

GEF Assembly Side Event
“Strategic Partnerships”
27th May 2014, Time: 12:30-14:00

(1) General Context:

The United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) is promoting inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID) to harness the full potential of industry’s contribution to the achievement of sustainable development, and lasting prosperity for all. Strategic partnerships, and particularly those focusing on regional cooperation, have proven to be an innovative and practical approach to address the multidimensional context of economic deprivation, social inequality and environmental degradation – a context that any successful response to achieve poverty eradication, the overarching goal of the post-2015 development agenda, will need to consider.

In terms of industries, the move towards cleaner low carbon production pathways is key in order to make a significant contribution to the above stated goals. Moreover, there is general agreement that such pathways entail barriers, such as those to the dissemination of renewable energy and energy efficiency, as well as clean and climate friendly technologies and approaches that transcend national boundaries. UNIDO has taken steps to address this issue by establishing a range of partnerships – for knowledge sharing, capacity building and the promotion of investments – that assist developing countries and economies in transition in embracing inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

Strategic partnerships encompass a wide range of engagements with various entities, centres and networks, such as regional sustainable energy knowledge centres (e.g. ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency - ECREEE), international technology specific centres (e.g. International Centre on Small Hydropower - ICSHP, International Solar Energy Centre for Technology Promotion and Transfer - ISEC), Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) centres and networks (e.g. Centro Mexicano para la Producción más Limpia), as well as with the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN), where UNIDO is closely cooperating with UNEP. They also encompass partnerships with business, such as within the framework of the Green Industry Platform, the “Clean technology innovation programme for SMEs,” and individual companies such as Schneider Electric, Philips and Statoil. Other important partnerships can be found in the chemicals and waste programming where regional resource centres such as those established under the Stockholm and Basel Convention are partnering with UNIDO. Through the creation of strong partnerships, UNIDO not only meets donor requirements with respect to private sector engagement and multi-country approaches, but is able to facilitate the adoption of regional policies and targets and prepare industries for national and regional markets, as well as foster South-South technical cooperation.

Through their activities and reach, these strategic partnerships are making important contributions to addressing the underlying drivers of environmental degradation, while fostering innovation and synergies in and across projects and programmes, helping to deliver the highest impact in cost-effective manner. It is expected that by 2015, at the dawn of a new development agenda, further partnerships will have been established as they are seen to offer one of the most promising and cost-efficient options to promote inclusive and sustainable industrial development across regions. The centres and networks play a vital role, especially in programmatic approaches, for promoting policy and capacity development, knowledge management, awareness raising, as well as investment and business promotion; they are an important link between individual countries and the ongoing international post-2015 development processes.

(2) Side Event Objective(s) and expected Outputs/Results:

The side event will highlight the significance and potential of the aforementioned strategic partnerships for technology transfer, knowledge sharing, capacity development and regional cooperation on the pathway to tackling the “root-causes” of environmental degradation – a key focus of the GEF for the projects and programmes to be implemented under its 6th replenishment cycle. The ability of strategic partnerships to achieve global environmental benefits at scale, while contributing to inclusive and sustainable industrial development, will thus be illustrated. The planned discussion will address the following issues:

- Added value of regional cooperation and integration for creating markets and addressing the drivers of environmental degradation, i.e. why regional cooperation and programmatic approaches are key to scaling up clean energy markets?
- Potential of regional centres in facilitating public and private sector interaction, i.e. what role can they play in this sphere?
- Achievements and lessons learned from existing strategic partnerships, i.e. what has worked well in terms of design, development, management and scale-up for centre-based initiatives?
- Possible points of intervention for strategic partnerships in the future, especially in light of GEF-6 programming, i.e. how can regional cooperation, in particular, contribute to the goals of GEF-6?

The event will primarily target policy makers from developing countries and emerging economies, donors, civil society organisations, and the private sector, as well as other GEF implementing agencies, since transformational partnerships as well as strategic and knowledge partnerships provide a wide range of potential areas for engagement, collaboration and synergy.

(3) Approach:

1. Introductory video showcasing UNIDO’s work
2. Introduction to the topic by Moderator (Pradeep Monga, Director, Energy and Climate Change, UNIDO)
3. Key note address by Ciyong Zou (Director / Senior Advisor on Partnerships, UNIDO)
4. Panel discussion with:
 - Robert Dixon, Team Leader, GEF Climate Change and Chemicals Team
 - David Jimenez, Deputy Director of the Centro Regional de Producción más Limpia, Mexico
 - Mahama Kappiah, Executive Director of ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency (ECREEE), Cape Verde
 - Nina Masson, Head of Market Research, shecco SPRL
 - Jukka Uosukainen, Director of Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN), Denmark
5. Summary of discussion by Moderator