



United Nations Industrial Development Organization

2ND PREPARATORY COMMITTEE MEETING

**UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT**

Statement of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization

**on the role of sustainable energy and green industry in accelerating the shift
towards a**

green economy and on the UNIDO contribution to the Rio 2012 preparatory process

1. In pursuance of its mandate, UNIDO is fully committed to sustainable industrial development. In this context, manufacturing industry plays a key role in the creation of wealth for sustainable economic growth in all nations. Developing countries and countries with economies in transition need to expand their industries to deliver goods and services, create jobs, generate income, and, in particular, alleviate poverty and improve standards of living.

2. Many developing countries are currently at a stage of rapid industrial growth and broad-based industrialization. Others are just beginning industrial growth. For both sets

of countries, industrialization is at the core of economic development and structural change.

3. UNIDO believes that promoting the transition to a green economy - particularly in developing countries and countries with economies in transition - will require, among other things that priority be given to sectoral issues. In this context, prioritizing action on green industry is central, in our view, to achieving the objectives of green growth.

4. However, the introduction of sustainable production frequently lags behind. This is due to constraints with respect to access, affordability and applicability of sustainable production practices and technologies, as well as relatively weak policy, regulatory, financial, market and other mechanisms. Together with the rapid growth of industry, the potential for sustainable production in developing and countries with economies in transition remains largely untapped.

5. National Cleaner Production Centres (NCPCs), - a joint UNIDO–UNEP initiative -, have demonstrated the potential and benefits of sustainable in a wide range of enterprises covering multiple industrial sectors and sizes of enterprises. But the achievements to date, do not yet match the scale of the global challenge of providing for all in a sustainable manner. Clearly, much more needs to be done.

6. It is, therefore, imperative to upscale from relatively isolated demonstration projects and widely adopt sustainable production approaches. The ultimate aim should be to involve a greater number of enterprises, decrease the external support required, and increase the resource and environmental benefits for each enterprise. This will require stronger incentives to mainstream sustainable production.

7. UNIDO would like to take this opportunity to highlight the importance of energy to sustainable development with its three pillars of economic, environmental and social sustainability.

8. Energy is central to poverty reduction efforts. It is also central to the transition to a sustainable green economy. It affects all the social, economic and environmental aspects

of development, including gender inequality, climate change, food security, health and education and overall economic growth, as well as the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

9. Perhaps the most critical challenge relating to energy for sustainable development is how to increase and support access to affordable modern energy services, while also ensuring that the energy services provided do not have further adverse environmental and socio-economic impacts.

10. This point was well captured in the report launched last year by the Secretary-General's Advisory Group on Energy and Climate Change (AGECC), [\[1\]](#) which highlighted two fundamental energy issues – energy access and energy efficiency – and their close links to sustainable development and climate change. It was further reinforced by United Nations General Assembly resolution 65/151 designating 2012 as the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All.

11. Given the centrality of energy issues to every aspect of the sustainable development agenda and given the importance of green industry to the objective of the global transition to a green economy, UNIDO is organizing a Ministerial Meeting to be held in Vienna in parallel with the Vienna Energy Forum from 21 to 23 June 2011.

12. The Ministerial Meeting will provide an opportunity to give further consideration to energy and green industry issues ahead of the Rio Conference. It will also discuss the role of energy and green industry in the broader context of poverty reduction.

13. We believe that the Ministerial Meeting will make a solid contribution to the Rio 2012 preparatory process and to the concrete implementation of its outcomes. It will also provide a high-level platform for discussions on sustainable resource management, energy efficiency, energy access and green industry as key agreed areas of actions for implementation for post-Rio 2012.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.