



Outcomes of the Fourth Nevsky International Ecological Congress

dedicated to the 20th Anniversary of the CIS
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Descriptions of UNIDO-led sessions

Plenary Panel I: “The role of Government in strengthening Green Industry”

Governments play a central role in creating the necessary framework conditions for green industry. This includes strategies and policies to pave the way for sustainable industrial development. These strategies and policies need to be supported by environmental laws, effective regulations and enforcement to ensure protection of the environment, climate and communities. Well designed regulations stimulate industries to continuously improve their environmental performance. In parallel, appropriate market-based instruments encourage innovation, the development of cost-effective solutions, and can create new markets and opportunities for business development. This also includes removing financial and other disincentives. Both central and local governments play a role ensuring that enabling infrastructure is in place, for instance, systems for waste management and recycling. Governments can, furthermore, foster awareness-raising, capacity building, and the creation of industry-support institutions and of accreditation and certification bodies. Governments can also support green industry through creating a strategic science and technology framework that encourages green innovation and the transfer, development, and adaptation of environmentally sound technologies. Improving access to green financing is another way in which Governments can support the development and uptake of green technologies.

The creation of effective framework conditions necessitates increased cooperation and coordination between different ministries and agencies to identify and address gaps in the normative framework and support system. Furthermore, enhanced dialogue collaboration with stakeholders can contribute to ensuring that measures contribute to enhancing the competitiveness of industries and harness the opportunities connected to green industry.

Plenary Panel II: Prospects and role of business in strengthening the Green Industry

Businesses are in a position to influence all stages of the life cycles of products and services. Businesses can improve process and production efficiency and thereby decrease pressures on resources and minimize waste and emissions. Businesses can through sustainable product design create products that cause less impacts during use and disposal, they can create products that last longer, products that can be more easily recycled or refurbished and reused. While businesses are obligated to comply with environmental legislation, there are significant business opportunities connected to taking a more proactive role. Improved environmental performance is typically connected to cost savings and increased income. Sustainable production leads to decreased material, energy and water requirements, decreased costs for the handling and treatment of waste and

emissions, and decreased liability. It can also have a positive impact on working conditions, labour productivity and product quality. Improved environmental performance can also lead to improved access to markets and enhanced reputation.

While enabling framework conditions are important, businesses can individually and collectively take a leading role in improving their environmental performance beyond compliance and creating new green business ventures.

**Roundtable I:
Green technologies for environmental protection: promotion of Green Industry initiatives?**

Environmental innovation is essential to overcome complex environmental challenges such as loss of habitat and biodiversity, climate change and air and water pollution. Green technologies are a diverse range of products, services, and processes that harness renewable materials and energy sources, dramatically reduce the use of natural resources, and cut or eliminate emissions and wastes. This includes material and chemical recovery, recycling, waste management and treatment, water management and treatment, air emission minimization and treatment, energy management and renewable energy and other clean technology. It also includes companies that provide monitoring, measuring, and analysis services, as well as consultants that help industries identify and implement cleaner production options.

Green technologies enable businesses to decrease impacts on the environment and climate, and can also cut costs, optimize production processes and improve product quality. The global demand for green technologies is on the increase and the market for these technologies and services is expected to continue to grow. There are considerable business opportunities connected to the development of new environmental technologies and services. However, if developing and transition countries are to be able to compete on the global greentech market, innovation and support systems need to be strengthened and domestic and regional demand has to be stimulated.

This requires well-designed policies that stimulate environmental innovation, and government measures that contribute to creating and consolidating markets for environmental technologies. Further measures include increased technology (know-how and equipment) transfer and support for adaptation and development of appropriate solutions. Demand can also be stimulated through a range of measures such as regulations, economic instruments, knowledge and awareness raising, and sustainable procurement strategies.