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Praise for UNIDO's country partnership approach at 3rd ISID Forum

Participants in the Forum on financing for inclusive and sustainable industrial development held in Addis Ababa on 14 July voiced their strong support for partnerships as the way to implement the post-2015 development agenda.



In his remarks to the forum, United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, applauded UNIDO and the governments of Ethiopia and Senegal for their dedication and hard work towards advancing inclusive and sustainable industrialization in their countries. Ban said that UNIDO's Programmes for Country Partnership "set an example for the rest of us on how to partner together to accelerate public investment and attract private finance in key industrial sectors."

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon also highlighted the fact that the proposed Sustainable Development Goal 9 promotes inclusive and sustainable industrialization.

"Often, when people think of industry, they think of pollution or bad labour practices," Ban said. "But when countries industrialize in an inclusive and sustainable way, they can create decent jobs and preserve their resources without exploiting the environment or people. This is at the heart of SDG 9." He went on to say that achieving the SDGs requires more than finance. "I am convinced that partnerships are the means to implement the post-2015 development agenda."

World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim said that "promoting inclusive and sustainable industrial development calls for a broader range of resources than any single development institution can provide on its own". He said that the World Bank recognizes the complexity of the challenges posed by this type of development, adding, "We applaud UNIDO for launching its Programme for Country Partnership in Ethiopia and Senegal."

Jim Yong Kim said that, in Ethiopia, UNIDO and World Bank Group teams are working together to support the government's industrial parks programme. He described UNIDO's role as a critical one, saying, "The institution's coordination as a neutral broker has helped to create synergies and facilitate technology transfer." In Senegal, he said that the World Bank Group is "actively looking for opportunities to work closely with UNIDO" during the second phase of a project to develop an industrial zone near a new international business centre and airport.

"These two examples are just a beginning. I'm confident that we will build on these existing initiatives to broaden our partnership. I'd like to particularly thank UNIDO's strong leadership and my friend, Director-General Li Yong. Our partnership is helping to scale up inclusive and sustainable industrial development, which will be a critical driver toward reaching many of the post-2015 development goals."





In her address, Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC), said Africa has no choice but to industrialize, and that the AUC is “pleased with the work being done by UNIDO, the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), and the World Bank”.

Carlos Lopes, Executive Secretary of UNECA, said that structural transformation and industrialization are needed to create a modern African economy.

“Africa is ready. It has the means. What it needs now is leadership, ambition and the will to deliver this transformation to its people,” he continued, adding that country partnerships show the way for Africa to industrialize.

The Forum’s panel discussion focused on the potential of multi-stakeholder partnerships for leveraging financing for inclusive and sustainable industrial development. The panel was comprised of influential economists and development experts, including Jeffrey Sachs, Director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University; Justin Yifu Lin, former World Bank Chief Economist; and Naoko Ishii, Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson of the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

Forum participants visit Eastern Industrial Zone near Addis Ababa



At the end of the Forum, participants took part in a field visit to the Eastern Industrial Zone (EIZ), an industrial park in Dukem, 37 kilometres southeast of Addis Ababa.

The Chinese-built EIZ has been praised for creating more than 50,000 jobs. It was Ethiopia’s first industrial park, and some 20 companies now lease land there, among them Huajian, the renowned Chinese shoemaker. Huajian produces more than 7,000 pairs of shoes a day and generates some USD 1.3 million per month, employing around 3,500 workers.

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