

CONCEPT NOTE AND SPEAKERS



UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION



Women as levers of change for transformative, sustainable and inclusive technologies

UNIDO spotlight session on the occasion of International Women's Day and CSW 67

Date and time: Thursday, 9 March, 8:00-8:45 am EST

Format: Virtual event – please register [here](#)

Technology and innovation has an enormous potential for mitigating the climate and environmental crisis, combatting various forms of inequality, and accelerating progress in key areas of human development, including decent education and affordable healthcare for all. At the same time, studies highlight the contribution of gender equality and diversity to innovation, profitability and sustainability.

However, gender gaps in employment and wages in sectors related to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) persist despite the recent increase in the shares of female graduates of STEM studies. Also, women-owned businesses are on average smaller, less profitable and have higher unmet financial needs. Gender-specific limitations for women in access to networks, markets and job opportunities, as well as discriminatory social norms, remain major impediments for gender equality in the technologies and industries of tomorrow.

Within the Organization's mandate to advance inclusive and sustainable industrial development, supporting technology development and innovation constitutes a core component of UNIDO's work. In doing so, it is UNIDO's vision that women and men equally lead, participate in and benefit from advancements in technology and innovation.

This 45-minute spotlight session will discuss findings, strategies and good practices on applying a transformative gender-mainstreaming approach, exemplified by UNIDO-supported initiatives.

Please see the next page for speakers and event objectives.

The session will:

- Highlight research findings on the intersection of gender and transformative technologies from the [Industrial Development Report 2020 - Industrializing in the digital age](#) and related studies.

Speaker: Mr. Nicola Cantore, Research and Industrial Policy Officer, UNIDO

- Demonstrate good practices of supporting women entrepreneurs in the male-dominated innovation and technology field.

This will be exemplified by two initiatives:

- o The [Global Cleantech Innovation Programme](#), which supports early-stage small businesses that provide innovative clean technology solutions

Speakers:

- **Ms. Olga Rataj, Associate Industrial Development Officer, Climate Technologies Innovation Unit, UNIDO**
- **Ms. Begüm Esra Aytan, Co-Founder, Geneon Enzim Teknolojileri A. Ş. (clean technology entrepreneur)**

- o The work of the [Investment and Technology Promotion Offices \(ITPOs\)](#), especially [ITPO Nigeria](#). The mandate of ITPOs is to facilitate partnership opportunities for investors and technology suppliers in the Global North and Global South, and to support entrepreneurs and business institutions to that aim.

Speaker: Ms. Abimbola Olufore, Head, UNIDO Investment and Technology Promotion Office Nigeria

Moderator: Ms. Carmen Schuber, Gender Expert, UNIDO