



# 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY manufacturing



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## Acknowledgements

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## Foreword

The manufacturing sector, being the cradle of innovation and technical change, has always occupied an extraordinary position in the minds of economic policymakers. The majority of innovations are introduced first and commercialized in this sector, making it the main engine of technical change and economic growth.

Technological change, in turn, is a crucial driver of competitiveness in the manufacturing industry, and is thus of particular interest for both business leaders and policymakers. In order to be able to design and implement policies that can support the growth and enhanced performance of the manufacturing sector of their respective countries, it is important for the policymakers concerned to have the necessary knowledge of how such technological change can be supported and promoted.

This publication is part of a series published by UNIDO to provide insights into current and future global trends that will influence manufacturing production in developing and developed countries in the years to come. It aims to assist policymakers in designing and implementing policies that can help their industries and countries gain a competitive edge in international markets.

I sincerely hope that the insights contained in this publication will be of value for policymakers, scholars and business leaders as they anticipate and adapt to the main forces shaping the manufacturing sector. At the same time, I invite the readers to actively participate in the discussion on the future of the manufacturing industry, which this publication series seeks to promote, and to contribute their experiences and opinions to the debate.



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