



UNITED NATIONS  
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION



GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY  
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

# Mobilizing Industry for Environmental Action



INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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# Forewords



**Together with the GEF,  
we are building synergies  
between industrialization and  
environmental protection that  
can drive forward inclusive  
and sustainable industrial  
development.**

Environmental and climate challenges are transforming the way the world supplies, processes and uses natural resources. Flood events and extreme drought are becoming more frequent, causing widespread destruction and crop failures, adding to the burden on the most vulnerable communities. The increasingly evident effects of climate change urgently demand industrial processes to minimise harmful CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, while allowing for legitimate growth aspirations in all countries. Only a combined global effort to overcome these issues can lead to a sustainable future for all.

We are proud to look back on our evolving partnership with the GEF and our shared journey toward improving the environmental performance of industries, while also producing co-benefits such as improved human health, new jobs and shared prosperity. Since UNIDO's initial involvement as an Executing Agency of the GEF, the solid foundation of the

UNIDO-GEF partnership has continuously expanded. Today, UNIDO is implementing projects and programmes supported by the GEF in almost 80 countries across the world with a primary focus on industrial energy and resource efficiency, renewable energy for productive uses, and chemicals and waste management. As the global community continues its pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), joint efforts such as those undertaken by UNIDO and the GEF are essential.

In our pursuit of inclusive and sustainable industrial development, UNIDO looks forward to furthering this strategic alliance with the GEF, as well as other agencies of the extended GEF partnership, under the 7th replenishment cycle. The GEF's emphasis on transforming key economic systems through integrated solutions is the required next step for countries' transitions to sustainable development paths. I am convinced that with the support of the GEF and UNIDO, the industrial sector can be a major driving force behind this transition.

LI Yong  
United Nations Industrial Development Organization  
Director General



**Safeguarding the environment, while also fostering economic development, requires the cooperation of both the public and private sector. UNIDO has enhanced the GEF portfolio by engaging industries and promoting green growth across the developing world.**

Since 2006, UNIDO has been an implementing agency and a strong partner of the GEF in its efforts to put in place the regulatory, institutional and financial frameworks required to achieve transformational change in the areas of climate change mitigation and adaptation, chemicals and waste, and international waters. The GEF is funding over 200 ongoing projects implemented by UNIDO to safeguard the environment, and under GEF-6, UNIDO has been an integral part of the Integrated Approach Pilots on Sustainable Cities and Food Security.

UNIDO can engage both large-scale industry that has a significant impact on the environment, and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and clean technology entrepreneurs that have the potential to shift industries onto a sustainable development path. Its unique mandate to target industry directly supports the GEF's strategy for private sector

engagement and enables us to reach those enterprises that form the backbone of developing and emerging economies.

To get on the right path to a better, safer future, we need to work together on common and systemic solutions, and to address the drivers of environmental degradation. We need to change the systems that support how we live, how we eat, how we move and how we produce and consume.

Under GEF-7, the GEF looks forward to UNIDO utilizing its extensive networks and specialized services to support four revolutionary shifts in social and economic life: transforming cities, re-thinking food and agriculture, decarbonizing energy systems, and investing in the circular economy.

A continued strong partnership between UNIDO and the GEF is vital. Building on the solid foundation of the past, I look forward to continue working with UNIDO to meet the challenges of the future.

Naoko Ishii  
Global Environment Facility  
Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson



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# Introduction

## Safeguarding the environment towards sustainable industrialization

While economic development is increasingly challenged by natural resource limitations and rapid population growth, extreme weather events and chemical contamination further threaten the livelihoods of millions of people. In order to mitigate and reverse global trends of climate change and pollution, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) was established in 1991. Since then, the strategic and catalytic investments of the GEF have significantly assisted its partners, including UNIDO, to take on the planet's greatest environmental issues.

The strategic partnership between UNIDO and the GEF has led to a widespread impact and growing compliance with multilateral environmental agreements. Their cooperation has brought technical and financial assistance to countries, which previously had no access to GEF funding.

Within its unique mandate for inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID), UNIDO specifically targets industrial activities, which constitute both the drivers of economic growth and often the biggest polluters. Utilizing its expertise in promoting clean, low-carbon production technologies and processes in large and small industrial enterprises, UNIDO has been directly implementing GEF projects since 2006. Up to that point, UNIDO had already played a leading role in reducing toxic chemical contamination in strong partnership with its sister agencies.

The UNIDO-GEF partnership dates back to the 1990s and has steadily grown since then. Today, UNIDO's portfolio spans over 200 GEF-funded projects in almost 80 countries and continues to grow in size and diversity of approach. "The Global Environment Facility has, for many years, been a valuable partner of UNIDO", UNIDO Director-General LI Yong expressed. "It supported us in implementing essential and impactful projects in the fields of climate change mitigation and adaptation, chemicals and waste, land degradation and international waters." Through increased partnerships with other GEF Implementing Agencies, UNIDO is also operating in multifocal areas and new Integrated Approach Pilots (IAPs) for sustainable cities and food security.

This publication showcases how the UNIDO-GEF cooperation applies innovative solutions to achieve economic goals with environmental sustainability and reflects the substantive value addition that the partnership has delivered to the work of both organizations. It also introduces a variety of case studies that illustrate this joint action across the thematic focal areas of the GEF and sheds light on how UNIDO and the GEF can continue to expand this partnership in the future.

# Introducing UNIDO and the GEF



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## UNIDO

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations that works to promote and accelerate sustainable industrialization in developing countries and economies in transition. The mandate of the Organization is to eradicate poverty through inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID), attuned to the new global development agenda and manifested in the 2013 Lima Declaration. The importance of ISID is underscored in Goal 9 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which calls to build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.

UNIDO focuses on three thematic priorities to support countries in their efforts to achieve ISID, namely poverty reduction, advancing economic competitiveness, and safeguarding the environment. This is carried out by UNIDO's specialized technical departments and widespread field presence.

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