



## From the Managing Director

Welcome to the 9<sup>th</sup> edition of our newsletter!

I am pleased to share with you selected milestones as well as updates on our key areas of work, in close cooperation with relevant departments.

This edition includes a special feature: initiatives in promoting women's empowerment and gender equality as shared by colleagues from the Field, in the context of the international women's day celebration this year.

For further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you.

With best regards,

Ciyong Zou

## ADVANCING STRATEGIC APPROACHES

### INDUSTRIAL POLICY CAPACITY-BUILDING TO SUPPORT MEMBER STATES

The Organization launched on 1 March an online course for all its UNIDO Representatives in the field and staff of its Regional Coordination Divisions to enhance their knowledge on industrial policy, as a means to further strengthen the support provided to Member States in this area. This internal capacity-building exercise will support UNIDO's field network and Regional Coordination Divisions in their engagement in UN inter-agency and Government discussions on the achievement of national and SDG targets, and the role of industrial policy in economic development, and support the formulation of initial responses to requests for industrial policy-related assistance from Member States. The course covers areas such as the history of industrial policy, its core diagnostic indicators and analytical tools, as well as how UNIDO assists countries with policy-related tasks.

### UNIDO-GEF: MAKING HEADWAY IN PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT AND HUMAN HEALTH

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) has been supporting initiatives in eliminating man-made chemicals known as Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and promoting polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) management across five regions in the context of protecting the environment and health. Under the implementation of Stockholm Convention, UNIDO's Department of Environment has developed similar GEF-funded regional projects in Asia such as in the Philippines, Thailand, etc. In South Asia, the Government of Sri Lanka has been working with UNIDO to introduce and implement a PCB management system to eliminate releases from PCB waste stockpiles and equipment containing PCBs. As a result of the project, there has been a noticeable change in behavior among the welders. They now take particular care when handling used oil, express heightened concerns about the dangers of PCB-contaminated oil, and are taking actions to interact with the authorities and to communicate their demands, concerns that PCB pollutants be removed. PFC through the Partnerships

Coordination Division (PCD) closely liaises with the GEF Secretariat on the actual projects developed and implemented by the technical departments in consultation with the UNIDO Field Offices and the national stakeholders.

### FIRST PCP PEER LEARNING SESSION HELD



Organized by PFC's Programme for Country Partnership Division and with strong support from the PCP Programme Managers, the first peer learning session on PCP was held virtually on 2 February 2021. The workshop was a direct response to Member States' request for exchange of experiences and learn from each other

on the PCP approach. It was attended by representatives from 103 Member States. Among participants were Permanent Missions, governments representatives from all the PCP countries namely Cambodia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Egypt, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, Peru, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, Zambia, as well Kenya self-starter PCP, and national counterparts from countries that expressed their interest in the PCP model. The session featured a balanced gender representation, highlighting the prominent

role of women at high level government positions involved in the PCP processes, as well as broader participation of women from across various institutions of PCP countries. In the context of expanding the PCPs to more countries, it is vital to note key elements towards ensuring the future sustainability of the PCP model, such as the importance of securing government financial contributions towards the programming phase, an example that was highlighted by PCP in Cote d'Ivoire.

Member States have expressed their strong appreciation to UNIDO for conducting the peer learning session as well as their hope for future sessions of such type in the coming future. Countries have also conveyed their readiness to continue to work closely with UNIDO within the PCP framework. Further information about the session, including the speakers' presentation can be accessed at the event page [here](#). The session's recording is stored [here](#).

## SPECIAL FEATURE

### PROMOTING WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AND GENDER EQUALITY

UNIDO has been continuously supporting gender equality and economic empowerment of women both in its operations and in the implementation of projects. To showcase UNIDO's contribution to women's empowerment and gender equality in the context of the celebration of International Women's Day 2021, here are selected initiatives across five regions:

In **Africa** region, within the EU-funded Leather initiative for Sustainable Employment Creation (LISEC) facemasks were developed to promote the agenda of International Women's Day (IWD) in Ethiopia. The facemasks with IWD logo have been prepared "to kill two birds with one stone", i.e., to ignite gender equality discussion among LISEC project partners and contribute to efforts on COVID-19 prevention.



In Madagascar, UNIDO Country Office has joined Government efforts to implement its Multi-sectoral Emergency Plan (Plan Multisectoriel d'Urgence) to fight COVID-19 and mitigate its impacts. Through the provision of equipment, 400,000 masks were produced in accordance with the Association Française

de Normalisation standards and distributed to the population. Between June and December 2020, 2,565 jobs were created, maintained or impacted, including those of over 1,500 women. A fablab kit (laser cutting) was made available to the "Groupement des Femmes Entrepreneures de Madagascar" (GFEM) and its members. In addition, the training and skills development courses provided to the beneficiaries allowed better access to new technologies as well as modernized production that led to improved productivity and income for women.

In the **Arab** region, UNIDO has been working to improve the business ecosystem for women entrepreneurship through the programme "Promoting Women's Empowerment for Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development in the MENA Region -" (PWE) covering Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Lebanon, Palestine, and Tunisia. In 2020, the programme undertook analyses on impacts of COVID-19 on women-owned businesses as well as access to and use of ICTs by women entrepreneurs. As the region continues to face the economic consequences of the COVID-19 crisis, the roll-out of tailored country action plans within the programme will focus on providing sustainable responses to the difficulties faced by women entrepreneurs to ensure the continuity, recovery and transformation of their productive activities in a world that is increasingly digital and where the circular economy offers new opportunities. In celebration of International Women's Day 2021, the National Council for Women (NCW) requested UNIDO for a video highlighting the role of women in the Egyptian economy and their significant efforts in the country recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Bassel Al Khatib, UR in Egypt emphasized UNIDO's commitment to promoting women's economic empowerment by creating an enabling business environment for women-led, owned and majority-staffed SMEs. Additionally, UNIDO Egypt launched a social media campaign to celebrate the tremendous efforts by women and girls in Egypt. The campaign showed UNIDO's achievements last year, through supporting 2700 women, in achieving an equal future in Egypt.

In the **Asia and the Pacific region**, the UNIDO Country Office in Iran organized seven trainings on fishing methods, processing technologies and quality control, aimed at both enhancing the value chain and at empowering women involved in the fishery industries, hence improving their livelihood and creating more job opportunities. Similarly, support to needlework and handicrafts is provided in Sistan and Baluchistan, with the objective of empowering local women through sustainable employment, market access and entrepreneurial trainings. This year, the International Women's Day (IWD) was celebrated by UNIDO jointly with the UN Country Team Iran in a virtual event, where UNIDO presented its success story on promoting the integration of Chabahar industries into the global and regional market, through upgrading and market access promotion, focusing on fisheries and handicrafts value chain that are the main source of income for over 10.000 women in Chabahar. Moreover, in observance of the IWD 2021, UNIDO in Cambodia participated in a round table discussion organized by the Ministry of Women's Affairs on women in development in the context of COVID-19. During the discussion, Mr. Narin Sok, UCR, highlighted the organization's readiness to support women entrepreneurs in acquiring knowledge and skills and building capacity to enable them to expand and make their business more competitive. The UN in Cambodia also produced and launched a short video clip to celebrate the IWD 2021.



In **Europe and Central Asia**, UNIDO continues to facilitate the participation of women in economic activities through the dedicated project "UNIDO as a platform to promote women's economic empowerment and entrepreneurship". Through the development of the online training course "Digital Business Innovations for Women Entrepreneurs and Managers" UNIDO aims to help bridge the existing digital skills gap and strengthen women's competitive advantage on the global labour market. The course will consist of the following six training modules in English and Russian: basics of digital technologies; digital marketing; digital project management; e-commerce; social media marketing; customer relationship management. It will become accessible towards the end of spring 2021 through the [UNIDO e-learning platform](#). In October 2020, with support of the Field Office in Yerevan, UNIDO launched a project on "Accelerating Women's Empowerment for Economic Resilience and Renewal: Post COVID-19 Reboot in Armenia",

aimed to equip women from rural communities impacted by COVID-19 with entrepreneurial and STEM skills. Within another project in Armenia on improving competitiveness of export-oriented industries through modernization and market access, UNIDO organized sewing operators' training courses for 22 women relocated from conflict zones enabling them to receive required skills and generate income for their families. In Ukraine, the female-led start-up GeronCore won two nominations of the Global Cleantech Innovation Programme (GCIP) Accelerator in 2020 – "Medicine for Sustainable Development" and "Best Women's Project". The company presented a new generation of cardio implants for children with congenital heart disease and became an excellent example of women in industry supporting achievement of SDGs.



In **Latin America and the Caribbean**, UNIDO raises awareness on gender equality through various knowledge sharing initiatives. On 5 March 2021, UNIDO hosted a webinar on the "Importance of Gender Parity in the Colombian Chemical Sector". 42 participants from different sectors of the national chemical value chain discussed ways to approach gender parity in their organizations and identify involuntary bias impacting the work environment and productivity. Through a poll, attendees could share their insights on the analysis of gender, which will allow giving recommendations to organizations and laboratories of this key industry in Colombia. In December 2020, the UNIDO Regional Hub in Mexico jointly with the Montreal Protocol Division, the Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women Office and national counterparts, carried out a training on "Basic Concepts and Introduction to Gender Mainstreaming". Participants discussed ways to achieve gender equality in Montreal Protocol projects from design to implementation and capacity-building of national counterparts in creating and enforcing gender-related policies. UNIDO has been supporting several enterprises in leading the transition to circular economy in Uruguay since 2019, within the framework of the UNIDO-led Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE). One of these enterprises is NIDO - a cooperative of eight women, who promote the value generation by supporting small productive enterprises with a special emphasis on socio-economic and educational inclusion, and entrepreneurship of female artisans. In 2019, NIDO received the "Circular Uruguay: Towards a new economy" award in the "Cooperatives" category.

## REGIONS IN FOCUS: SELECTED PIPELINE AND ONGOING INITIATIVES

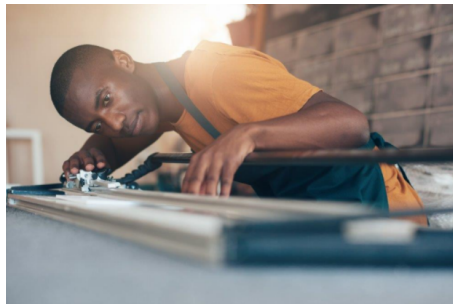
### AFRICA

#### DG BILATERAL MEETING WITH AUDA-NEPAD CEO



On 1 February 2021, DG Li Yong held a virtual meeting with the Chief Executive Officer of the African Union Development Agency - New Partnership for Africa's Development (AUDA-NEPAD), Mr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, as part of a joint effort to bolster partnership and cooperation between the two entities since transforming NEPAD into AU's Development Agency. Key topic of the virtual meeting was in the context of supporting Africa's own efforts towards ISID while tackling the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 crisis under IDDA III implementation and the trading within the African Continental Free Trade Area. Areas of cooperation discussed included the development of a Pan-African Industrial Project Preparation Facility (PPF); joint effort on resource mobilization considering the effective tools and instruments available in each institutions; establishing a Tripartite Agreement between AUDA-NEPAD, UNIDO and the AfCFTA Secretariat; collaboration in priority areas for COVID-19 recovery to build back better and faster; and pledged to work together to integrate the promotion of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) on current industrialization efforts in the continent.

#### UNIDO AT THE AUDA-NEPAD LAUNCH OF "100,000 MSMEs BY 2021" IN BURUNDI



On 12 February 2021, UNIDO through Ms. Aurelia Calabrò, UR, Regional Office Hub in Ethiopia contributed as panelist at the AUDA-NEPAD webinar launch of the Africa's Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Academy, organized virtually in Burundi. The pan-African MSME Academy, a component of the Continental Online Platform to support MSMEs beyond Covid-19 pandemic, aims at providing easy access to practical training and resources on financing opportunities to "100,000 MSMEs by 2021", in various African countries such as Burundi, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Togo, among others. UNIDO presented opportunities through "just-in-time digitalization of MSMEs products and services" to counteract the challenges and uncertainties created by the COVID-19 pandemic. Through the 4th Industrial Revolution and the regional context of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), it is of great importance for African MSMEs to boost their alphabetization in digital technologies, including in the agro-industrial and manufacturing sectors. UNIDO encourages and stands ready to support African States to tailor their public policies with appropriate enablers for new technologies allowing entrepreneurs to transform their businesses during and beyond the pandemic.

#### ETHIOPIA: HIGH LEVEL INAUGURATION OF INTEGRATED AGRO-INDUSTRIAL PARK



Ethiopia's Prime Minister, Abiy Ahmed inaugurated the Bure Integrated Agro-Industrial Park (IAIP) in Amhara State on 7 February 2021. In his remarks, the Prime Minister stated that the integrated agro-industrial parks is a priority and thanked UNIDO for supporting the government in all stages of the park's development. The Bure IAIP is one of four for which UNIDO has provided technical assistance in the design and planning, including developing detailed feasibility studies, environment and social impact assessment studies, detailed engineering designs and building capacities of the Regional State Industrial Development Corporations (RIPDC). Through the Programme for Country Partnership (PCP) Ethiopia, UNIDO has also supported investment promotion and funds mobilization for the development of the IAIPs. The inauguration ceremony was attended by senior government officials including the Deputy Prime Minister, Demeke Mekonnen; Chief of the Amhara Regional State, Agegnehu Teshager; and other senior federal officials. The IAIP initiative is expected to help drive the structural transformation of the economy and support the country in reaching its Vision 2025 goal of becoming a light manufacturing hub in Africa.

## ARAB

### EGYPT: UNIDO- JAPAN COOPERATION ON CIRCULAR ECONOMY

UNIDO and Japan have signed an exchange of notes as a joint commitment to promote circular economy practices on Egypt's single-use plastics value chain within the framework of the Green Industry component of the PCP Egypt. The agreement was signed by H.E Mr. Noke Masaki, Ambassador of Japan to Egypt and Mr. Bassel El Khatib, UR, RO Hub in Egypt. The signing ceremony was witnessed by Egypt Ministers of International Cooperation, Environment, and Trade and Industry. The project follows a multi-level approach: macro, meso and micro levels to facilitate the adoption of greener processes and sourcing and business models within the single-use plastic value chain. The project's expected outcome is that circular economy practices on single-use plastic products including packaging are introduced and demonstrated to concerned government organizations, industry and societal stakeholders in Egypt.



### EXPORT CONSORTIA AGREEMENT SIGNED IN JORDAN

Within the framework work of the Italian funded project entitled "Job creation for youth and women through improvement of business environment and SMEs competitiveness", UNIDO has developed three export consortia for selected Jordanian companies in three value chains including the food supplements, Garment and Fashion and Natural cosmetics. The signing event for the food supplement consortia was held on the 8<sup>th</sup> of February under the patronage of Her Excellency the Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply, Ms. Maha Al-Ali, as well as the presence of the Head of the Jordan Chamber of Industry, Mr. Fathi Al-Jaghbir, the Secretary-General of the Ministry, Dr. Youssef Al-Shamali, and Mrs. Sulafa Madanat, UNIDO Country Representative in Jordan. The consortia agreement included five Jordanian food supplements' factories that were able, in a short time, to put a clear footprint in the local market and spread to neighboring markets. The established export consortia will facilitate their access to non-traditional markets and create competitive opportunities for the alliance members to increase and sustain exports of Jordanian factories in the three targeted sectors. FO Jordan, Arab Regional Cooperation Division closely cooperate with DTA/AGR on this project.



### SECOND GLOBAL INDUSTRY 4.0 FORUM HELD IN MOROCCO

UNIDO together with the Ministry of Industry and Industrie du Maroc Magazine organized virtually the Second Global Industry 4.0 Conference in the city of Fes on 27 January 2021. This conference brought together more than 500 professionals and experts from various backgrounds to discuss the theme of "Industry 4.0 for a resilient economy". DG Li Yong, delivered remarks during the official opening session of this conference, and highlighted UNIDO's commitment to helping its Member States in taking advantage of the opportunities offered by the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Mr. Namir Hourani, Managing Director of The Global Manufacturing and Industrialisation Summit (GMIS) presented the summit as a platform which build bridges between different stakeholders in order to harness the 4IR's transformative potential for inclusive and sustainable industrial development. ITPO Germany organized a virtual B to B networking event, where 180 participants from 16 countries interacted with speakers and attendees. Overall, the success of the conference included the opportunity to showcase to various stakeholders the organization's achievements and readiness to support Morocco and other Member States transition to the 4IR.



## ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

### WORLD BANK-FINANCED LIVESTOCK AND DAIRY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT: UNIDO SIGNS AN AGREEMENT TO ASSIST THE GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH

UNIDO signs a technical assistance agreement with the Bangladesh Department of Livestock Services (DLS) under the World Bank (WB) financed Livestock and Dairy Development Project (LDDP). Based on this agreement, UNIDO will assist the Department in the establishment a multi-sectoral approach for the planning, coordination and implementation of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) surveillance and risk mitigation program, containment policies and guidelines. The planned activities will, amongst others, ensure the introduction of effective surveillance of biological and chemical hazards in animals and foods of animal origin, as well as promote rational use of antimicrobial agents in livestock, while strengthening infection prevention, bio-safety and bio-security principles. This first UNIDO-DLS technical assistance agreement builds on years cooperation between the two entities on the design and formulation of the LDDP. UNIDO and DLS are also planning to come to an agreement on two additional complementary technical assistance services packages in the coming months. PFC through its Partnerships Coordination Division (PCD), Regional Coordination Division- ASP, Country Office in Bangladesh closely cooperate with the Department of Agri-Business for this project.

### SUPPORTING CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (CSR) IN CHINA

UNIDO supported the publication of the first overall CSR Management System standards in China. The organization is cooperating in the context of CSR with some key players in the country's construction industry since 2013, helping to improve their performance on all the three pillars of responsible business: the social, the environmental and economic one. Under the second phase of the self-funded Development of Corporate Social Responsibility in the construction sector in PRC project, UNIDO had a key impact on the adoption of a set of CSR evaluation criteria and guidance documents. The example of the construction sector shows the importance, the challenges but also the benefits of responsible business conduct and paved the way for the publication in Dec 2020 of the first overall CSR Management System standards, which will now allow all industrial sectors to follow the guidance on topics, expectations and practical implementation of CSR. A construction industry-specific annex to the new CSR standards will be also published shortly.



### NEW JAPAN FUNDED PROJECT IN IRAN



A new project, funded by Japan, will create new employment opportunities in the coastal region of Chahabar, Iran. A funding agreement worth approximately \$3.5 million was signed to develop a project that will promote the sustainable development of the tuna value chain in region. Building on earlier interventions, the initiative will support the ability of local fishermen to access new markets while reducing the risk of over-fishing, as current methods and at volumes, if continued, will likely deplete marine resources in the coastal region. Together with the Ministry of Agriculture, the Iranian Fisheries Organization and local institutions, UNIDO will provide technical assistance to improve the quality management system of local MSMEs, encouraging the promotion of exports, promoting sustainable fishing practices and establishing a mechanism to monitor and control the stock of yellowfin tuna, benefiting from Japanese knowledge sharing and technology transfers.

## EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

### BUILDING SYNERGIES WITH THE EU AND ITS MEMBERS



PFC through its Regional Coordination Division- Europe and Central Asia (RFC/EUR) continues its efforts in initiating dialogue with development partners in the region and forging partnerships for regional initiatives. In February, RFC/EUR participated in the meeting between UNIDO and the Directorate General for Neighborhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR) on the Western Balkans and explored possible synergies for harnessing the potential of the automotive industry in the region. An additional meeting with DG NEAR for the Republic of Moldova was held on 16 March to present the programming work and modalities of cooperation in the context of the UNIDO CP. Moreover, in March, UNIDO held consultations with the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of the Republic of Croatia aimed to present UNIDO TC activities and services in the field of pharmaceutical and automotive industries and to discuss avenues for cooperation on joint projects. RFC/EUR will be striving to further scope cooperation with the EU and its Member States in the ECA region.

### ADVANCING IMPLEMENTATION OF CPs IN THE REGION

In February, UNIDO presented to the Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure of Moldova the findings of the report on [“The Innovation Ecosystem of Moldova”](#), which was conducted under the component

“Industrial competitiveness, market access, innovation and investment promotion” of CP Moldova. Furthermore, later in March the RFC/EUR organized the first CP Albania Steering Committee meeting, where the CP work plan for 2021, the funds mobilization strategy and other Programme-related issues were discussed. Moreover, as a part of UNIDO’s contribution to the national Blue Economy Program, an expert to facilitate the research on the fisheries and aquaculture sector in Albania was recruited.

areas, including green industry, circular economy, renewable energy and energy efficiency, agro-industrial clusters, light industry modernization and other mutually agreed fields of action, with the aim of contributing to inclusive and sustainable industrial development and the SDGs. UNIDO and Uzbekistan are currently developing a road map for the JD’s operationalization. Following the signing of the document, in February 2021, UNIDO DG met Mr. Abat Fayzullaev, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and discussed opportunities for the implementation of



### UNIDO AND THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN FOSTER COOPERATION

In continuation of 27-year cooperation, on 22 December 2020, DG Li Yong and Mr. Jamshid Kuchkarov, Minister of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction of the Republic of Uzbekistan, signed the Joint Declaration (JD) for 2020-2024. The Joint Declaration commits both parties to promote cooperation in various

planned joint projects. DG Li Yong was also invited to take part in the International Conference “Central and South Asia: regional connectivity. Challenges and opportunities”, to be held on 15-16 July 2021 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan with the main goal to present Uzbekistan’s strategic vision of interregional connectivity and explore specific proposals for the implementation of new projects addressing key regional priorities.

## LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

### KOICA FUNDED PROJECT AWARDED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF CUBA



The implementation of the KOICA funded project entitled “Strengthening the competitiveness, organizational performance and export capacity of the Cuban music industry” has reached its completion stage. The project aimed at strengthening the creative industry as a mechanism for employment generation and economic diversification in Cuba. At the closing ceremony, held on 11 December 2020 in Havana, UNIDO was awarded by the Ministry of Culture of Cuba in recognition of the exemplary implementation of the project. It is the first UNIDO project focusing on Orange Economy, i.e. cultural and creative industries. The success of the project has spurred interest from other countries to focus on creative industries given the opportunities these sub-sector offer for economic diversification and growth of the region, particularly in the post-COVID-19 recovery context. The Inter-American Development Bank estimated that in 2015, trade in creative goods and services generated USD 124 billion in terms of income and that the Orange Economy provided jobs to more than 1.9 million people in the region.

### UNIDO AND NORAD: SUPPORTING AQUACULTURE VALUE CHAINS IN COLOMBIA



UNIDO and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) reaffirmed their commitment to support the tilapia and shrimp value chains in Colombia within the Global Market Access Programme (GMAP) on 18 December 2020. Through the execution of the project “Strengthening quality and standards compliance capacity of shrimp and tilapia aquaculture value chains in Colombia to facilitate market access”, the MSMEs of the shrimp value chain in Tumaco and the tilapia value chain in Huila will be able to improve quality and increase capacity to comply with international standards. The implementation of the Euro 2 million project was initiated in January 2021 and will have a duration of four years. The main national counterpart is the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Tourism (MINCIT). The project will involve strategic stakeholders, such as the entities of the national quality infrastructure and national and local agencies. This initiative builds upon a regional project on “Improving Productivity and Competitiveness of Shrimp Value Chain in LAC through Regional Cooperation” implemented by UNIDO in 2015-2019. The new project will also create valuable synergies with a second regional project “Fostering Regional Coordination in Aquaculture Value Chains for Productive Employment Generation in LAC” initiated in 2020.

### NEW JOINT PROGRAMME APPROVED FOR URUGUAY'S RENEWABLE ENERGY SECTOR



A joint UN proposal led by the Regional Office in Uruguay and the Department of Energy of UNIDO, in collaboration with UNDP and UN Women jointly with the UN Resident Coordination Office was approved by the UN Joint Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Fund. The joint programme (JP) will support Uruguay's 2<sup>nd</sup> energy transition (2ET) in line with the 2030 Agenda, making the renewable energy sector a driver of inclusion across the economy. The proposal aims to decarbonize the industry and transport sectors, secure universal access to renewable sources, and increase the innovation and competitiveness of the energy sector while decreasing energy costs and increasing the participation of women in the clean energy economy. A key feature of the USD 10 million JP has been its innovative financial mechanism which showcases the potential of public-private financing for developing countries. The Renewable Energy Innovation Fund (REIF) will provide financing for a range of new and emerging renewable energy technologies and ventures. In Uruguay, the development of this JP involved work and coordination with new partners at the country level, namely with the financial sector. Commercial banks' sustainable portfolios have opened new collaboration schemes to work together towards sustainable development. UNIDO is also cooperating with FAO, UNFPA and ILO on the development of another JP in Suriname, entitled “The Accelerator for Agriculture and Agroindustry Development and Innovation Plus (3ADI+)”. This proposed JP will aim at promoting SDG-compliant public and private investments in innovation at each stage of a pineapple value chain. The proposed JP is considered a hard pipeline for the UN Joint SDG Fund.

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