

Industrious Africa

A SELECTION OF UNIDO'S ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA



UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

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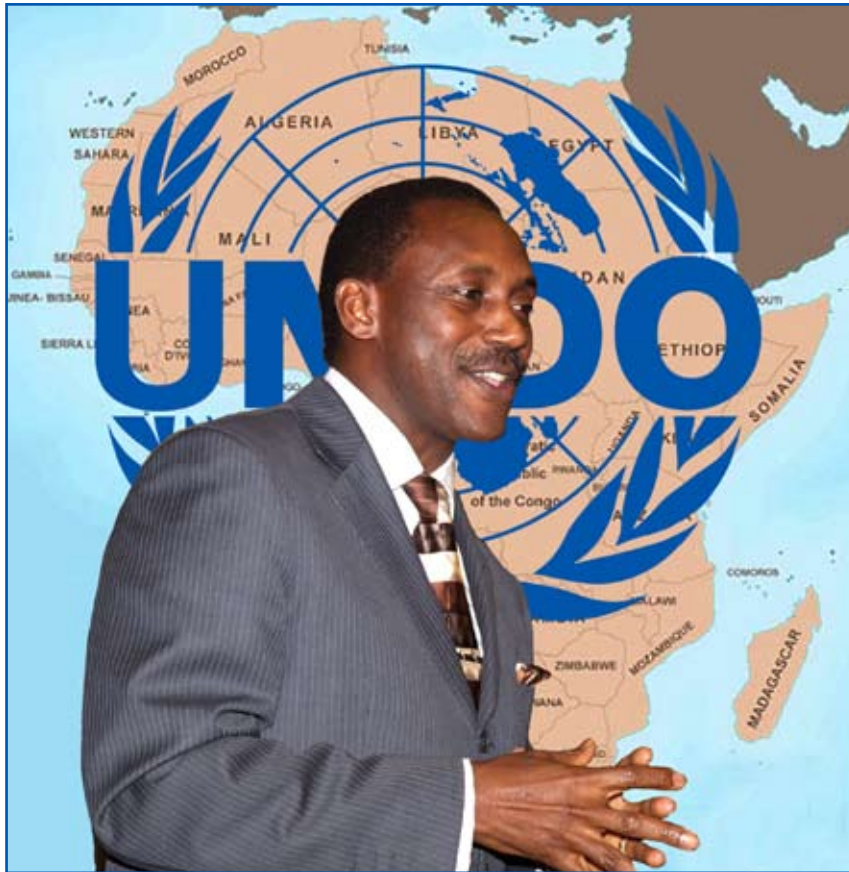
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All tons are metric and all dollars are US dollars. This book has not been formally edited.

Produced by the Africa Programme of the Regional and Field Coordination Branch,
Programme Coordination and Field Operations Division
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Printed in Austria



Dr. Kandeh K. Yumkella, Director-General of UNIDO

“What we need, in addition to the infrastructure and a supportive policy environment, is an emphasis on manufacturing. This enables us to export more and to create wealth in the economy. The synergies that we obtain from manufacturing are sustainable sources of development, with positive spill-overs on other sectors”

*Least Developed Countries
Ministerial Conference
Vienna, 29-30 November 2007*

“We cannot afford to be bystanders at the technological marvels that create economic value and transform societies. In an internationally competitive environment, we have to run fast even to stay where we are.”

*Extraordinary Conference of
African Ministers of Industry,
South Africa, 24-27 September 2007*

UNIDO'S AFRICA PROGRAMME



Discerning observers of Africa will have noticed that, despite the dire pictures shown on television or in the press, many African countries have emerged as open and democratic economies. The World Bank has recorded an average growth rate of 5.5 per cent in the last few years. If Africa is able to maintain this increase and at the same time pay attention to qualitative and equitable growth, we will soon see an acceleration in the number of jobs created. It is true that in some parts of Africa, perhaps many parts of Africa, poverty remains a serious challenge. But

in common with other Africans, I am convinced that poverty is not best served by handouts nor aid. What we need to do instead is to give people the tools, the skills, the education, the infrastructure to pull themselves out of poverty. An old and much quoted adage that says “If you teach a man to fish, you will be feeding him for life” is nowhere more relevant than in Africa.

UNIDO well understands the imperative of capacity building, and indeed it is the core element within our Organization's three thematic priorities: poverty reduction through productive activities, trade capacity building and energy and the environment. Several of the programmes illustrated in this booklet clearly show the efforts being made to build various kinds of capacities. We in UNIDO see the wisdom of trying to instil entrepreneurial skills in the young, before they leave school and join the competitive world of job-seekers. By teaching young people to stand on their own feet, armed with the knowledge and skills of their chosen

trade or profession, we will be saving an entire family, or perhaps an entire community, from poverty. Alongside the large-scale industries, it is essential to pay particular attention to small and micro industries.

This booklet, named *Industrious Africa* as a tribute to the hard work of countless millions of Africans who are learning to fish on their own in order to feed their families for life, can be seen as a follow-up to a publication issued last year by the Africa Bureau. *The Drum* reported on a number of events in and concerning Africa whereas this year, in line with the directives of the Director-General, we are concentrating on our projects and programmes, including programmes with a regional dimension. I trust that the many friends of Africa will find something of interest in this booklet. Obviously, this is only a small cross-section of UNIDO's activities in Africa, and information on other programmes is available from our web site or by contacting a member of the staff of the Africa Bureau (tel: +431 26026-3060).

I am pleased that this year, the Bureau has been strengthened by the addition of two professional staff members, while new appointments have been made to field posts in Africa. I also take great pride in the excellent collaboration that exists between the Headquarters and field staff that in turn benefits the countries we serve. I will take this opportunity to thank them all for their dedication both to the Bureau, and of course in the broader sense to Africa.

This year on the occasion of Africa Industrialization Day, I welcomed visitors and staff alike with the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, a famous African American who said “I have a dream”. Africa too has a dream, a vision and a destiny.



We come from the world's oldest inhabited continent. Our forefathers spread out and populated the entire globe. We have our Mount Kilimanjaro, the pyramids, the Nile, the Victoria Falls and much more. Ours is the land of the Zulus, where once the Songhai and Benin empires reigned; where illustrious sons like Mandela ensure a world with a conscience. The people of Africa are imbued with the same spirit. They have hopes, dreams, visions. We in UNIDO are

determined to join them to realise those dreams, not by passing around the hat, but by giving them an opportunity to help themselves and each other so that one day Africans will be able to say "We had a vision ... and we achieved it".

Felix Ugbor
Chief, Africa Programme unit

AFRICA INDUSTRIALIZATION DAY 2007

The decision to name a special day to draw attention to the industrial development needs of Africa was taken by the United Nations General Assembly in 1989 within the framework of the Second Development Decade for Africa (resolution 44/237 of 22 December 1989). For the past 18 years, it has been marked by celebrations in Africa, Vienna and New York, coordinated by UNIDO, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Union (formerly the Organization of African Unity). A special guest in Vienna at the 2007 celebration of Africa Industrialization Day was Mrs. Elisabeth Tankeu, Commission for Trade and Industry of the African Union (photo below). Mrs. Tankeu delivered a message on behalf of UNIDO, ECA and AU.



EXTRACT FROM THE STATEMENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL

“One of the most effective channels for eradicating poverty, creating wealth and enhancing competitiveness is through the acquisition, adaptation and application of relevant technologies. The New Partnership for Africa’s Development, under the auspices of the African Union, is making commendable efforts to provide a high-level platform for developing policies and setting priorities on science, technology and innovation for Africa’s socio-economic transformation.

Africa’s Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action, endorsed by the African Union earlier this year, is an important step forward. The challenge now is to move forward with implementation. That means improving infrastructure for research and development and increasing the number of scientists, technicians and engineers on the continent. It means improving regional cooperation and building strong political and civil society constituencies supporting the promotion of science and technology in Africa.

On this Africa Industrialization Day, let us reaffirm our commitment to supporting the various efforts aimed at harnessing science and technology in support of the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals [MDGs] in Africa. The United Nations system, including UNIDO, will continue to support these efforts.

EXTRACT FROM THE JOINT AFRICAN UNION/ECA/UNIDO STATEMENT

“Africa has witnessed improved growth in recent years – averaging 5.5 per cent per annum. Its development prospects have never been brighter. Nevertheless, poverty remains a serious challenge. This is because growth alone is not sufficient to propel broad-based development. For growth to be translated into sustained poverty reduction, greater attention needs to be placed on the quality of growth, its sustainability and spread. In this context, greater access to, acquisition and application of science, technology and innovation are critical for African countries to raise the quality of their human capital and consequently, enhance pro-poor growth. The theme of today’s celebration [Technology and Innovation for Industry - Investing in People is Investing in the Future] is a clarion call for a reorientation of policies and strategies in support of science, technology and innovation in all African countries. Africa, like the South East Asian region, needs to mobilize science, technology and innovation to meet its development challenges and for making progress towards the MDGs. Food insecurity, illiteracy, energy shortages, inadequate shelter, diseases (including HIV and AIDS), environmental degradation, among others, can be effectively addressed through harnessing the opportunities which science, technology and innovation offer. ...

The First African Ministerial Conference on Science and Technology held in 2003 under the auspices of the AU and its NEPAD Programme and the First Extraordinary Session of CAMI organized in September 2007 by the AU with the support of UNIDO have adopted respectively “Africa’s Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action” and the “Action Plan for Africa’s Industrial Development”, which provide road maps for the continent. We wish to record our appreciation for the support UNIDO has been providing to African countries in their effort to achieve sustainable industrial development.”

EXTRACT FROM THE STATEMENT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

“I wish to commend the close working relationship between UNIDO and UNDP in supporting industrialization and development efforts in Africa and elsewhere around the world. At the country-level, the UN system should continue to strive for greater coherence and coordination in order to support national efforts more effectively. As we mark Africa Industrialization Day this year, we should all be encouraged by the recent announcement by the World Bank that African economies are now growing at the steady rates needed to reduce poverty and attract more foreign direct investment. Over the past decade, African economies have grown on average by 5.4 per cent. According to the World Bank, continuing these positive trends would be “critical not only to Africa’s capacity to attain the Millennium Development Goals, but also to becoming an exciting investment destination for global capital.”

global partnerships

For African Governments, information is indispensable in the design of effective investment promotion policies. The problem is that the information and data publicly available is usually too sketchy and fragmented to allow for informed decisions by the main players in the investment promotion process. UNIDO's investment promotion strategy is to address these challenges by developing an investment-related information platform, with the assistance of Microsoft, which draws on periodical and extensive enterprise-based surveys.

Once the methodology is in place, UNIDO will conduct an enterprise-level survey in 35 African countries and launch the investment monitoring platform. The concept was adopted by the Conference of African Ministers of Industry, and the ACP Committee to the European Commission. Financing for the platform is provided through the European Union Economic Development Fund as well as matching funds from UNIDO, Italy and possibly other countries. The platform links the main players and stakeholders—government and national authorities, private sector investors, financial institutions, civil societies and development partners—in the investment promotion and development process.

The use of the monitoring platform will facilitate new business partnerships and enable government institutions to allocate scarce resources on a more effective and

enhanced subcontracting arrangements

Over the last 25 years, UNIDO has established some 60 Subcontracting and Partnership Exchanges (SPXs) in more than 30 countries, that been concentrating their efforts on information and matchmaking of local SMEs with international supply chains.

In line with the present dynamics of International business and the specific challenges in Africa, UNIDO will assign a new role to the SPXs aimed at promoting and understanding the requirements of the main contractors and buyers. The SPX will be based on supplier benchmarking to identify development gaps, which is a starting point for local upgrading requirements. In this context, the UNIDO Investment and Technology Promotion Offices (ITPOs), that are centres of expertise in development-oriented investment, will be mobilized for partnership promotion, technology infusion and financial support. Three SPXs of the new type are now established in Africa with different sources of funding. It is expected that they will be established in more African countries. Funding, envisaged under UNIDO's Industrial Restructuring and Upgrading Programme, is currently under negotiation within the framework of the Economic

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