



UNITED NATIONS  
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION



GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY  
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

# Global Cleantech Innovation Programme

Promoting climate and clean energy  
technology innovation and entrepreneurship



Global Cleantech  
Innovation Programme

## **UNIDO and GEF are working together under the Global Cleantech Innovation Programme (GCIP) to accelerate cleantech innovation and entrepreneurship in developing countries and economies in transition.**



**UNIDO, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization is the specialized agency of the United Nations that promotes industrial**

development for poverty reduction, inclusive globalization and environmental sustainability. With its unique mandate to promote and accelerate inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID) in developing countries and in economies in transition, UNIDO contributes to the three pillars of sustainable development, as recognized by the recently adopted 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. UNIDO works to promote the related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and in particular SDG-9 which calls on all to help “build

resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation”.

Within this context, UNIDO supports the transition to a sustainable energy path as a key solution to a climate that is resilient and non-responsive to economically sustainable growth. The institution also accords high priority to technology transfer and capacity building of industries including small and medium sized enterprises. It supports projects and programmes that leverage the power of innovation and entrepreneurship to address the energy, environmental and economic challenges of today by empowering emerging cleantech start-ups and bolstering the local entrepreneurial ecosystem and policy frameworks.



**The Global Environment Facility (GEF) is a catalyst for action on the environment. Through its strategic investments, the GEF works with partners to tackle the**

planet’s biggest environmental issues. GEF funding helps reduce poverty, strengthen

governance and achieve greater equality between women and men. Thus, GEF occupies a unique space in the global partnership for a more sustainable planet. The facility aims at expanding private sector investment and commitment to environmental solutions across its focal areas and initiatives. It equally seeks to identify potential opportunities to enhance private sector engagement.

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# Innovation for impact

**Promoting innovation in clean technologies through a cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approach to build sustainable innovation ecosystems for small and medium-scale enterprises and start-ups.**

The **Sustainable Development Goals** and the **Paris Agreement** highlight global commitment to **safeguarding the global commons**. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), with its unique mandate to support inclusive and sustainable industrial development, has partnered with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to address the most pressing global environmental challenges of our time. Through fostering **innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystems**, UNIDO seeks to promote affordable and scalable solutions enabling our partner countries to leapfrog to cleaner, more resilient economies while protecting our global commons.

In today's economic landscape, where resource constraints and climate concerns are no longer externalities but rather opportunities for new and sustainable business models, technology innovation has emerged as a major driver of economic growth. The GCIP seeks to harness the catalytic potential of innovation and entrepreneurship in SMES and start-ups to be catalysts of sustainable economic development.



## ❖ Innovation

Technology innovation is key to finding transformative solutions to both economic and environmental challenges. The GCIP supports creation of a robust innovation ecosystem in partner countries.

## ❖ Entrepreneurship

The GCIP leverages the power of entrepreneurship to address the economic and environmental challenges of today by empowering emerging cleantech start-ups and bolstering the local entrepreneurial ecosystem and policy frameworks.

## ❖ Global SME Innovation Value Chain

Today's clean technology innovations will more than likely fuel the next industrial revolution that will shape tomorrow's global economy and job market. Recognizing the vital role that SMEs play in catalyzing technology innovations, the GCIP is unique in its approach of fostering the expansion of SMEs into cleantech products and markets, thus strengthening the entrepreneurial innovation ecosystem in emerging economies and developing countries. From identification of technology innovations to their commercialization and application, the GCIP supports entrepreneurs across the innovation value chain to develop demand-driven and investment-ready climate solutions.

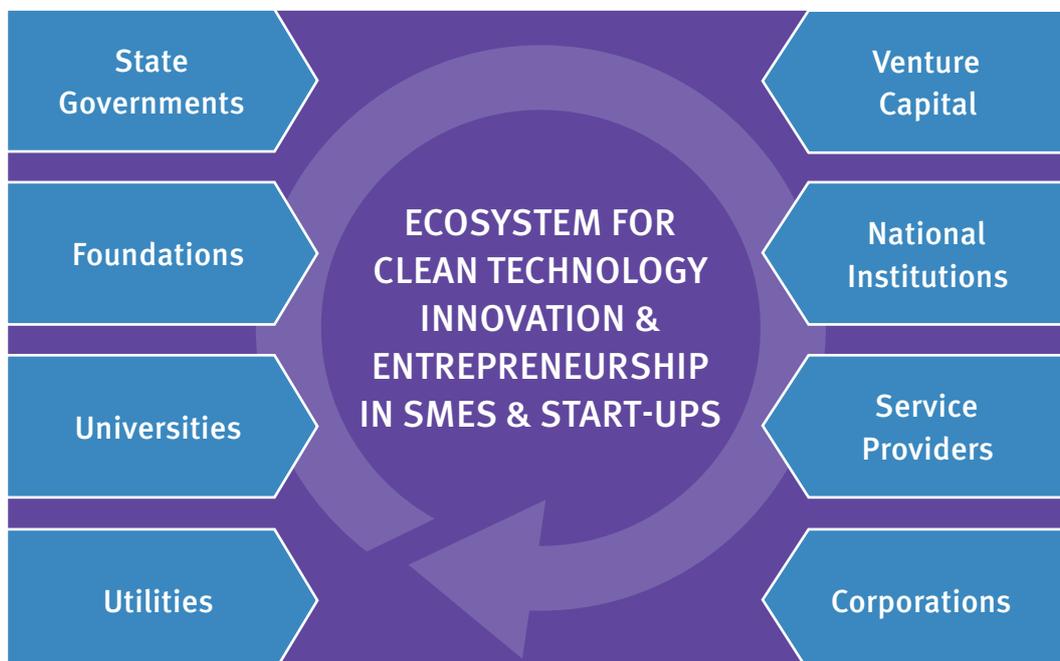
**By supporting emerging cleantech start-ups, and bolstering the local entrepreneurial ecosystem and policy framework, the programme delivers both environmental benefits and economic vitality.**

# The Cleantech Innovation and Entrepreneurship Ecosystem

The GCIP promotes an innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem by identifying and nurturing cleantech innovators and entrepreneurs; by building capacity within national institutions and partner organizations for the sustainable implementation of the cleantech ecosystem and accelerator approach; and by supporting and working with national policy makers to strengthen the supportive policy framework for SMEs and entrepreneurs.

Through this approach (via cleantech ecosystems and accelerators), the GCIP catalyzes investment to support and move start-ups entrepreneurs forward towards the development and commercialization of their innovative ideas.

Partnerships and close consultations with all national stakeholders are seen as critical to maximizing synergies and sharing knowledge and best practices which can help in enhancing the contribution of cleantech start-ups towards climate change mitigation, while increasing productivity and generating growth and wealth.

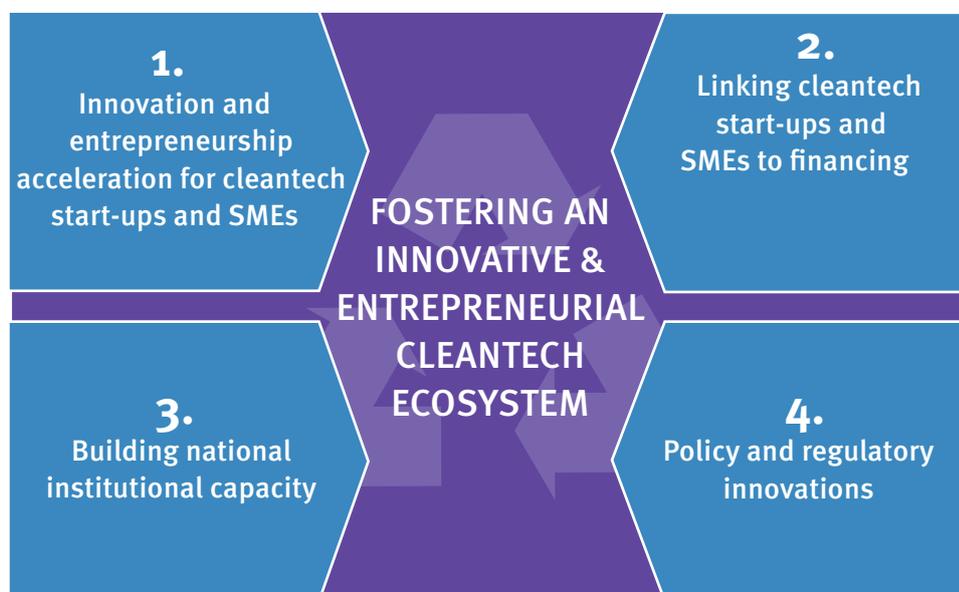


# Innovation and Entrepreneurship Policy Frameworks

An integral part of GCIP is the development of an enabling environment for cleantech innovation and entrepreneurship, and GCIP employs a cross-sectoral and multi-tiered approach with a view to building a sustainable “ecosystem” for innovative entrepreneurship in small businesses. This entails supporting national partners to strengthen the institutional capacities of government agencies focused on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and on development, clean technology and innovation.

With its regular review of existing policies, regulations and guidelines relating to the promotion of clean technologies, innovation and entrepreneurship, GCIP also advises governments to focus on high-impact areas, especially from the perspective of encouraging and supporting increased engagement and participation of SMEs. Awareness raising and capacity building activities are also supported through regional stakeholder meetings and by developing partnerships with leading institutions, agencies and, indeed, universities.

## ECOSYSTEM APPROACH



# Innovative Technology Solutions

Technology innovations promoted through GCIP are in the areas of Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy, Waste Beneficiation, Water Efficiency, Green Buildings, Transportation, and Advanced Materials and Chemicals.

GCIP is planning a transition to an **impact-focused accelerator** to leverage innovation and entrepreneurship and provide solutions to protect our global commons. Existing technology categories will evolve to impact categories to accelerate **transformative clean technology solutions** as well as integrated approaches for **energy systems, sustainable cities, healthy oceans and sustainable fisheries, food systems and landscape restoration**.

GCIP also supports identification and development of demand-driven solutions that can address the most pressing environmental challenges at national levels. Through National Innovation Challenges, innovators are invited to propose technology innovations that can address a particular problem with high-impact potential. This approach allows direct market access for the technologies, ensuring efficiency and effectiveness in impact scaling.



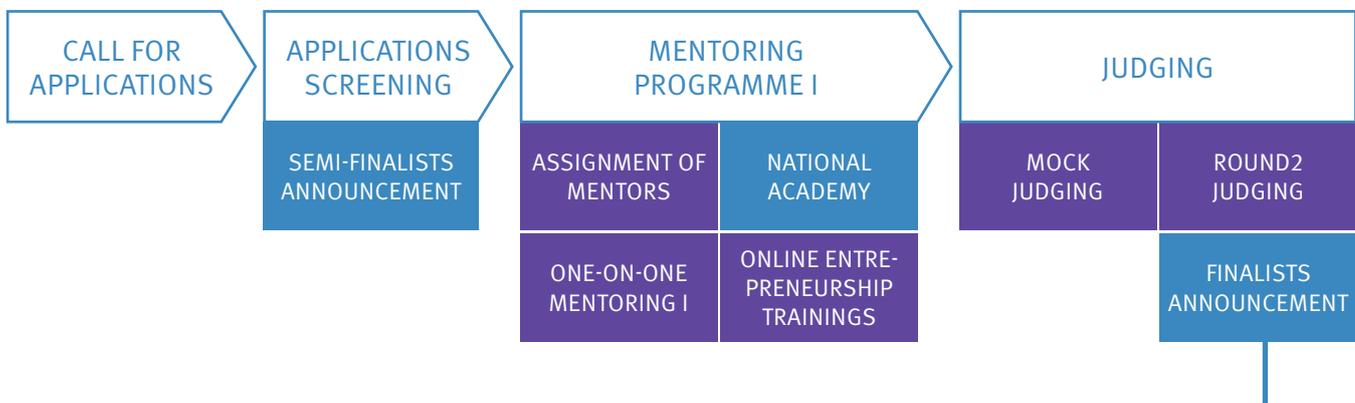
**INNOVATIVE  
TECHNOLOGY  
SOLUTIONS**

# The GCIP Accelerator

A key component of the GCIP is its annual competition-based **Accelerator**, which identifies the most promising innovators and entrepreneurs across a country. A selected number of start-ups in a GCIP country participates in a rigorous, competitive national acceleration programme that trains, mentors, promotes, and connects them to potential investors, customers and partners. As the best cleantech companies make progress, they are continuously developed and assessed.

The Accelerator consists of an Official Launch, Investor Connect, National Academy, Business Clinic and Mock Judging. In addition, the selected start-ups are continuously mentored and trained. Access to capital and showcasing opportunities are equally facilitated on a regular basis in order to enhance their business skills and connect them to potential business partners, financiers and investors.

A tailored mentoring programme is provided through an elite group of general and specialist mentors. Trainers are drawn from industries, universities and professional institutions, as well as business leaders from within the country and abroad.



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