

Contribution by UNIDO to the Report of the Secretary-General:  
**Economic Assistance to the Eastern European States Affected by the Developments in the Balkans**

(pursuant to General Assembly resolution 56/110 of 14 December 2001)

In designing its country and regional strategies and programmes for the Balkans, the **United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)** places great importance on creating synergy with the activities of the international community, and particularly of the United Nations system. This means in particular creating a strong link between UNIDO's services and the new international development objectives, and particularly the Millennium Development Goals. Moreover, both UNIDO's operational technical assistance and its global forum activities for the Balkan countries are closely linked both to the most pressing needs and priorities of the countries concerned, as well as to the to the core, overriding objective of UNIDO interventions of productive enhancement.

In the period since GA Res 56/110 UNIDO has worked intensely with the states affected by the developments in the Balkans to strengthen their national capacity and enhance national knowledge and understanding concerning the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), and to develop and formulate National Implementation Plans. Achieving this objective will enable the countries to meet their obligations under the Stockholm Convention, as well as to manage the elimination of POPs. Technical cooperation programmes to this end are underway in Croatia and Romania, and planned in other countries.

National capacity building and institution building in the area of cleaner production continued to be an important area of cooperation, with on-going work in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Croatia, and pipeline programmes in other countries. Similarly, cooperation continued on the transfer of environmentally sound technologies to the countries of the Danube River Basin, with emphasis being placed in new work on Romania, Bulgaria and Croatia. New pipeline or on-going initiatives in the Balkan countries since the last Report of the Secretary-General would include: the promotion of bio-diesel production, municipal solid waste management, the development of the concept of corporate social responsibility, food safety and quality training and advisory services, and the development of SMEs in the food processing sector.

Cooperation with the Balkan countries to phase out ozone depleting substances (ODSs) has taken place in every one of the affected countries, and has included investment projects across the commercial refrigeration, rigid and flexible form, and methyl bromide sectors, as well as the creation of Ozone Secretariats, the preparation of national ODS phase-out plans, the design of Halon Bank management programmes, etc.

The countries affected by developments in the Balkans are, moreover, fully integrated in the Organization's global forum function in the region. The largest of these programmes was the Regional Initiative on Technology Foresight, to the meetings of which all of the countries were invited. Similarly, the countries actively participated in UNIDO's Regional Forum on Industrial Cooperation and Partnership in the region, as well as in UNIDO's International Forum on Strategies and Priorities for Environmental Industries.