
Green Industry Platform Second Technical Expert Committee Meeting

26 June 2014 - UNIDO Headquarters
Vienna, Austria

Report on Key Points

Meeting Objectives

The second meeting of the UNIDO-UNEP Green Industry Platform's Technical Expert Committee (TEC) was held in Vienna on 26 June 2014 with the aim of identifying ways to accelerate the Green Industry Platform's further development and to increase its global profile, uptake and impact.

Specifically, the TEC sought to identify and recommend concrete ways to increase the Platform's value proposition to members and to carve out a distinct role for the Platform in helping its members realize their engagements under the *Statement of Support* for the remainder of the Platform's trial phase, ending in 2015.

Policy Guidance

In the TEC's assessment of where the Green Industry Platform should position itself in the global policy dialogue, and in particular in the formulation of the post-2015 development agenda, the following points stood out:

- The Platform should aim to **promote both incremental as well as radical change** amongst its members and stakeholders. It should seek both to effect gains in the area of resource efficiency, pollution reduction and the like, while also seeking to influence the policy discussions related to root causes and system boundaries, such as tax reform and promoting long-term financing.
- The Platform should not seek to influence the post-2015/SDGs process at this point, but rather position itself as a tool for the manufacturing sector's **implementation of the eventual SDGs**.
- The Platform should act as a **bridge-builder between government and business**. To this end, it could involve national chambers of commerce, local Business Councils for Sustainable Development and other relevant industrial associations to increase impact at the national level.
- The Green Industry Platform should **gear its services more directly towards SMEs**. This could also be seen as the Platform's strategic niche, since this critical sub-group of global industry is not catered for in a consistent and comprehensive manner.
- **Recognizing the importance of supply chains, maintaining a sector-based focus** in all the Platform's activities would help ensure that it is most relevant to business at large.
- The role of **sustainability innovation** in technology and management systems should also be given due consideration, as this is an area of growing interest to the business community.

Operational Tools

While agreeing with the general operational direction and products of the Platform so far, the TEC offered numerous suggestions of concrete tools and functions which the Platform could offer to increase its value proposition:



- Given the large number of sustainability initiatives in existence, and the growing confusion and contribution fatigue amongst the business sector, the Platform could **act as a consolidator of existing initiatives for business and industry**. In effect, the Platform would help translate 'sustainability' for business by not only providing all relevant information in one place, but also by elaborating on the business case for Green Industry through concrete examples.
- **Establishing clubs at the regional or national level** would help mobilize interest and participation in the Platform. Clubs could play a key role in promoting dialogue between interested stakeholders and the government, while also providing practical benefits to participants, such as the creation of industrial symbioses.
- The Platform could also **host a database of best practice** and profile these at the global level to help set and promote the industry standard in a given sector.
- The role of **certification, indexing and benchmarking** was also raised as a potential niche for the Green Industry Platform as a means to incentivize the more widespread uptake of best practice.
- The Platform should also act as an **interactive information hub**, both to receive relevant information from industry, as well as share knowledge products of use to its members.
- Using the Platform's sector and value chain reports as a starting point, the **creation of an online tool** for practitioners could be envisaged. The tool could be based on a mapping of relevant initiatives, programmes and tools.
- **Country-level Green Industry workshops and forums** could be held to increase interest and uptake at the local level, as well as provide businesses with a dedicated forum to influence policy dialogue.
- **Green Industry-related capacity building** should continue to be carried out using the Platform's various networks.

Administrative Considerations

The TEC also made a number of recommendations regarding the administrative arrangements between the Platform's convenors, secretariat and advisory bodies:

- The convenors should **solicit the TEC's inputs more frequently** and use its expertise, networks and reach to peer-review material, collect data and improve project proposals.
- **Contact should be initiated more frequently** - both between the convenors and the TEC, as well as among the TEC members, in particular regarding upcoming areas of work and possible contributions of the TEC.
- The **creation of a TEC e-discussion group, sub-groups, or dedicated online forum** should be considered to facilitate interaction.
- The **membership balance of the TEC should be enhanced**, both in terms of geographical (e.g. Africa), and sector (e.g. finance, industry) coverage.

Participants

TEC Members

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