newsletter: Issue No. 21*, 2015, pp. 1-3.

¹⁸ UNIDO, *ISID Newsletter: Issue No. 21*, 2015, pp. 1-3.

¹⁹ UNIDO, *LDC Ministerial Conference 2015*, 2015.

²⁰ *Ibid.*

²¹ UNIDO, *UNIDO supports COP21*, 2015.

²² *Ibid.*

²³ AAST, *The Arab Youth Forum: An Innovative Approach to Green Growth and Job Creation in the MENA Region*, 2015.

Annotated Bibliography

United Nations Industrial Development Organization. (2015). *Fourth ISID Forum* [Website]. Retrieved 27 January 2016 from: <https://isid.unido.org/forum-4.html>

ISID constitutes the core mission of UNIDO, especially in the context of the SDGs. As part of its ongoing work on ISID, UNIDO hosts forums on specific issues relating to ISID and how Member States can more effectively work towards achieving ISID. This source contains information regarding the fourth ISID Forum that was organized alongside the UNIDO General Conference. This source provides an overview of the event, including speakers, videos of speeches, and panel discussions. Here, delegates can better understand, in concrete terms, how UNIDO's work fits in with ISID and the SDGs.

United Nations Industrial Development Organization. (2015). *Implementation of the Lima Declaration: Towards inclusive and sustainable industrial development (GC.16/7*)* [Report]. Retrieved 4 January 2016 from: http://www.unido.org/fileadmin/user_media_upgrade/Who_we_are/Structure/Polycymaking_Organs/GC_16_7_Reisued_E_Implementation_of_the_Lima_declaration_Towards_ISID_V1507301.pdf

This source is a recent report by UNIDO's Director General to the General Conference of UNIDO highlighting past UNIDO work, as well as the increasing focus of UNIDO on ISID and the SDGs. The Director General particularly highlights SDG 9 as relevant to UNIDO's work going forward. More importantly, the Director General lays out the key issues relevant for UNIDO over the next few years and UNIDO's approach to solving these issues. This source will be relevant for delegates as they seek to understand UNIDO's priorities for the coming years.

United Nations Industrial Development Organization. (2015). *Industrial Development Report 2016: The Role of Technology and Innovation in Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development*. Retrieved 4 January 2016 from: http://www.unido.org/fileadmin/user_media_upgrade/Resources/Publications/IDR/EBOOK_IDR2016_OVERVIEW_ENGLISH.pdf

The Industrial Development Report is a yearly publication by UNIDO that seeks to address key issues and challenges relevant to industrial development. This year's publication is focused on the impact of technology and innovation in manufacturing and industrial sectors. The report highlights the several technological challenges facing industrial sectors, especially in developing countries. The report further highlights the ways in which national governments can help invest to spur innovation and improve technical know-how in their regions. This source will be useful for delegates because it identifies several challenges facing industrial development and UNIDO's proposed approaches for solving these challenges.

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United Nations Industrial Development Organization. (2015). *Fourth ISID Forum* [Website]. Retrieved 27 January 2016 from: <https://isid.unido.org/forum-4.html>

United Nations Industrial Development Organization. (2015). *General Conference, 16th Session, Vienna, Austria 30 November - 4 December 2015* [Website]. Retrieved 4 January 2016 from: <http://www.unido.org/en/gc16.html>

United Nations Industrial Development Organization. (2015). *Implementation of the Lima Declaration: Towards inclusive and sustainable industrial development (GC.16/7*)* [Report]. Retrieved 4 January 2016 from: http://www.unido.org/fileadmin/user_media_upgrade/Who_we_are/Structure/Polycymaking_Organs/GC_16_7_Reisued_E_Implementation_of_the_Lima_declaration_Towards_ISID_V1507301.pdf

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United Nations Industrial Development Organization. (2015). *ISID Forum: Inclusive and Sustainable Development* [Website]. Retrieved 4 January 2016 from: <http://www.unido.org/en/news-centre/events/isid-forum.html>

United Nations Industrial Development Organization. (2015). *ISID Newsletter: Issue No. 20*. Retrieved 4 January 2016 from: http://www.unido.org/fileadmin/user_media_upgrade/Media_center/2014/Events/ISID_Newsletter_20-16_October.pdf

United Nations Industrial Development Organization. (2015). *ISID Newsletter: Issue No. 21*. Retrieved 4 January 2016 from: http://www.unido.org/fileadmin/user_media_upgrade/Media_center/2015/ISID_Newsletter_21.pdf

United Nations Industrial Development Organization. (2015). *LDC Ministerial Conference 2015* [Website]. Retrieved 4 January 2016 from: <http://www.unido.org/en/ldc2015.html>

United Nations Industrial Development Organization. (2015, December 2). *Technology can deliver inclusive and sustainable industrial development: Industrial Development Report 2016* [Press Release]. Retrieved 4 January 2016 from: <http://www.unido.org/en/news/press/technology-can-deliver-inclusive-and-sustainable-industrial-development-industrial-development-report-2016.html>

United Nations Industrial Development Organization. (2015). *UNIDO supports COP21* [Website]. Retrieved 4 January 2016 from: <http://www.unido.org/en/news-centre/events/past-events/unido-supports-cop21.html>

United Nations, Office of the Special Adviser on Africa. (2015). *Operationalization of the 2030 Agenda for Africa's Industrialization (26 September 2015)* [Website]. Retrieved 6 February 2016 from: <http://www.un.org/en/africa/osaa/events/2015/industrialization20150926.shtml>

I. Agribusiness and Entrepreneurship Development for Poverty Reduction

Recent Developments

In the final months of 2015, great strides were made in respect to agribusiness and entrepreneurship development for poverty reduction. Many trainings, projects, research, and decisions have been put forth recently within the United Nations (UN) system to reach this common goal. The UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) serves as the specialized agency of the UN with a primary focus to reduce poverty through the promotion of industrial development.²⁴ As such, UNIDO has become a leader in promoting agribusiness and entrepreneurship for poverty reduction and has committed to the further development of financing, research, and various national programs regarding poverty reduction in recent months.²⁵

From 30 November to 4 December 2015, the 16th session of the General Conference of UNIDO took place in Vienna, Austria.²⁶ In order to update the General Conference, a report by the Director General was released during the session regarding UNIDO's recent success stories pertaining to trade capacity, agribusiness, and the creation of jobs.²⁷ Additionally, during the General Conference's sessions, a special side event entitled "Youth and women entrepreneurship" was held by UNIDO.²⁸ The event sought to promote inclusive and sustainable industrial development in the private sector through the empowerment of young adults and women, and served as both a training and networking event.²⁹ Additionally at the 2015 year-end sessions, UNIDO's General Conference called for an increase in funding from partner organizations and civil society for a structural transformation and economic expansion to alleviate extreme poverty in least developed countries (LDCs).³⁰

Outside of UNIDO's year-end meetings, the organization also released a comprehensive resource entitled "Guide to Gender Mainstreaming Agribusiness Development Projects."³¹ The guide is intended to be used at a national and local level in order to provide a clear understanding of a gender mainstreaming agribusiness project cycle from start to finish, and includes opportunities for entrepreneurship development.³² On 15 October 2015, UNIDO also collaborated with the European Union (EU), the Pan American Farmers Association, and others for a event at the Milan Expo 2015.³³ The event joined together members of civil society, financial institutions, and development agencies in order to encourage trade, investment, and the provision of agribusiness financing in the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group.³⁴

Other UN organizations have also worked towards the issue of agribusiness and entrepreneurship development for poverty reduction recently. In November 2015, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the UN released a guide entitled "Inclusive Business Models," with hopes of improving connections between agricultural producers and buyers in various development settings.³⁵ The guide offers strategies and business models with small businesses in mind.³⁶ On 19 November 2015 in New York City, the UN hosted an event in honor of the Women's Entrepreneurship Day, which is observed in 144 countries.³⁷ The event addressed common challenges faced by women entrepreneurs, and supported networking among female business owners.³⁸ In December 2015, the 70th session of the UN General Assembly (GA) passed GA resolution 70/218 on the Second United Nations Decade for

²⁴ UNIDO, *UNIDO in brief*.

²⁵ UNIDO, *UNIDO activities related to agribusiness, trade capacity building and job creation*, 2015.

²⁶ UNIDO, *General Conference, 16th session*.

²⁷ UNIDO, *UNIDO activities related to agribusiness, trade capacity-building and job creation*, 2015.

²⁸ UNIDO, *Side event: Youth and women entrepreneurship*, 2015.

²⁹ *Ibid.*

³⁰ UNIDO General Conference, *Vienna Ministerial Declaration for the Least Developed Countries (GC.16/Res.4)*, 2015.

³¹ UNIDO, *Guide to Gender Mainstreaming Agribusiness Development Projects*, 2015.

³² *Ibid.*

³³ UNIDO, *Partnering with EU to support agribusiness investments in Africa, Caribbean and Pacific regions*, 2015.

³⁴ *Ibid.*

³⁵ FAO, *Inclusive Business Models: Guidelines for Improving Linkages Between Producer Groups and Buyers of Agricultural Produce*, 2015.

³⁶ *Ibid.*

³⁷ WED, *History of WED*.

³⁸ *Ibid.*

the Eradication of Poverty (which runs from 2008 to 2017).³⁹ This document noted entrepreneurship as a necessity in the eradication of poverty.⁴⁰

Agribusiness and entrepreneurship development are crucial for poverty reduction, and UNIDO is committed to expanding such steps toward industrialization, particularly in LDCs. Efforts to combat poverty have been made across the international community, and agribusiness and entrepreneurship have become necessary steps to consider in the ever industrializing international system. With the clear outline created through the newly established SDGs, agribusiness and entrepreneurship development for poverty reduction will continue to be addressed in the future.

³⁹ UN DPI, *General Assembly Adopts 48 Texts in Total as It Takes Action on Reports of Its Second Committee*, 2015; UN General Assembly, *Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017) (A/70/476/Add.1)*, 2015.

⁴⁰ Ibid.

Annotated Bibliography

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2015). *Inclusive Business Models: Guidelines for Improving Linkages Between Producer Groups and Buyers of Agricultural Produce*. Retrieved 6 January 2016 from: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5068e.pdf>

This document serves as a model for facilitating businesses in the agricultural sector. This guide from the Food and Agriculture Organization is particularly useful in pointing out lessons learned and including all potential participants in the processes of agribusiness and entrepreneurship. Delegates should become familiar with this document in order to understand agribusiness models, entrepreneurship, and their effects on poverty reduction.

United Nations Industrial Development Organization. (2015). *Guide to Gender Mainstreaming Agribusiness Development Projects*. Retrieved 6 January 2016 from:

http://www.unido.org/fileadmin/user_media_upgrade/What_we_do/Topics/Women_and_Youth/Guide_on_Gender_Mainstreaming_Agribusiness_Development_Projects.pdf

This guide focuses on agribusiness and entrepreneurship, with gender mainstreaming serving as the approach to eradicate poverty. It analyzes outcomes at the regional and national level, as well as at the sectoral level. This resource is beneficial in offering precise examples of agribusiness models in general, but will also help delegates in comprehending struggles based on gender. Delegates should take advantage of this resource to fully understand the agribusiness model at different levels.

United Nations Industrial Development Organization. (2015). *UNIDO activities related to agribusiness, trade capacity-building and job creation* [Report]. Retrieved 28 December 2015 from:

http://www.unido.org/fileadmin/user_media/PMO/GC.16/GC_16_11_E_UNIDO_activities_related_to_agribusiness_trade_and_job_creation_V1506763.pdf

This report, published during the 16th session of UNIDO's General Conference, is a vital resource to understanding the agency's current goals and initiatives in relation to agribusiness and entrepreneurship development for poverty reduction. The document lists recent and specific successes that may serve as examples for future success. Understanding this document will help delegates comprehend actions that the General Conference may take on the issue in forthcoming sessions.

United Nations Industrial Development Organization, General Conference. (2015). *Vienna Ministerial Declaration for the Least Developed Countries (GC.16/INF/4)*. Retrieved 10 January 2016 from:

http://www.unido.org/fileadmin/user_media/PMO/GC.16/GC_16_INF_4_E_V1508846.pdf

This source is a resolution enacted at UNIDO's most recent session of its General Conference. Delegates should become familiar with this document to understand the importance of poverty in LDCs and the actions that UNIDO will be taking next to ameliorate poverty. This document will also help delegates in connecting similar issues to agribusiness and entrepreneurship in the fight against poverty.

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventieth session. (2015). *Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017) (A/70/476/Add.1)* [Draft Resolution]. Retrieved 9 February 2016 from:

<http://undocs.org/A/70/476/Add.1>

General Assembly (GA) resolution 70/218 is a necessary resource for delegate preparation. The resolution, adopted in the GA's most recent session, will help delegates to understand the strides already made within the UN system regarding poverty reduction, as well as goals for the future. Delegates should familiarize themselves with this document in order to better understand efforts regarding agribusiness and entrepreneurship.

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United Nations Industrial Development Organization, General Conference. (2015). *Vienna Ministerial Declaration for the Least Developed Countries (GC.16/INF/4)*. Retrieved 10 January 2016 from: http://www.unido.org/fileadmin/user_media/PMO/GC.16/GC_16_INF_4_E_V1508846.pdf

Women's Entrepreneurship Day. (n.d.). *History of WED* [Website]. Retrieved 6 January 2016 from: <http://womenseday.org/our-story/>

II. Promoting Resource-Efficient and Low-Carbon Industrial Production

Recent Developments

In recent months, the United Nations (UN) Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) has worked within the UN system and with civil society to promote resource-efficient and low-carbon industrial production.⁴¹ UNIDO continues to focus on methods of implementing Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 9: “Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization (ISID) and foster innovation.”⁴² Resource-efficient and low-carbon industrial production was an important topic at the 16th session of the UNIDO General Conference, held at the end of 2015.⁴³ In addition, several significant country-level initiatives are currently underway to help lower carbon emissions in industrial production and to increase resource efficiency.⁴⁴

The 16th session of the UNIDO General Conference was held in Vienna, Austria, from 30 November to 4 December 2015.⁴⁵ In resolution GC.16/Res.2 on “UNIDO and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,” the General Conference noted UNIDO’s important contribution to “the environmental dimensions of sustainable development” through its work on sustainable energy and the environment.⁴⁶ As part of the General Conference, government representatives convened for the Fourth ISID Forum from 30 November to 1 December 2015.⁴⁷ Participants considered how UNIDO might leverage partnerships with financial institutions to organize financing for infrastructure required for sustainable development.⁴⁸ As UNIDO has traditionally lacked the financial means for projects beyond “capacity-building and technology transfer,” expansion of services to include investment in infrastructure would have significant implications for UNIDO’s work, including efforts to promote resource-efficient and low-carbon industrial production.⁴⁹

UNIDO continues to work directly with Member States to promote resource-efficient and low-carbon industrial production at the national level. A National Cleaner Production Programme (NCPP) was launched in December 2015 in Bosnia and Herzegovina.⁵⁰ The program is set to lessen environmental impact and increase resource productivity of organizations and businesses in the region.⁵¹ The program was created by UNIDO as part of a three-year initiative and is currently supported by the Slovenian government.⁵² The NCPP will create new employment opportunities in the region by enforcing Resource-Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) procedures, as well as contributing to the achievement of the SDGs.⁵³ National Cleaner Production Centres (NCPCs) aim to draw attention to the benefits of efficient use of natural resources such as water and energy.⁵⁴ The Low Carbon Low Emission Clean Energy Technology Transfer (LCET) Program, funded by Japan, is currently underway in countries including Ethiopia and Kenya.⁵⁵ In January 2016, Japan announced that it would contribute an additional \$2.5 million to LCET, specifically for use in Africa.⁵⁶

UNIDO, along with the University of Bahrain and the Arab International Center for Entrepreneurship and Investment (AICEI), organized the Green Industry Training Programme (GITP) in Manama, Bahrain, from 24

⁴¹ UNIDO, *Industrial Development Report 2016: The Role of Technology and Innovation in Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development*, p. 1.

⁴² Ibid.

⁴³ Ibid.

⁴⁴ Ibid.

⁴⁵ UNIDO, *General Conference, 16th Session: Sustained Industrialization for Shared Prosperity*, 2015.

⁴⁶ UNIDO, *Decisions and resolutions adopted by the General Conference at its sixteenth session*, 2015, pp. 12-13.

⁴⁷ UNIDO, *Fourth ISID Forum*, 2015.

⁴⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁹ Ibid.

⁵⁰ UNIDO, *National Cleaner Production Programme Launched in Bosnia and Herzegovina*, 2015.

⁵¹ Ibid.

⁵² Ibid.

⁵³ Ibid.

⁵⁴ Ibid.

⁵⁵ UNIDO, *The Low Carbon Low Emission Clean Energy Technology Transfer (LCET) Programme*, 2014; UNIDO, *UNIDO activities related to energy: Report by the Director General (GC.16/9)*, 2015, p. 4.

⁵⁶ UNIDO, *The Low Carbon Low Emission Clean Energy Technology Transfer (LCET) Programme*, 2014; UNIDO, *Japan Contributes JPY 300 Million to Further Strengthen UNIDO’s Low Carbon Technology Transfer Programme for Africa*.

November to 1 December 2015.⁵⁷ The program focused on “how to improve industries’ environmental performance and how to implement the concept of “green industry” in practice,” and aimed to equip professionals from African and Arab States with green industry implementation skills.⁵⁸ Participants outlined institutional initiatives for the advancement of resource-efficient, economically feasible, and environmentally sustainable technologies, as well as cleaner production designs.⁵⁹

In December 2015, the *Industrial Development Report 2016* on “The Role of Technology and Innovation in Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development” was released.⁶⁰ The report challenges governments and civil society to adopt environmentally friendly technologies that are not solely justified by monetary gains.⁶¹ It also notes that pollution production processes can be reduced by a change in technology and the expansion of the share of less-polluting sectors in the economy.⁶² From 7 to 8 December 2015, the 6th Sustainable Innovation Forum (SIF) took place alongside the Conference of the Parties (COP21) to the *UN Framework Convention on Climate Change* (UNFCCC) to highlight “the business solutions required to build a low-carbon future.”⁶³ Over 1,300 participants gathered to discuss partnerships between “businesses, investors, city leaders” and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) for a green economy.⁶⁴ Achim Steiner, Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), observed that increased opportunities in the green economy sector have led to a “market for low-carbon technologies and innovations...[that] is thriving today and offers huge potential for those who would capitalize on it.”⁶⁵ These developments indicate movement in a positive direction for resource efficiency and low-carbon production, which is enjoying unprecedented support from the private sector.⁶⁶

For its part, UNIDO has redoubled its efforts to assist Member States with decreasing carbon emissions and generating more efficient uses of resources. These efforts are part of UNIDO’s ongoing commitment to ensuring that industrialization, especially in developing regions, is achieved in a sustainable manner in accordance with SDG 9.

⁵⁷ UNIDO, *Green Industry Training Course in Bahrain*, 2015.

⁵⁸ Ibid.

⁵⁹ Ibid.

⁶⁰ UNIDO, *Industrial Development Report 2016: The Role of Technology and Innovation in Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development*, p. 1.

⁶¹ Ibid., p. 123.

⁶² Ibid.

⁶³ Climate Action, *Sustainable Innovation Forum 2015: Post Event Report*, p. 3.

⁶⁴ Ibid.

⁶⁵ Ibid., p. 12.

⁶⁶ Ibid., pp. 12-13.

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Climate Action. (2015). *Sustainable Innovation Forum 2015: Post Event Report*. Retrieved 25 January 2016 from: http://issuu.com/climateaction/docs/sif15_post_event_report_v7

The post-event report from the Sustainable Innovation Forum, which took place as part of COP21, goes over the commitments from the past year in climate action. The report is essential to understanding steps taken by businesses and other members of the private sector to promote resource-efficient and low-carbon industrial production, and it highlights significant milestones reached, as well as opportunities for improvement. Delegates will find this useful because it provides an overview of the larger scale of events and action in the last year.

United Nations Industrial Development Organization. (2015). *General Conference, 16th Session: Sustained Industrialization for Shared Prosperity* [Website]. Retrieved 3 January 2016 from: <http://www.unido.org/en/gc16.html>

This website collects all relevant documents and important information in relation to the 16th session of the UNIDO General Conference, which was held from 30 November to 4 December 2015. Delegates should review the decisions and resolutions adopted by the General Conference, which meets only once every two years to determine UNIDO policy. The reports by the Director General on UNIDO environmental and energy efforts are particularly important for this topic.

United Nations Industrial Development Organization. (2015). *Green Industry Training Course in Bahrain* [Website]. Retrieved 3 January 2016 from: <https://institute.unido.org/event/green-industry-training-course-in-bahrain>

This report discusses the goals of the Green Industry Training Course in Bahrain. The goal of UNIDO is to work towards a more green production cycle. The document also discusses the requirements of green industrial development. The report is targeted at African and Arab Member States for Resource-Efficient and Cleaner Production, but it is also useful for all delegates as a direction for Member States to work towards in the future.

United Nations Industrial Development Organization. (2015). *Industrial Development Report 2016: The Role of Technology and Innovation in Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development*. Retrieved 2 January 2016 from: http://www.unido.org/fileadmin/user_media_upgrade/Resources/Publications/EBOOK_IDR2016_FULLREPORT.pdf

The Industrial Development Report is an annual report published by UNIDO that distills insights and challenges about the current state of the industrial and manufacturing sector around the world. The report discusses ways to change the production process and structure to increase efforts in renewable energy sources. It also highlights the need for international agreements and initiatives to be sought within the international community. The report is helpful in understanding key areas of interest and opportunity in industrial development for the year on a global scale.

United Nations Industrial Development Organization. (2015, December 18). *National Cleaner Production Programme Launched in Bosnia and Herzegovina* [Press Release]. Retrieved 2 January 2016 from: <http://www.unido.org/en/news/press/national-cleaner-production-programme-launched-in-bosnia-and-herzegovina.html>

This press release discusses the National Cleaner Production Programme recently launched in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The press release discusses efforts in cutting carbon emissions in production. This document is essential to the topic because it is a recent development, and one of the few of its kind in this area of the world. The report details the steps taken in order to launch the NCPP.

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United Nations Industrial Development Organization. (2015). *UNIDO activities related to energy: Report by the Director General (GC.16/9)*. Retrieved 9 February 2016 from: http://www.unido.org/fileadmin/user_media/PMO/GC.16/GC.16_9_E_UNIDO_activities_related_to_energy_.pdf

United Nations Industrial Development Organization. (2016, January 27). *Japan Contributes JPY 300 Million to Further Strengthen UNIDO's Low Carbon Technology Transfer Programme for Africa* [Press Release]. Retrieved 28 January 2016 from: <http://www.unido.org/en/news/press/japan-contributes-jpy-300-million-to-further-strengthen-unidos-low-carbon-technology-transfer-programme-for-africa.html>

III. Mainstreaming Gender in Trade Capacity-Building Projects

Recent Developments

The past few months have been marked by enhanced efforts by many United Nations (UN) agencies, but above all by diverse national and regional initiatives aimed at improving gender equality and mainstreaming women in business processes and activities.⁶⁷ Although the issue of mainstreaming gender in trade capacity-building projects was not discussed during the 70th session of the UN General Assembly, the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) made noteworthy efforts to address the topic and came up with several innovative ideas and concrete proposals for action.⁶⁸ The subsequent paragraphs present recent conferences that have addressed the issue of gender mainstreaming, and which discuss the most important documents related to this topic since September 2015.

In October 2015, UNIDO, in line with its declared initiative to promote women's empowerment by mainstreaming gender into all UNIDO technical cooperation projects and programs, published a *Guide on Gender Mainstreaming: Business, Investment and Technology Services for Private Sector Development*.⁶⁹ The guide accentuated that gender equality is not only an important goal in itself, but also a contributing factor to other development goals, such as environmental sustainability and poverty reduction.⁷⁰ Consequently, the guide appeals to UNIDO's staff, as well as to stakeholders working in private sector development to systematically mainstream gender into their projects.⁷¹

During the 16th session of the General Conference, held from 30 November to 4 December 2015, UNIDO adopted the *Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women Strategy, 2016-2019*, which had been developed in close cooperation with other UN agencies, such as the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women).⁷² The gender strategy strives to promote gender equality and women's empowerment, with a special focus placed on women's economic empowerment.⁷³ One of the three main priority areas of the strategy is advancing economic competitiveness.⁷⁴ Furthermore, on 3 December 2015, the General Conference adopted resolution GC.16/Res.3 on Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women.⁷⁵ Explicitly referring to the aforementioned gender strategy, the resolution called for the implementation of the actions outlined in the strategy.⁷⁶ It also stressed the need for allocating additional funding to realize the goals set in the gender strategy.⁷⁷

In addition to the work of UNIDO, other actors have also continued to move towards gender mainstreaming. The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Ministers, together with representatives from the private sector and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), met from 15 to 18 September 2015 in Manila, the Philippines, for the High-Level Policy Dialogue on Women and the Economy within the APEC Women and the Economy 2015 Forum.⁷⁸ In their statement, they agreed on creating an appropriate environment for mainstreaming gender equality and women's economic empowerment in order to reinforce the role of women in economic development.⁷⁹ From 16 to 27 November 2015, the Gender Academy, organized by the International Training Centre of the International Labor Organization (ILO), took place in Turin, Italy.⁸⁰ More than 65 countries; many international organizations, such as the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), UN-Women, and ILO; and various civil society

⁶⁷ APEC, *2015 APEC Women and the Economy Forum*, 2015; ITC-ILO, *Gender Academy: Home*; The Commonwealth, *The Commonwealth in the Unfolding Global Trade Landscape: Commonwealth Trade Review 2015*, 2015; UNIDO, *Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women Strategy, 2016-2019*, 2015; ITC, *Trailblazers Call to Action*, 2015.

⁶⁸ UNIDO, *Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women Strategy, 2016-2019*, 2015; UNIDO, *Guide on Gender Mainstreaming: Business, Investment and Technology Services for Private Sector Development*, 2015.

⁶⁹ UNIDO, *Guide on Gender Mainstreaming: Business, Investment and Technology Services for Private Sector Development*, 2015.

⁷⁰ Ibid.

⁷¹ Ibid.

⁷² UNIDO, *Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women Strategy, 2016-2019*, 2015, p. 3.

⁷³ Ibid.

⁷⁴ Ibid., p. 7.

⁷⁵ UNIDO, *Decisions and Resolutions Adopted by the General Conference at Its Sixteenth Session (GC.16/INF/4)*, 2015.

⁷⁶ Ibid.

⁷⁷ Ibid.

⁷⁸ APEC, *APEC Reinforces Gender Focus to Economic Growth*, 2015.

⁷⁹ APEC, *2015 APEC Women and the Economy Forum*, 2015.

⁸⁰ ITC-ILO, *Gender Academy: Home*.

partners participated at the event.⁸¹ Throughout the workshops, participants were able to discuss and share their experiences in the field of gender mainstreaming, as well as learn practical methods and tools such as gender-sensitive employment policies, gender-responsive budgeting, or maternity protection.⁸²

Also in November, the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) held a Regional Workshop on the WTO Agreements on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures and Technical Barriers to Trade, with the main purpose in raising participants' awareness of the issue of gender mainstreaming in trade facilitation activities in Bangkok, Thailand.⁸³ That same month, Commonwealth countries that jointly favor an enhanced participation of women in regional and global trade published the "Commonwealth Trade Review."⁸⁴ The report stresses the need to recognize women not only as consumers, but also as producers, and calls for the continuation and strengthening of gender-sensitive trade policies and practices.⁸⁵ Similarly, in recent national initiatives, the Government of Kenya, in cooperation with the International Trade Centre (ITC), hosted from 14 to 17 December 2015 the International Forum on Women in Business.⁸⁶ The public-private initiative gathered policymakers with representatives of Women Business Organizations and focused on advancing the participation of women in the global economy and trade.⁸⁷

It is apparent that gender equality plays a pivotal role in UNIDO's actions, which is also reflected in much of the organization's recent work.⁸⁸ Nevertheless, for successful gender mainstreaming in trade capacity-building projects, a multifaceted approach incorporating a wide range of efforts from UN entities, governments, NGOs, civil society, and many other players is required. The work of various national and regional initiatives described above demonstrate that there are great opportunities to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women, and UNIDO should therefore strive to maintain close coordination and collaboration with these and other initiatives.

⁸¹ ITC-ILO, *Gender Academy: Home*.

⁸² ITC-ILO, *Gender Academy: A Global Event on Gender, Work and Development for Experts and Practitioners*, 2015.

⁸³ UNIDO, *Trade Facilitation Activities: WTO Workshop on SPS TBT Measures*, 2015; WTO, *Events, Workshops and Training*.

⁸⁴ The Commonwealth, *The Commonwealth in the Unfolding Global Trade Landscape: Commonwealth Trade Review 2015*, 2015.

⁸⁵ *Ibid.*, pp. 107-108.

⁸⁶ ITC, *International Forum on Women in Business*.

⁸⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸⁸ UNIDO, *Guide on Gender Mainstreaming: Business, Investment and Technology Services for Private Sector Development*, 2015; UNIDO, *Guide on Gender Mainstreaming: Environmental Management Projects*, 2015.

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Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation. (2015). *2015 APEC Women and the Economy Forum: Statement*. Retrieved 6 January 2016 from: http://www.apec.org/Meeting-Papers/Ministerial-Statements/Women/2015_women.aspx

The statement delivered at the 2015 APEC Women and the Economy Forum provides a good example of an effort made by a group of countries from one region that are willing to address a common problem, namely the need for an enhanced economic empowerment of women, and to work towards minimizing and eliminating gendered experiences for women in the workforce. This statement may serve as an inspiration for other organizations on how to adopt concrete policies focused on the promotion of women's greater inclusion in the regional economy.

The Commonwealth. (2015). *The Commonwealth in the Unfolding Global Trade Landscape: Commonwealth Trade Review 2015*. Retrieved 7 January 2016 from:

<http://thecommonwealth.org/sites/default/files/inline/Commonwealth%20Trade%20Review%202015-Full%20Report.pdf>

The Commonwealth Trade Review, published at the end of 2015, illuminates the constraints women often face in developing businesses and international trade. Delegates can use this resource as a means to understand why gender matters for trade and trade policy. Moreover, the Review shows how gender-sensitive and gender-equitable approaches can be successfully implemented into the formulation of trade policies and trade negotiations. Last but not least, the Review offers a concise summary of the linkages between gender and trade on one hand and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on the other.

International Trade Centre. (2015). *Trailblazers Call to Action*. Retrieved 4 January 2016 from:

http://www.intracen.org/uploadedFiles/intracenorg/Content/Redesign/Contact_Us/Call%20to%20Action%20-%20One%20million%20women-owned%20businesses%20in%20the%20market%20by%202020....pdf

This document provides detailed information about the five-year Call to Action initiative, which aims to bring one million women entrepreneurs to market by 2020. The document lists particular problems related to women's lacking participation in trade and offers solutions. This source is an example of an initiative promoting women's economic empowerment through trade.

United Nations Industrial Development Organization. (2015). *Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women Strategy, 2016-2019* [Report]. Retrieved 7 January 2016 from:

http://www.unido.org/fileadmin/user_media_upgrade/What_we_do/Topics/Women_and_Youth/GC.16_8_E_Gender_Equality_and_Empowerment_of_Women_Strategy_2016-2019.pdf

This four-year strategy for gender equality and empowerment of women, which is an updated version of the UNIDO's Policy on Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women from 2009, aims to strengthen the role of women in economic life by mainstreaming gender in all its programs, projects, and organizational practices. In order to successfully address the goals of gender equality and women's empowerment, UNIDO uses the so-called twin-track approach, which combines gender mainstreaming with gender-specific targeted actions. Delegates should take a close look at this publication to realize what the recent commitments and current priorities of UNIDO are regarding the role of women in the world economy and trade.

United Nations Industrial Development Organization. (2015). *Guide on Gender Mainstreaming: Business, Investment and Technology Services for Private Sector Development*. Retrieved 5 January 2016 from:

https://www.unido.org/fileadmin/user_media_upgrade/What_we_do/Topics/Women_and_Youth/Guide_on_Gender_Mainstreaming_Business_Investment_and_Technology_Services_for_Private_Sector_Development.pdf

This recently published guide not only explains what gender mainstreaming means for UNIDO, but also offers concrete suggestions on how to make projects more 'gender-sensitive,' or how to give women and men equal opportunities to access, participate in, and benefit from all kinds of development projects. By putting forward a step-by-step approach to mainstreaming gender into business, investment and technology (BIT) projects and designing a gender mainstreaming checklist for projects, the guide should serve as a useful tool for national governments and agencies as well as for private-sector partners. It is also a valuable resource for delegates to delve more into this particular topic, as well as to understand the importance of the topic for UNIDO's inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID) agenda and the achievement of the SDGs.

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