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UNIDO activities related to energy and environment

UNIDO activities related to energy

Report by the Director-General

The present document supplements the information contained in documents IDB.39/8/Add.2*, IDB.39/8 and IDB.38/16 by providing updates on issues of relevance to UNIDO activities related to energy and climate change. The present document contains information on a number of high-level events that have been organized in the areas of global energy and climate change and outlines UNIDO involvement in the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20).

I. The Vienna Energy Forum 2011

1. The Vienna Energy Forum (VEF) 2011 “Energy for All — Time for Action”, co-organized by UNIDO, the Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, and the International Institute of Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), which took place from 21 to 23 June 2011, brought together about 1,400 participants from over 100 countries including policymakers, civil servants, scientists, energy experts, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). More than 50 government representatives and several former Heads of State or Government attended the VEF, which was supported, among others, by key partners including Germany, Italy, Poland, Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID). The VEF attracted extensive media coverage, including live broadcasts by the BBC.
2. The VEF facilitated an international dialogue on providing universal energy access and on the multiple co-benefits of increasing energy efficiency. The core themes addressed at the conference included: (a) agreeing on a common

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understanding of energy access; (b) agreeing on a strategy to ensure universal access to modern energy services and increase energy efficiency by 40 per cent by 2030; and (c) identifying indicative targets and policies in support of these objectives and prioritizing key national and regional actions on energy access and energy efficiency, and improved decision-making, including assistance for participation in international negotiations.

3. On 21 and 22 June 2011, UNIDO jointly with UN-Energy organized a Ministerial Meeting that focused on the role of energy and green industry in the context of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) themes and objectives, including green economy, poverty eradication and sustainable development. The outcome of this meeting was presented at the thirty-ninth session of the Industrial Development Board as the Chair's Summary of the Ministerial Meeting on Energy and Green Industry (IDB.39/CRP.6* refers).

4. The influential *Círculo de Montevideo* (CdeM) met in Vienna from 21 to 24 June for its annual meeting. The CdeM acts as a permanent forum for reflection among its 30 prominent members, aiming at reviewing and identifying strategies and means for promoting sustainable industrial development in the region of Latin America. Members of the CdeM include former Presidents and Heads of State, academics, and policymakers, leaders of international agencies and global leaders in different areas.

5. On the margins of the VEF, several smaller consultations or side events were organized by interested stakeholders. These included:

(a) A side event on the definition of access to energy hosted by the German Federal Ministry for Development Cooperation (BMZ);

(b) A side event on renewable energy in developing countries hosted by the Austrian Development Cooperation;

(c) A side event on clean energy access hosted by the Global Network on Energy for Sustainable Development (GNESD);

(d) A side event hosted by the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves;

(e) A side event on bioenergy hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO);

(f) An informal meeting of the International Advisory Board that is coordinating preparations for the high-level conference Energy for all — Financing access for the poor, which was to take place in Oslo from 10 to 11 October 2011;

(g) Informal consultations related to the Paris-Nairobi Climate Initiative;

(h) A meeting of the Global Energy Assessment (GEA) Council;

(i) A BBC World Debate that focused on options aimed at powering development in the twenty-first century.

II. International standard on energy management systems

6. A significant milestone was achieved this year in the area of international standards development for energy efficiency. In Geneva on 17 June 2011,

the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) launched the new standard ISO 50001 on energy management systems. UNIDO was recognized as an initiator of the normalization process for the standard and an active member of the technical development group. The standard will provide public and private sector organizations with management system best practices to increase energy efficiency, reduce costs and improve energy performance.

7. As indicated in document IDB.39/8/Add.2*, UNIDO will work over the next three years in more than ten developing countries and emerging economies to build technical capacity of enterprises and national institutions for the implementation of industrial energy management systems in accordance with ISO 50001. It is intended to provide organizations with a recognized framework for integrating energy performance into their management practices. The UNIDO projects will also strengthen existing institutional capacity as well as policy and regulatory frameworks to support the adoption of energy management system standards in industry.

III. The Africa Energy Ministers Conference

8. On 15 and 16 September, 2011, a ministerial conference Road to Durban: Promoting Sustainable Energy Access in Africa, which included numerous African Ministers of Energy, reached consensus on the priorities for supporting Africa's energy development agenda in a sustainable manner in advance of the 17th Conference of the Parties (COP17) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which is scheduled to take place in Durban, South Africa from 28 November to 9 December 2011. The ministerial conference, which was hosted by South Africa and the African Union, was supported by the World Bank and UNIDO. During the conference UNIDO convened a side event on training tools for sustainable energy, which was attended by numerous government representatives.

9. The ministerial conference adopted the Johannesburg Declaration, which identifies a range of priorities, including the need to dramatically expand access to modern, clean, high-quality energy services; develop energy security by scaling-up regional power supply and transmission; reduce climate change vulnerability; prioritize clean energy; secure financial resources; and build technology and innovation capacity.

10. Delegates also agreed to support the expansion of generation capacity with emphasis on regional projects, enhance funding for policy and institutional development activities, and to work together more closely on energy planning and international cooperation, as well as on regional trade and energy resource development.

11. Under a GEF-funded energy project, Greening the COP17 in Durban, UNIDO is collaborating with the Government of South Africa to reduce the carbon footprint of the COP17 event. This project will showcase the South Africa-GEF-UNIDO partnership to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, promote renewable energy, demonstrate low-carbon technologies and best practices, and raise levels of awareness on climate change challenges during COP17.

IV. Technology road map for carbon capture and storage for industry

12. As reported in document IDB.39/8/Add.2*, UNIDO has led the development of a technology road map for carbon capture and storage for industry (CCS) in order to advance the global uptake of low-carbon technologies in industry, particularly in developing countries and transition economies. CCS is a key emissions abatement option in industry for which, unlike in the power sector, there is no viable alternative. The industrial CCS road map is being funded and supported by the Norwegian Ministry of Petroleum and Energy, and the Global CCS Institute. The International Energy Agency (IEA) and the Energy Research Centre of the Netherlands are also partners in this activity.

13. On 20 September 2011, the IEA published a report entitled *Technology Roadmap — Carbon Capture and Storage in Industrial Applications*, which indicates that CCS could potentially play a significant role in reducing carbon dioxide emissions. The report contains a review of the current situation, an outlook for industrial capture technologies, and an outline of milestones, targets and policy needs.

V. Sustainable Energy for All Initiative

14. On 20 September 2011, the United Nations Secretary-General announced the establishment of a High-Level Group to advise and guide the Sustainable Energy for All Initiative. The initiative aims at supporting the implementation of three interlinked global targets, namely universal access to modern energy services, doubling energy efficiency, and doubling the share of renewable energy in the world's energy supply by 2030. The High-Level Group is co-chaired by the UNIDO Director-General and the Chairman of the Bank of America Corporation, Mr. Charles Holliday. The establishment of the High-Level Group follows the decision by the United Nations General Assembly to designate 2012 as the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All, and builds on the work of UNIDO in support of the Secretary-General's Advisory Group on Energy and Climate Change (AGECC) as well as activities initiated by UNIDO and its partners in the private sector and UN-Energy.

VI. UNIDO role and contribution to the Rio+20 Conference

15. The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), will be held in Rio de Janeiro from 4 to 6 June 2012. It will mark the twentieth anniversary of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), which was also held in Rio de Janeiro and the tenth anniversary of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg.

16. The objectives of the Rio+20 Conference are to secure renewed political commitment to the principles of sustainable development, to assess progress towards internationally agreed goals and to address new and emerging challenges. The Conference will also focus on two specific themes: a green economy in the

context of poverty reduction and sustainable development, and an institutional framework for sustainable development.

17. UNIDO, along with its partners in UN-Energy and other key stakeholders has been playing an active role in the preparatory process for the Rio+20 event as this represents an important opportunity to lay the foundation for strong, sustainable and balanced green growth through continuing industrialization.

18. Within this context, UNIDO will seek to focus attention on the need for a fundamental transformation of global energy systems, allowing developing countries to leapfrog current systems and gain access to clean, sustainable, affordable and reliable energy services.

19. A key contribution by UNIDO to Rio+20 is built around two major themes: Sustainable energy for all and green industry. UNIDO is committed to ensuring that the three energy goals on energy for sustainable development, otherwise known as the 30-40-30 agenda,¹ will be firmly reflected in the Conference proceedings and outcomes, particularly in the agenda for action and the sustainable development goals that are expected to be negotiated and internationally agreed to at Rio+20. UNIDO is working with UN-Energy partners on the development of the Secretary-General's Strategy on Sustainable Energy for All and the related Agenda for Action, which are to be launched at Rio+20 at the Thematic Day on Energy that will be one of numerous "Rio Thematic Days".

20. UNIDO will also work to build consensus around the green economy concept since it is important that developing countries are provided with concrete opportunities to participate in the global markets for environmental goods and services. The Organization intends to take the UNIDO Green Industry Initiative to Rio as this outlines policy frameworks, instruments and concrete examples of good practice measures that support the greening of the industrial sector in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. In this connection, the UNIDO Green Industry Initiative is also designed to create opportunities for developing countries to join the growing global market for greener products and services by promoting sustainable patterns of production and consumption.

VII. Action required by the Conference

21. The Conference may wish to take note of the information provided in the present document.

¹ Building on the work of AGECC, UNIDO advocates access to sustainable energy for all by 2030, the reduction in global energy intensity by 40 per cent by 2030 and the increase in the share of renewable energy in the final energy mix to 30 per cent by 2030.