



UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

Prosperity and sustainability for all



UNIDO AND EUROPEAN UNION COOPERATION 2005-2015

A partnership for inclusive and sustainable
industrial development

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Director General of UNIDO

Together, we can contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, eradicating poverty and delivering prosperity and sustainability for all.

The EU and UNIDO base their cooperation on solid foundations. Since 2005, our cooperation has continuously expanded and today we focus on supporting inclusive and sustainable industrial development in more than 100 countries.

Together, we assist countries and regions in creating shared prosperity and new jobs through higher quality production and inclusive trade. We have supported sustainable energy and industries that contribute to sustained growth, while preserving the environment and the climate. Moreover our cooperation enables the EU member states to connect with today's growth poles through internationalization of small and medium-sized enterprises, technology transfer and investment opportunities. The present report provides comprehensive information on all our joint activities across the world.

Our policy exchanges have progressively incorporated the various dimensions of sustainable development and helped establish linkages between UNIDO's core mandate and the EU's internal and external policies in such areas as development, industry, the environment, agriculture and rural development, trade, energy and climate change mitigation and adaptation, and health and consumer protection, as well as research and innovation. These joint efforts were especially crucial during the post-2015 development agenda negotiations.

The current challenges, such as addressing the root causes of migration, will also require our joint efforts in a range of areas, including capacity building, vocational training, and industrial cooperation. Together we can help young people in developing countries find job opportunities, particularly in small and medium-sized enterprises.

I am convinced that through increased collaboration, UNIDO and the EU can deliver tangible results that will effectively improve the lives of many in the developing world.



Li Yong





First Vice-President of the European Commission and responsible for Sustainable Development

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is about rethinking the way we live and work. Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development will help build circular economies that bring prosperity and sustainability for all.

Endemic poverty and unsustainable development on a global scale are a threat to all of us. With a worldwide growing population, we need to move from “take-make-consume and dispose” growth patterns to a circular economy where we use our scarce resources more efficiently. In order to live and grow within our planetary boundaries, we need to redefine our societies, our relationship with nature and be creative and innovative.

When industrialization is sustainable and inclusive, it can bring an important contribution to the new agenda: it can help to lift people out of poverty and provide them with opportunities for a better life, decent work, more qualified jobs and higher incomes. At the same time, knowledge and technology transfer as well as innovation will be necessary to limit the environmental and carbon footprint of productive activities. The European Union is ready to support this process at home and with its partner countries.

In the last ten years, the cooperation between the European Union and UNIDO has demonstrated, through tangible achievements in more than hundred countries, that moving towards circular economies while generating growth and jobs is possible. Beyond traditional technical assistance, our cooperation has also helped to establish bridges between enterprises and centres of excellence from Europe and partner countries.

The implementation of the 2030 Agenda will require more international cooperation than ever for experience sharing, capacity building, and progress monitoring. It provides a clear and ambitious roadmap for the European Union and UNIDO to scale-up and accelerate their joint efforts towards building prosperity and sustainability for all.



Frans Timmermans

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