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**Entrepreneurs  
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forum 2019

WORLD ENTREPRENEURS  
INVESTMENT FORUM 2019  
Achieving the SDGs  
through Entrepreneurship  
and Innovation

Investing in the 4th Industrial  
Revolution in a Digital  
Economy





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# Event Summary

UNIDO ITPO Bahrain in cooperation with the Union of Arab Chambers, the Bahrain Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa, Union of Arab Banks, Al Baraka Banking Group and 35 partners have successfully organized the 3rd World Entrepreneurs Investment Forum 2019 (WEIF 2019), which was held concurrently with the 18th Arab Businessmen and Investors Conference (ABIC) from 11 to 13 November 2019 at the Ritz Carlton Hotel in Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain; under the auspices of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of Bahrain. It is worth noting that BADEA has been the main supporter and financial sponsor for WEIF for the past three editions.

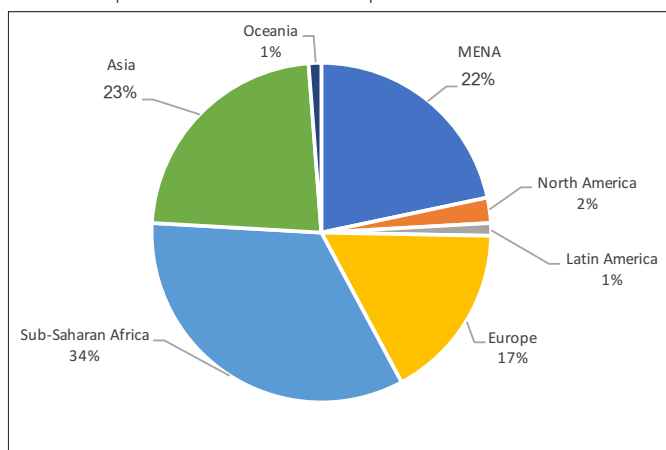


Figure 1: Percentage of WEIF participation by region

The WEIF 2019 was held in the presence of HE Mr. Ahmed Abou El Gheit, Secretary General of the League of Arab States and a written statement sent by HE Mr. Antonio Gueterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, addressing WEIF 2019 where he conveyed that “the Fourth Industrial Revolution provides us with a tremendous opportunity. By leveraging emerging technologies with entrepreneurial spirit and investment, we can accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. This is critical as we enter the Decade of Action to deliver the SDGs by 2030. A 21st century entrepreneur, especially those in the technology space, has a responsibility to consider the climate, the most vulnerable, and future generations.”



HE Eng. Yousef Al Bassam, Chairman BADEA Board of Directors; delivering an opening statement at the WEIF 2019 inauguration



Figure 2: Map showing the country of origin of WEIF attendees

Both events brought together 1500 participants from 83 countries representing: Ministers, officials, dignitaries, experts, entrepreneurs, investors, NGOs, financial developmental funds, banks, academicians, support institutions and chambers; with the ultimate goal of forging joint investments between entrepreneurs and to exchange knowledge, share innovative best practices, leverage domestic and foreign direct investments, and to establish new partnerships in favour of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with a focus on innovative approaches afforded by the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR).

In addition to the numerous high-level panel discussions, keynote speeches and side events, Entrepreneur to Entrepreneur bilateral meetings were organized over the 3 days of WEIF, paving the way for high-level representatives and entrepreneurs to discuss investment and business opportunities. These bilateral meetings were a resounding success, with over 1400 bilateral meetings being held, resulting in the signing of 106 letters of intent and a combined estimated investment of USD 22 million.

During the closing ceremony, Dr Hashim Hussein, Head of UNIDO ITPO Bahrain, announced the 3rd Manama Declaration, which calls for action to implement effective policies and strategies to support entrepreneurship and innovation for inclusive and sustainable industrial development.



WEIF 2019 official inauguration

# Kingdom of Bahrain

Manama is Bahrain's capital and also its largest city. It enjoys a distinct reputation as a regional and international tourism and cultural hub, as was evident by its selection as the Capital of Arab Culture in 2012, the Capital of Arab Tourism in 2013, the Capital of Asian Tourism in 2014 and Muharraq being named the capital of Islamic Culture in 2018.

Bahrain has manifested a keen interest and strong commitment towards achieving the SDGs and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. Building on its Economic Vision 2030 and the Government Action Plan 2019-2022, the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain, with support from the UN, has reinforced its commitment to further improve living standards for the Bahraini people, through sustainable development.

Bahrain is characterized by its diversified economic structure, which is based on modern and integrated infrastructure and sophisticated legislation. It pursues economic freedom as a strategic option to encourage both domestic and foreign investments, which has positioned Bahrain as an attractive destination for global companies, investors and budding entrepreneurs. According to the World Bank's 2019 "Doing Business" report, Bahrain ranks 62nd in the world for the ease of conducting business, and the World Economic Forum's 2018 "Global Competitiveness Report" ranks it 50th. Additionally, in 2018, Bahrain took home the honours for being ranked 1st in the MENA Human Capital Index (World Bank), 1st in the MENA ICT Readiness Index (ITU), 1st in the Conway Best to Invest in MENA award, whilst it placed 2nd in DHL's Global Connected-

ness Index. Bahrain's business-friendly environment also saw it ranked 5th in the MENA region and 35th out of 134 countries in the 2018 Global Entrepreneurship Index.

2018 saw an encouraging increase in foreign direct investment (FDI) from 0.2% of its GDP in 2015 to 4% in 2018, with numerous major non-oil related multinational investors such as Amazon, Ariston Thermo and Mondeléz International choosing Bahrain as their regional bases. According to the Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA), Bahrain has seen a 50% increase to the number of firms in the country, as well as an overall increase of 30% to the number of private sector jobs.

According to Bahrain's Economic Development Board (EDB) the Kingdom's GDP has grown successfully over the past several years to reach \$37.75 Billion in 2018. Due to its liberal economic policies and the clear roadmap that aims to achieve prosperity for the society, the country's economy continued its upward trajectory in 2018 with a real GDP growth rate estimated at 1.8%. Bahrain's ambitions to diversify its revenue streams have seen non-oil sectors post an average annual growth rate of 4.4% between 2014-2017, as well as a positive growth rate of 2.5% in 2018. Additionally, micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) now play a crucial role in the Bahraini economy, accounting for 30% of its GDP and almost 75% of all jobs within the private sector.



# World **Entrepreneurs** Investment Forum 2015 & 2017

The first World Entrepreneurs Investment Forum in 2015, was held under the patronage of HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, The Prime Minister of Bahrain, under the theme “Entrepreneurship and Investment for Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development” and officially inaugurated by HH Shaikh Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa the Deputy Prime Minister in the presence of HE Mr. Li Yong, the UNIDO Director General and a number of senior officials and dignitaries. In recognition of the occasion, the United Nations Secretary General, HE Mr. Ban Ki-moon, issued a special statement highlighting the significance of such a forum in the wake of the global financial crisis.

During the 2015 event, the Manama Declaration on Entrepreneurship and Development was adopted to outline a set of recommendations derived from the two days of deliberations and discussions held among the 85 experts and 650 entrepreneurs from 80 countries, who participated in the Forum on Entrepreneurship and Investment for Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development, held from 19 to 21 January 2015. The importance of the Manama Declaration was further signified by its circulation during the 2015 United Nations General Assembly.

In 2017, under the patronage of HRH Prince Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, The Prime Minister of The Kingdom of Bahrain, UNIDO ITPO Bahrain along with a sizeable number of 35 regional and international partners, organized the World Entrepreneurs Investment Forum (WEIF) 2017 under the main theme of “Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals through Entrepreneurship and Innovation”. His Excellency Mr. António Guterres, Secretary General of the United Nations, issued a video statement commending the World Entrepreneurs Investment Forum and UNIDO ITPO Bahrain for its continued progress towards achieving inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

1,200 Experts and entrepreneurs from over 90 countries gathered at the Bahrain International Exhibition Centre in Manama calling upon governments, the private sector, academia, civil society, media, and international organizations to facilitate the promotion of entrepreneurs and innovative enterprises by developing economic infrastructure and incubation management systems to ensure inclusive and sustainable development.

In the presence of HE Mr. Miroslav Lajčák, President of the 72nd session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, the Forum concluded with the strongest support for entrepreneurship and innovation as drivers of job creation, economic growth, and the realization of social gains. The international community was urged to incorporate entrepreneurship and innovation in all economic and social dimensions as key strategies to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially at a national level. The key role that entrepreneurs can play in bringing more jobs and prosperity to the Maritime-Continental Silk Road – the modern-day successor to the ancient trade routes linking Europe and Asia – was also highlighted during the Forum, as well as the importance of global impact investment and that in striving to achieving the SDGs entrepreneurship and innovation are and will remain as key factors. The various events and activities organized through WEIF and its secretariat hosted at UNIDO ITPO Bahrain signifies the pioneering role of WEIF in becoming the only United Nations Forum on Entrepreneurship and Innovation.



# The Event

## WEIF Official Launch at UNIDO 18th General Conference in Abu Dhabi

In line with the UNIDO 18th General Conference held in Abu Dhabi, UNIDO ITPO Bahrain organized a special side event under the theme "A perspective from Arab and African countries on how to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals through Entrepreneurship and Innovation" on November 4th which served as the official launch of WEIF 2019 activities by Mr. Li Yong, UNIDO Director General. In addition to that at the same time aimed at addressing three main objectives: (1) the 4th Industrial Revolution and sharing international best practices and successes on promoting domestic investment to leverage Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) linked to entrepreneurship and innovation. (2) Highlighting best government practices to enhance economic development and adopt systems, financial inclusion tools for productivity and sustainability. (3) Creating linkages with financial institutions for entrepreneurs/investors and develop joint programs with developmental financial institutions.



(L-R): Dr Hashim Hussein, Head, UNIDO ITPO Bahrain; H.E Rashid Al Balooshi; H.E. Yousef Al Bassam; H.E. Mr. Li Yong, Director General, UNIDO; H.H. Sheikh Faisal bin Rashid bin Isa Al Khalifa, Vice President of the Supreme Council for Environment, Kingdom of Bahrain



Mr. Bernardo Calzadilla-Sarmiento, UNIDO Director of Trade, Investment and Innovation



HE Mr. Weixi Gong, Chief of UNIDO's Investment Promotion Division and Coordinator for the Investment and Technology Promotion Offices

Mr. Bernardo Calzadilla-Sarmiento, UNIDO Director of Trade, Investment and Innovation provided opening remarks to the side event. Keynote speakers at the side event included HE Mr. Li Yong, Director General, UNIDO; HH Shaikh Faisal bin Rashid bin Isa Al Khalifa, Vice President of the Supreme Council for Environment, Bahrain; H.E. Eng. Yousef Al Bassam, Chairman of the Board of Directors Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa.

In addition, Dr. Hashim Hussein, Head of UNIDO ITPO Bahrain, moderated a panel session that included the following panellists; HE Dr Diene Keita, Minister of Cooperation and African Integration, Conakry – Republic of Guinea; Dr. Khaled Hanafy, Secretary General, Union of Arab Chambers; Mr. Taha Ayhan, President, Islamic Conference Youth Forum for Dialogue & Cooperation; Dr Ismahane Elouafi, Director General, International Center for Biosaline Agriculture.

The Entrepreneurs Testimonials panel session featured 5 women entrepreneurs that have been supported by the Bahrain Model for Enterprise Development & Investment Promotion Program (EDIP). The side event also included closing remarks provided by Mr. Weixi Gong, Chief of UNIDO's Investment Promotion Division and Coordinator for the Investment and Technology Promotion Offices.



# 18th Arab Businessmen and Investors Conference

In conjunction with the World Entrepreneurs Investment Forum 2019, the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) held the 18th Arab Businessmen and Investors Conference (ABIC) titled: "Shaping the Future, Digital disruptions for a better tomorrow". The conference aimed to guide the private sector towards achieving His Majesty's directives of developing a comprehensive national plan to ensure that Bahrain is fully prepared to meet the needs of the digital economy and Fourth Industrial Revolution (IR 4.0). Additionally, these directives are aligned with the Kingdom's Vision 2030 and has positioned Bahrain as uniquely qualified to lead IR 4.0 and build "a modern civilized state that keeps pace with the scientific and technical advancements which characterize global development".



HE. Mr. Sameer Nass, Chairman, Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry

The main objectives of the ABIC were to; Drive investment in entrepreneurship and innovation in the digital revolution in the Arab world, and to enhance the regulatory cooperation between the Arab countries in this field; Highlight opportunities and challenges of the 4th Industrial Revolution to key stakeholders from the private and public sectors; Understand the need to move ahead and align with global developments and disruptive innovations which are driving major breakthroughs across many industries and sectors; and to Empower the audience with the knowhow needed to effectively be part of the transformation that Industry 4.0 is bringing and emphasize on the need to embrace technological innovation as a means of fostering entrepreneurship and productivity.

The conference provided a platform for influential voices including heads of nations, technology leaders, political statesmen, financial experts, economic decision makers and celebrities that are shaping industries globally. Amongst the extensive list of renowned leading influential experts in attendance were the likes of; President Toomas Ilves, Past-President of Estonia; Peter Diamandis, Founder and Chairman of The XPRIZE Foundation; Aaron Heslehurst, Award Winning BBC World TV Presenter; Richard Quest, Renowned CNN Business Correspondent; Jeff Hoffman, Award Winning Entrepreneur; and Salim Ismail, Co-Founder and Chairman of OPENEXO.

The expertise and knowledge shared throughout the ABIC not only helped to enrich those attending with their experiences and knowledge on IR 4.0, but also brought to the table a global perspective on the future of manufacturing, business, environment, people and nations.

In the digital age, where modern technology shortens product lifetimes and constantly shifts economic models, the most valuable resources are entrepreneurs and innovators. Through preparing for and embracing digital transformation, and the empowerment of entrepreneurship and innovation we can achieve sustainable growth and development.



On behalf of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister inaugurating in the presence of senior high level dignitaries the 18th Arab Businessmen and Investors Conference held concurrently with the World Entrepreneurs Investment Forum 2019

# UN Secretary General Statement



## THE SECRETARY-GENERAL MESSAGE TO WORLD ENTREPRENEURS INVESTMENT FORUM Manama, Bahrain, 11-13 November 2019

I am pleased to greet the World Entrepreneurs Investment Forum, and I welcome your discussions on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals through entrepreneurship and innovation.

The Fourth Industrial Revolution provides us with a tremendous opportunity. By leveraging emerging technologies with entrepreneurial spirit and investment, we can accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. This is crucial as we enter the Decade of Action to Deliver the SDGs by 2030.

A 21st century entrepreneur, especially those in the technology space, has a responsibility to consider the climate, the most vulnerable, and future generations.

We face a crucial challenge: harnessing the benefits new technologies bring, while safeguarding against the risks from their misuse. The report released by my High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation earlier this year can help guide our efforts. It calls for improved connectivity, smart regulation that fosters innovation, and a global digital architecture that promotes trust, security and cooperation.

The United Nations remains a platform to draw global attention to these crucial matters and to nurture a digital future that is safe and beneficial for all. Please accept my best wishes for a successful forum.



# The World Entrepreneurs Investment Forum 2019

The WEIF 2019 was officially inaugurated on November 11th concurrently with the 18th Arab Businessmen and Investors Conference by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister on behalf of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the King of Bahrain.

On November 12th the WEIF 2019 was officially inaugurated with an opening statement by HH Shaikh Faisal bin Rashid bin Isa Al Khalifa, Vice President of the Supreme Council for Environment and HE Ms. Fatou Haidara, UNIDO Managing Director Corporate Management and Operations, in addition to an opening statement by the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism.



H.H Sheikh Faisal bin Rashid bin Isa Al Khalifa, Vice President of the Supreme Council for Environment; H.E. Ms Fatou Haidara, UNIDO Managing Director Corporate Management and Operations

Ms. Fatou Haidara, UNIDO Managing Director emphasized in her opening remarks the need for more sustainability, inclusiveness and partnerships and the critical part that women and youth play in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 SDGs. Furthermore, she highlighted the achievements of the UNIDO ITPO Bahrain office stating that "ITPO Bahrain successfully contributes to reduce development imbalances by brokering investment and technology agreements while fostering entrepreneurs in developing countries over 40 years", which is needed to create a better world for all.

High level speakers at the opening included HE Eng. Yousef Al Bassam Chairman of the Board of Directors Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa; HE Dr. Khaled Hanafy, Secretary General Arab Union of Chambers; HE Mrs. Veronika Peshkova, UNIDO Goodwill Ambassador and HE Mr. Jonathan Ortman, President Global Entrepreneurship Network

During the opening ceremony HE Mr. Mohamed El Kettani, Chairman of the Board of the Center of very Small Solidarity Enterprises emanating from the Mohammed V Foundation for solidarity – Morocco; was acknowledged for his pioneering and visionary role towards the economic empowerment of youth and women in the Arab region and Africa.



WEIF 2019 Official Inauguration



Mr Osama Alarrayedh, Undersecretary, Industrial Affairs, Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism; H.H Sheikh Faisal bin Rashid bin Isa Al Khalifa, Vice President of the Supreme Council for Environment; HE Shaikh Ebrahim Al Khalifa, Honorary Chairman Board of Trustees, Arab International Centre for Entrepreneurship & Investment, Bahrain

# WEIF Main Theme

Following the success of the 2017 World Entrepreneurs Investment Forum, the main theme for WEIF 2019 was “Achieving the SDGs through Entrepreneurship & Innovation”, with a key focus on “Investing in the 4th Industrial Revolution in a Digital Economy”. The WEIF 2019 emphasized the pressing need to promote domestic investment as a tool to leverage foreign direct investment, thus leading to job creation and economic growth, in the context of the opportunities and challenges of 4th Industrial Revolution (4IR). Some of the opportunities and challenges faced include their stability, as well as the underlying economic and social factors that are poised to address them.



Further highlights of the event included discussions around the need for the enhanced financial and educational inclusion of entrepreneurs in the context of the 4th Industrial Revolution, as well as the need to better institutionalize innovations at the national, regional and global level. A special focus was also given to SDG9 which calls to “build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation” – the session stressed the importance of increasing investments in infrastructure, industrialization and innovations around the globe, but especially in developing countries, including the MENA region and Africa.

Over the course of the WEIF 8, 2019 in-depth panels were held that provided a platform for 52 speakers including ministers, dignitaries, industry experts and entrepreneurs to openly review and discuss the key topics of the forum; hence the forum encompassed the following panel topics: a ministerial panel; from Industry 4.0 to Finance 4.0; Institutionalizing Innovation; High level session; 4th Industrial Revolution; Best Practices towards achieving SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure; Entrepreneurs and Support institutions testimonials; and how to promote innovative entrepreneurs and enterprises in the area of culture and creative industries.



HE Mr Aymen Almoayed, Minister of Youth and Sports, speaking at the WEIF Ministerial panel

# WEIF

## 2019 Panels

Across the numerous panel sessions, WEIF 2019 promoted and highlighted the role of bankable impactful investment and innovation towards economic development and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, while showcasing the current challenges and opportunities towards sustainable economic development in developing countries, particularly in the Middle East, North Africa, and Sub-Saharan Africa, Central Europe and Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Countries.

The fundamental basis of the WEIF 2019 was built around the opportunities and challenges faced by these regions, such as;

### Ministerial Panel on the Role of Entrepreneurship Towards Addressing Challenges in the Arab Region & Africa

The panel was moderated by Mr. Nejib Friji, Director of the International Peace Institute for the MENA Region and included the participation of H.E. Mr. Aymen Tawfiq Almoayed, Minister Youth and Sports Affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain, H.E. Mr. Mohd Redzuan Md Yusof, Minister of Entrepreneur Development of Malaysia, H.E. Mr. Jibril Rajoub, Minister of Youth and Sports of the State of Palestine, H.E. Mr. M. Amadou Thiam, Minister of Institutional Reforms and Civil Society of the Republic of Mali.

In line with the high level of unemployment and the need to create jobs in the MENA region and Africa; the panel addressed the role and vision of various governments towards promoting economic development and innovation through entrepreneurship in the backdrop of the 4th digital revolution, and taking into consideration the below background.

Unemployment is currently one of the greatest development challenges facing countries globally, in particular, those in the Arab region and Sub-Saharan Africa. In terms of population dynamics, almost 70% of the population in sub-Saharan Africa is under the age of 30. This equates to roughly 743 million of the 1.061 billion people that live in the region. Whilst in the Arab-region, roughly 400 million people, or 65% of the entire population, are under the age of 30.

In fragile contexts and conflict settings, youth often face increased burdens, such as disruptions and/or the complete collapse of the education sector, as well as a significant lack of economic and employment opportunities. It has been widely recognized that the disruption to youth's access to education and economic opportunities can have a dramatic impact on the durability of peace and prevention of violence. Youth unemployment, underemployment and poor wages can have an adverse long-term impact on human, economic and social capital, and can weaken their sense of social belonging. This can trigger a vicious cycle of intergenerational poverty, vulnerability, unrest and conflict.

Lack of opportunities often exacerbates their political, social and economic circumstances, leading to many youths feeling marginalised, as well as leaving them with an increased resentment and mistrust towards governments or institutions



designed to protect them. With little opportunity and an increasing access to information and communication technologies, these youth are often vulnerable to radicalisation and extremist ideologies. Whilst only a minute proportion of youth do become involved in violent or extremist ideologies, young people do tend to account for the majority of those engaged in such activities.

It has been recognized that the answer to employment generation lies in the promotion of the private sector – notably the entrepreneur – through the promotion of investments, both foreign and domestic. The private sector/entrepreneurs are a key partner for economic development, with micro, small, and medium sized enterprises (MSMEs) contributing to high employment rates, poverty reduction, bottom-up economic growth, structural change, and innovation. Entrepreneurship also has a positive role in bridging the technology gap and provide opportunities for the unemployed to exhibit their potential by being job creators. Economic development ensures the increase in job creation, provided that support is rendered to entrepreneur. Entrepreneurial support helps to facilitate enterprise creation, which in turn stimulates innovation and creativity. Moreover, there is a need to put in place and maintain a conducive business environment that stimulates enterprise creation and growth, especially for the micro, small and medium enterprises. This will, in turn, play a positive role in bridging the technology gap and render more competitive MSMEs.

However, entrepreneurs require support to facilitate enterprise creation and ensure their sustainability, whilst addressing several challenges. In particular, the educational system does not provide young entrepreneurs with the appropriate skills required, in addition to facing difficulties in accessing capital and business development services that are particularly geared to new entrepreneurs. Entrepreneurs tend to be perceived as high-risk, and are often less knowledgeable about networks, markets and investment opportunities and sources of information than older players.

Tapping the potential of the massive youth populations worldwide could be the opportunity of the century. To change the trajectory of living in challenging circumstances around the world, young people need economic opportunities, civic engagement, and justice as well as opportunities to positively change their communities. The central challenge for the region

is to boost growth and create political conditions and economic opportunities to engage its young working-age residents.

If the raised expectations of masses of young people are left unmet, the absence of justice and dignity will foster frustrations, despair, and maltreatment of others. This will further contribute to social protest and religious radicalization, often in tandem with the rise of secularism. Such social and political instability also contributes to mass immigration fleeing violence, poverty, or simply a lack of opportunity.

## Financial Inclusion 4.0 for Entrepreneurs

In line with the status of financial inclusion and access to finance; this panel moderated by Mr. Wissam Fatouh, Secretary General of the Union of Arab Banks, focused on addressing existing financing schemes and the road forward to ensure that entrepreneurs are better equipped to receive funding. Hence the session included a wide spectrum of speakers representing major bankers as HE Mr. Mohamed Kettani, Chairman of Wafatijari Bank; in addition to senior experts in angel funding, crowd funding and fintech.

The panel served as a platform for addressing the 2017 Global Findex database used by the World Bank to measure financial inclusion; and which indicates that 1.7 billion adults lack an account globally; let alone financial services.

For obvious reasons, account ownership is prevalent in high-income economies, where 94% of adults have an account. However, in developing economies, the proportion of the adult population with account ownership is significantly lower at only 63%. Some economies who have achieved considerable gains in account ownership over the years lost out on opportunities for greater progress due to the insufficient inclusion of women, as well as age restrictions. Additionally, almost 30% of all unbanked adults around the globe are between the ages of 15 to 24 years old.

Sub-Saharan Africa had some positive moves in this area; In 2011 the level of financial inclusion in Sub-Saharan Africa was just over 23%. In 2017, it was almost 43%, with a significant increase coming from digital financial services. According to Findex, the share of adults in Sub-Saharan Africa with a mobile money account almost doubled to 21%. Whereas in every other region of the world, mobile money use is lower than 10%.

This has resulted in a reliance on the growing micro-financing industry. Although access to microfinance can support an entrepreneur's economic security, it should not be considered a substitute to other financial institutions. As such, measures need to be taken to ensure these financial institutions are able to respond to the needs of entrepreneurs. It is important to bear in mind that micro-finance limits entrepreneurs' capabilities to grow and migrate from micro to small to medium enterprises, especially considering that it mainly focuses on financial services, and is often not equipped or does not provide effective added value non-financial services.

## Panel: High level panel on Institutionalizing Innovation

Institutionalizing Innovation as a theme was addressed into three panels as it represents the core focus of the forum. The high-level panel brought about an international perspective as envisaged by major players namely the Islamic Conference Youth Forum; the World Women Entrepreneurs Association, Seventh Generation Advisors and the leading Egyptian Center

for Economic Studies. The panel composition gave it the flexibility to highlight the challenges faced by youth and women within the backdrop of the economic implications to safeguard the environment.

The second panel focused on the means to instill innovation in entrepreneurs at an early stage; and how innovation can be embedded in all aspects of the enterprise and how we can develop ecosystems that enable innovation. This session was moderated by Mr. Weixi Gong, Chief of UNIDO's Investment Promotion Division and Coordinator for the Investment and Technology Promotion Offices and included a number of high-level speakers who shared their experiences on the topic. One of the main recommendations of this session is that innovation should be addressed from the grass root as well as a top down approach as it entails a strong partnership between the public and private sector.

The third panel aimed at how to promote innovative entrepreneurs and enterprises in the area of culture and creative industries. The panel was led by the Creative Business Network in Denmark and highlighted the Nordic countries best practice in unleashing innovation that touches all aspects of our lives whether through artificial intelligence, medical breakthrough and even music.

Developing countries much like the Arab Region and Africa are generally considered to be a major source of untapped potential. In addition to being well educated, they are reported to have ambitious intentions. A 2016 study revealed that the females in the MENA region have the second highest entrepreneurial intentions, but only relatively few of them translate those intentions into entrepreneurial actions. Reports show that MENA female entrepreneurs are ranked 2nd for ambitious intentions and often possess greater levels of innovation, possibly bringing new solutions to the market. Additionally, they also tend to hire more employees, thus creating income for themselves and their families, whilst providing jobs for others.

Africa is the only region in the world where more women than men choose to become entrepreneurs, whilst nearly half of all millennial entrepreneurs (47%) are women. African entrepreneurship appears to be undergoing a transformation that is often referred to as the "feminisation" of entrepreneurship.

According to the UN Women, there are still significant gender gaps in relation to innovation and technology, meaning that innovation does not benefit women and men on an equal level. Moreover, the WIPO states that "There is plenty of evidence that increased participation by women improves the innovation performance of organizations and societies." It has been determined that trillions of dollars will continue be lost in the global economy, as well as the digital revolution if innovations are not gender responsive.

It is important to understand reasons behind this to be able to capitalize on these high rates of intent to start a business. In 2007, a survey of the MENA countries reported that most women identified work/family balance as the most challenging issue. The 2017 Mastercard Index of Women's Entrepreneurship (MIWE) results also revealed what drives female entrepreneurs in developing countries: resilience, determination and the desire to provide for their families and communities. The findings reinforce that women entrepreneurs are the backbone of economic growth and powerful engines of development and financial inclusion, especially in Africa and the Arab Region.



## Industry 4.0

Industry 4.0 is an integral part of SDG 9; hence two panels were organized around this theme namely 4th Industrial Revolution and Best Practices towards achieving SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure.

The panel 4th Industrial Revolution; was moderated by Mr. Ubaydli Al Ubaydli, Chairman of the Arab Union of ICT and included speakers from the Dubai Technology Entrepreneurship Centre and Dubai Silicon Oasis Authority; the World Summit Awards, SAP, Rochester Institute of Technology, Bahrain EGovernment Authority and senior experts on Artificial Intelligence from the King Abdulaziz University. The panel was an eye opener to all participants at it provided an oversight to the future of Industry and the disruptive technologies associated with it.

The panel entitled Best Practices towards achieving SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure; was a platform to show case what success stories are their addressing SDG 9 and the same time served as a benchmark on what is needed for our societies, communities, innovators and entrepreneurs to be able to remain competitive in this fast-changing world. The panel included speakers from the Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei one of the leading think tanks in Europe; Strata Manufacturing in United Arab Emirates and the confederation of Indian Industries; all within the scope of financial inclusion.

It is worth noting that the Fourth Industrial Revolution is characterized by a fusion of technologies that is blurring the lines between the physical, digital, and biological spheres. The speed of technological development is increasing and eroding advantages of market proximity and low wages in the manufacturing and service sectors in favour of innovation and effective absorption of new technologies. The Arab world still needs to address some of the basic issues that will allow it to navigate through these developments. With half of the population not connected to the Internet, connectivity remains problematic for large parts of the region, especially in rural areas. In addition, the education systems need to train students to have a flexible, creative, and critical mind-set, as well as the capacity to learn continuously and adapt to the challenges that the production and economic systems created by the Fourth Industrial Revolution will impose on them. Next generation technologies such as Robotics Process Automation (RPA), Artificial Intelligence (AI), and the Internet of Things (IoT) is driving the next industrial revolution – also referred to as industry 4.0.

The Internet of Things allows autonomous thought in everything from the simplest household appliance to the advanced machinery of heavy industry. And leaps forward in robotics and machine learning herald a new era of non-human labour in society's most monotonous and hazardous fields of endeavour. In manufacturing across the region, for instance, Industry 4.0 will open new avenues further down the value chain. On the digital side, cloud-based traffic in MENA is set to grow exponentially faster than any other region in the world through 2021. Thus, development of secure, scalable cloud solutions across the GCC is paramount to efficient, productive operations in public and private sectors sooner than we might think.

The swiftly spreading Fourth Industrial Revolution—a dramatic change that involves a range of new technologies that are fusing the physical, digital, and biological worlds, impacting all disciplines, economies, and industries—provides new opportunities that can support growth. In this context, entrepreneurship and diversification will be key to enabling Arab societies to thrive and prosper in the coming decades.

The Arab & African world is at a critical juncture. Ambitious economic and social reforms bring great economic promise to the region and at the same time we continue to see fragility and persisting inequalities that can potentially erode social cohesion. Within a rapidly changing geopolitical landscape, the world is moving from a unipolar system of governance toward a multipolar and multi-conceptual order grounded in competing sets of values and precarious friction points. In this context, much of the hope in these developing regions rests on the imperative of constructing a social contract between the population and the state that is based on a more competitive and open economy, with a dynamic and entrepreneurial private sector offering employment prospects for the region.

## Education 4.0

The panel themed “Best practices and Testimonials” featured a number of support institutions from Morocco, Sudan and Nigeria who were able to develop a conducive ecosystem that led to achieving successes to their entrepreneurs. Hence, the panel also included some of these successful entrepreneurs that have been able to start and grow their businesses. This panel is under education as it all originates from the first building block represented by the urgent need to develop and adapt the existing educational systems from the school level to universities.

As the availability of appropriate talent to address this changing landscape remains an issue in the Arab and sub-Saharan Africa regions. Enrolment in tertiary education still lags behind and places both the Arab and sub-Saharan Africa regions amongst the worst in the world in this regard. For sub-Saharan Africa, the future success of the continent lies, to a large degree, in its ability to hone the skills and talents of its ever-growing population. An estimated 10 million graduates enter the African workforce each year. By 2040, the continent's labor force is expected to surpass that of India and China. Over the past 15 years, the global community has made a lot of effort in inspiring and engaging women and girls in science. The concern is that they are still under-represented in STEM related fields, despite resenting more than half the population in Africa. Studies indicate that many will benefit from more self-employment opportunities through the increase of the integration of inclusive entrepreneurial education into formal education and universities. This has been a growing global trend that is prevalent in developed countries where formal entrepreneurship education is available in more than 30 % of their post-secondary education institutions.

In the recent years, this trend has also made its way into the MENA and Sub-Saharan Africa region. UNIDO ITPO Bahrain has endeavored to spread entrepreneurial training and curriculums to both university and school levels, while orienting teachers to understand how entrepreneurs can be counselled and enabled. Accordingly, the incorporation of new and relevant skills to formal education or increasing informal education will stimulate an entrepreneurial and innovative mind-set. Entrepreneurial education plays a key role in transforming entrepreneurial intentions into action, and addresses cultural and social beliefs; thus, leading to ensuring a clear process from education to innovation to incubation and eventually entrepreneurship.

It is due to the urgency of this topic the WEIF 2019 organizing committee decided to organize a stand-alone side conference to tackle this major issue.

# Major Side Conferences

International Conference on Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Investment – Role of Education and Universities;

The conference was co-organized in cooperation with the Kingdom University and through the support of the Arab African Universities Association and the Union of Arab Universities, and underlined the need for innovation and investment, as well as the role of education and universities to strengthen entrepreneurial spirits. The Conference was attended by representatives from over 30 universities in the Arab Region, Africa, Europe and North America.

## Topics addressed include:

- Entrepreneurship ecosystem: covering governmental support, incubation management, local policies, and regional development.
- Education in entrepreneurship: covering the role of universities in fostering entrepreneurship and innovation, academic entrepreneurship, teaching entrepreneurship in interactive K12-, and trends and tactics related to entrepreneurship education.
- Economic Infrastructure for Entrepreneurship: covering spin off processes and knowledge transfer, social and community entrepreneurship, intellectual property, entrepreneurship finance and venture capital.
- Entrepreneurship and the 4th Industrial Revolution: covering the new entrepreneurship frontiers uncovered by technology, including digital, physical, biological advancements, Internet of Things, artificial intelligence, and robotics. This extends to how education can adapt with the 4th industrial revolution.



Side Conference on Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Investment – Role of Education and Universities

## Sustainable Investments for Agenda 2030 – Investing in Green Industry:

The conference themed “Sustainable Investments for Agenda 2030 – Investing in Green Industry” provided a platform where municipal and regional governments, international organizations, investors and the private sector could come together and address how sustainable investments, through the acceleration of innovation and promotion of green technologies, are vital to achieving the goals of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. HE Dr Mohamed Bin Daina, CEO of the Supreme Council for Environment in Bahrain provided the opening statement in addition to a number of esteemed speakers including HE Terry Tamminen, President of the Seventh Generation Advisors, and HE Mr Paolo Carnevale, Executive Director of Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei, as well as numerous other regional experts. The high-level conference opened a discussion on the challenges and opportunities of investment in green technologies, as well as the roles that innovation and entrepreneurship play in driving pioneering industries.

### Topics addressed include:

- Regional Challenges and Focus: Addressing regional issues such as excessive energy use, water scarcity, waste management, climate change, pollution, youth unemployment and how green technology can provide solutions that address systems (as environment challenges are interconnected and must be addressed systematically and not one by one).
- Energy and Climate Change (SDGs 7 and 13): Investments in energy efficiency, renewable energy and climate action: How can we continue to improve energy efficiency and increase the share of renewable energy in the electricity sectors? How can investments in green technologies contribute to accelerated action on Climate change mitigation and adaptation initiatives?
- Resource efficiency and sustainable lifestyle and health (SDG 3 and 12): Investments in resource efficiency, circular economy, sustainable consumption and production and encourage the sound management of chemicals and waste throughout their life cycle: How can we support population to live healthier lives and overcoming disease and ill health? How can investments contribute to the transformation of business practices along global value chains to ensure sustainable production patterns?
- Entrepreneurship, Innovation, Partnerships and Industry (SDG 9 and 17): Entrepreneurship, Innovation and green technology applications: How can innovation and entrepreneurship in green technologies drive economic growth and promote sustainability in the region, with a focus on women and youth? How can investments into areas such as renewable energy, green and sustainable chemistry, waste management, SMART Agriculture and electric vehicles bring the GCC in line with other large-scale investors such as China and the USA.



H.E. Dr Mohamed Bin Daina, CEO of the Supreme Council for Environment in Bahrain



H.E. Mr. Terry Tamminen, President, Seventh Generation Advisors



Side Conference: Sustainable Investments for Agenda 2030: Investing in Green Industry

## Start-up Youth Investment Summit and launch of the Youth Business Hub;

Co-organized, in cooperation with the Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum (ICYF), the Start-up Youth Investment Summit, aimed at exploring the means of further promoting entrepreneurship and innovation in the 56 member countries of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. The event further featured the official launch of the Youth Business Hub (YBH).

The Young Business Hub Platform is a joint initiative of Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum, international institution affiliated to the Organisation of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC). Individuals and teams from OIC countries can register their start-up for an opportunity to pitch their initiatives and secure mentorship and financial support.

The ICYF is aimed at coordination of youth activities in the OIC countries. The forum pursues its activities in five major fields: advocacy of youth interests, supporting sustainable development, promoting formal and non-formal education, strengthening moral values of young generation and engaging in the dialogue among cultures and civilizations.

# Additional Side Initiatives

## From Manama to Shenzhen: Promoting Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Investment – One Belt One Road

As a follow-up to the WEIF 2019; ITPO Bahrain under the banner of “From Manama to Shenzhen” jointly with the Shenzhen Federation of Youth Entrepreneurship Promotion organized the 2019 International Youth Innovation Conference (IYIC) in Shenzhen on November 14 to 2019, 16 under the theme “Youth Innovation and Sustainable Development”.

Looking closely at both events, it is evident that their visions are in full synergy towards development and economic prosperity through promoting investment and innovation. Both conferences served as international exchange platforms for youth from around the world, and facilitated sharing of experiences and communication among them to address future challenges and trends in the world, towards playing a positive role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals 2030 through Entrepreneurship and Innovation.

The IYIC was a great success with over 1500 participants and 10,000 virtual participants via live streaming from 100 countries representing, entrepreneurs, innovators, government officials, support institutions, universities, financial institutions and NGOs.

The 34 panel sessions organized through the 110 speakers, guests and dignitaries addressed issues, challenges and opportunities towards the main theme of unleashing “Youth Innovation to achieve Sustainable Development”.

Three high level technology competitions were also organized mainly on Artificial Intelligence and Science and a special dedicated expo showcasing the latest innovations of 200 entrepreneurs.



It is worth noting that the IYIC 2019 was supported by the Shenzhen Municipal People’s Government and co-organized by UNIDO ITPO Bahrain and a number of UN Agencies.

The ITPO Bahrain support to IYIC entailed;

- Coordinated E2E bilateral meetings, whereby Ms. Sonya Janahi CEO of Maya Chocolates signed a letter of intent with Bliss cakes in the value of 40 Million USD, currently ITPO Bahrain is following up on this to produce cakes and chocolates in China.
- Managed two panel sessions under the theme “From Manama to Shenzhen boosting investment and innovation”
- Panel 1: Role of support institutions in promoting economic development and innovation
- Panel 2: Creating joint cooperation between entrepreneurs/ investors in China and developing countries



## Smart Zone Expo

As an integral part of WEIF; ITPO / AICEI Bahrain in cooperation with Btech, AMG Group and the financial support of Tamkeen, organized a Smart Zone Expo; during which 37 innovators from the Arab region showcased their innovations and technologies.

The Expo's main components included an exhibition, an Award ceremony for different entrepreneurial categories, one-on-one networking activities, workshops, keynote addresses, forums and discussions, online B2B through innovative live feeds, inspirational stages and mentoring events, inspired by Bahrain's economic strategy.

The Expo's mission was in parallel with nationwide initiatives aimed towards exploring new and innovative technologies, as well as channeling investments in the transition from oil based to non-oil-based economy. The Expo received great positive feedback from investors and innovators as it allowed for the entrepreneurs to discuss joint cooperation with various participants.



H.H. Sheikh Faisal bin Rashid bin Isa Al Khalifa visits entrepreneur stalls at the Smart Zone Expo

## Capacity building program “Gender Equality in Manufacturing” in the MENA Region

UNIDO recognizes that gender equality and the empowerment of women are key to achieving inclusive and sustainable industrial development. UNIDO promotes gender equality through the mainstreaming of gender considerations into all its policies, programmes and organizational practices as well as through targeted technical cooperation projects.

Although there have been significant achievements over the last decades, women's socioeconomic disadvantage is still reflected in pervasive gender inequalities in earned income, access to productive resources such as credit and assets, educational attainment, liberty to pursue a profession, and time-use. This is a significant missed opportunity. Not only is gender equality an important goal in its own right, but it also correlates with higher levels of per capita gross domestic product, the level of competitiveness, and human development.



H.E. Ms Fatou Haidara presents certificates to participants of the specialised course on Gender Equality in Manufacturing

Industrialization directly affects women's roles and participation in the labour force and economic life in general. Industrial strategies and policies have the potential to decrease existing gender-based discrimination and become a tool for the empowerment of women if properly designed and implemented.

The lack of knowledge about gender mainstreaming in industrial development strategies constrains the gathering of sex-disaggregated data and the development and implementation of gender-sensitive industrial policies and programmes.

In light of this, a specialized course on Gender Equality in Manufacturing was held in close cooperation between the UNIDO gender office and ITPO / AICEI Bahrain in cooperation with the Government of Finland and Supreme Council for Women. The workshop was taught by Dr. Yana van der Meulen Rodgers, Faculty Director of the Rutgers University Center for Women and Work (CWW), and Elaine Zundl, Research Director at CWW. Course content was also provided by Dr. Hashim Suleiman Hussein, Head of the UNIDO Investment and Technology Promotion Office in Bahrain; and by Ms. U. Müge Dolun, Gender Coordinator ad interim at the UNIDO Office for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women.

The five-day training programme targeted government officials engaged in the design and implementation of industrial policies, gender focal points of the relevant national ministries (e.g. industry, economy, labour and trade), regional organizations and representatives of associations focusing on the economic empowerment of women. This year's training course was conducted for participants from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.

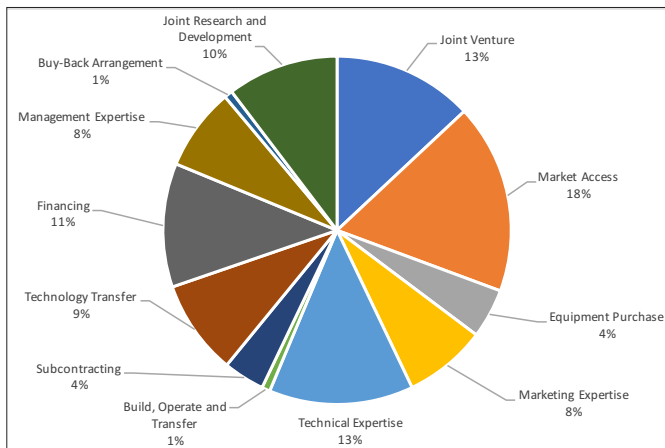
An awarding ceremony for the course took place during which 33 young women and men from the MENA region received a certificate for their successful completion of the 5-day program. The program equipped the participants with skills to better analyse and measure the links between gender inequalities and industrial development, and design policies and programmes to promote women's economic empowerment, based on best practices and country examples.

# Entrepreneur to Entrepreneur Bilateral Meetings

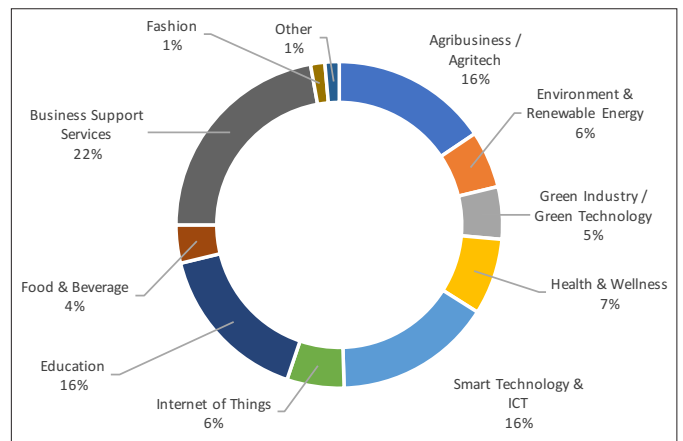
One of the main objectives of the WEIF is to serve as a platform for the +1,000 entrepreneurs from around the world to meet and explore possible business partnerships towards developing joint investments; trade facilitation and sharing best practices. As an integral part of WEIF, Entrepreneur to Entrepreneur bilateral meetings were organized over the 3 days, allowing for high-level representatives and entrepreneurs to discuss investment and business opportunities thus leading to 1400 bilateral meetings being held and resulting in the signing of 106 letters of intent with an estimated investment of 22 million USD. ITPO Bahrain in cooperation with its partners will provide the needed follow up to help in materializing these letters of Intent.



Entrepreneur to Entrepreneur Bilateral Meetings



Types of Agreements during E2E Bilateral Meetings



Number of E2E Participants by Business Sector

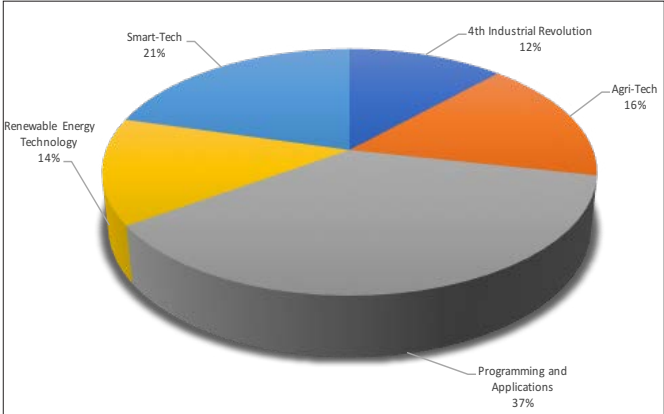
# Arab Entrepreneurship Rally Competition 2019

On the side-lines of the WEIF and for the first time in the Arab Region; the Arab Entrepreneurship Rally – Business Plan Competition 2019, targeting university students from the Arab Region for boosting innovation and entrepreneurship was organized by the Arab Academy for Science and Technology and Maritime Transport, UNIDO ITPO Bahrain - AICEI, the Union of Arab Chambers, and the financial support from the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BCCI) in the value of 100,000 USD took place. The Rally attracted 753 applications from the 22 Arab countries applied. After the first phase of screening the remaining 417 applications were judged by a technical committee which identified top teams from 18 Arab countries namely; Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, United Arab Emirates, Sudan, Syria, Palestine, Jordan, Egypt, Algeria, Iraq, Morocco, Somalia, Tunisia, Yemen, Libya and Lebanon.

The top 18 shortlisted teams received a 3-day extensive boot camp at the UNIDO ITPO / AICEI Bahrain aimed at developing their pitching skills and fine-tuning their business plans. In addition to that they were featured in the WEIF Smart Zone Expo where they presented their innovations / technologies and to connect with investors and other potential business partners. On November 10th the teams presented their business ideas to a panel of VIP judges to decide on the winning teams.

The winning teams pitched in front of the ABIC and WEIF participants and have received financial support from a number of Arab Investors reaching 170,000 USD in addition to the 100,000 USD award prize money.

The final awarding ceremony announcing the top three teams from the Arab region was held in the presence of HE Mr. Ahmed Abou El Gheit, Secretary General of the League of Arab States.



Arab Rally applications by sector



H.H. Sheikh Faisal bin Rashid bin Isa Al Khalifa visits Arab Rally Participants

**The top three finalists were:**

- **1st Place (50,000 USD) Team from Lebanon, Mr. Waddah Malaeb of DLOC Biosystems.** DLOC Biosystems designed a biological system that enabled human cells to grow outside of the human body.
- **2nd Place (25,000 USD) Team from Egypt, Mr. Abdelrahman Mohamed Omran of Smart wheelchair.** The Smart Wheelchair incorporates advanced technology and sensors that allow quadriplegics control their wheelchair through brain signals.
- **3rd Place (10,000 USD) Team Saudi Arabia, Ms. Duaa Zeyad Mahmoud of Ghallah.** This system is designed to improve the management of palm plantations, through smart monitoring techniques. The system aims to maintain plantation health and improve crop output.



Arab Rally Participants	
Country	Applications
Algeria	10
Bahrain	15
Comoros	5
Djibouti	3
Egypt	389
Iraq	19
Jordan	51
Kuwait	14
Lebanon	40
Libya	14
Mauritania	2
Morocco	17
Oman	12
Palestine	71
Qatar	1
Saudi Arabia	12
Somalia	6
Sudan	41
Syria	12
Tunisia	6
United Arab Emirates	2
Yemen	11
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>753</b>



Arab Rally Participants





(L-R): HE Mrs. Veronika Peshkova, UNIDO Goodwill Ambassador; HE Ms. Fatou Haidara, UNIDO Managing Director; Dr Hashim Hussein, Head of UNIDO ITPO Bahrain; HE Mr. Weixi Gong, Chief of UNIDO's Investment Promotion Division and Coordinator for the Investment and Technology Promotion Offices



Arab Rally Participants

# WEIF 2019

## Closing Session

The closing session was held in the presence of HE Mr. Ahmed Abou El Gheit, Secretary General of the League of Arab States, and concluded with a consensus that a more inclusive and sustainable environment for entrepreneurs, especially youth and women on the macro, meso and micro-level is key to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and that all stakeholders have to closely work together to ensure a successful implementation of structural change in favour of entrepreneurship and economic development – this call of action was summarized in the 3rd Manama Declaration and announced by Dr. Hashim Hassim, Head of ITPO Bahrain. The Declaration will be submitted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the United Nations General Assembly for its endorsement.

Ms. Fatou Haidara, UNIDO Managing Director read the written statement sent by Mr. Antonio Gueterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations addressing WEIF 2019 where he conveyed that “the Fourth Industrial Revolution provides us with a tremendous opportunity. By leveraging emerging technologies with entrepreneurial spirit and investment, we can accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. This is critical as we enter the Decade of Action to deliver the SDGs by 2030.”



\*Please revert to Annex 1 for the Manama Declaration 3





(L-R) Mr. Nejib Friji, Director, International Peace Institute MENA Region; H.E. Ms. Fatou Haidara, Managing Director Corporate Management and Operations, UNIDO; H.E. Dr Ahmed Aboul Gheit, Secretary-General, League of Arab States; H.H. Sheikh Faisal bin Rashid bin Isa Al Khalifa, Vice President, Supreme Council for Environment; H.E. Dr Khaled Hanafy, Secretary General, Arab Union of Chambers; Dr Hashim Hussein, Head, UNIDO ITPO Bahrain



# Testimonials

"I met some very interesting people, and thought it was very exciting to see how Bahrain is growing their start up eco-system and exploring the future of SME's in the region"

**Mila Jovićević, Eyes International**

"This large-scale event has been a true success in terms of the content of the different panels as well as the organisation & logistics side, in addition to the strong presence of participants from different countries, governments, investors, the private sector, academia, financial institutions, civil society and entrepreneurs around the world"

**Youssef Errami, Executive Director, Centre Des Très Petites Entreprises Solidaires**

"I applaud you for the excellent panels, tech innovators, global participants and much more that you assembled. It was truly an engaging and meaningful event to be a part of"

**Phil S. Agbeko, Managing Partner, Hilltop Global Group**

## Media coverage

WEIF received a wide range of coverage provided by the UN Media Team from New York, the media team from UNIDO, the African Union of Universities TV, in addition to local media channels locally, regionally and internationally.

The collaborative efforts on social media received over 140,000 impressions, and over 10,000 engagements\*, based on the Social Media Statistics report from Advocacy and Media Relations Division (EPR/ETR/AMR). The Media tools used included: Live streaming, Instagram, facebook, linkedin, flickr, twitter, TV, Radio, newspapers, magazines, and more.

## Overall Social Media Statistics

**Posts: 54**

**Total impressions: 140,605** - refers to the number of users who have come across a particular content on a social platform

**Total engagements: 10,960** - measures times people interacted with a post, e.g. public shares, likes, comments, link clicks, etc.

	LinkedIn	Twitter	Facebook	Instagram	Total
Posts	4	22	6	2 Posts	54
				20 Stories	
Impressions	17,357	76,366	37,637	2,206	140,605
				7,039	
Engagements	936	1,434	7,543	147	10,960
				900	

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### In Bahrain, Global Forum for Entrepreneurs and Investment examines empowerment of women, youth through innovation

UN News / Abdelmonem Makki Ms. Fatma Hashani, the Managing Director, Policy and Programme Support of UNIDO, speaking at the opening session of the Global Forum for Entrepreneurs and Investment held in Manama, Bahrain.

HACKQUARTERS Startups Corporate Community Blog

Jenan Al-Muharrriq from Startup Bahrain shared the success story of the organization and strategy in the region. Startup Bahrain is the national movement to promote tech startups and entrepreneurship in Bahrain and the region.

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### Arab Chamber set to join conference in Bahrain

The 18th Arab Businessmen and Investors Conference is taking place from November 11 to 13 in Manama.

Manama, Bahrain

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### Bahrain gears up to host the 18th Arab Businessmen and Investors Conference in November 2019

Three days of concentrated discussions by global influencers on the impact of the 4th Industrial Revolution on the future of the Arab world

Press Release

Manama, Bahrain: Under the patronage of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, The

**UNIDO - United Nations Industrial Development Organization** was live.

Published by Dana Zhmudska [?] · November 12, 2019 ·

Welcome to WEIF 2019 in Manama, Kingdom of #Bahrain!

This event will promote & highlight the role of impactful investment & innovation towards #SDGs.

Watch our LIVESTREAM & join the discussions from all over the world!



Watch together with friends or with a group Start

33,459 People Reached 7,093 Engagements Boost Post

392 274 Comments 55 Shares 9.9K Views

**UNIDO** @UNIDO

#WEIF2019 has successfully concluded, in which the 3rd Manama Declaration was announced calling for action in favor of implementing effective policies & strategies to support entrepreneurship & innovation for inclusive & sust industrial dev. @weifofficial bit.ly/2KkonXi



UNIDO ITPO Bahrain - AICEI and 6 others

12:13 PM · Nov 14, 2019 · Twitter Web App

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# Annexes

## Annex 1:

### MANAMA DECLARATION 3

“Achieving the SDGs: Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Investing in the 4th Industrial Revolution in a Digital Economy”

**World Entrepreneurs Investment Forum 2019  
November 11th to 2019, 13 / Kingdom of Bahrain**

We, participants in the World Entrepreneurs Investment Forum “Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals through Entrepreneurship and Innovation: Investing in the 4th Industrial Revolution in a Digital Economy” held under concurrently with the 18th Arab Businessmen and Investors Conference under the patronage of His Majesty King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa, the King of Bahrain, met in the Capital, Manama, from November 11th to 2019, 13 along with experts and entrepreneurs gathered from 83 different countries engaged in this forum.

Appreciating Bahrain's leadership efforts towards sustainable development, we express our gratitude to the vision of His Majesty towards achieving economic empowerment of youth and women in Bahrain and the World. Recognizing the UNIDO role towards fostering inclusive and sustainable industrial development and the considerable achievements of previous editions of WEIF in 2015 and 2017, we welcome the progress and environment it created, effectively enabling the importance of promoting entrepreneurship and innovation for sustainable development in the backdrop of the Fourth Industrial Digital Revolution.

We once again reiterate our gratitude and support to the WEIF secretariat in Bahrain for its role in promoting the spirit of entrepreneurship and innovation; having examined all aspects of entrepreneurship and innovation within the Digital Revolution during the three day deliberations and discussions, and being aware of the crucial importance of the United Nations General Assembly resolution 1/70 of 25 September 2015 entitled “The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”;

- We express our strong commitment to achieving the 17 Goals outlined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- We recognize that entrepreneurship and innovation are impetus leading to the creation of jobs, spurring of economic growth and the realization of social gains; We recognize the significance of contributing to the formulation of national and regional policies to support the integration of efforts and the development of mechanisms supporting innovation and creativity within the framework of gender balance, and thus enhance the participation and contributions of women in these areas;
- We are united in our belief that the empowerment of women at all economic levels is crucial in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals through innovation and entrepreneurship;
- We believe that comparing national efforts and initiatives with international efforts and reviewing global practices to create opportunities that contribute to the development of the field is crucial in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals;
- We recommend that all efforts are deployed to translate our collective belief that achieving sustainable development through entrepreneurship and innovation can be accomplished via strong, inclusive, sustainable and resilient economic growth;
- We call on the international community to incorporate entrepreneurship and innovation in all economic and social dimensions as central objectives in their national strategies of sustainable development;
- We recommend that developing strong partnerships are built between entrepreneurs, women and men alike, to share best practices in line with linking financial to non-financial services towards the development of entrepreneurs and MSMEs;
- We urge stakeholders to foster the dynamic private sector as the main engine behind economic growth, structural change and innovation, as we identify the pressing need to promote competitive MSMEs as the main driving force behind the empowerment of women and youth;
- We recommend that the active involvement of women in all sectors related towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals through entrepreneurship and innovation are adopted to foster both public and private sectors;
- We recommend that sound economic policies, legislation and programs be adopted as important strategies and elements of sustainable development to strengthen and ensure women's empowerment at the national, regional, and global levels;
- We call upon governments, the private sector, academia, civil society, media, and international organizations to cooperate in facilitating the promotion of entrepreneurs and innovative enterprises towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals; through developing economic infrastructure, incubation management systems, etc.
- We urge the international community, United Nations Organization, UNIDO, and other relevant international and regional organizations, think-tanks, institutions, civil societies and various stakeholders to take these recommendations into account when shaping their policies and strategies to support entrepreneurship and innovation for sustainable development.



