



UNITED NATIONS  
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

# QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE

UNIDO'S UNIQUE APPROACH

# UNIDO: A STRATEGIC PARTNER

**The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)** is unique in its field of activity. The organization's mandate, promoting Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID), is anchored in Sustainable Development Goal 9: "Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation". In view of enhancing the capacity of developing countries to participate in global trade, UNIDO strengthens national and regional quality infrastructure (QI) systems by defining quality-related policies and good governance strategies, strengthening metrology, standardization and accreditation services, building conformity assessment capacities, enhancing the competitiveness of the private sector and promoting quality awareness.

## UNIDO HAS UNIQUE GLOBAL EXPERTISE

» It is the **largest multilateral player** in quality infrastructure development and a preferred partner of many developing countries.

- » For **more than 40 years**, UNIDO has been supporting partner countries to increase their competitiveness through quality and compliance with standards.
- » It develops quality infrastructure systems through **targeted interventions** that enhance national capabilities of standardization, metrology, conformity assessment, accreditation and market surveillance in order to develop productive capacity, expand their export base and increase domestic and foreign investment.
- » UNIDO has **more than 500 experts and technical advisors** who form a unique multidisciplinary team to support strategic and sustainable development.
- » UNIDO is consistently chosen as the **main implementing UN agency** by many development partners, such as Norad, SECO, Sida, EU and Finland, who provide the largest share of technical assistance funding for quality infrastructure development.
- » The organization is continuously acknowledged by its stakeholders as a **center of excellence**.



The **Quality Infrastructure** is "the system comprising the organizations (public and private) together with the policies, relevant legal and regulatory framework, and practices needed to support and enhance the quality, safety and environmental soundness of goods, services and processes. The quality infrastructure is required for the effective operation of domestic markets, and its international recognition is important to enable access to foreign markets. It is a critical element in promoting and sustaining economic development, as well as environmental and social wellbeing. It relies on metrology, standardization, accreditation, conformity assessment, and market surveillance."

# 6 REASONS TO WORK WITH UNIDO IN QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT



## OUR APPROACH IS SYSTEMIC AND BASED ON MARKET NEEDS

*This increases the impact of our interventions and ensures sustainability*



## WE INTEGRATE GLOBAL BEST PRACTICES

*Our work is based on the internationally recognized state of the art*



## WE PUT OUR BENEFICIARIES IN THE DRIVING SEAT

*This ensures that our programmes align with local needs*



## WE EMPHASIZE PARTNERSHIP

*This means a constant dialogue with donors, international organizations, technical partners, development finance institutions, the private sector and consumers*



## WE DELIVER EFFICIENTLY, COST- EFFECTIVELY AND TRANSPARENTLY

*This ensures full accountability and best value for money*



## ALL OUR PROGRAMMES RESPECT GENDER BALANCE AND EQUALITY, GOOD GOVERNANCE AND SUSTAINABILITY

*These concepts are central to our mandate and an important part of any quality infrastructure system*

## UNIDO'S APPROACH IS SYSTEMIC AND BASED ON MARKET NEEDS

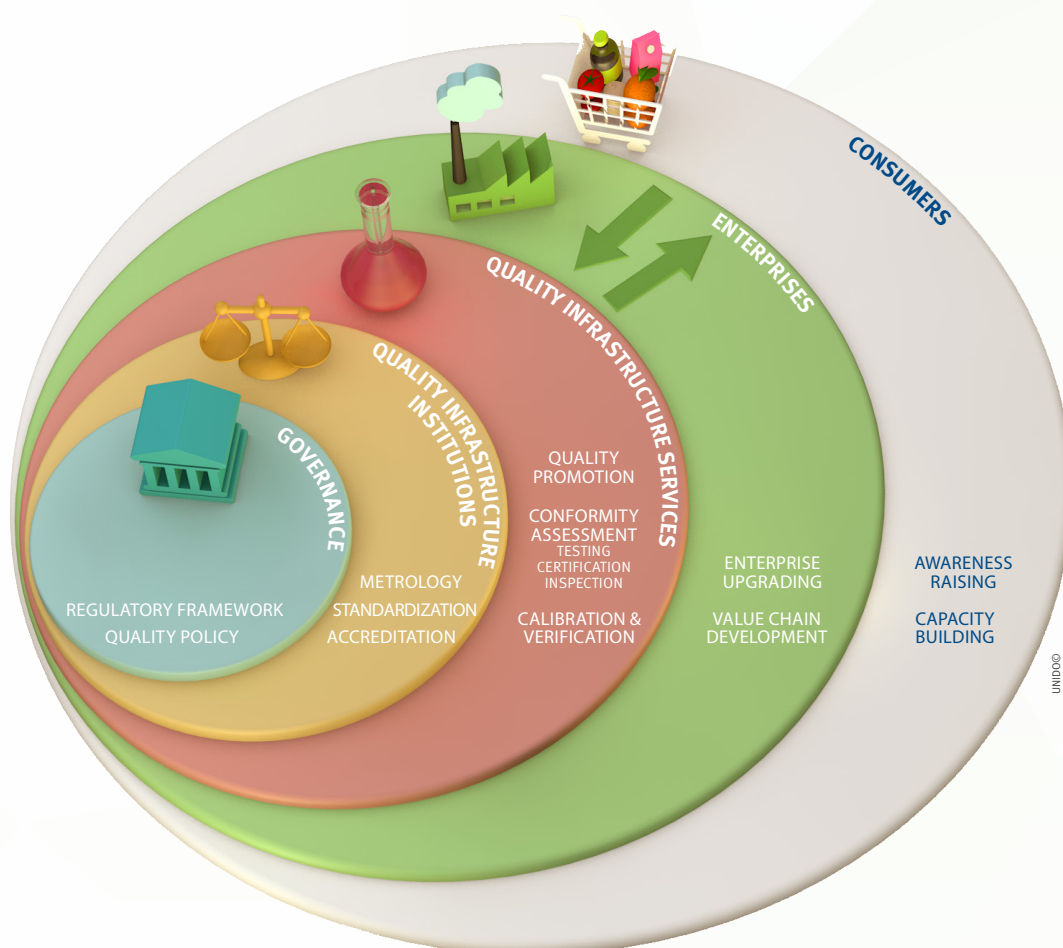


- » We employ a **demand-driven approach to quality infrastructure development**, focusing on private sector and consumer needs.
- » UNIDO emphasizes **stakeholder engagement** at all stages, from quality policy and governance advice to the strengthening of institutions and conformity assessment services as well as to the support of the private sector in achieving compliance with international standards and integration into global value chains.

*Norway's evaluation of UNIDO's trade-related activities in 2015, stated, "The NORAD-UNIDO collaboration was highly relevant to both partners as well as the recipient countries". The report highlighted that UNIDO "plays a special and even unique role" in quality infrastructure development and is widely recognized to form a 'center of excellence' in this area.*

- » UNIDO's approach focuses on **meeting the needs** of consumers in order to foster a culture of quality.
- » UNIDO adapts quality infrastructure development to **specific national and regional value chains**, such as fruit and vegetables (West Africa, Central Africa), coffee (West, Central and East Africa region), fisheries (Africa, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Pakistan), cosmetics and the automotive sector (Colombia).

*UNIDO's systemic approach has also been cited by Joseph Stiglitz, Nobel Prize winner, who has stated: "UNIDO recommends a number of priority areas for international assistance to the institutional development of developing countries, including: a national/regional standards/standardization body, a national/regional metrology system, a certification/conformity assessment system, and an accreditation system."*





## UNIDO INTEGRATES GLOBAL BEST PRACTICES



- » UNIDO has been at the forefront of developing **international best practices and global guiding principles** that have since been adopted by the international quality infrastructure governance community.

*Jointly with the Donor Committee for Enterprise Development (DCED), UNIDO has also developed best practices on the contribution of quality infrastructure to business environment reform.*

- » UNIDO's cooperations with **national, regional and international QI-related institutions** enable the organization to provide tailored solutions for other countries to meet standards, technical regulations and requirements of markets.

*Notably, UNIDO has a strategic partnership with all global QI governance institutions within the framework of the International Network of Quality Infrastructure, including the International Accreditation Forum (IAF), the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC), the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), the Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM) and the International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML).*

- » UNIDO's **global network of laboratories** (LabNet) includes more than 600 conformity assessment and calibration laboratories.
- » Thanks to a **continuous dialogue with its partners**, UNIDO can quickly identify the most promising areas for scaling up interventions by bringing additional technical expertise and mobilizing funding.

*In 2017, Doris Leuthard, President of the Swiss Confederation, and LI Yong, the Director General of UNIDO, signed an agreement for a Swiss contribution of CHF 17,35 million (USD 18,5) towards a Global Quality and Standards Programme (GQSP). This agreement will further strengthen the strategic partnership between Switzerland and UNIDO in the field of trade and competitiveness to facilitate inclusive and sustainable development.*



## UNIDO PUTS ITS BENEFICIARIES IN THE DRIVING SEAT



- » In all of UNIDO's interventions, the **client country takes the lead** in governing structures (e.g. steering committees).
- » UNIDO ensures that technical cooperation is **in line with the country's needs**, taking into account and building on existing infrastructure.
- » Through cooperation with national policy makers and regional authorities, UNIDO secures the **optimal integration** of existing quality infrastructure.
- » UNIDO has 47 regional and country offices in client countries to assure **proximity to public and private cooperating institutions**.
- » The organization cooperates with national and regional experts to **benefit from local best practices** and to **ensure sensitivity to cultural aspects**.

## UNIDO EMPHASIZES PARTNERSHIP



- » UNIDO supports its member countries through a **partnership-based approach**.
- » Partnerships are key to successfully tackling the **global development challenges** that lie ahead, and essential to the attainment of UNIDO's mandate. Achieving inclusive and sustainable industrial development requires a broader range of resources than any individual entity can provide.
- » UNIDO is a **facilitator**, blending its technical assistance resources with financing from development finance institutions.
- » UNIDO has developed a custom-built partnership formula, the **Programme for Country Partnership (PCP)**, a multi-stakeholder country-level model that links efforts of the respective government, UN agencies, the business sector and financial institutions. Through the PCP, UNIDO provides advisory services to the government on industry-related issues. Quality infrastructure-related interventions are an important part of each programme.

*UNIDO has ongoing PCPs in Ethiopia, Senegal and Peru and is currently formulating PCPs in Cambodia, Kyrgyzstan and Morocco.*

- » UNIDO's **extensive network of partners** (political and technical) includes governments, development organizations, UN agencies, financial institutions, regional economic commissions and regional organizations, the business sector, consumer associations, civil society and academia.
- » A number of **technical networks** supported by UNIDO, such as the Investment and Technology Promotion Office (ITPOs) Network, Subcontracting and Partnership Exchange (SPXs) Network, Global Networks of Regional Sustainable Energy Centres and National Cleaner Production Centres (NCPCs), link up with various partners in the field to contribute to a joint effort.





## UNIDO DELIVERS EFFICIENTLY, COST- EFFECTIVELY AND TRANSPARENTLY

- » As a UN agency, UNIDO is a **neutral broker** and not driven by profit. This allows the organization to concentrate all its efforts of delivery of effective and timely technical expertise in a cost-efficient manner.
- » UNIDO can count on a readily available pool of **more than 500 highly-qualified technical experts** in quality infrastructure development with a five-day average recruitment time.
- » UNIDO is neutral when it comes to procurement of goods and services, following core values of **transparency and accountability**, as well as internationally recognized rules and procedures.
- » UNIDO has a rigorous framework of financial and administrative rules in place to secure **full accountability and best value for money** for clients and development partners.







## UNIDO AIMS AT IMPACT, GENDER EQUALITY, GOOD GOVERNANCE AND SUSTAINABILITY



- » UNIDO always puts **sustainability at the core** of its interventions, both in their development and their implementation.
- » It not only supports partner countries in the development of a sustainable quality infrastructure system, but it also provides advisory services and capacity building for subsequent **enhancement strategies** and escalation.

*UNIDO has supported 26 countries and three regions in the development of quality policies as a means to reform, consolidate and maintain an effective and efficient quality infrastructure system.*

- » **Gender mainstreaming** is central to UNIDO's quality infrastructure interventions. All projects ensure that women and men have the same opportunities to participate and benefit from project activities, in particular

with respect to skills development. Promoting the enrolment of female professionals in quality infrastructure occupations ensures a viable and inclusive development model.

- » Acknowledging that well-functioning markets depend on professional and ethical behaviour, UNIDO promotes **good governance principles** aimed at building trust and integrity within quality infrastructure institutions for the benefit of the business climate, the trading partners and ultimately all consumers.
- » UNIDO emphasizes training of regional and national experts and promotes their exposure to the international scene, ensuring that **local capacities are built to last** far beyond the duration of individual projects.

# UNIDO's CONTRIBUTION OVER THE PAST 5 YEARS



Currently implementing a quality infrastructure and trade-related portfolio of more than **€ 150 million**



Aided more than **100 countries**, mainly in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East, to develop their quality infrastructure

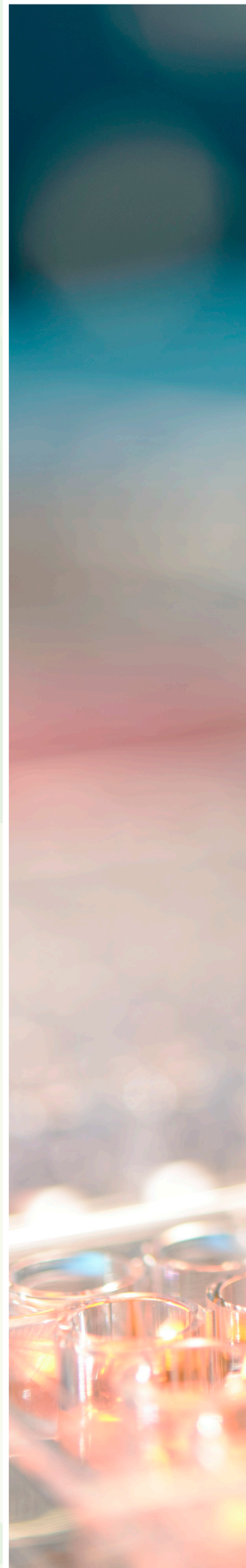


Supported more than **600 laboratories** to achieve international accreditation



Guided over **2000 enterprises** on the path to management systems certification

Quality infrastructure is a key driver for better health, increased safety and enhanced competitiveness, thereby contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).







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