

## Concept note for Side Event at 2019 SDG Investment Fair

**UN Headquarters, New York, 15-17 April 2019**

**Side event:** “Promoting responsible investments and sustainable technology through public and private sector partnerships”

**Related SDGs:** Goal 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth, Goal 9 – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, Goal 17 - Partnerships for the Goals

**Ideal Session:** Wednesday 17 April from 13.00 pm to 14.30 pm, Partnership Arena: Innovative mechanisms to finance MSMEs

**Submitted by (lead organizer):** UNIDO

### **Background:**

SMEs play a significant role in achieving the SDGs and can contribute to solving some of the core issues for the 2030 Agenda as they make up more than 90% of all businesses worldwide. Particularly for developing countries, they are key to the development of a competitive private sector, generating decent jobs and economic growth. However, both internal and external barriers challenge the growth of SMEs in developing countries and therefore can inhibit their ability to generate inclusive economic growth. Challenges such as upscaling to economies-of-scale in production, conforming to the international market’s requirements of large volumes of standardized products which local SMEs cannot deliver, and suffering from limited access to technology compared to larger competitors, all present roadblocks for SMEs.

**Goal 8** on “Decent Work and Economic Growth” and **Goal 9** on “Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure” are two of the SDGs which are particularly significant for creating and empowering SMEs in developing countries as well as for creating an attractive investment climate. Implementing efforts to improve the capacities of local industries for value addition, economic diversification, export promotion and employment creation can strengthen the investment climate for SMEs in developing countries and facilitate the regional integration of economies.

However, the SDGs can only be realized with a strong commitment to global partnership and cooperation. In this regard, **SDG 17** on “Partnerships for the Goals” is crucial as it seeks to facilitate international cooperation, multi-stakeholder partnerships and the alignment on public and private investments and industrial policies. Indeed, **SDG 17**, with the objective to foster technology exchange mechanisms, technology policy coordination measures and related investment opportunities is fundamental in achieving all other targets.

Moving towards realizing these mechanisms within the **UN system**, there is a unique network made up of technical field offices, strategically situated in industrialized and emerging economies, with the mission to facilitate investment flows and technology transfer. The promotion of SDG investments ties well into the mandate of this network, the UNIDO Network of Investment and Technology Promotion Offices (ITPOs), which is to contribute to the reduction of development imbalances by brokering investment and technology agreements and transfer between industrialized countries, developing countries and economies in transition.



The UNIDO Network of ITPOs comprises offices in Bahrain, China, the Republic of Korea, Japan, Russian Federation, Nigeria, Germany and Italy. The ITPOs provide high quality, tailor-made and demand-driven services to public and private sectors in order to enhance competitiveness of SMEs in developing countries. The Network's package of advisory services includes information on opportunities for international investment ventures and technology acquisition/transfer, organization of technology exhibitions and investment events at national, regional and international levels, business and institutional delegations to and from the host countries and delegate programmes.

The UNIDO Network of ITPOs is also well positioned to effectively harness important emerging trends such as impact investing – “investments made into companies, organizations, and funds with the intention to generate social and environmental impact alongside a financial return.” Impact investors finance sectors that often have difficulty attracting other private capital such as financial inclusion, renewable energy and rural development, which confirms their role as catalysts for inclusive and sustainable development. The Network is also prepared to play a role in providing transfer and sharing of knowledge related to Industry 4.0., which will present various challenges and opportunities in the coming years for developed and developing countries and for different economic sectors.

**Main Objective:**

To illustrate how responsible investments and sustainable technology transfer for SMEs can be promoted through public and private sector partnerships to achieve the SDGs and to share best practices on how to foster global partnerships to advance prosperity for all.

**Format:**

This session will feature a panel debate of representatives from the ITPOs and the private sector as part of these networks in order to discuss how partnerships across industries, sectors and countries can promote foreign and domestic investments as well as transfer technology to SMEs.

Programme

Welcome Remarks: Ms. Diana Battaglia, Head of ITPO Italy, UNIDO

Moderator: Ms. Ashley Bantelman, UNIDO

Panelists:

- Mr. Hashim Hussein, Head of ITPO Bahrain, UNIDO
- Ms. Annalisa Citterio, Head of Sustainability, CNHi Industrial
- Ms. Delilah Rothenberg, Managing Director, Development Capital Strategies LLC
- Ms. Marina Migliorato, Head of Sustainability Stakeholders Engagement, Enel
- Ms. Susanna Wolf, Senior Programme Officer, UN-OHRLLS