



## **JOINT DECLARATION**

**By the Secretariats of**

**The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)**

**and**

**The Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians**

**WHEREAS** the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), as a specialized agency of the United Nations, has the primary responsibility in promoting inclusive and sustainable industrial development in developing countries and in countries with economies in transition;

**WHEREAS** the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (hereinafter referred to as “Carpathian Convention”), the Secretariat of which is administered by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), provides a framework for cooperation and multi-sectoral policy coordination under which the Parties to the Convention pursue a comprehensive policy and cooperation for the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathian region;

**WHEREAS** the Secretariats of UNIDO and the Carpathian Convention (hereinafter referred to as the “Secretariats”) wish to strengthen their cooperation and coordination to achieve mutually beneficial development results in the field of inclusive and sustainable industrial development for the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathian region;

**WHEREAS** the Secretariats recognize the significance of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework of 19 December 2022, which is designed to combat biodiversity loss and to restore ecosystems on a global scale, and the urgent need for coordinated and comprehensive support to ensure its successful implementation at the global, regional, and local levels;

**WHEREAS** the Secretariats acknowledge their long-standing and fruitful cooperation since the adoption of the Carpathian Convention;

**NOW THEREFORE**, the Secretariats of UNIDO and the Carpathian Convention hereby declare:

1. Their intention, subject to their respective programmes of work, to promote cooperation between UNIDO and the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, inter alia, in the following areas:
  - (a) Environmental protection and related socio-economic benefits through circular economy, resource efficient and cleaner production, waste and water management;
  - (b) Industry – biodiversity nexus;
  - (c) Clean energy and energy efficiency, including enhanced use of renewable energy sources and energy-saving measures;
  - (d) Strengthening the region’s agro-industrial value chains and rural development through capacity-building in agro processing and food systems, agribusiness and food security for sustainable agricultural practices, introduction and application of new business models to agro-food processing MSMEs, introduction of new knowledge while transferring adequate technology with respect to agro-food products and markets for sustainable agricultural practices and food security in the region;
  - (e) Supporting ecosystem service-based approaches and decarbonization of the agribusiness sector for climate change adaptation;
  - (f) Valorization of cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and biological diversity, through local transformation of natural resources in high-value products, promotion of territorial marketing and branding and encouragement of agrotourism and short supply chains;
  - (g) Strengthening the regional capacity building in quality infrastructure to assess climate impact and biodiversity issues through recognized measurements, management systems, and certification schemes;
  - (h) Sustainable forestry, wood and non-wood forest products industry, including enhancing sustainable mountain forest management practices in the Carpathians;
  - (i) Utilization of digital technologies to promote circular economy in the Carpathian region;
  - (j) Support to the private sector of the countries of the Carpathian region to improve compliance with environmental- and energy-related matters through adoption of smart and digital solutions aimed at enhancing productivity, competitiveness and increasing employment opportunities;
  - (k) Support to the private sector of the countries of the Carpathian region through enhancing investment opportunities, technology transfer and capacity-building on investment promotion in sustainable supplier development through forging business linkages and collaborating with the suppliers of innovative and smart technology solutions;
  - (l) Support to the Governments of the Carpathian region by enhancing the policymaking capacity and policy process through capacity development,

strengthening of the policy infrastructure, and partnering on the design and formulation of strategies and policies, as well as attendant policy implementation, monitoring and evaluation;

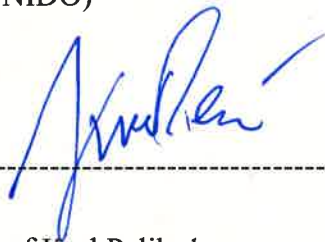
- (m) Industrial policy research building on the existing and future research activities of the two organizations to draw policy implications specifically for the Carpathian region;
  - (n) Education and skills development for sustainable development and scientific cooperation encouraging digital literacy and skills development. This includes re-skilling and up-skilling initiatives for the existing workforce to adapt to the changing industrial environment driven by digital transformation.
2. Their intention to identify suitable joint initiatives and other forms of cooperation relating to the above areas of cooperation, in accordance with the relevant rules, policies and procedures of UNIDO and the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention. Such forms of cooperation, for impactful and mutually beneficial partnership, may include:
- (a) Cooperation on country-level and sub/inter-regional technical cooperation projects in the areas of cooperation;
  - (b) Knowledge-sharing and the exchange of technologies and expertise;
  - (c) Cooperation on global fora activities, organization of joint workshops, seminars and fora for dialogue engaging relevant stakeholders;
  - (d) Collaboration on the development of conducive strategies, policies and regulatory frameworks, approaches and joint strategies for the development and implementation of policy solutions, financial instruments and capacity-building measures in the areas of mutual interests;
  - (e) Exchange and dissemination of information, including joint publications;
  - (f) Fostering sustainable business linkages between small and medium-sized enterprises, larger scale business partners and support institutions, encouraging formalization of entrepreneurship and improving inter-regional SMEs' competitiveness through cluster and network development for a more sustainable regional supply chain;
  - (g) Identification, development and implementation of joint trainings and capacity-building initiatives, including the development of educational and training courses.
3. Their intention to undertake mutual consultations with a view to deepening their cooperation and identifying additional modalities and future areas of cooperation;
4. Their desire to review the progress achieved in the cooperation between the Secretariats on a regular basis, as appropriate, following the signing of this Joint Declaration and to decide then on any further measures that may be desirable to enhance that cooperation.

The signatories acknowledge that this Joint Declaration is a non-binding document and does not give rise to any fiduciary, legal, or financial obligations or commitments. Any joint

activities that may be conducted under this Joint Declaration are subject to and contingent upon the availability of sufficient staff, funds and/or other resources, and may require the prior execution of one or more legally binding instruments, which shall be separately negotiated and agreed to by the signatories.

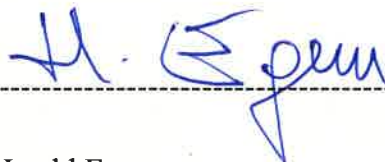
Belgrade, 12 October 2023

For the Secretariat of the United Nations  
Industrial Development Organization  
(UNIDO)



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For the Secretariat of the Carpathian  
Convention



Harald Egerer  
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