

## *Summary of Side Event*

### **Partnering to build innovation capacities for UN 2.0: The case of Innovation Labs**

2 May 2023, 3:00-4:30 PM (EDT)

Virtual

#### **Background on the event**

There is an urgent need for multi-stakeholder collaboration among UN entities, Member States, industry leaders, and knowledge institutions for a UN 2.0 and the Our Common Agenda. The event focused on how fostering organizational innovation and collaboration can address the most pressing global challenges. Bringing together experts from various fields, including academia, the UN, and the private sector, the speakers explored new approaches and ideas for improving internal processes and UN service delivery to Member States. By emphasizing the importance of engaging diverse stakeholders, utilizing innovation labs, and drawing inspiration from other industries, the event sought to promote a culture of creativity and collaboration that can support the transformation towards a UN 2.0. The event was organized by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), jointly with the United Nations Global Pulse (UNGP) and the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations in New York, and co-hosted by the Permanent Missions of Austria and Ethiopia in their capacity as co-chairs of the Group of Friends of Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development in New York.

#### **Key issues discussed**

- Link between the innovation pillar of the UN 2.0 Quintet of Change and progress in the Sustainable Development Goals at this critical juncture of the mid-point of the 2030 Agenda.
- Potential of multi-stakeholder partnerships and best practices in the innovation sphere, including through the example of the UNIDO Innovation Lab.
- Emphasis on the need to foster science, technology, and innovation for a modern UN system fit for purpose to support Member States in 21<sup>st</sup> century challenges.
- Importance of capacity-building, skills development, and digital transformation to leverage data, strategic foresight, results, behavioral science, and innovation for a UN 2.0.
- The necessity of synergistic approaches and partnerships between governments, academia, the private sector and the UN system to foster innovation.

#### **Key recommendations for action**

- **Foster collaboration:** Encourage partnerships between governments, industries, academia, and civil society to identify, develop, and implement innovative solutions for a UN 2.0. This collaboration should be built on trust, open communication, and shared objectives.

- **Invest in research and development:** Create an enabling environment to support academic institutions and research centers to generate and disseminate knowledge, and foster innovation towards a UN 2.0.
- **Implement a culture of innovation:** Encourage organizations to create and support internal innovation labs or initiatives. Provide incentives for employees to develop and implement innovative solutions, and recognize their achievements. This will help to build a culture of innovation and continuous improvement within the organization.
- **Capacity-building and training:** Invest in capacity-building and training programmes to equip the UN system with the necessary skills and knowledge to drive a UN 2.0 with stronger capabilities to support Member States and address complex challenges.