SEMINAR ON UNIDO-BULGARIA COOPERATION

AGENDA

Date, time and venue: 12 November 2026, 9:00 – 13:00 EET, Sofia Balkan Palace, Sofia, Bulgaria

Format: In person

Objective: The event will raise awareness among Bulgarian stakeholders of the programmatic offer and services of UNIDO in the light of the status of Bulgaria as an emerging donor country, with particular emphasis on engaging the dynamic private sector of the country in joint activities. The seminar will also mark a decade of cooperation between UNIDO and Bulgarian business organizations, building on the Memorandum of Understanding signed between UNIDO and the Bulgarian Industrial Capital Association (BICA) in 2016, and will explore opportunities for further strengthening partnerships in support of sustainable industrial development. It will further serve to learn more about the national priorities and needs of Bulgaria, including those related to international development cooperation and support for Bulgarian enterprises seeking to expand into third-country markets.

Language: English

8:30 – 9:00	**Registration**
Moderator: Ms. Milena Angelova, Executive Vice-President, BICA	
9:00 – 9:30	**Opening and welcoming remarks** • Mr. Hristo Dikanski, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria • Mr. Rumen Radev, Chairman of the Governing Board, BICA • Ms. Fatou Haidara, Deputy to the Director General, Managing Director of the Directorate of Global Partnerships and External Relations, UNIDO
9:30 – 10:50	**Session I: Industrial partnerships, technology transfer and international development cooperation** **Keynote addresses (10 minutes each)** *Building industrial alliances* • Mr. Levent Memish, Deputy Minister of Economy, Investments and Industry of Bulgaria *(in Bulgarian language)* • Mr. Rumen Radev, Chairman of the Governing Board, BICA **Interventions (initial presentations of 10 minutes each, followed by discussion)** *Promoting technology transfer* • Mr. Konstantin Botev, Head of the International Exhibitions and Conferences Department, Bulgarian Small and Medium Enterprises Promotion Agency (BSMEPA) *UNIDO's programmes and projects in Eastern Europe and the Western Balkans* • Ms. Mariia Pavlova, Programme Officer, Regional Bureau for Europe and Central Asia, UNIDO

	Models and results of Slovenia–UNIDO cooperation • Ms. Jana Lorger, Senior Adviser for International Cooperation, Slovene Enterprise Fund (SEF) *UNIDO's portfolio in enterprise development and job creation* • Mr. Giorgi Todua, Industrial Development Expert, MSME Development and Job Creation Unit, UNIDO **Questions and answers**
10:50 – 11:20	**Group photo and coffee break**
11:20 – 12:40	**Session II: Engagement of the private sector, digital technologies and business opportunities** **Keynote addresses (10 minutes each)** *Artificial intelligence as a driver of industrial development* • Mr. Ivailo Petrov, Chair of the Governing Board, Artificial Intelligence Sustainable Development Alliance (AISDA) **Interventions (initial presentations of 10 minutes each, followed by discussion)** *Unlocking digital and artificial intelligence potential: the business case of applied sciences and innovation* • Ms. Evelina Slavcheva, President of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (BAS) *UNIDO's models of public-private development partnerships* • Ms. Dominika Dor, Industrial Development Officer, Division of Public-Private Partnerships, UNIDO *EuroHPC and InnovationAmp as artificial intelligence accelerators* • Mr. Georgi Robev, Chairman of the Board, Strategic Centre for Artificial Intelligence (SCAI) *UNIDO's work in the area of digitalization and artificial intelligence in industry* • Mr. Aleksandar Filiposki, Project Administrator, Division of Digital Transformation and Artificial Intelligence, UNIDO *Artificial intelligence as a driver of industrial development* • Ms. Mira Yosifova, Deputy Minister of Innovation and Digital Transformation of Bulgaria **Questions and answers**
12:40 – 13:00	**Wrap-up and closing remarks** • Ms. Fatou Haidara, Deputy to the Director General, Managing Director of the Directorate of Global Partnerships and External Relations, UNIDO • Mr. Hristo Dikanski, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria
13:00 – 14:00	**Networking lunch**