

Marking the 50th Anniversary of UNIDO **UNIDO-GEF cooperation**



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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 of industrial processes to minimise harmful CO₂ 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. This year, UNIDO celebrates its 50th anniversary, coinciding with 25 years since the creation of the Global Environment Facility (GEF). We are proud to look back on more than two decades of close partnership with the GEF and a shared journey improving the environmental performance of industries, while also producing co-benefits such as human health, new jobs and shared prosperity.

Since its inception, 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 focus on industrial energy efficiency and renewable energy for productive uses, as well as pollution control, including the phase-out of ozone depleting substances (ODS) and persistent organic pollutants (POPs). 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.

This brochure on the UNIDO-GEF partnership will provide readers with a comprehensive and up-to-date understanding of the work we do together and its impact across the world. It demonstrates how the GEF's pivotal role in facilitating projects across its thematic focal areas and UNIDO's technical expertise and global reach work together to support transformational change towards sustainable development in developing and emerging economies. I am convinced that through increased collaboration, UNIDO and the GEF will continue to deliver tangible results to improve livelihoods, preserve balanced ecosystems and combat climate change for the achievement of inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

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.

The last 25 years since the establishment of the GEF have shown that operating as a network has allowed us to draw on the expertise and capacities of civil society and the private sector, as well as multilateral development banks and United Nations agencies. Recognizing UNIDO's unique capability to tackle issues related to clean energy, resource efficiency, pollution and sustainable development within the context of industrial activities, the GEF welcomed UNIDO into the partnership as an implementing agency in 2006. Since then, UNIDO has been 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.

Throughout the partnership, the GEF is funding over 200 ongoing projects implemented by UNIDO to safeguard the environment. They are additionally supported by significant co-financing provided by national governments, the private sector and financial institutions that ensures the lasting success of project interventions, as well as national ownership and engagement. UNIDO's unique mandate to target industry, and in particular Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs), directly supports the GEF's strategy for private sector engagement and enables us to reach those enterprises that form the backbone of any developing and emerging economy.

UNIDO has proven to be a solid partner of the GEF, enabling us to broaden our global reach through UNIDO's technical expertise and networks, while also striving toward the ambitious goals of the GEF 2020 Strategy. We look forward to continuing our combined efforts to overcome the drivers of environmental degradation for improved economic growth and quality of life for millions of people around the world. On behalf of the GEF, I congratulate UNIDO on its 50 years of essential and impactful work to improve prosperity and promote development in its member states.

Naoko Ishii
Global Environment Facility
Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson

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Introduction

Safeguarding the environment through inclusive and sustainable industrial development

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.

This year, UNIDO celebrates 50 years since its creation, coinciding with the 25th anniversary of the GEF. 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.

The UNIDO-GEF partnership is unique within the global action agenda. Within its 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 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



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

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