

## 26<sup>th</sup> UNEN Meeting Minutes

25 October 2023

8:30 – 10:00 a.m.

Mr. Navid Hanif, Assistant Secretary-General of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), opened the meeting by introducing the agenda.

### Opening Remarks

ASG Hanif briefed the participants on recent events, including the SDG Summit, High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development and Ministerial Meeting of the Summit of the Future. Related to the Summit of the Future, He proposed to establish a working group on foresight, which was well received by the participants.

### Update on the work related to the Executive Committee decision on UN engagement with International Financial Institutions

Carmen Arguello, DCO and Kenneth Iversen, DESA, presented work following the Executive Committee meeting on 16 March (2023/14 (3)). The Executive Committee had requested a mapping of ongoing relationships between the UN and IFI. Based on mapping findings, the UNEN was requested to prepare strategic talking points and key messages for RCO and UNCTs on how to better engage with IFIs.

The presentation highlighted findings from a survey which was conducted by DCO and DESA. The presentation described some noteworthy trends. While the World Bank and the IMF are the most common partners for the UN, the survey revealed that there is collaboration with a range of other IFIs. Collaborations at global level are mostly around joint capacity development and technical assistance, while at regional and country levels, there is more emphasis on data collection and analytical work. Challenges include limited information sharing and lack of coordination at country level, as well as priorities that are not well aligned.

The results of this mapping and the considerable experience within the UNEN will go into preparing talking points and key messages, to complete the work requested by the EC/DC. An initial draft, prepared by a small team, will be circulated for comments and feedback from UNEN members.

### Update from co-leads of working groups on the informal economy; taxation and the SDGs; and migration

Co-leads presented updates on the progress towards the preparation of briefs by respective subgroups: Jorge Bravo, DESA on migration, Sara Castro De Hallgren, DESA and Simel Esim, ILO on the informal economy and Amina Ebrahim, UNU-Wider on taxation and the SDGs. The drafts are close to being ready for circulation within the UNEN.

### Working group on industrial policy

Nobuya Haraguchi, UNIDO, introduced the concept note for a brief on industrial policy. He highlighted that a recent study indicated that the proportion of ‘industrial policies’ as a component of national policies has risen from around 19% to around 50% over the last 10 years, attesting to the growing interest in

industrial policies. The brief will assess the potential trade-offs and synergies of industrial policies in economic growth, job creation and environmental sustainability, in a range of different contexts. It will contain recommendations for action at various levels. During the discussion, members proposed a number of ideas to ensure the brief could add value in the UN context. These included links to least developed countries, energy policy, technological change and social consequences particularly in relation to gender.

#### AOB

Simel Esim, ILO and Chantal Line Carpentier, UNCTAD, gave an update on the UN General Assembly resolution on a promoting the social and solidarity economy for sustainable development. Momentum for such a resolution has been building for the last 10 years, with the support of the UN task force on the social and solidarity economy.

#### **Next steps:**

- A working group on foresight will be established. A sign-up form to indicate interest in joining the working group will be circulated and there will be a brainstorming meeting on this topic in November.
- Drafting will commence on preparing key messages and talking point related to UN engagement with International Financial Institutions.
- The briefs on informal economy, taxation and the SDGs and migration will be circulated shortly for comments and feedback by the Network.
- The concept note for the brief on industrial policy and a sign-up form to indicate interest in joining the working group will be circulated.