Mobilizing Investments and Technologies for Sustainable Industrial Development

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The past year has drastically shown that we live in a world confronted by multifaceted crises – climate change, global conflicts and wars, inflation, energy and food shortages. Sub-Saharan African countries, which are particularly vulnerable to these crises, are experiencing heavy setbacks in their socio-economic and industrial development. It is the responsibility of industrialized countries like Germany to not only fulfill their own commitments to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) but also to mobilize investments and private sector engagement in development, innovation, and technological solutions for countries in the Global South.

To further intensify this commitment, UNIDO acts as a bridge and platform for technology and knowledge transfer, investments, and partnerships. In line with this responsibility, it is the mandate of the UNIDO Investment and Technology Promotion Offices (ITPOs) to encourage and support the private sector in joining this path and to contribute to Director General Gerd Müller’s priorities of strengthening sustainable supply chains, limiting climate breakdown, and ending hunger.

With the opening of our second ITPO Germany office in Berlin, headed by my colleague Mr. Olaf Deutschbein, we were able to diversify our activities, raise our profile, and broaden our scope. Successful engagements at international trade fairs such as Interpack and IBA, the world’s leading trade fairs for the packaging industry and for the baking industry, we have demonstrated that ITPO Germany remains deeply engaged, working closely with small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) from Germany and African nations. Simultaneously, initiatives like the UNIDO Innovation Award or forging agreements with German business networks have shown that our scope in investment and technology promotion now encompasses other relevant stakeholders as well as multinational collaborations.

Further highlights, such as our Private Sector Missions to Benin, Togo, and Nigeria, as well as hosting delegations from African countries, from China or from Ukraine in Germany, have proven and reinforced UNIDO’s and ITPO Germany’s valuable and pivotal role in German and international development cooperation.

These achievements would not be possible without our dedicated colleagues and partners. I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to my colleagues in Bonn, Vienna, Berlin, Abidjan, Lagos, and Khartoum/Kassala. Their tireless commitment, immense motivation, and unwavering focus on their tasks enabled us to successfully accomplish our goals and objectives in 2023. I also express gratitude to our supportive and invaluable stakeholders, particularly Mr. Stefan Bethe and Mr. Roland Guttack from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). Finally, I would like thank Deputy Director General Ms. Fatou Haidara for her constant support and guidance as Managing Director of the Directorate of Global Partnerships and External Relations (GLO) and warmly welcome Mr. Stein Hansen as the new Chief of the ITPO Network division (GLO/ITP).

Rolf Steltemeier
Head of UNIDO ITPO Germany

“We have the technologies, the knowledge and the global capital for achieving the SDGs. So the good news is that first, we know what to do. Second, we know how to do it. But we need the global ambition and the global political will to follow through!”

Gerd Müller

“It is high time to step up the pace on the road to the Sustainable Development Goals. As Minister for Development, I always have our partner countries in mind: They suffer most when the goals are not met – such as ending poverty and hunger, providing quality education and health for all or promoting gender equality.”

Svenja Schulze

UNIDO Director General Gerd Müller and German Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development Svenja Schulze at the UN General Assembly in New York

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1.1 UNIDO at a Glance

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations with a unique mandate to promote, dynamize and accelerate industrial development.

The mandate is reflected in Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 9: “Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation”. Nevertheless, UNIDO’s activities contribute to all SDGs.

UNIDO’s vision is a world without poverty and hunger, where industry drives low-emission economies, improves living standards, and preserves the liveable environment for present and future generations, leaving no one behind.

UNIDO provides support to its 172 Member States through four mandated functions: technical cooperation; action-oriented research and policy-advisory services; normative standards-related activities; and fostering partnerships for knowledge and technology transfer.

1.2 UNIDO Priorities

Hunger and poverty, climate change and environmental degradation are the key challenges the world faces today. UNIDO’s work is therefore concentrated on the following three focus areas:

* Ending hunger by cutting post-harvest losses and developing agribusiness value chains;
* Limiting climate breakdown by using renewable energy and energy efficiency to reduce industrial greenhouse gas emissions;
* Supporting sustainable supply chains so that producers in developing countries get a fair deal, and scarce resources are preserved.

See Chapters 4 and Chapters 5 to see how ITPO Germany’s activities contribute to UNIDO’s priorities.
Priority
ENDING HUNGER

As many as 828 million people are unsure where their next meal comes from. But a world without hunger is possible – through sustainable industrialization, technology and knowledge transfer, and investment in agribusiness. Food safety and food quality control are key not only to safeguarding people’s health but also to improving livelihoods. When food safety is assured, food exports can access regional and international markets. UNIDO works to achieve food security so that all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food. Agribusiness and sustainable food supply chains play a crucial role. For example, UNIDO works to help reduce post-harvest losses. One way to do this is by developing and improving the processing of agricultural products that leads to less food losses and lower food costs – this way increasing food security, while at the same time generating job opportunities in rural communities. The processing of agricultural products in developing countries not only has a huge potential to create jobs, it also increases export revenues and boosts economies. Digital technologies make a difference here. Traceability technologies and digital logistic services can streamline agri-food supply chains. Knowledge transfer about digital technologies allows women and youth working at all points along the food supply chain to reduce food waste, improve food safety and access new markets.

ITPO GERMANY CONTRIBUTION
TO THIS UNIDO PRIORITY

See Chapter 4 and Chapter 5 for details

- Delegate Programme “Clean Industrial Process Heat”
- Delegate Programme “Sustainable Packaging Solutions”
- Delegate Programme “Modern Industrial Baking Technology”
- Private Sector Mission to West Africa
- Investment and Technology Promotion Platform
- SDG-Award / UNIDO Innovation Award
- Sustainable Agriculture: GF&A / GAAF
- Chinese Delegation in Berlin
- German-African Business Association Panel Discussion
- High Level Week in New York
- Anuga Trade Show
- DIHAD Conference and Exhibition
- Global Refugee Forum
- G20 Compact with Africa Investment Summit (CwA)
- 10th German-Nigerian Business Forum (GNBF)
Priority
LIMITING CLIMATE BREAKDOWN

Nearly half the world’s population is highly vulnerable to climate impacts and severe water shortages. Thirty percent of the population is exposed to deadly heat stress, a figure that is expected to rise significantly in the decades to come. The role of industry in the context of climate change is threefold: industry is one of the largest emitters of greenhouse gases, it is itself adversely affected by the changing climate and resource depletion, and it has the potential to become a leading provider of technological solutions, business models and green jobs, while influencing consumer behaviour and lifestyles across the globe.

Inclusive and sustainable industrialization is a key element of an effective climate change strategy. The guiding principle of UNIDO’s activities is low-emission, climate-resilient development. This means promoting sustainable policies, technologies and practices so that countries can take climate action and, in doing so, create millions of new, decent jobs. UNIDO’s strategy in response to climate breakdown is maximizing synergies with other priority areas such as energy, agribusiness development and food security, circular economy and biodiversity. UNIDO sees innovation as key to mitigating and adapting to climate change. Technological options for avoiding and reducing greenhouse gas emissions must be further developed. UNIDO provides a platform for technology transfer, investment mobilization and climate partnerships to accelerate this process.

ITPO GERMANY CONTRIBUTION
TO THIS UNIDO PRIORITY

See Chapter 4 and Chapter 5 for details

- Delegate Programme “Clean Industrial Process Heat”
- Private Sector Mission to West Africa
- SDG-Award / UNIDO Innovation Award
- Berlin Energy Transition Dialogue 2023
- Chinese Delegation in Berlin
- German-African Business Association Panel Discussion
- High Level Week in New York
- DIHAD Conference and Exhibition
- Cleantech Innovation Festival The ARC 2023
- The smarter E Europe
- International Vienna Energy and Climate Forum (IVECF)
- Global Refugee Forum
- G20 Compact with Africa Investment Summit (CwA) / 10th German-Nigerian Business Forum (GNBF)
- Launching Ceremony Global Call 2023
- Connection UNIDO Shanghai with UNFCCC
- Chinese Eco Industrial Design Delegation
- Renewable energy meets agribusiness at IVECF
Priority
SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE SUPPLY CHAINS

Supply chains are essential to trade, and trade is essential to job creation, but supply chains must be sustainable. There are an estimated 450 million people working in global supply chains. Approximately 190 million of them are women. These jobs, working in the factories, farms and packing houses that supply the world’s clothing, goods and food, offer a promise of economic independence. But the reality for millions of workers is excessive hours, often in difficult and unsafe working conditions, and wages that are not enough to make ends meet.

The exploitation of people and labour, and the exploitation of the environment, must not be the basis of the global economy. Fair global business practices are needed, and this requires companies to check human rights and environmental standards. Companies must identify, prevent and mitigate negative impacts on human rights and environment in their own operations and those of their subsidiaries and their supply chains.

ITPO GERMANY CONTRIBUTION TO THIS UNIDO PRIORITY
See Chapter 4 and Chapter 5 for details

• Delegate Programme “Clean Industrial Process Heat”
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• German-African Business Association Panel Discussion
• High Level Week in New York
• Anuga Trade Show
• G20 Compact with Africa Investment Summit (CwA)
• 10th German-Nigerian Business Forum (GNBF)
• Chinese Eco Industrial Design Delegation
1.3 UNIDO Investment and Technology Promotion Offices

In 1986, UNIDO introduced the first Investment Promotion Services, which would later become Investment and Technology Promotion Offices (ITPOs). Currently, nine ITPOs operate throughout the world: ITPO Bahrain (since 1995), ITPO China (Beijing) (since 1989), ITPO China (Shanghai) (since 2001), ITPO Italy (since 1985), ITPO Japan (since 1980), ITPO CIIC Russian Federation (since 1989), ITPO Republic of Korea (since 1987), ITPO Nigeria (since 2015), and ITPO Germany (since 2017). The ITPOs are guided by the Division of ITPOs and Institutional Partnerships under the Directorate of Global Partnerships and External Relations (GLO).

The objective of the ITPOs is to contribute to the industrial development and economic growth of developing countries and countries with economies in transition by identifying and mobilizing the technical, financial, managerial and other resources required for the implementation of specific industrial investment and technology promotion projects with local partners.

The ITPOs contribute to the reduction of development imbalances by brokering investment and technology agreements between developed and developing countries. The ITPOs aim to bridge global investment and technology gaps by

- opening up opportunities for investors and technology suppliers;
- finding potential partners for businesses in developed and developing countries;
- offering unique services to both entrepreneurs and business institutions.

ITPOs act as impartial advisors and brokers along the entire investment promotion and technology transfer process, whilst the Division of ITPOs and Institutional Partnerships ensures effective networking, information and knowledge sharing amongst the ITPOs. The Division also ensures that the work of the individual ITPOs is coordinated with UNIDO programmes, projects and field operations and facilitates the up-scaling of development impacts.
2.1 Background and Mandate

The Investment and Technology Promotion Office in Germany was established in 2017 based on an agreement between UNIDO and the German Federal Government. Its mandate is to mobilize and promote responsible and impact investments and transfer of green technologies from Germany and Europe towards developing countries and economies in transition, with a focus on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

UNIDO ITPO Germany (short: ITPO Germany) contributes to the inclusive and sustainable industrial development and economic growth of developing countries by identifying and mobilizing technical, financial and managerial resources. To achieve this goal, ITPO Germany closely interacts with the German industrial sector, which is highly developed and offers sustainable solutions for the world market. Environmental technologies from Germany are in demand across the globe. This mandate is supported by ITPO Germany’s vision for 2030: to be a competent and recognized player in Germany for the mobilization of investment and sustainable technologies for developing countries. With their work, the offices of ITPO Germany in Bonn and Berlin contribute to the three major priorities for action – ending hunger, limiting climate breakdown and sustainable supply chains – laid out by Director General Gerd Müller (See Chapter 1.2 for details).

2.2 Mobilizing German Investments and Technologies for the 2030 Agenda

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was formally adopted by the heads of state and government of the 193 member states of the United Nations in New York in 2015. With its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the 2030 Agenda provides the basis for the German government’s development policy. As the world’s second-largest public-sector donor to development cooperation, Germany is fundamental to the achievement of the SDGs in its partner countries.

In line with the SDGs, ITPO Germany combines market opportunities, entrepreneurial initiatives and local needs to maximize the social and ecological impact of its projects. As a project of UNIDO, ITPO Germany places particular emphasis on SDG 9, which aims to build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.

Realizing the need for cross-sector and cross-country collaboration, ITPO Germany also supports SDG 17 (partnerships for the goals) by fostering important global partnerships between institutions, companies, governments, and investors for sustainable development. The project successfully leverages its location on the UN Campus in Bonn, its Berlin office, and Germany’s leadership in technologies and investments for combatting climate change.
2.3 The Team

The head of ITPO Germany is Rolf Steltemeier. Olaf Deutschbein heads the ITPO Germany Berlin office. Michael Schmidt and Vanessa Voelkel are working as deputy heads of ITPO Germany and are based in Bonn. Experts Jessica Neumann and Andreas Schaefer are located in Vienna and Bonn, respectively.

The expert team is supported by Associate Experts Robin Kuranel (Bonn) and Justus Schneider (Berlin). Team Assistant Skirmante Tamelyte supports the team in administrative tasks.

With Daouda Sangaré (Côte d’Ivoire), Adekunle Olusile (Nigeria) and Yassir Ahmed (Sudan), three local National Advisors work for ITPO Germany, strengthening the local presence and expertise in key countries in sub-Saharan Africa.
2.4 Services of ITPO Germany

ITPO Germany is an impartial broker for international investment projects. It provides support and promotes the transfer of green and sustainable technologies \textit{made in Germany} to developing countries, with a focus on the following sectors:

A two-pronged strategy to promote industrialization in developing countries

To better meet local needs and to realize the full potential for industrial cooperation, ITPO Germany adopted a two-pronged strategy promoting industrialization and technology transfer in developing countries. The first part of this strategy supports industrial upgrading in predominately urban centres, industrial parks and special economic zones, which provide the infrastructural conditions for larger-scale industrial projects. The second part of the strategy fosters bottom-up industrialization by focusing on smaller communities in more remote areas and their needs for small-scale and innovative industrial projects and infrastructure development, including initiatives in fragile environments and the humanitarian context. This approach fully recognizes the differences of these two areas in terms of target groups, required technologies, financing needs and stakeholders' involvement:

**INDUSTRIAL UPGRADING**

Larger industrial projects in urban centres and/or industrial zones, building on existing infrastructure and a developed skill base.

Local investors and business support agencies are driving the process, requesting technologies, partnerships as well as financing opportunities and co-investments from German and European industrial partners.

Projects typically
- involve private investors and more established companies and advanced technologies
- are commercially financed, often through export credit financing and investment guarantee schemes
- relate to industrial production and processing plants, energy efficiency and renewable energy in industry and applications such as automation and Industry 4.0 and the use of green hydrogen

**RURAL SOLUTIONS**

Smaller-scale industrial projects in rural areas with substantial infrastructural deficits in terms of energy, water, education and basic services.

Social business sections of larger corporations, start-up innovators and social enterprises are generally driving the process.

Projects typically
- involve local communities
- require the collaboration of multiple players and technology providers to address multi-faceted development challenges
- are financed by public authorities, foundations, impact investors or development finance institutions
- relate to the supply of basic infrastructure (water, energy, health, skills development) and the development of related value chains in the sectors of agribusiness, commercial enterprises, and small-scale manufacturing
Services for German companies, investors and technology providers

ITPO Germany supports SMEs and innovative start-ups with inclusive and sustainable business projects that are relevant for developing countries and economies in transition.

The measures include:

- Searching for project partners and project opportunities in developing countries
- Networking with other projects and investors to create synergies
- Sharing information and providing advice on financing and funding opportunities
- Participating in trade fairs in Germany and developing countries
- Trainings to upgrade local skills crucial for project implementation
- Providing institutional and political support
- Promoting projects and finding partners through the online Investment and Technology Promotion Platform (ITPP)

Services for companies and investors in developing countries and economies in transition

Local companies and investors are the main drivers of sustainable and inclusive industrial development in developing countries. ITPO Germany involves them at an early stage and supports them to internationally facilitate and accelerate their investment projects and to upgrade their industrial capacities.

ITPO Germany’s services include:

- Proposing project partners, technology providers, and co-investors in Germany
- Consulting businesses on how to approach and present project opportunities to potential German partners and investors
- Facilitating capacity building, training programs, and trade show visits
- Promoting projects and finding partners on the online Investment and Technology Promotion Platform (ITPP)

Capacity building for partners in developing countries and economies in transition

ITPO Germany closely cooperates with Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs), ministries, other business development organizations and local professional service providers in target markets. Reliable and professional local implementation partners are crucial for the successful implementation of investment projects on the ground. ITPO Germany offers its partners a platform for promoting their markets and projects in Germany.

Examples for such measures are:

- Hosting the Delegate Programme for senior representatives from IPAs, relevant ministries, enterprises and industry specialists to promote their markets and projects in Germany
- Organizing visitor groups and facilitating (co-) exhibitions in ITPO Germany’s trade show programme
- Providing institutional support and policy advice
- Promoting projects and companies on the online Investment and Technology Promotion Platform (ITPP)

The solar tower in Juelich, Germany, is a test facility for commercial solar thermal power plants.
2.5 Opening of Berlin office

9 May 2023, Berlin

UNIDO Director General Gerd Müller and UNDP Administrator Achim Steiner inaugurated the first joint office of UNDP and UNIDO ITPO Germany in the heart of the German capital.

In his welcome address, Director General Müller expressed his thanks for the political support for the new office and welcomed the 250 guests, including the King of Lesotho, numerous members of the German Bundestag, ambassadors, representatives of the business community and guests from civil society. “The SDGs are the best plan for the world. But implementation is progressing far too slowly. We need new partnerships for real win-win situations between the North and the South. The Global South relies on our solidarity, partnership, and economic cooperation. Technology and knowledge transfer are increasingly important, particularly from Germany. This new office will expand these initiatives. I am pleased that this is being done in close partnership with UNDP.”

Jochen Flasbarth, State Secretary in the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), emphasized in his subsequent speech that countries like Germany have a special responsibility to promote the SDGs and, in particular, a just and ecological transformation of global economies. In Africa alone, 25 million new jobs need to be created every year. Germany and the United Nations with UNIDO and UNDP should and will intensify their engagement to promote modern, green jobs.

Christoph Hoffmann, Chairman of the Development Committee of the German Bundestag, together with Tobias Lindner, Minister of State in the Federal Foreign Office, and Marina Ponti, Global Director of the UN SDG Action Campaign, discussed Germany’s multilateral engagement in light of its 50 years of membership in the United Nations. They underlined the significant humanitarian and development contributions over the last decades. They further discussed how to achieve the SDGs and Germany’s role and focus in the process.

The tasks of the new Berlin office include the initiation of strategic partnerships in the areas of green and just transition & industrial decarbonization; sustainable global value chains; sustainable & modern agriculture; and women’s empowerment, particularly with German and European multinational corporations. Additionally, the office aims to create new synergies for UNIDO with government decision-makers, businesses and other UN organizations operating in Berlin. This will increase the visibility and awareness of UNIDO’s work in Germany, with the intention of establishing new collaborations.

The office is headed by Olaf Deutschbein, who has many years of experience in development cooperation and government. He worked for the German Ministry of the Interior and the Development Ministry and has been responsible for initiatives such as the introduction of the Green Button, the worldwide first government-run certification label for sustainable textiles; the 15 Green Agricultural Innovation Centers, and the Cash for Work Initiative which has provided 60,000 jobs per year for Syrian refugees in the Middle East.

Strong interest in the opening of the joint UNIDO ITPO Germany/UNDP office.
Facts & Figures

ITPO GERMANY’S ACHIEVEMENTS

2450 companies & institutions connected through B2B/B2G matchmaking

473 companies benefited from direct consulting and targeted information provided by ITPO Germany

230 technologies were scouted and promoted in developing / industrializing countries

58 fairs & matchmaking events took place to which ITPO Germany actively contributed

34 delegations from Africa, China and Eastern Europe were accompanied in Germany

77 delegates from emerging economies took part in a targeted visitor programme

41 activities contributing to UNIDO’s priorities (See Chapter 1.2)

17 LIMITING CLIMATE BREAKDOWN

11 SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE SUPPLY CHAINS

13 ENDING HUNGER
32 countries in which ITPO Germany supported enhanced private-sector cooperation:

- Angola
- Armenia
- Benin
- Botswana
- China
- Cameroon
- Colombia
- Côte d'Ivoire
- Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Ethiopia
- The Gambia
- Georgia
- Ghana
- India
- Iran
- Kenya
- Lebanon
- Mozambique
- Mauretania
- Morocco
- Namibia
- Nigeria
- Rwanda
- Senegal
- Sierra Leone
- Somalia
- South Africa
- Sudan
- Tanzania
- Togo
- Tunisia
- Uganda
- Uzbekistan
- Yemen
- Zambia
4.1 Advisory Programme

Through its Advisory Programme, ITPO Germany provides services to the private sector and governments on industry-related issues by assigning local advisors in target markets. The advisors offer potential investors and technology providers from Germany the latest information and advice on the local investment environment to facilitate technology transfer and business matchmaking.

Advisors assist with a variety of services required for business, such as introduction to partners in the public and private sector and information on how to operationalize business strategies and policies in local environments. They arrange and accompany business meetings, facilitate delegate missions from national representatives to Germany and provide follow-up services, thereby accelerating industrial development and increasing competitiveness in the respective target market.

ITPO Germany has established its Advisory Programme in three countries: Côte d’Ivoire, Nigeria and Sudan.

“It has been a real pleasure to collaborate with UNIDO ITPO. With its dynamism, it has been one of the engines behind the increase of German economic presence in Côte d’Ivoire over the past few years. Thank you so much for your engagement!”

Marton Koever
Former Deputy Head of Mission and Political and Economic Counsellor, German Embassy Abidjan

From left: National Advisors Daouda Sangaré (Côte d’Ivoire), Adekunle Olusile (Nigeria) and Yassir Ahmed (Sudan)
4.2 Delegate Programme

The Delegate Programme is one of ITPO Germany’s flagship activities that regularly invites investment and/or technology promotion delegates for a short-term stay in Germany and Europe. The objective of the programme is to connect with German and European companies, to present investment opportunities from the delegate’s host country to potential investors and to strengthen the delegate’s network of contacts to German institutions, investors, and technology providers. ITPO Germany offers the delegates highly tailored agendas that consist of pre-arranged business meetings, investment seminars and conferences as well as visits to specialized trade shows and companies.

With the Delegate Programme, ITPO Germany supports capacity building for partner organizations from developing countries and emerging markets. The target group includes committed individuals from investment promotion agencies and other business development organizations, ministries as well as dynamic and innovative start-ups and companies. In 2023, ITPO Germany organized three delegate programmes for a total of 49 participants from 16 countries.

SUSTAINABLE PACKAGING SOLUTIONS
20 participants from 7 countries
(Benin, Côte d’Ivoire, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal)

CLEAN INDUSTRIAL PROCESS HEAT
6 participants from 3 countries
(India, Egypt, Tunisia)

MODERN INDUSTRIAL BAKING TECHNOLOGY
23 participants from 11 countries
(Botswana, Côte d’Ivoire, Cameroon, Kenya, Lebanon, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda)

TOTAL:
49 participants from 16 countries
(Benin, Botswana, Côte d’Ivoire, Cameroon, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Lebanon, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda)

Sustainable Packaging Solutions

4-10 May 2023, Duesseldorf

The delegation was welcomed to Interpack by Pierre Pienaar, President of the World Packaging Organization. The group had the chance to connect with the organization during informal talks after the welcoming speech. The delegates were also briefed by Richard Clemens, Managing Director of the Process Plant and Equipment Association in the packaging sector (VDMA) with more than 300 member companies. ITPO Germany, together with VDMA, organized numerous company visits during the Interpack trade fair to connect the delegation to various technology providers and showcase the latest innovations in the packaging sector. The delegates also had the opportunity to meet with Aleksa Mirkovic, Project Associate at UNIDO’s Food Security and Food Systems Unit to learn more about UNIDO’s activities in the sector.

Packaging is a crucial element for almost every sector in order to preserve food, pharmaceuticals or cosmetic products and therefore avoid food losses, increase efficiency, and preserve natural resources which build the basis for the packaging industry. The Delegate Programme on Packaging Solutions was organized in line with UNIDO’s priorities put forward by Director General Gerd Müller, in particular “supporting sustainable supply chains” and “ending hunger by cutting post-harvest losses and developing agribusiness value chains”. The delegation consisted of 20 participants from 7 countries, who had been carefully selected out of 80 applications after an Africa-wide call for expressions of interest.

FAMEA produces machines and lines for filling and packaging dry products for almost all areas of application

MULTIVAC has been one of the leading manufacturers of packaging machines for more than 60 years
Networking Event:
Africa Meets Interpack

ITPO Germany and VDMA organized the networking event “Africa Meets Interpack”, where interested stakeholders had the opportunity to meet the African delegation of ITPO Germany and technology providers who are interested in the African market. The networking event was a good opportunity to learn about investment opportunities in various African countries and to bridge the connection to innovative technology providers to promote technology transfer towards the African continent, in line with the shared vision outlined in the Joint Declaration between UNIDO and VDMA signed in 2013.

Sustainable packaging made of renewable materials

Just a quick drive from DEG, the delegation met Tahsin Dag, founder and CEO of the Cologne-based local champion Papacks, which produces sustainable packaging for various sectors sourced from renewable materials. The company’s aim is to eliminate the use of plastics for packaging in various industries such as foods and beverages, pharmaceuticals, industry products and cosmetics. The delegates had the opportunity to take part in a factory tour and to learn more about the research and development as well as the possibilities to use tropical plants such as palm trees or banana trees as a potential source for fibre.

Financing Workshop at KfW/DEG in Cologne

In Cologne, the delegation met DEG (German Investment Corporation), a subsidiary of German development bank KfW, which offers financing opportunities, especially targeted at developing countries. Franziska Hollmann, Director of Corporate Finance Africa at DEG, facilitated the meeting and welcomed the group. The meeting was joined by financing-expert and founder of Pro QUADRIGA, Ralf Pepmoeller, as well as two representatives from Euler Hermes, a company which is commissioned to implement the federal funding instruments Export Credit Guarantees and United Loan Guarantees.

Aseptic packaging for a longer shelf-life

The German federal state of North Rhine-Westphalia is also home to a major production and development site of SIG Combibloc Systems GmbH, the second largest producer of aseptic packaging solutions and technology. In meetings with the EMEA team of SIG, the delegates could discuss their plans for industrial upgrading and get informed about the latest product developments. SIG also runs its own charitable foundation, whose project Cartons for Good in Bangladesh won Interpack’s SAVE FOOD project competition.
Clean Industrial Process Heat *

4-10 June 2023, Germany and Belgium

Industrial heat makes up two-thirds of industrial energy demand and almost 20% of global energy consumption. Thus, sustainable and clean heat generation and storage are key in order to decarbonize industries. While electricity generation from solar panels is well-established all around the world, there is still an untapped opportunity for heat generation powered by renewables. Sustainable heat generation through Concentrating Solar Power (CSP) can be a huge opportunity to not only decarbonize industries but also to save costs. Use cases range from low-temperature steam generation from parabolic trough systems up to high-temperature generation through heliostat power plants or emerging technologies such as plasma solution. In combination with The Arc Cleantech Innovation Festival (See Chapter 4.2), this Delegate Programme allowed the participants to dive into the practical application of heat production for industry.

The Programme was organized in line with UNIDO’s priority on limiting climate breakdown by promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency to reduce industrial greenhouse gas emissions. Highlights were the visits to Soliterm Group GmbH, the Solar Institute of Aachen University of Applied Sciences and the German Aerospace Center (DLR) Juelich, the leading research institute in the field of large-scale concentrated solar applications, and CHEMPARK in Leverkusen, a large integrated chemical park.

Additional meetings included a visit to the Avery Dennison plant in Belgium. To shift their heat production from natural gas to Concentrated Solar Power, the material science and manufacturing company installed a new System at their production plant. Operated by Azteq, a company specialized in the development, installation, operation, maintenance, and financing of complex thermal energy platforms, the site is one of the largest installations of parabolic mirrors in an industrial setting in Europe. In Brussels, the delegation met Solar Heat Europe (ESTIF) to explore the challenges and opportunities surrounding industry decarbonization.

During these visits, the delegates had the opportunity to connect with stakeholders and to learn about the latest innovations in the sector as well as to see running solar heat plants in action. Participants of the delegation came from India, Tunisia and Egypt. They were joined by Gihan Bayoumi, National Programme Officer for Energy Systems at UNIDO Egypt, and Sanjaya Shresta, Industrial Development Officer, Energy Systems and Decarbonization Unit at UNIDO Headquarters.

“Our company uses a combination of mechanical and thermal processes. The manufacturing process relies heavily on thermal oil. By using solar thermal energy, we can achieve a more sustainable and environmentally friendly production process. This transition will help us to reduce our energy consumption, decrease our greenhouse gas emissions and promote the use of renewable energy sources.”

Rabab Manee
Energy & Environment Sustainability Manager, Oriental Weavers, Egypt

Synlight facility at the DLR Institute of Solar Research in Juelich – the world’s largest artificial sun

Concentrated solar thermal platform at Avery Dennison
Modern Industrial Baking Technology

21-26 October 2023, Munich

To build up industrial capacities in the bakery and confectionary industry in Africa, UNIDO ITPO Germany invited private sector companies from Africa to take part in a delegation trip to IBA Munich and to connect with potential partners and technology providers from Germany and Europe.

From 22 to 26 October 2023, the bakery and confectionary industry gathered in Munich for the world’s leading trade show, where the latest technologies and innovations were presented.

The bakery sector is a fast-growing industry in Africa, playing a crucial role in fighting hunger, developing new value chains, and creating much-needed jobs. Opportunities abound, triggered by population growth and rising demand for food, the increasing need for resource and energy-efficient production methods, coupled with a growing middle class and a demand for high-quality packaged bakery goods. 23 delegates, chosen from over 100 applications, met with suppliers, took part in guided tours and visited state-of-the-art production sites in Bavaria.
4.3 Private Sector Missions to West Africa ***

25 November – 11 December 2023, Togo, Benin, Nigeria

West Africa is a rapidly connecting region, ECOWAS and private sector initiatives drive regional cooperation here. Togo, Benin and Nigeria offer numerous opportunities for investment. These countries are not only geographically close but also well connected through modern roads and infrastructure making the border crossings easy. All three countries work hard to increase electrification, especially in previously underserved rural areas. In total, the Private Sector Mission brought 25 German companies from the energy, agribusiness, and food-processing sectors to West Africa, who had the chance to meet local partners and establish meaningful business connections on the ground. The 5 networking events in Lomé, Cotonou, Lagos, Abeokuta, Ibadan and Abuja gathered more than 500 local participants who connected with the delegation and discussed possible future cooperations.

ACCESS TO ELECTRICITY

Benin 42% of population  
Nigeria 49.5% of population  
Togo 55.7% of population

Source: World Bank, 2024, Data for 2021 (most recent data)

Benin’s economy is largely agrarian, making agriculture a promising sector for investment. With fertile soil and a favorable climate, the country is well-suited for the cultivation of crops like cotton, maize, cassava, and oilseeds. Entrepreneurs can explore opportunities in agribusiness, such as food processing, agro-export, and the development of value-added products.

In cooperation with the APIEx, the Beninese national investment and export promotion agency, the delegation visited the Glo-Djigbe Industrial Zone, which is set to cover a total area of 1640 hectares, and which offers a one-stop shop for investors.

The women-led juice maker Jus Tillou showed how determination and the quest for quality can open new value chains for pineapple production. Like Togo, Benin is also expanding the access to renewable energy, and one of the participating companies will be launching a containerized solution in early 2024. A B2B-event at the Benin Chamber of Commerce of Industry attracted participants from across the country, with a strong focus on the processing of agricultural products.

Watch Beninese TV Report  
www.youtube.com/watch?v=20qvsPEzuBs (external link, in French)
Private Sector Mission
TOGO

Togo is a country of 9 million inhabitants with access to the sea that borders Ghana, Benin, and Burkina Faso. The two ports of Togo have been modernized during the last decade, turning the country into a major trade hub for the West African region. Agricultural products make up most exports. Cash crops like coffee, tea, cocoa, beans and peanuts generate more than 25% of export revenue. Coupled with an ambitious rural electrification policy, the country offers untapped business opportunities and high growth potential, especially in the agribusiness and energy sector. Based on the needs of the local market, ITPO Germany invited a selected group of companies consisting of investors from the energy sector, producers of industrial equipment and solutions for the food industry. At meetings with an investment fund, the rural electrification agency, local agribusiness companies SNB and NIOTO and the management of PIA, the biggest agro-industrial park, the business representatives discussed industrial upgrading, the replacement of fossil fuels with renewable energy and financing options for joint projects. During a B2B meeting organized in partnership with the Togolese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, around 100 local business representatives discussed investment projects and partnership opportunities.

SUCCESS STORY
Participants of the Private Sector Mission to West Africa teamed up to provide clean water in Togo. Just a few weeks after making contact during the Private Sector Mission, participating companies Cool Solar and Wilo already joined forces for the installation of a Wilo pump at Cool Solar’s customer Eau propre d’Afrique in the village of Kpessi. The pump supplies the 2500 people of the village with fresh drinking water, just in time for the dry season. Before the installation, there had been no single water point with clean drinking water.
Private Sector Mission
NIGERIA

During the mission to Nigeria, the delegation visited leading industrial companies in the food-processing, packaging and energy sector in Lagos, Oyo and Ogun States and Abuja. ITPO Germany, in cooperation with local partners, organised a dedicated financing workshop and three separate networking events in Lagos, Abeokuta (Ogun State) and Ibadan (Oyo State), with altogether over 350 external guests, including high-level participation by the Hon. Lagos State Commissioner for Commerce and Investment, Foloshade Ambrose-Medere, representatives of commercial banks, the national and regional Chambers of Commerce (NACCIMA) and Investment Promotion Agency (NIPC). The delegation engaged with policy makers, including the Governor of Oyo State, His Excellency Seyi Makinde, and visited project sites of private operators of industrial zones such as Nigerdock, Lagos Free Zone (Tolaram) incl. Lekki Deep Sea Port, ARISE IIP in Lagos and Ogun State. State-level initiatives to build agro-industrial zones and incentives, coupled with the emerging infrastructure and privately-owned free zone operators, with their ready infrastructure and tax-incentives, offer ample business opportunities for investments in these locations. During the final days of the Private Sector Mission, the delegation visited Nigeria’s capital Abuja and attended an investment summit at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, organized by the Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission (NIPC). The trip was finally concluded by a meeting with the National Agency for Science & Engineering Infrastructure – NASENI, a governmental institution with the mandate to conduct developmental work in the areas of manufacturing and infrastructure.
“Thanks to the UNIDO ITPO Germany Advisory Programme and Private Sector Missions, we could explore investment opportunities in Francophone sub-Saharan Africa and establish new partnerships for our pre-financed renewable energy solutions.”

Ursula Braun
Senior Business Development Manager
Emerging Markets, GRIPS Energy

“Thank you for the fantastic planning and helpfulness during the Private Sector Mission to Togo and Benin. The trip provided us with valuable insights into the business environment of the two markets. The connections I made with potential local partners and other participating companies will help us to deepen our engagement in the region. The impact was much bigger than if we had organized the trip on our own.”

Björn Kahle
Senior Project Engineer,
Sustainable Solar Systems (Pty) Ltd.

“Thanks to the well-organized UNIDO ITPO Germany Private Sector Mission, I had the opportunity to speak to farmers, CEOs of companies, commissioners and governors, representatives of ministries, banks, corporates, and strong female leaders. The Africa expertise of the ITPO team made this mission a door opener into a new market.”

Katrin Puetz
CEO and Founder of (b)energy and BiogasUnite
4.4 ITPP – Investment and Technology Promotion Platform

ITPO Germany’s global project database is dedicated to promoting innovative business opportunities and technologies that accelerate sustainable industrial development. The Investment and Technology Promotion Platform (ITPP) connects technology providers and investors from Germany and Europe with projects in developing countries and emerging markets. The online platform focuses exclusively on private-sector projects that contribute to inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

The platform showcases projects and technologies in the following sectors:

- Renewable Energy
- Energy Efficiency
- Environmental Technologies
- Sustainable Agribusiness
- Sustainable and Resilient Infrastructure
- Health and Sanitation
- Manufacturing
- Natural Resources and Mining
- Mobility
- Humanitarian Sector

REGISTER HERE!

itpp-germany.org
4.5 Trade Shows and Global Forums

Sustainable Agriculture
GFFA / GAAF ***

18-22 January 2023, Berlin

To strengthen cooperation in the field of sustainable agriculture, ITPO Germany Berlin office supported UNIDO’s activities at the International Green Week and the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA) in Berlin. With some 2000 international guests from politics, business, academia, and civil society, the GFFA is one of the most important specialized forums.

BMZ State Secretary Jochen Flasbarth visited the UNIDO booth at the Green Week, which attracted 300,000 visitors. UNIDO Managing Director Gunther Beger presented the organization’s new priorities to Germany’s Federal Minister for Food and Agriculture, Cem Özdemir. In particular, closer collaboration with the FAO and the establishment of a strategic partnership with Bayer Crop Science, including pilot activities in Africa and Asia, were agreed upon at the conference.

At the German-African Agribusiness Forum (GAAF), hosted by the German-African Business Association, UNIDO and ITPO Germany Berlin additionally organized a panel on “The Agri-Energy-Nexus: How to combine Food Security with Energy Transition.” It was agreed to further deepen cooperation in the field of sustainable agriculture in the next years.

DIHAD Conference and Exhibition **

13-15 March 2023, Dubai

During DIHAD Conference and Exhibition 2023, seven innovative companies showcased their innovations for the humanitarian sector at the ITPO Germany Pavilion. The companies offer energy and cooling solutions which are ideally suited for precarious living conditions.

By promoting these companies at the ITPO sponsored Pavilion, ITPO Germany built on its private sector mission to Uganda and Kenya, co-organized with UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, in October 2022. Private sector engagement in the humanitarian and protracted displacement settings has huge but yet untapped potential for improving the lives of more than 100 million refugees worldwide. The project was lauded by UNHCR as a best practice example for private sector cooperation:

“Private sector partners visited Kakuma-Kalobeyei and explored innovative solutions for issues such as the need for cold storage of farm products and medical supplies, medical solutions, and solar solutions to meet the growing energy needs of the local population.”

UNHCR Report „Best Practices from the EHAGL Region of Successful Cooperation with the Private Sector – October 2023“
Berlin Energy Transition Dialogue *

28-29 March 2023, Berlin

The Berlin Energy Transition Dialogue (BETD) has become one of the world’s most important forums on global energy transition – facilitating exchange between global business leaders, scientists, leaders of international organizations and governments and NGOs.

In line with UNIDO’s focus on sustainable industrialization, ITPO-Germany Berlin organized key activities around the BETD23. Director General Gerd Müller was one of the key speakers at the event on Enhancing African-European Cooperation for a Green Future, along with Akinwumi Adesina, President of the African Development Bank, and Sultan al Jaber, the UAE’s Minister of Industry and President of COP28. The Director General called for more low-emission, climate-resilient development, introducing partnerships to drive sustainable industrial development that leaves no one behind while creating millions of new, decent, green jobs.

The new Berlin office aims to intensify activities for a just and green transition in cooperation with relevant federal ministries or the German Renewable Energy Federation. This means promoting policies, technologies and practices that enable countries to pursue climate-friendly industrial development that leaves no one behind while creating millions of new, decent, green jobs.

Cooperation at the Berlin Energy Transition Dialogue is to be further deepened in 2024. In the area of just energy transition, it has already been expanded, for example at the International Vienna Energy and Climate Forum in November 2023 and at COP 28 in Dubai in 2024. ITPO Germany Berlin will be present with an own booth and UNIDO will participate as one of the key speakers.

UNIDO ITPO Heads Meetings

7-11 May 2023, United Arab Emirates

The 12th edition of the Global Annual Investment Meeting (AIM) 2023 is a major annual international conference on the topic of investment promotion, with over 10,000 participants from 175 countries.

At AIM, UNIDO and the ITP Network, represented by the Heads of ITPOs, showcased the UNIDO mandate, work programme, and strategic approaches catalyzing technical cooperation, financing and partnerships. At the presence of UNIDO Deputy Director General Fatou Haidara and ITPO Coordinator Weixi Gong, Rolf Steltemeier, Head of ITPO Germany, and other Heads of Offices used the Global AIM 2023 for their first bi-annual Heads Meeting. Together with other representatives of UNIDO, Rolf Steltemeier discussed and developed strategies to advance investment and technology promotion as well as cross-institutional partnerships worldwide.

1-9 September 2023, China

At invitation of UNIDO ITPO Beijing and at the presence of UNIDO Deputy Director General Fatou Haidara and ITPO Coordinator Weixi Gong, ITPO Head of Offices held a meeting in Beijing, Zhengzhou and Xiamen, China to strengthen their partnership and develop strategies to advance investment and technology promotion and cross-institutional partnerships. In a virtual meeting with Director General Gerd Müller, experiences

in the ITPO countries were exchanged and stock was taken of how the ITPOs are contributing to addressing the organization’s recently sharpened priorities. Director General Gerd Müller assured the participants that the ITP Network will play a leading role in establishing UNIDO as a frontrunner in technology and knowledge transfer.

The delegation met with different high-level leaders of provinces and state ministries as well as with important international companies based in the three visited provinces. For example, ITPO Germany Berlin discussed with Lenovo Corp the potential for cooperation in the field of decarbonization and climate neutrality and agreed to follow up on that. At the China International Fair For Trade In Services (CIFTIS) in Xiamen, Rolf Steltemeier, Head of ITPO Germany participated in a high level panel discussion to talk about the importance and urgency of exploring how to leverage AI technology to promote Industry 4.0, and in this regard enable and promote precise investment in fair supply chains. Furthermore, the UNIDO booth at China International Fair for Investment and Trade (CIFT), one of the world’s largest global investment events, was officially opened by the ITPO Heads. Olaf Deutschbein, who heads ITPO Germany’s Berlin office, discussed opportunities for cooperation in the field of decarbonization and climate neutrality with Lenovo and agreed to develop concrete follow-up measures with UNIDO and ITPO Beijing.
The ARC Cleantech Innovation Festival *

6-8 June 2023, Remscheid

The ARC Cleantech Innovation Festival, hosted by Future Cleantech Architects and co-organized by ITPO Germany, zoomed in on the hard-to-abate industry sectors of cement, aviation, and long duration energy storage to remove roadblocks and bridge the innovation gaps to reach net zero by 2050. More than 250 participants from over 25 countries attended around 30 events at 6 venues across the industrial city of Remscheid. Building on the successful partnership with FCA, ITPO Germany co-hosted the festival together with UN Climate Change (UNFCCC) & EIT Inno Energy and organized two panels.

The results and key takeaways were presented in December 2023 at COP28 in Dubai.

ITPO Germany’s Deputy Head Vanessa Voelkel and FCA’s Founder & CEO Peter Schniering moderated the opening panel Driving Cleantech Innovation Effectively with Klaus Wiener (Member of the German Parliament), Johanna Schiele (EU Innovation Fund) and Thore Lohmann (thyssenkrupp Uhde).

UNIDO ITPO Germany furthermore organized a panel discussion on Decarbonizing Industrial Heat where ITPO Germany’s Deputy Head Michael Schmidt discussed the latest innovations and practical applications with experts and industry representatives from Europe, Africa and Asia.

As part of the ITPO Germany’s Delegate Programme, industry representatives from India, Tunisia, Egypt, Morocco as well UNIDO’s Energy Systems and Industrial Decarbonization Unit joined the debate to present, discuss and identify specific steps to reach net zero.

A specific focus of the session with UNIDO lay on improving energy efficiency by using renewable energy sources for generating industrial process heat. Around The ARC, ITPO Germany organized a delegate programme on clean industrial process heat (See Chapter 4.2).

Watch Videos
https://arc-festival.org/
Trailer of The ARC
Press Conference about the ARC on WDR TV
Report about the ARC on WDR TV

The historical town hall of Remscheid was one of several sites of The ARC Cleantech Innovation Festival.

Innovation meets tradition in the historic city parliament.

Panel on Driving Cleantech Innovation Effectively

ITPO Germany Deputy Head Vanessa Voelkel moderating the panel
The smarter E Europe *

14-15 June 2023, Munich

The United Nations purchases nearly 30 billion US dollars’ worth of goods and services annually. As the need for sustainable and innovative solutions grows, new opportunities arise for German companies. Supplying UN sites in developing countries with solar energy, clean water or cooling can also create the foundation for further private-sector-driven projects in those countries. Bringing innovative companies closer to concrete business opportunities with the UN, ITPO Germany supported meetings with procurement officers from various UN agencies at The smarter E Europe trade fair in Munich in cooperation with the German Italian Chamber of Commerce.

UN procurement officers attending a guided tour organized by ITPO Germany

UN General Assembly and SDG Summit high-level week in New York **

17-21 September 2033, New York

During the high-level week of the 78th United Nations General Assembly, the SDG Summit and UNIDO-organized events, UNIDO presented its activities and solutions to promote sustainable economic development, energy transition and industrial decarbonization for climate action, ending hunger as well as sustainable supply chains.

ITPO Germany Berlin supported in New York UNIDO’s activities with the private sector as well as regarding Germany’s 50-year anniversary as member of the United Nations.

Olaf Schulz, Chancellor of Germany, speaking with Gerd Müller on UNIDO’s role on the occasion of Germany’s 50-year anniversary as Member of the United Nations

ITPO Germany Berlin provided content support for the UNIDO-Deloitte high-level roundtable, Thought For Food: Collaborating for food supply chain innovation to accelerate the SDGs. Thirty participants, including high-level representatives from the private sector (e.g. Danone, Unilever) and at ministerial level (e.g. Bangladesh, Colombia, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mongolia, Namibia) discussed challenges and best practices in food supply chains.

The high-level roundtable on Financing the decarbonization of heavy industries, co-hosted by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action, was also supported by partners from Brazil, Canada, Chile, India and the UK. The office explored opportunities for skills development and entrepreneurship for young people in Africa, as well as cooperation through joint studies, with the Mo Ibrahim Foundation and the Tony Elumelu Foundation. Olaf Deutschbein from ITPO Germany Berlin engaged with German business representatives to explore avenues for knowledge transfer to the Global South, particularly with German firms in the USA. This included discussions with the World Economic Council and the German American Chamber of Commerce in New York.

UNIDO Director General Gerd Müller announced the new UNIDO Innovation Award 2023 during an event organized by ITPO Germany Berlin and the German Senate of the Economy. In his speech, he called for increased action towards achieving the SDGs and encouraged companies and cities to apply for the award. Other activities focused on promoting sustainability in global football, including fair textile supply chains and climate protection measures. Director General Gerd Müller agreed with FIFA on first steps to assist African cotton producers in entering the global football apparel market. This includes strengthening the ongoing FIFA/WTO initiative.

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Anuga Trade Show **

7-11 October 2023, Cologne

Anuga is the world’s leading trade fair for food, bringing together the largest international industry community. The global food industry is currently seeking innovation and new partnerships on their way to sustainable and fair food systems worldwide. ITPO Germany supported UNIDO’s presence at Anuga.

Director General Gerd Müller opened Anuga with Cem Özdemir, Germany’s Federal Minister for Food and Agriculture: “A world without hunger is possible. We have the necessary solutions and technologies, but we need more international cooperation. The food industry is vital for our survival and for nature. UNIDO is proud to take part in this trade fair for the first time.” With a centrally located exhibition booth, UNIDO showcased its agribusiness and supply chain solutions for fair and sustainable production.

In two additional high-level events, UNIDO discussed key challenges in the fight against hunger and the necessary transformation of the food supply chains.

The first event titled A World Without Hunger is Possible was opened by Gerald Boese, President & CEO of Koelnmesse and featured a keynote speech by Gerd Müller. It was followed by a discussion with Silvia Bender, State Secretary, Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL), Agnes Kalibata, President of AGRA, Mathias Mogge, CEO of German charity Welthungerhilfe, Jan Kleibrink of the Handelsblatt Research Institute and Martin Frick, Director World Food Programme.

The second UNIDO event Supply Chains at a Crossroads: How to transform food systems without disrupting supply chains? was opened with a keynote speech by Carsten Stender, Director at the Ministry of Labour (BMAS). The panel discussion, moderated by Olaf Deutschbein from ITPO Germany Berlin, featured Susanne Schulze Bockeloh, Vice President of the German Farmers’ Association, Dieter Overath, former CEO of Fairtrade Germany, Christian Schneider, Executive Director UNICEF-Germany and Gunther Beger, Managing Director UNIDO. The collaboration is to be continued at Anuga FoodTec 2024.

Renewable energy meets agribusiness at IVECF *

2-3 November 2023, Vienna

The International Vienna Energy and Climate Forum (IVECF) brought together over 2000 participants from 145 countries with high-level plenaries and over 50 solution sessions. UNIDO ITPO Germany used this opportunity to present the outcomes of its three publications on decentralized renewable energy solutions for the agribusiness, mining and mobility sector. The publications were jointly conducted with the Alliance for Rural Electrification (ARE) and provide policy recommendations and best practice examples of private sector projects which were successfully implemented in developing countries.

Together with ARE, ITPO Germany organized a panel discussion on Green industrialization enabled by renewable energy in emerging markets: Towards greener and more inclusive mining, mobility and agricultural industries. Deputy Head of Office Vanessa Voelkel welcomed the audience and introduced the session which was moderated by Jens Jæger (ARE) and joined by EEP Africa, ANKA, Drop Access Ltd, EURIST and CrossBoundary Group. The panelists shared their insights on how to create cross-sectoral benefits thanks to the interplay between renewable energy and the three mentioned sectors.

Associate Expert Robin Kuranel participated as a speaker at the side-event Cultivating Changes through Transformative Energy Solutions in Agri-Food Systems in Emerging Economies organized by IEEE Young Professionals. He provided insights on the application of renewable energy solutions for the agribusiness sector by using a practical example from the company Boreal Light GmbH (in cooperation with nOa climate and plasticpreneur) in Lodwar County, Kenya. The side-event was joined by representatives from KAMIM Technologies Ltd, National Renewable Energy Laboratory / Clean Energy Solutions Center, UNFCCC, International Atomic Energy Agency and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers.

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*Green industrialization through renewable energy is emerging globally as the key to a sustainable future. Let’s spotlight global decarbonization efforts and innovative solutions for clean energy in mining, mobility, and agriculture.”
Ukrainian ministerial delegation to Berlin *

20-25 November 2023, Berlin

UNIDO, in collaboration with the German Development Ministry (BMZ), is conducting the project Industrial capacity-building, policy advice and diagnostics for the green recovery of Ukraine. The project includes, among several other initiatives, industrial policy advice and capacity development to strengthen the capacity of government officials from relevant ministries in Ukraine with a mandate in industrial policy and industrial innovation. The objective is to support reconstruction and sustainable industrial development through a coherent recovery programme.

As part of this project, 15 members from various Ukrainian ministries visited relevant ministries, policy and research institutions and companies in Berlin. ITPO Germany Berlin supported the mission and the discussions that took place. Together with BMZ’s Lisbeth Mueller-Hofstede, Dorothee Schwil and Roland Guttack, the group discussed the current situation in Ukraine and appropriate measures. The delegates further discussed steps for more synergies within the industrial recovery activities with European Investment Bank and GIZ. One focus is on energy supply, alongside new approaches to smart agriculture. ITPO Germany Berlin will continue to expand these contacts with German companies.

G20 Compact with Africa / GNBF ***

20-21 November 2023, Berlin

The G20 Compact with Africa Investment Summit was attended by members of the ITPO Germany Bonn office, providing the opportunity to promote the upcoming ITPO Private Sector Mission to West Africa and to exchange with high-ranking representatives and partners from African and German business and politics.

In addition to the 10 Compact with Africa countries, representatives from across the continent attended the summit, which attracted 800 participants including ten heads of state and the Chair of the African Union. Host country Germany was represented by German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, Vice-Chancellor and Minister for Economic Affairs and Climate Action Robert Habeck and Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development Svenja Schulze.

The following day, the 10th Nigerian-German Business Forum (GNBF) took place. It was attended by 200 businesspeople and government representatives, including a high-level Nigerian government delegation, led by H.E. President Bola Tinubu and four of his Ministers, including UNIDO’s partner, the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment.

Global Refugee Forum **

13-15 December 2023, Geneva

The global number of displaced persons has more than doubled in the last ten years and reached 70.1 million people in 2022 – the majority being women and children. Acknowledging that private sector engagement is key to bringing prosperity to areas where refugees and internally displaced people (IDPs) live, UNIDO ITPO Germany attended the GRF 2023 with the objective to deepen its engagement, connect with thought leaders and build partnerships with key players bringing long-lasting solutions that foster self-reliance.

Held every four years, the Forum is the world’s largest international gathering on refugees, designed to support the practical implementation of the objectives set out in the Global Compact on Refugees: Ease pressures on host countries, enhance refugee self-reliance, increase access to third-country solutions and improve conditions in countries of origin.

UNIDO ITPO Germany representatives Michael Schmidt and Jessica Neumann participated in the 2023 Global Refugee Forum hosted by UNHCR in Geneva, together with three private sector pioneers in this field: Boreal Light GmbH, Impact Building Solutions Foundation and plasticpreneur. In total, the forum convened over 4200 participants from 168 countries and saw over 1600 pledges made to support refugees and their host communities, including 43 multi-partner commitments led by governments. An estimated 2.2 billion US dollars in new financial commitments by States and other actors was announced, including some 250 million US dollars pledged by the private sector.

Watch Impact Video
cloud.itpo-germany.org/index.php/s/W6KZGMjknTcWj5S

Projects like the Boreal Light WaterKiosk were featured at the Global Refugee Forum in Geneva
SDG-Award / UNIDO Innovation Award

25 November 2023, Munich

In 2023, UNIDO proudly presented for the first time its new UNIDO Innovation Award. It honors companies and cities that make outstanding contributions to sustainable development. The Award was developed in close partnership with the German Senate of the Economy.

It was an impressive start with 200 applications. ITPO Germany Berlin was the key player in the conception and implementation of the award throughout 2023 with various milestones.

The award was announced alongside the General Assembly in New York during an SDG-event co-organized by ITPO Germany Berlin. Director General Gerd Müller and other high-level panelists called for applications and increased action towards achieving the SDGs: “We need more pioneers in business and society to end poverty and hunger worldwide, protect our planet and ensure a just and peaceful world.”

The nominees for the UNIDO Innovation Award & German SDG Award were announced by UNIDO Director General Gerd Müller, Christoph Bruessel and Norbert Streveld at the International Vienna Energy and Climate Forum.

The festive award ceremony took place in Munich at the Maximilianeum. An independent jury of experts in sustainable development from academia, civil society and business selected the most innovative projects from over 200 applications.

Olaf Deutschbein awarded Festo Didactic as the winner in the Company category for its innovative approaches in technical education, which combine online and offline content. The winner in the Cities category was Antioquia from Colombia that focuses on providing affordable food and securing jobs through local production, short supply chains, and local markets in the department’s 125 municipalities.

4.6 Trainings and Courses

Facilitating access to finance for women-led or women-owned enterprises through ITPO Germany’s Gender Lens Investing online course

Since 2022, UNIDO ITPO Germany offers a free, self-paced online training on Gender Lens Investing, with 186 enrolments as of late December 2023.

With the aim to democratize access to knowledge on Gender Lens Investing, ITPO Germany supported the translation of several e-learning modules on this topic into Spanish and French. 60% of the entire course material could already be translated in 2023, while the remaining modules are scheduled to be made available in French and Spanish language in 2024.

Based on the online course content, UNIDO was able to offer tailored capacity-building and advocacy sessions for specific audiences, including for investment ecosystem stakeholders from Japan and Nigeria, and for Investment Promotion Agencies from Least Developed Countries, reaching 120+ participants.
ITPO Germany cooperated closely with UNIDO headquarters and its field offices to fulfill its mission. With its vast network of contacts within Germany’s private and public sector, the team could organize meetings for the Director General, identify potential partners for UNIDO’s Technical Cooperation Projects and mobilize speakers from UNIDO’s technical departments. Cooperation with the other Investment and Technology Promotion Offices was also intensified. ITPO Germany enabled ITPO Shanghai to host a side event at COP 28, presented investment opportunities in Somalia together with ITPO Italy, welcomed a delegation from ITPO Beijing or showcased the achievements of ITPOs to other interested countries.

Cooperation with German partners continued to be strengthened throughout 2023, with ITPO Germany partnering with the German Mechanical Engineering Industry Association (VDMA) at Interpack and with FCA Future Cleantech Architects for The ARC Cleantech Innovation Festival 2023. A representative of the new German Financing Competence Centre for West Africa participated in the Private Sector Mission to West Africa. ITPO Germany presented their services at a webinar on Cameroon, organized by the Duesseldorf Chamber of Commerce and the GIZ Business Scouts for Development, and at a meeting with African banking representatives.

ITPO Germany Head meets German President and the Development Minister

12 January 2023, Berlin

Following an official invitation of the German Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier, Rolf Steltemeier, Head of UNIDO ITPO Germany, took part in the traditional New Year Reception at Bellevue Palace for the Diplomatic Corps and representatives of international organizations and other representations. In his speech, Federal President Steinmeier emphasized that 2023, the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, should become a year of freedom, cooperation and new optimism.

In a conversation with Rolf Steltemeier, German Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development Svenja Schulze emphasized the significance of multilateralism in development cooperation. She highlighted that the African continent is a special focus of German development policy and praised the work of UNIDO in this regard.
Bonn Breakfast
Roundtable
1 February and
13 September 2023, Bonn

ITPO Germany members participated in two Bonn Breakfast Roundtables, which are organized by DEG and Engagement Global together. These meetings deal with topics related to development, foreign and European policy after a keynote speech by one or more guests. Participants come from ministries, NGOs, international organizations, academia, and businesses based in the Bonn-Cologne area. Among the speakers were Jochen Steinhilber, Head of Division for Displacement, Crisis Prevention and Civil Society at the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), and Christoph Hoffmann, member of the German Parliament and deputy chairman of the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Development (ÄWZ).

In a bilateral discussion with ITPO Germany team members, he stressed the role of the private sector and of UNIDO ITPO Germany.

Meetings with Namibian Ambassador and German Institute for International and Security Affairs

25 April 2023, Berlin

Rolf Steltemeier met with Namibian Ambassador Martin Andjaba in Berlin to discuss investment opportunities and the growing economic ties between Germany and Namibia in the field of renewable energies.

At the invitation of the German Institute for International and Security Affairs, Rolf Steltemeier called for more private sector involvement in countries of the global South, presenting Infront of a high-ranking audience on the topic Development Cooperation: Opportunities and Challenges for the Private Sector.

Launching Ceremony
Global Call 2023 *

12 June 2023, Vienna

The UNIDO Global Call, the flagship global competition of UNIDO, has attracted over 2000 participants from more than 108 countries since its inception in 2020. It was featured in the UN Innovation Network Best of UN Innovation 2020 publication. In 2021, the competition was organized by ITPO Germany which subconsequently shared the lessons learned with the ITP Network in form of UNIDO Global Call standard operational procedures.

In 2023, the initiative was organized by ITPO Beijing, launched at the UNIDO headquarters and promoted worldwide. During the launching ceremony, ITPO Germany Head Rolf Steltemeier shared the highlights and achievements of the UNIDO Global Call 2021 lead by ITPO Germany.

Delegation from
ITPO Beijing in Berlin ***

14–16 June 2023, Berlin

ITPO Germany Berlin welcomed a delegation from China, led by the Head of ITPO Beijing, Yabin Wu, to the German capital. In line with UNIDO’s new focus on climate action, sustainable global supply chains and agriculture, the delegations agreed to increase their activities to build stronger connections between investors, technology providers and their potential partners in developing countries. Organized by ITPO Germany Berlin office, the delegation participated in high-level meetings at the German Parliament, the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Bayer Global, and with Peter Kurth, President of the German Association of Waste Management, Water and Circular Economy.

The World Economic Council (IWS), together with ITPO Germany Berlin and ITPO Beijing, organized a Summer Talk at the BSP – Business & Law School on global supply chains. Following the welcoming speeches by Peter Nussbaum from IWS, Gunther Beger from UNIDO, Quian Zhai (Chinese Embassy) and Yabin Wu, a panel consisting of experts such as Sandra Schuele-Bausch (law firm Luther), Feng Hou (CEO of China Water Environment Group) and Patricia Graf (Master Programme Sustainability & Management) discussed the topics in detail with business, academics and students. The event was moderated by Olaf Deutschbein, who heads the ITPO Germany office in Berlin.

As part of the joint activities, the World Economic Council and UNIDO formalized and deepened their cooperation with activities in Berlin, New York and Beijing to transfer know-how to the Global South.
Renewable solutions at Irena Innovation Week *
25-28 September 2023, Bonn

At the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) Innovation Week, experts, industry representatives, academics and policy makers came together to discuss innovations and policies that can accelerate the implementation of renewable energy.

The conference focused on solutions to decarbonize hard-to-abate sectors such as iron and steel, chemical and petrochemical, shipping and aviation as well as mining. The event brought together more than 300 participants from more than 70 countries, including policymakers, innovators, industry experts and academia.

ITPO Germany Deputy Head Vanessa Voelkel and Associate Expert Robin Kuranel attended the conference on 26 September to promote ITPO Germany and to meet with partners.

Peter Schniering, founder of ITPO Germany’s partner Future Cleantech Architects, presented the closing remarks and key-takeaways together with Roland Roesch, Director of the Innovation and Technology Center of IRENA, and Eleanor Webster, Head of Mission Innovation.

A cleaner planet starts at your doorstep
28 October 2023, Bonn

ITPO Germany facilitated a meeting of ITPO Shanghai with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). This laid the ground for ITPO Shanghai’s side event on Sustainable Technological Solutions to addressing adverse effects of climate change by the artistic way at COP28 in Dubai. The session featured ITPO Shanghai’s Head Xiaolei Zhao and speakers from nominated enterprises of the last UNIDO Global Call, an event of the ITP Network that was organized by ITPO Shanghai in 2022 (ITPO Germany took the lead in 2021).

Connecting UNFCCC with ITPO Shanghai *
21 August 2023, Bonn

Chinese officials from the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology and the Center for International Economic and Technological Cooperation (CIETC/MIIT) visited ITPO Germany as a key component of their study tour to North Rhine-Westphalia. In a meeting with the team of ITPO Germany, the delegation learned about the work of the global ITP Network and potential partners for bilateral environmental cooperation.

The group also had the opportunity to visit the Climate Tower on the UN Campus Bonn, a sustainable building that hosts the Secretariat of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The delegation was part of UNIDO’s technical cooperation project on Applying eco-design principles to industrial design in China and also included colleagues from the UNIDO headquarters in Vienna.

ITPO Germany also connected the delegation with the Circular Valley in nearby Wuppertal, a globally unique hotspot for establishing a future-oriented circular economy. In Circular Valley, international startups, companies, science and politics meet to work together across industries and technologies.

Chinese Eco Industrial Design Delegation **
22 September 2023, Bonn

Meeting with UNIDO Brussels
14 September, Brussels

ITPO Germany met with UNIDO representative Christophe Yvetot to discuss closer cooperation with the Brussels office, EU-cooperation and the strengthening of the ITP Network.

German-African Business Association Panel Discussion ***
11 December 2023, virtual

Olaf Deutschbein was invited by the German-African Business Association to their online session with training providers and companies from Africa and Germany. He emphasized UNIDO’s competencies in capacity building, skills development, and knowledge transfer, especially for women, and showed best-practices, such as with Volvo. The discussion stressed the importance of workforce development in Africa to benefit all stakeholders, meet industry needs and support long-term investments and local value chains.
Media Coverage

ITPO Germany’s work has been featured in the national and international media, including TV reports, interviews and special features.

ITPO Germany referenced by Director General Gerd Müller
Senate of the German Economy
Table Media

Coverage ITPO Germany Services
Africa Contact

Coverage The ARC Cleantech Innovation Festival
Watch Videos
German public TV station WDR announcement
German public TV station WDR report

Coverage Opening Berlin Office
German newspaper Augsburger Allgemeine
UNIDO website

Coverage UNIDO Innovation Award
(conceptualized and implemented by UNIDO ITPO Germany Berlin)

German government
German Federal Ministry of Education and Research
German Association of Towns and Municipalities
United National Regional Information Centre
United Nations Association of Germany
Presseportal
FOM University

Coverage Private Sector Mission West Africa
Watch Videos
www.youtube.com/watch?v=FXFIRK00fg8
www.youtube.com/watch?v=20qy6PEzuBs
New publication on e-mobility launched

In 2023, the publication about e-mobility & DRE Innovations in Emerging Economies, published by ITPO Germany and Alliance for Rural Electrification, has been made available to a wider audience. The following video summarizes the 13 case studies which present the key benefits and challenges of the transition to sustainable and decarbonized mobility.

Watch Video
www.youtube.com/watch?v=CrI8B_HZXDr

Download Publication

Number of followers on LinkedIn has doubled

ITPO Germany uses social media platforms to inform its partners, stakeholders and the interested public about its activities. A special focus is put on establishing contact with (potential) partners for investment promotion and technology transfer in developing countries and economies in transition. The main platform is LinkedIn, where 50 posts were published. The number of followers on LinkedIn increased by 50% to over 4500.

Stay in touch
www.linkedin.com/company/unido-itpo-germany

Website counted over 40,000 page views

On itpo-germany.org, users can find out about upcoming events and learn more about ITPO Germany’s mission and services. The website, which also has a download section, counted over 40,000 page views in 2023.

Flyer in French and English available

In light of ITPO Germany’s activities in francophone West Africa, a new flyer in French was developed and shared with partners in the region.

Flyer in English
Flyer in French
Activities of ITPO Germany in 2024 will continue to be guided by UNIDO’s priority areas of ending hunger, climate action and sustainable supply chains. Fostering inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID) by promoting investments, technology and know-how transfer will be complemented by initiatives – mainly driven by ITPO Germany’s newly established Berlin office – to support the establishment of sustainable supply chains. This holistic approach with a focus on mutually-beneficial transition partnerships with developing countries and economies in transition is in line with UNIDO’s mandate and the new development policy of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

With an experienced team of experts located in Europe and Africa, ITPO Germany will continue to promote industrial cooperation between Germany and partner countries: The Advisory Programme with National Advisors in key African countries gives ITPO Germany a strong local presence in these markets and in neighbouring countries.

2024 will see the continuation of the Delegate Programme, whereby investors and industry decision-makers from a wide range of African countries attend leading trade shows, B2B events and trainings. The Delegate Programme in 2024 to IFAT (Munich) and EuroTier (Hanover) will foster industrial cooperation in the waste management and recycling, and agribusiness and poultry sectors respectively. Building on these initiatives and the strong presence and partnerships with stakeholders in Africa, ITPO Germany will organise further Private Sector Mission to selected African markets.

ITPO Germany Berlin will continue to strengthen strategic partnerships, particularly in the areas of green and just transition (Berlin Energy Transition Dialogue, BEE, BMWK), women’s empowerment (Afrikaverein der deutschen Wirtschaft, UNDP, UNWOMEN), and agriculture (Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, AGRA, BMEL, Bayer). ITPO Germany will further expand its network and deepen its cooperation with technical departments and field offices of UNIDO, other UN agencies, the BMZ and strategic partners such as GIZ and numerous other stakeholders.

An overview of major events and activities can be found on the following page.
Planned activities of ITPO Germany for 2024 include:

January
- Global Forum for Food and Agriculture, Berlin
- German-African Agribusiness Forum, Berlin

March
- Anuga FoodTec, Cologne
- Berlin Energy Transition Dialogue, Berlin

April
- DIHAD / Dubai, Kenya and Somalia (Private Sector Mission)

May
- IFAT 2024, Munich (Delegate Programme)
- The ARC Future Cleantech Festival, Remscheid

June
- Ukraine Recovery Conference, Berlin

August
- Mozambique / FACIM trade fair (Private Sector Mission)

October
- Hamburg Sustainability Conference, Hamburg

November
- Francophone West Africa (Private Sector Mission)
- Eurotier / World Poultry Show, Hanover (Delegate Programme)
- 5th G20 Investment Summit – German Business and the CwA Countries, Berlin

December
- Award ceremony UNIDO Innovation Award
- German-African Business Summit, Nairobi

Follow ITPO Germany on LinkedIn for upcoming events:
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