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## UNIDO's panel session "The Euro-Mediterranean Integration and the Industrial Development of North Africa"

Wednesday, 22 May 2024, 14:00 p.m. – 15:30 p.m.

Conference Room CR-1 (C building 2<sup>nd</sup> floor), Vienna International Center, Vienna, Austria /  
[Microsoft Teams link](#)<sup>1</sup>

### **Background**

Following the successful Italy-Africa Summit held in Rome on 28-29 January 2024, with attendance by the Director General of UNIDO, Mr. Gerd Müller, UNIDO is scheduled to organize a **panel session titled "The Euro-Mediterranean Integration and the Industrial Development of North Africa"**, in collaboration with the Institute for European Policy Making (IEP) of Bocconi University and the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations in Vienna.

The UNIDO's panel session will explore the theme of Euro-Mediterranean integration as a catalyst for advancing Africa's industrialization. The session aims to contribute to the follow-up plan initiated after the Africa Summit. It will facilitate discussions among academics, policymakers from Member States, and private sector representatives with an objective to explore forward-looking economic perspectives and to promote partnerships for addressing key challenges and opportunities in the region.

This initiative aligns with the strategic goals of the recently announced Mattei Plan by the Government of Italy that aims to revitalize Euro-Mediterranean economic integration, focusing on education, agriculture, health, energy, and water sectors.

Moreover, the event will build upon the recent UNIDO's policy brief "[Diving into diversification: How North African countries can boost economic ties with the EU](#)", developed in collaboration with the Institute for European Policy Making (IEP) at Bocconi University and Bari University, that highlights the existence of significant policy space for promoting industrial diversification opportunities across various sectors in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

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<sup>1</sup> Please note that access to the platform will be open 30 minutes prior to the start of the event. Participants are encouraged to log in earlier to allow for any last-minute problems they may encounter to be addressed. Any changes to the modalities of the panel session will be communicated in due course prior to the holding of the event based on the applicable health and safety measures in place at the Vienna International Centre.

## Speakers and Agenda

<b>14:00- 14:15</b>	<p><b>Welcoming remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Mr. Yuko Yasunaga</b>, UNIDO Deputy to the Director General and Managing Director of the Directorate of Corporate Services and Operations (<i>confirmed, live</i>) 5 min</li><li>• <b>H.E. Ambassador Debora Lepre</b>, Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations in Vienna (<i>confirmed, live</i>) 5 min</li></ul> <p>Hint: the engagement of Italy for the Euro-Mediterranean economic integration in the light of the current European challenges.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Mr. Daniel Gros</b>, Director of the Institute for European Policy Making (IEP) at Bocconi University (<i>confirmed, online</i>) 5 min</li></ul> <p>Hint: The relevance of the Euro-Mediterranean integration in the workstream of the institute: motivations, examples, ways forward.</p>
<b>14:15-15:15</b>	<p><b>Panel discussion</b> <b>moderated by Mr. Cristiano Pasini</b>, Director of the Division of Capacity Development, Industrial Policy Advice and Statistics at <b>UNIDO</b></p> <p><i>Global experts, Government officials, representatives of academia and private sector will explore the theme of Euro-Mediterranean integration as a catalyst for advancing Africa's industrialization.</i></p> <p><u>Panelists:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Mr. Carlo Altomonte</b>, Professor of Economics at <b>Bocconi University</b> and Director of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR) Lab (<i>confirmed, live</i>)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• UNIDO's policy brief "Diving into diversification: How North African countries can boost economic ties with the EU", prepared in collaboration with Bocconi University and Bari University, points to challenges and opportunities to strengthen industrial diversification and deepening integration between the EU and North Africa. Why is this policy brief timely for today's discussion? (5 min)</li><li>• As pointed out by the Industrial Development Report (IDR) 2024, we are in a poly-crisis and there is a new impetus on Industrial policy in high income industrialized economies. What your research at IEP points out to the implication for the other side of the Mediterranean (developing countries)?</li></ul></li></ul>

Back up question: What do you think research can offer to inform policy advice for a better integration between Europe and North Africa? (5 min)

- **Mr. Daniele Dotto**, Deputy Head of **Delegation of the European Union to the Kingdom of Morocco** (*confirmed, online*)
  - What do you think should be the strategic key pillars for better integration between Europe and North Africa? (5 min)
  - What are the opportunities for integration neglected in the current policy debate in the EU? (5 min)

Back up question: To what extent the different EU policies are aligned with development objectives? What should be the next actions for better coordination? (5 min)

- **Mr. Tarek Tawfik**, Deputy Chairman of **the Federation of Egyptian Industries** (*confirmed, live*)
  - To what extent does deeper integration between Europe and North Africa enhance commercial opportunities for Egyptian industries? Which are the opportunities for Egyptian firms, and what are the bottlenecks that slow down integration? (5 min)
  - How can industrial policy of Egypt and the European industrial policy help in reducing bottlenecks for a better Euro – Mediterranean integration and for grasping existing business opportunities? (5min)

Back up question: In the context of the current industrial policy frame is Egypt moving for a better integration with Europe and what can be the role of the private sector to facilitate this process? (5 min)

- **Ms. Imane Ben Rabia**, Head of Communication, International cooperation and Partnerships, **Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Kingdom of Morocco** (*confirmed, online*)
  - What measures is Morocco implementing in terms of industrial policy and how important is the European market in the current Morocco industrial policy context? (5 min)
  - What opportunities does deeper integration with the EU offer to increase industrial diversification in Morocco and what are the current and future drivers to accelerate this process? (5 min)

Back up question: How can policies for a better economic integration be concretely designed and implemented? How to ensure coordination and partnership? (5 min)



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Mr. Lorenzo Ortona</b>, Advisor for the Italian presidency of <b>the Council of Ministers</b>. Responsible for the Mattei Plan Implementation (<i>confirmed, online</i>)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How does the Piano Mattei contribute to revitalizing Euro-Mediterranean economic integration? (5 min)</li><li>• To what extent the Plan Mattei incorporate industrialization of North Africa as one of the objectives and what do you think could be implemented within this Plan to promote this important aspect?</li></ul></li></ul> <p><u>Back up question</u>: How can we turn the energy challenge in North Africa into an opportunity for the region to accelerate progress towards sustainable development? (5 min)</p>
15:15-15:30	Q&A session and closing remarks <span style="float: right;"><i>15 min</i></span>