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UNIDO activities related to energy and the environment

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Report by the Director General

The present document reports on the implementation of the Industrial Development Board's decision IDB.40/Dec.7 and provides information on latest developments. It supplements the information contained in the *Annual Report of UNIDO 2012* (IDB.41/2, chapter 4) and the reports on UNIDO activities in environment (IDB.40/15 and IDB.41/18).

I. Introduction

1. UNIDO continues to promote the development of a more sustainable model of industrial development through its flagship Green Industry Initiative and targeted global, regional and national projects in the areas of resource-efficient and cleaner production, water management and the elimination of environmentally harmful substances in industry through key multilateral environmental agreements.

II. Green Industry Initiative

2. UNIDO, together with the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology of China, will organize the third biennial Green Industry Conference, from 7 to 9 November 2013, in Guangzhou, China. The Conference will bring together international stakeholders to share success stories and innovations, from both

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practitioners and policymakers, related to overcoming the challenges of implementing Green Industry solutions and moving from a linear economy to a circular one. The Conference will help convey a more actionable understanding of how a Green Industry can be realized and strengthen action frameworks for further global engagement. From September to December 2013, UNIDO is additionally organizing a number of global events with various partner governments and organizations in New York, Seoul, London, Nairobi, Brussels and Lima. These will help achieve a wider uptake of the Green Industry approach and demonstrate the viability of Green Industry as a means to achieve sustainable industrial and economic development.

3. Global membership of the multi-stakeholder Green Industry Platform, jointly run by UNIDO and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), continues to expand. Over 150 governments, businesses, civil society and international organizations have signed the Platform's "Statement of Support" document, committing to pursue core Green Industry policies and practices. UNIDO and the Sustainable Europe Research Institute are developing a toolkit to benchmark the environmental performance of nine industrial sectors in 25 countries. Data from this exercise will form the baseline for measuring the success of national and sectoral Green Industry strategies.

4. In response to growing global demand for Green Industry capacity-building, UNIDO has held several training courses. These include a week-long programme on "Green Standards in Trade" in Vienna, Austria, the second Green Industry Summer School, in Budapest, Hungary and a further training course planned to take place in Bahrain in January 2014. UNIDO also contributed to a month-long training on the Green Economy and Green Growth held in Israel in August 2013 and will co-organize the sixth ASEAN-Plus-Three Leadership Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production, in October 2013.

III. Resource-Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP)

5. The United Nations Joint Programme "Green Production and Trade to Increase Income and Employment Opportunities for the Rural Poor", funded by the UNDP-Spain MDG Achievement Fund, was completed in June 2013. In total, 65 trainers and 1,430 grassroots producers of handicrafts were trained in cleaner production (CP) methods. In addition, CP assessments were conducted in 48 enterprises, of which 21 companies were assisted in redesigning their products to be more environmentally sustainable. They have reported \$100,000 in additional revenues as of January 2013.

6. UNIDO and UNEP, with the support of the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs of Switzerland, are holding the third Global Network Conference on RECP from 2 to 6 September 2013, in Montreux, Switzerland. The Conference unites representatives of the Global Network of Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production Centres, members of the donor community and relevant stakeholders to exchange and share experiences to facilitate the application and upscaling of RECP practices.

IV. Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)

7. Supplementing over 50 projects assisting the review and update of National Implementation Plans (NIPs), UNIDO is organizing the “New POPs Inventory Review Meeting” in Vienna, Austria, in September 2013. This meeting is organized to validate preliminary inventory reports on new industrial POPs and ensure the proper application of a guidance package developed by UNIDO, the Stockholm Convention Secretariat and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, for reviewing and updating NIPs and validating preliminary results. The review will help benchmark the quality of pending NIPs and form a critical element of UNIDO’s post-NIP activities.

8. UNIDO’s first project on new POPs was initiated in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to establish capacity for the removal of technical and economic barriers to the transfer of best available techniques and best environmental practices for remediation of contaminated sites at a government-owned organic chemicals producer. Additional projects on the development and promotion of non-POPs alternatives to dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane in India and on the reduction of unintentionally produced POPs releases from open burning sources in Armenia have recently been started by UNIDO.

9. UNIDO continues to assist countries in the elimination of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and has successfully commissioned a non-combustion plant in Mongolia to decontaminate transformer oils and safely dispose of PCBs. The non-combustion plant will be used to treat all PCBs that UNIDO estimates currently exist in Mongolia in the next one and a half years. Additional non-combustion equipment is also being deployed in Nepal and PCB-reduction projects have recently been approved for the Congo and Indonesia.

V. Water management

10. In April 2013, the GEF Council approved a public-private partnership project “Save the Source”, between UNIDO and a Carlsberg Group subsidiary, Baltika Breweries. “Save the Source” aims to catalyse the market transformation of breweries, from a major natural resource consuming industry to proactive champions of resource-efficient and cleaner production methods.

11. As the chair of UN-Energy and co-chair of the United Nations Secretary-General’s High-Level Group on Sustainable Energy for All, UNIDO is coordinating the 2014 campaign on “Water and Energy”. This includes the production of the flagship World Water Development Report 5, together with UN-Water and the World Water Assessment Programme of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

VI. Mercury

12. After three years of intergovernmental negotiations, during which UNIDO actively participated in the drafting of the text, the Minamata Convention on

Mercury will be signed on 9 October 2013, during the Plenipotentiary Conference in Japan. On this occasion, UNIDO will participate in side events showcasing UNIDO projects in the field of artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM), the Global Mercury Partnership, in which UNIDO is the co-lead for the ASGM sector, and UNIDO's activities outside of the ASGM sector in the industrial uses of mercury, remediation of mercury-contaminated sites and management of mercury-containing waste.

13. UNIDO is rapidly establishing a specialized role for improving the management and reduction of mercury, with nine projects in this area already approved and under implementation. Six of these are financed by the GEF. In addition to projects in Burkina Faso, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Mali, Peru, the Philippines, and Senegal, the GEF has also approved two projects focusing on the management of mercury-containing waste in Argentina and Mongolia.

VII. Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer

14. In 2013, UNIDO was again ranked as the top implementing agency of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol, with a historically high score of 100 out of 100 points. UNIDO is currently providing assistance to nearly 80 countries through a total of 220 ongoing Montreal Protocol projects, funded by the Multilateral Fund of the Montreal Protocol and bilateral agencies. UNIDO also has three ongoing GEF projects in countries with economies in transition.

15. The first control measure of the Montreal Protocol, which is to freeze hydrochlorofluorocarbon (HCFC) consumption at baseline level, has been met without any reports of non-compliance. The next target as per HCFC phase-out management plans (HPMPs) is a 10 per cent consumption reduction, to be met by the beginning of 2015. The different tranches of the HPMPs account for more than half of all ongoing UNIDO projects.

16. Progress continues to be made towards the development of a suitable scheme for accounting climate benefits from Montreal Protocol-related activities and leveraging financial support from outside the scope of the Multilateral Fund. In this respect, two proposals have been submitted to the GEF, combining the phase-out of ozone depleting substances and energy efficiency improvements.

VIII. Action required by the Conference

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