



TOGETHER
for a sustainable future

Marking the 50th Anniversary of UNIDO

Looking back, moving forward



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“By supporting developing countries to benefit from the next industrial revolution, you are helping to drive the transformation the world needs. As the world advances towards the Sustainable Development Goals, UNIDO’s relevance will continue to grow. I wish UNIDO and its partners every success.”

Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations,
on the occasion of UNIDO’s 50th anniversary

Foreword



50 years ago, the United Nations General Assembly established UNIDO as an autonomous body to “*promote and accelerate the industrialization of developing countries*”. Throughout those years, UNIDO helped to transform economies and created countless opportunities to improve the lives of millions of people, especially women and youth.

In 2016 we celebrated UNIDO’s 50th anniversary under the slogan “*together for a sustainable future*” with a series of events focusing on the 2030 Agenda and the five themes that underpin the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)—Peace, People, Planet, Prosperity and Partnership.

From 21 to 25 November 2016, UNIDO Member States, public and private partners, academia and the civil society came together to commemorate this special occasion, take stock of what was achieved and use the impetus of the events to translate these achievements into new commitments for the immediate future. With the support of our donors, we also launched an international Expo that brought our stakeholders closer together. Furthermore, numerous events took place at our field and liaison offices.

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the Organization’s activities over the last 50 years, as well as express my gratitude to those who made these memorable events possible.

The 50th anniversary also showcased the key role of inclusive and sustainable industrial development, or ISID,

in addressing some of the most pressing challenges of our time, such as migration, climate change, the new industrial revolution and youth employment. ISID’s central role in achieving SDG9 “*Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation*”, and all universal and indivisible SDGs, especially through our innovative Programme for Country Partnership (PCP) approach, was highlighted.

Looking into the future, and based on the clear mandate and direct responsibility for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda through inclusive and sustainable industrial development which the Member States adopted with the 2013 Second Lima Declaration, UNIDO will continue addressing challenges and grasping opportunities to create shared prosperity, advance economic competitiveness and safeguard the environment.

Concurrently, we will work with development partners on targeted activities, including the operationalization of the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA III), specific interactions within the G20 framework, and enhancing partnerships with development finance institutions, private sector and other bi- and multilateral agencies.

With the support and active contribution of all our stakeholders, I believe that UNIDO will continue contributing to the international development agenda and shape the global development landscape for a more inclusive and sustainable future.

Li Yong
UNIDO Director General



5 YEARS **TOGETHER**
for a sustainable future

21-25 NOVEMBER 2019
50th ANNIVERSARY EXPO AND EVENTS

UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

[@unido50](#) <https://50.unido.org>



UNIDO's 50th anniversary at a glance

On 17 November 1966, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution establishing the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). UNIDO is the UN system's industrial development agency. It continues its efforts to eradicate poverty by assisting developing and middle-income countries in achieving inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

On the occasion of its 50th anniversary, UNIDO organized a series of events and an Expo between 21 and 25 November at its Vienna Headquarters. This week-long series of events was attended by around 1,600 participants from over 190 countries, including high-level representatives of UNIDO Member States, as well as leaders of international organizations, the private sector and academia. Over one million people from all over the world were reached through UNIDO's official social media accounts. Furthermore, 1.7 million people followed the events via communication channels of our partners.

More than 25 events and panel discussions were held in the course of the week, including a food festival and cultural performances. UNIDO also

organized an Expo to showcase its work and that of its partners. The thematic focus of the Expo and the anniversary events was the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with its "five Ps" of Partnership, Peace, People, Planet and Prosperity.

The events featured 155 speakers and focused on topics such as financing industrialization in Africa; UNIDO's Programme for Country Partnership (PCP) approach; multi-stakeholder partnerships; the circular economy; ISID for job creation to address the root causes of migration; and the Fourth Industrial Revolution and its implications for developing countries.

To promote women and youth entrepreneurship, 17 successful women entrepreneurs whom UNIDO

helped to start their businesses received UNIDO awards. Several events were entirely dedicated to youth and academia, featuring panel discussions on the role of youth in achieving the SDGs and on the promotion of youth entrepreneurship.

The anniversary events provided an ideal framework for strengthening existing partnerships and initiating new ones. UNIDO signed 17 new agreements with Member States' governments, bilateral donors and other entities, thereby extending the reach of the Organization's activities.

UNIDO also organized three youth competitions, produced a documentary reflecting on the impact of industrialization on socio-economic development and published a commemorative book on UNIDO's intellectual journey over the past 50 years. Numerous other publications featured UNIDO's work around the globe.

Key achievements

- ❖ Highlighting the importance of our inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID) mandate for the achievement of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- ❖ Strengthening partnerships with our key stakeholders — donors, Member States, private sector partners and recipients

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