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CONAKRY, 17 January

## THE FUTURE OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY IN GUINEA, ACCORDING TO THE UNIDO INDUSTRIAL DIAGNOSTICS STUDY

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Guinea, a country with an economy dependent on the export of bauxite, gold and diamonds, should urgently diversify. This was one of the main findings of a recent study on the status of industrial development carried out by a team of experts from the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). The study was conducted in collaboration and consultation with Guinea's Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Small and Medium Enterprises, as well as representatives of the private sector.

The findings of the study were discussed on 21 December, the second day of the Salon de l'industrie, held under the auspices of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Small and Medium Enterprises and in collaboration with UNIDO. The diagnostics study has been funded by the Relance de la filière ananas (REFILA), a project implemented by UNIDO and financed by the European Union in the framework of the West Africa Competitiveness Programme (WACOMP), which, in Guinea, aims to improve the performance of the country's pineapple sector, and also supports the formulation of industrial policies.

During the workshop, UNIDO Research and Industrial Policy Officer, Nicola Cantore, presented the main findings of the industry diagnostic, examining the situation of specific industries and individual manufacturing firms on the macro level. Cantore stressed that, as Guinea's economy is heavily dependent on the production and export of minerals, diversification would reduce the country's vulnerability to market shocks and would widen the array of business opportunities for value added creation in the country. Industrialization is, he said, pivotal. The country's medium-long term structural change process could be triggered by building on existing capabilities and, in particular, by trans-

forming domestic raw materials, thereby creating longer value chains connecting the primary sector to other, more modern, productive activities.

In a second presentation, UNIDO Industrial Policy Officer, Frank Hartwich, explained the role that UNIDO can play in supporting the government-lead industrial policymaking process to transform the country through inclusive and sustainable industrial development. Hartwich said UNIDO is ready to support strategy formulation and policy design and implementation in Guinea, focusing in particular on strengthening local policymaking capacities based on evidence.

Finally, the enterprise-upgrading expert, Taoufik Chaabane, highlighted the various activities of the REFILA project to promote firm upgrading in Guinea and related them to industrial policies in place and to be further developed.

Ansoumane Berete, UNIDO Representative in Guinea, summed up that industrialization is a priority for the country and that the technical expertise of UNIDO can be crucial to support Guinea in the implementation of industrial policy. At the end of the workshop, there was a clear commitment from Guinean stakeholders and UNIDO representatives to continue the dialogue to prepare the next action for industrial policy.

Source: <https://www.unido.org/news>

CAIRO, 17 January

## UNIDO AND SWITZERLAND TO SUPPORT EGYPT WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF ECO-INDUSTRIAL PARKS

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The establishment of eco-industrial parks is considered one of the most important policies to accelerate inclusive and sustainable industrial development due to their ability to attract local and foreign investment. This creates job opportunities and increases income, while the negative impact on the environment is minimized. Eco-industrial parks facilitate the transition towards

green industry by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing the optimal use of resources.



Nevin Gamea, Egypt's Minister of Trade and Industry, and Bassel Al-Khatib, Regional Director and Representative of UNIDO Egypt, in the presence of Yvonne Baumann, Ambassador of Switzerland to Egypt, have signed a new project document to develop eco-industrial parks in Egypt. This project, funded by the Government of Switzerland, is part of the industrial zones component of the Programme for Country Partnership (PCP) in Egypt and is within the framework of the Global Programme for Eco-Industrial Parks, implemented by UNIDO in several countries, including Colombia, Peru, Ukraine and Viet Nam.

Nevin Gamea stated that this project is one of the most important interventions implemented in cooperation with UNIDO within the framework of the PCP, which is in line with the government's sustainable development strategy - Egypt 2030. She also indicated that green industry is no longer a choice, but rather a necessity, and all development partners must work together to increase economic performance while preserving the environment.

UNIDO's Bassel Al-Khatib added, "We appreciate the continuous cooperation with the Government of Switzerland and the Arab Republic of Egypt. This project is part of the fourth component of the PCP Egypt, which seeks to increase competitiveness, innovation and sustainability of smart cities and eco-industrial parks."

"The project will follow a new integrated approach, focusing on reducing waste and greenhouse gas emissions, while attracting investments and creating job opportunities in Egypt's industrial zones," Al-Khatib said.

This new agreement is part of the PCP in Egypt, signed in April 2021, which aims to achieve inclusive and sustainable industrial development. It includes six components: industrial policies and governance; investment promotion; green industry; smart cities and sustainable industrial zones; value chains; and Industry 4.0.

Source&Credits: <https://www.unido.org/news>

VIENNA, 25 January

## FIRST LATIN AMERICAN E-WASTE REPORT PUBLISHED

According to a new report produced under UNIDO's Latin America and the Caribbean e-waste project, only three per cent of Latin America's e-waste is reported as collected through formal channels and treated in an environmentally sound manner. There is no certainty about the remaining 97% that may include US\$1.7bn in recoverable materials a year.

Regional E-Waste Monitor for Latin-America is the United Nation's first assessment of the region's e-waste volume, its legislation and its management infrastructure.

The report was produced by the Sustainable Cycles (SCYCLE) Programme, co-hosted by the UN University (UNU) and the UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). It covers the 13 countries participating in the UNIDO-GEF LAC E-waste project: Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela.

"E-waste constitutes one of the fastest-growing streams of physical waste in today's global environment and is a threat to sustainable development," the report says.

Access to data on e-waste is crucial to tackling this threat and yet few countries collect internationally comparable e-waste statistics.

Co-author, Ruediger Kuehr, Director of SCYCLE, said, "This report was created, with the coopera-

tion of 13 countries, to support and facilitate the environmentally-sound management of e-waste in the region.”

The report finds that electronic waste in the 13 Latin American countries rose by 49% between 2010 and 2019, roughly the world average, but just three per cent was collected and safely managed, a fraction of the 17.4% global average. While informal recyclers 'cherry pick' some valuable elements from waste electronics and electrical equipment, most of the remaining 97% is improperly managed.

In 2019, e-waste generated by 206 million citizens in the 13 countries reached 1,300,000 tonnes (1.3 megatonnes, of which almost 30% was plastic) – equal in weight to a 670 km line of fully-loaded 40-tonne trucks. The comparable figure in 2010 was 900,000 tonnes, generated by about 185 million citizens.

The hazardous substances in the region’s e-waste comprise at least 2,200 kg of mercury, 600 kg of cadmium, 4.4m kg of lead, 4m kg of brominated flame retardants, and 5.6 megatonnes of greenhouse gas-equivalents (due to refrigerants).

These substances “are poorly managed within the region and are likely to be untreated, generating various risks to the stability of a healthy environment,” according to the report.

Meanwhile, “managing e-waste could be an economic opportunity,” said co-author, Kees Baldé, senior scientific specialist at UNITAR SCYCLE. “The e-waste generated regionally in 2019 contained 7000 kg of gold, 310 kg of rare earth metals, 591m kg of iron, 54m kg of copper, and 91m kg of aluminum, representing a total value of roughly US \$1.7bn of secondary raw materials.”

All 13 participating countries have some legal and regulatory frameworks for waste management but only Costa Rica, Ecuador and Peru have instituted specific legislation for e-waste and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) systems focusing on e-waste regulation.



While “the enforcement of these measures remains a significant challenge”, the report calls on all countries in the region to introduce and enforce either: a) a robust legal and policy framework focused on environmentally sound management of e-waste and persistent organic pollutants (POPs) contained in e-waste, or b) monitor and reinforce existing systems to make them more efficient and effective.

It adds that adequate financing and monitoring of the systems, and the cooperation of all stakeholders, are essential elements for setting up and sustaining successful policies.

Policy development is at the heart of UNIDO’s intervention on e-waste in the region, with two new policy drafts prepared under the UNIDO-GEF project so far, and a further four in development. In addition to this, within the framework of the project, two countries are drafting amendments to existing regulations and a new bill on e-waste is being supported.

The project has also carried out extensive capacity-building and awareness-raising activities across the region and globally, and engages a broad range of stakeholders, including national and local governments, producers, recyclers, NGOs and other civil society organizations, private sector companies, academic institutions and other UN agencies to jointly address the issue of e-waste in the region.

The Strengthening of National Initiatives and Enhancement of Regional Cooperation for the Environmentally Sound Management of POPs in Waste of Electronic or Electrical Equipment (WEEE) project is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and implemented by UNIDO. The project supports 13 Latin American countries with the

strengthening of regional cooperation and knowledge exchange, and provides advice on e-waste policies and regulations, suitable management technologies, business models, capacity-building and awareness-raising.

Source&Credits: <https://www.unido.org/news>

VIENNA, 25 January

## UNIDO SCALES UP DEVELOPMENT DIALOGUES ON THE 4IR STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) is pleased to announce the launch of a new brochure titled Making the 4th Industrial Revolution Work For All: Development Dialogues on the 4IR Strategic Framework 2021-2030.

The UNIDO 4IR Strategic Framework aims to enable everyone to address the challenges and reap the opportunities of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR), by advancing smart production for climate action, harnessing 4IR for economic development and improving livelihoods using 4IR technologies – with the development of innovation ecosystems, skills and capacity-building, governance, partnerships, investment and infrastructure.

Organized by UNIDO, the first session of the Development Dialogues took place in October 2021, titled “Development Dialogue on the UNIDO Strategic Framework for the Fourth Industrial Revolution”, with the aim of briefing Member States on the status of the preparation of the 4IR Strategic Framework. The regional sessions took place thereafter, one each for the Africa Group, the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean Countries, the Asia Pacific, and Arab Regions, the Eastern European Group, and the Western European and Others Group.



Each regional session consisted of a presentation on the development of the UNIDO 4IR Strategic Framework, followed by feedback and remarks from its Member States and stakeholders. The Development Dialogue was an interactive event, where Member States provided relevant perspectives from the field and interlinkages aligning with other national priorities and strategies.

Recognizing the opportunities the 4IR presents, this topic was further discussed during the 9th Ministerial Conference of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and the 19th session of the UNIDO General Conference side events.

Based on the successful engagement with Member States and responding to their request for more contextualized exchanges, a new round of the Development Dialogues will be organized during February-April 2022. For that purpose, 4IR regional studies are planned with senior experts and stakeholders.

Source&Credits: <https://www.unido.org/news>

BRUSSELS, 10 February

## UNIDO DG GERD MÜLLER CALLS FOR A STRONG AU-EU PARTNERSHIP ON CLIMATE AND ENERGY AT EU INDUSTRY DAYS 2022

Gerd Müller, UNIDO Director General intervened at the EU Industry days and stressed the im-

portance of global solidarity to achieve the twin green and digital transition.



EU Industry Days is Europe's flagship annual event, organized by the European Commission, bringing together a wide range of stakeholders including senior policy makers and business leaders. The 2022 edition took place in a hybrid format in Brussels between 8 - 11 February, and allowed for discussions on green, digital, and resilient pathways for industrial ecosystems.

UNIDO new Director General, Gerd Müller, brought a global perspective to the high-level panel business case "EU industrial ecosystems on the path to the green and digital transition". He affirmed that the design and implementation of this transition had to take place at a global level: "Of course, a green and digital future is in the interest of us all. But if we only look for solutions in Europe, this is not realistic". Thus, "to solve the current challenges of COVID-19, climate change, and persistent poverty, hunger and insecurity, we need a global response. We need a comprehensive Africa-EU partnership on climate and energy"

He emphasized the need for massive investments in infrastructure development, and especially in energy infrastructures, as well as an open market that reflects our values, where "economic growth goes hand-in-hand with improved living standards", and "sustainability must be the basis for industry and economic cooperation and for global trade". He made a clear call for commitment from the EU, governments, the private sector from all over Europe and beyond to a global level playing field.

On the same day, Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, highlighted the need

to create "balanced inter-dependencies with like-minded partners", while Thierry Breton, EU Commissioner for the Internal Market stressed the importance to build resilient industries and diversify supply chains.

In the framework of EU Industry Week 2022, UNIDO also organized two local events. The programme EU4Environment, financed by the European Union and implemented by five international partners including UNIDO, hosted two National Conferences to promote the Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) methodology for resilient industries and SMEs in Georgia on 8 February and in the Republic of Moldova on 10 February. The two events gathered national industrial enterprises and governments, bringing them closer to the path of green production, resilience, and green growth.

Source&Credits: <https://www.unido.org/news>

## ABUJA, 10 February

### JAPAN AND UNIDO SIGN AGREEMENT ON SUSTAINABLE PLASTIC VALUE CHAINS PROJECT IN NIGERIA

Nigeria's Federal Ministry of Environment, the Embassy of Japan in Nigeria, and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), have signed a JPY 319 million (approximately US\$2.8m) agreement to support government efforts to develop sustainable plastic waste management through the promotion of circular economy practices and to contribute to inclusive and sustainable industrial development of Nigeria.

The plastic industry is very important to the Nigerian economy and employs thousands of people. However, the misuse of plastic and poor management of plastic waste pose great dangers to health and the environment. Tonnes of plastic waste litter the streets, clog up rural and urban drains leading to flooding incidents, contaminate the soil, affecting crop yields and pollute the ocean and other water bodies. When plastic waste is openly burnt, dioxins and furans are released, in-

creasing public health challenges and greenhouse gas emissions.

The international community has committed to limit plastic pollution through initiatives such as the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision, shared during the Japan's presidency of the G20 in 2019. The Vision aims to reduce additional pollution by marine plastic litter to zero by 2050 through a comprehensive life-cycle approach. The newly signed project for Nigeria is part of the "Marine Initiative", launched by Japan, to support the G20's Vision by advancing effective actions to combat marine plastic litter at a global scale.

Nigeria has been actively positioning itself to deal with the challenges of managing plastic and other solid waste materials. Two national policies, one on solid waste management (2020) and one on plastics lifecycle management (2020), have been developed with the support of UNIDO. In 2021, Nigeria joined the multilateral initiative against plastic pollution, the World Economic Forum's Global Plastic Action Partnership (GPAP), and established a Nigeria Circular Economy Working Group to advance national efforts to address plastic pollution.

Building on the results of UNIDO's 2021 Study on Plastics Value-Chain in Nigeria, the three-year project will promote circular economy principles and practices, which are to be integrated into effective implementation of plastic waste management. Furthermore, strengthening plastic value chains, especially the plastic recycling sector, will be demonstrated to showcase the benefits of resource efficient and cleaner production. The project will take a multi-level approach with a wide range of stakeholders and is expected to ensure inclusive and participatory plastic waste management in Nigeria.



The signing ceremony was attended by major project collaborators, including the Federal Ministry of Environment, the Lagos State Waste Management Authority, the Lagos State Environment Protection Agency and the Abuja Environment Protection Agency.

At the signing ceremony, Jean Bakole, Director and Representative of UNIDO Nigeria, stated that the project is to "develop national and states implementation guidelines for Nigeria's National Policy on Plastics Waste Management, strengthen recycling value-chains in selected municipalities in Lagos and Federal Capital Territory, and technology demonstration of circular economy and resource efficiency practices", highlighting that it is the result of long-lasting UNIDO's cooperation with Nigeria on plastic pollution since 2013, in particular with expanded collaboration with Japan since 2020.

Kazuyoshi Matsunaga, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Federal Republic of Nigeria, expressed an appreciation to Nigerian Federal Ministry of Environment for their bold efforts and to UNIDO for its professionalism and collaboration with national governments in dealing with the challenges of plastics and other solid waste materials. He further pointed out green growth opportunity for Nigeria, by stating that "this project is multifaceted, contributing not only to reducing the leakage of plastic waste into the environment, but also to the creation of new economic opportunities".

Sharon Ikeazor, the Minister of State at Federal Ministry of Environment of Nigeria, thanked UNIDO and the Government of Japan for their tireless efforts in supporting the country. She remarked the project "is quite apt and could not

have come at a more auspicious time” and would “complement the efforts of government in mainstreaming circular economy principles and practices into our National Development Plans”.

Source&Credits: <https://www.unido.org/news>

## MOSCOW, 21 FEBRUARY

### A CEREMONIAL EVENT DEDICATED TO THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDATION OF THE ICIE WAS HELD

A solemn event dedicated to the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the International Congress of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs (ICIE) was held in Moscow. The stakeholders, members and partners of the organization took part in the event.

The host of the event, Chairman of the Council of the Congress Vasily Tarlev, in his speech congratulated the audience and outlined the historical milestones of the 30-year path that the organization has passed.



President of the ICIE Artem Chaika shared his strategic vision and assured that the organization would continue its activities consistently, expanding its geography, authoritative membership base and relying on real practical projects and programs.

In connection with the anniversary, a number of leaders, activists and employees of the Congress apparatus were awarded.

The welcome address on behalf of UNIDO was prepared and signed by Mr. Bernardo Calzadilla-Sarmiento, UNIDO Managing Director of the

Directorate of Digitalization, Technology and Agri-Business.

Source&Credits: <https://www.ic-ie.com/news>

## DUBAI, 22 February

### UNIDO AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF THE FRANCOPHONIE JOIN FORCES FOR INVESTMENT PROMOTION

Fatou Haidara, UNIDO Managing Director for Corporate Management and Operations, has represented UNIDO at the investment forum, “Investir en Francophonie”, at the World Expo Dubai (UAE). Co-organized by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the Organization de la Francophonie (OIF), the Direction de la Francophonie économique et numérique (DFEN), the Forum Francophone des Affaires (FFA), the Réseau international des Agences francophones de promotion des investissements (RIAFPI), this important investment forum shed light on the attractiveness of the Francophone economic space for investors.

During a high-level panel, Fatou Haidara indicated that, according to UNIDO's Industrial Development Report 2022, the impact of the pandemic was heterogeneous at all levels of its analysis: regions, sectors, firms and workers. The report also found that countries with strong manufacturing systems were more resilient to the crisis. Its main conclusion is that industrial capacity is of fundamental importance to resilience.

Overall, the global recovery is beginning but in an uneven manner. In 2021, foreign direct investment (FDI) rebounded strongly, by 77% to \$1,650bn from \$1,000bn in 2020. Developed economies are expected to drive global FDI growth, partly due to large-scale support for public investment through stimulus packages.



In this respect, Haidara called for “strengthened cooperation in investment promotion to meet the current challenges of the Francophone economic space”. She reaffirmed the importance of the French-speaking countries economic space in the global economy, as they represent 16% of the world’s GDP and 20% of world trade in goods. She believes that the reconfiguration of global value chains (offshoring/relocation) and the growing importance of regional value chains, in particular through the African Continental Free Trade Area (ACFTA), will create new opportunities for African countries.

UNIDO’s Investment and Technology Promotion Offices (ITPOs) and expertise in guiding investors through each stage of the investment cycle directly contribute to help investors identify business opportunities and strengthen partnerships with technology providers and entrepreneurs.

Haidara concluded that in order for the recovery that has begun to gain momentum and to be inclusive, we must redouble our efforts to promote investment in order to accelerate the industrialization and diversification process of economies, especially the most vulnerable. To this end, UNIDO reiterated its willingness to work with the IOF, bilateral and multilateral partners, financial and development partners and the private sector.

On the sidelines of the f... with Geoffroi Montpetit, OI... discuss the potential renewa

agreement signed between UNIDO and OIF in 1990.

Source&Credits: <https://www.unido.org/news>

BAKU, 27 February

## UNIDO HELDS DIALOGUE TO SUPPORT THE ENERGY INDUSTRY OF GEORGIA

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) has implemented a number of initiatives in the energy sector of Georgia in 2021. Mr. Jacek Cukrowski, Head of UNIDO Regional Coordination for Europe and Central Asia, said UNIDO assisted Georgia in the implementation of the EU Directive on Energy Efficiency within the EU Association Agreement with Georgia, signed in June 2014, and contributed to the first draft of the National Energy Efficiency Action Plan (NEEAP).

As part of this project, UNIDO was able to adopt and promote a standard that ensures energy optimization through the development of energy management systems, as well as organize seminars to simplify the standard certification process.

Another UNIDO program in Georgia was related to polychlorinated biphenyls in mineral transformer oil, Mr. Cukrovski said.

"UNIDO conducted two trainings for 62 people, identified financial incentives to promote the replacement of transformers that use PCBs as transformer oil. A detailed inventory of transformers in all industries is currently being completed," he added.

*(Author: Maryana Akhmedova. Editor: Konstantin Shapiro)*