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INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION



2021

# **UNIDO** AND **THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**STATE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP**

UNIDO and the European Union -  
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## Hiroshi Kuniyoshi

Deputy to the Director General and Managing Director,  
Directorate of External Relations and Policy Research, UNIDO

I am particularly pleased to sign the foreword of this report on “UNIDO and the European Union: State of the International Partnership” SOTIP Report 2021, which illustrates the unique relationship that UNIDO and the European Union have developed over several decades.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused devastating socio-economic impact and has proven that multilateralism and international cooperation are more critical than ever to inclusive and sustainable industrial development. Multilateralism will help pave the way to green and digital transitions for the future of a healthy planet and the empowerment of the next generations.

Despite extraordinarily challenging times, the partnership between UNIDO and the European Union remains strong. We share a common commitment to the principles of the UN Charter and the endeavor to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development that leaves no one behind.

Over the past years and with the continuous trust and support from the EU, UNIDO has contributed actively to assist countries by providing technical cooperation in various fields of our expertise. Our common vision has translated into tangible benefits in over 100 countries in Africa, Asia & the Pacific, Latin America & the Caribbean, and the European Neighborhood. Together, we have created and safeguarded jobs, reduced poverty, increased prosperity and tackled climate change and inequalities to help the most vulnerable and protect the planet. This disruptive period has underscored the importance of the UNIDO-EU partnership in addressing the economic dimension of the crisis.

At the time this document was written, UNIDO is implementing a total of 29 projects with an estimated total volume of USD 222 million (2021) contributed by the EU and which focus on inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

In addition to the technical cooperation, policy advice and cooperation on norms and standards, UNIDO and the EU have joined hands on global advocacy for progressive policies. Together we advocated for sustainable energy, circular economy, digitalization and industry 4.0 through global fora such as the European Development Days (EDDs), the Vienna Energy Forum (VEF), the Global Manufacturing and Industrialization Summit (GMIS) or the EU Sustainable Energy and Green Week and UNIDO General Conferences.

SDG9 to “Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation” is at the heart of UNIDO’s mandate. Our motivation to achieve inclusive and sustainable industrial development and the 2030 Agenda is stronger than ever before. UNIDO stands ready to further strengthen its strategic partnership with the European Union, thereby accelerating progress towards achieving the SDGs and building back better after the COVID 19 pandemic.



## Stephan Klement

Ambassador, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the International Organisations in Vienna

The European Union is and will remain fully committed to promoting effective multilateralism. We believe that only through international cooperation and multilateral solutions we can address humanity's common challenges. To overcome the COVID-19 pandemic and build back better requires coordinated efforts on a global scale for a green, digital, inclusive and resilient recovery, leaving no one behind. Now more than ever, it is essential to work hand in hand with the United Nations to make this objective a reality. The EU and many multilateral organisations are natural allies. There are many success stories and areas where these partnerships have helped shape global governance, and above all made a difference in the field of global economic and financial policy coordination, development, humanitarian response, climate change, environment, and peace and security. In this framework, the EU has developed a close relationship with UNIDO, spanning almost three decades.

Following the signature of a cooperation agreement in 1993, the EU and UNIDO have jointly implemented projects in more than 100 countries and in particular Least Developed Countries, with a focus on poverty eradication and supporting the most vulnerable, especially women and youth. UNIDO's unique expertise in fostering sustainable industrialization in developing countries is the bedrock of this partnership. In accordance with its mandate to promote Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID) worldwide, UNIDO is at the forefront of industrial decarbonisation and circular economy. Supporting this effort, the EU and its Member States remain the largest contributors to UNIDO, providing more than a third of total voluntary contributions in 2020. Alongside other countries and international organisations, the EU and its Member States are fully committed to realizing the Sustainable Development Goals, enshrined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

By addressing the clear correlation between low levels of industrialization and poverty, the EU-UNIDO partnership contributes to socio-economic development on a global scale, including poverty reduction (SDG1), food security (SDG2), economic growth (SDG8) and infrastructure, industrialization and innovation (SDG9). In recent years, the sheer scale of the collective efforts and investments necessary to fight climate change and achieve truly sustainable development became apparent. Our partnership with UNIDO contributes effectively to the international component of the European Green Deal and promotes renewable energies (SDG7), sustainable consumption and production (SDG12), reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and pollution (SDG13), and conservation and protection of oceanic and terrestrial ecosystems (SDG 14), among others.

The challenges are huge and require unprecedented mobilization and funding from both public and private sectors. This is why the EU recently launched a new European Strategy – Global Gateway – to boost smart, clean and secure links in digital, energy and transport, and strengthen health, education and research systems across the world. It stands for sustainable and trusted connections that work for people and the planet, to tackle the most pressing global challenges, from climate change and protecting the environment, to improving health security and boosting competitiveness and global supply chains. Global Gateway aims at mobilizing up to €300 billion in investments between 2021 and 2027 to underpin a lasting global recovery, taking into account our partners' needs and the EU's own interests.

The EU continues to act in unity and solidarity as “Team Europe” and looks ahead at the UN Summit of the Future in 2023, wherein the EU is committed to playing a leading role in strengthening global governance and cooperation.

I look forward to continuing our partnership with UNIDO and working closely with Director General Dr. Gerd Müller to achieve these goals.

Together, we can build a better future for all.





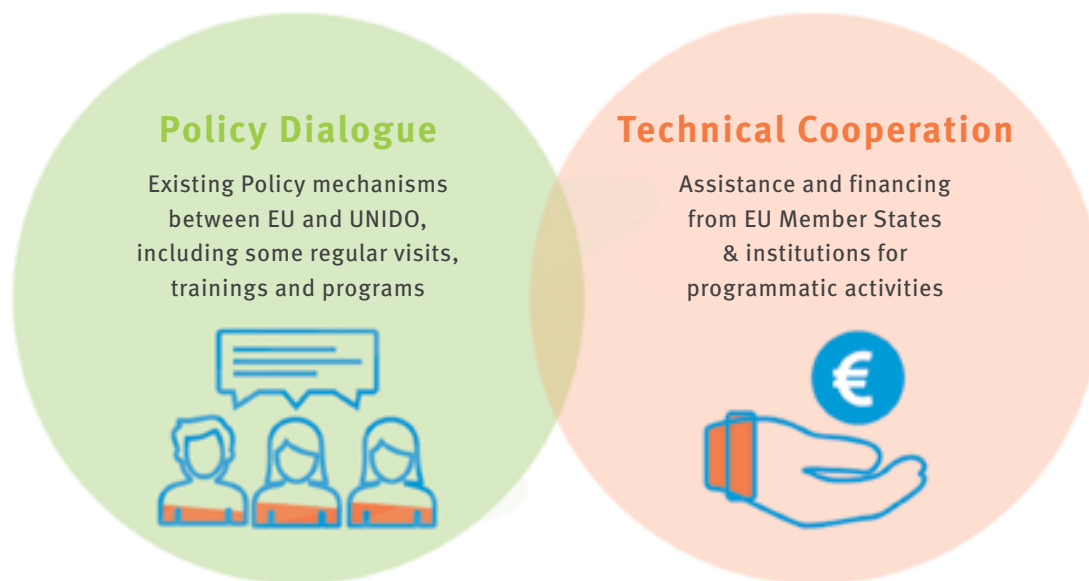




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# EU-UNIDO PARTNERSHIP AT A GLANCE

For the past 40 years, the cooperation between the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the European Union (EU) has regularly deepened and expanded. Our collaboration is understood through two frameworks: policy dialogue on the one hand, and technical cooperation on the other hand.



**Policy Dialogues** aim to influence and find common agreements on global policies, Agenda 2030, and major development issues. Policy dialogues with the EU take place at various levels: in global summits in partnership with UNIDO Headquarters Vienna, in Brussels fora with the EU Institutions and the Brussels Office, and at the field level with the EU Delegations and Field offices. Understood as instruments of international cooperation that bring together two or more parties through knowledge exchange and information sharing, policy dialogues are critical to discuss the core values underlying policy and programming decisions and reach consensus.

**Technical cooperation** refers to the capacity-building of developing countries to participate in a global development landscape as equal partners. Grounded

## Geographical coverage by project volume

More than half of EU-UNIDO projects are being implemented in Africa. This is coherent with the EU prioritization of the African continent, Europe's "twin continent"<sup>1</sup>, that will receive the majority of EU external aid from the Multi-annual Financial Framework (MFF) 2021-2027. The second main region is Asia & the Pacific. Global projects also represent 20% of EU funded projects.



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