

UNIDO LDC Ministerial Conference 2019

The eighth UNIDO Ministerial Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) is set to take place on 2 November, 2019 in Abu Dhabi, preceding the UNIDO General Conference. UNIDO has been involved in the organisation of the LDC Ministerial Conference since its inception in 2007. Through its ongoing TC activities, UNIDO advances the global debate on the major industrial development challenges LDC are faced with as well as viable solutions to address them. Moreover, the Ministerial Conference serves as a strategic platform to promote UNIDO's work in LDCs within the framework of the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA), the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and other global development agendas while also serving as the final precursor to the Fifth United Nations Conference on LDCs (LDC-V) to be held in Doha, Qatar, in 2021.

The theme of the conference this year will be: "Accelerating industrialization in LDCs: Lessons learned and innovative approaches" which is very much aligned to UNIDO's mandate to promote Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID) and SDG 9.

The Ministerial Conference will be co-organized with the Office of the United Nations High Representatives on Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLS). It aims to bring together Ministers of Industry and/or Economy/Finance from all LDCs with over 200 additional representatives including government officials, representatives of UN agencies and other international organizations, investment agencies, financial institutions and development banks, as well as representatives from the private sector, civil society, academia, business associations and international media.

Rationale

As one of UNIDO's flagship events specifically for LDCs, the Ministerial Conference aims to develop new strategies for industrialization in LDCs beyond 2020, helping them accomplish their national development goals. It will also include enhancing UNIDO's mandate and services provided to LDCs at the ministerial level, in the context of contemporary programmatic frameworks such as the IPoA, the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA III), the South-South and Triangular cooperation and the UNDS reform.

This year's event will focus on best practices and lessons learned from ongoing development projects in LDCs. Specifically, the agenda will focus on thematic sessions that reflect UNIDO's ISID priorities, namely, to create shared prosperity, advance economic competitiveness, safeguard the environment, and foster knowledge and institutions. Consequently, UNIDO's technical departments and partner agencies will have an opportunity to present project results and impacts from among UNIDO's portfolio in LDCs.

Expected Outcomes

The Ministerial Conference is expected to strengthen UNIDO's strategic support for LDCs by:

- Garnering experience directly from LDC leaders on industrial experiences and how industrialization can help boost the sustainable development capacity;
- Paving the way for LDC Member States to formulate a joint Ministerial Declaration serving as fundamental basis to strategize on the role of Goal 9;
- Providing a platform to build and develop socially responsible and sustainable partnerships, in particular UNIDO's Programme for Country Partnership (PCP), between relevant stakeholders from LDCs, traditional and emerging donors and development players;

- Evaluating the linkages between ISID, the IPoA and the SDGs, as well as re-emphasizing the significance of IDDA III and South-South and Triangular cooperation as critical means for implementing ISID;
- Issuing vision statements and actions to feed into the discussions at the General Conference, including pledges and commitments from stakeholders; and
- Contributing to sustainable economic growth in LDCs through thematic discussions and appropriate communication strategies.

Structure

The Ministerial Conference will be hosted by the Government of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) at the Emirates Palace Hotel in Abu Dhabi and will consist of plenary meetings and interactive sessions, as well as panel discussions.

In addition to the high-level opening and closing sessions, the event will be structured in four distinct thematic sessions, over the course of the day, as follows:

1. Session I: Review of progress made on structural economic transformation;
2. Session II: High-level panel on “Industrial policy instruments and strategies”;
3. Session III: High-level panel on “Innovation in partnerships and funds mobilization”;
4. Session IV: Looking beyond 2020: Next Programme of Action.

Additionally, there will be ample opportunity for networking and one-to-one discussions during the intermediary breaks and the evening reception.

Participants and members of the press are invited to attend the event beginning from 09:00 until 17:00 at the Emirates Palace Hotel in Abu Dhabi.

Contacts

For queries with regards to registration, please contact: LDC2019@unido.org.

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