



Press Release

The Government of Italy financed the UN-Somalia MPTF for the implementation of Productive Sectors Development Program

14 July 2021; Mogadishu, Somalia: A signing ceremony to officially launch the contribution of additional allocation of \$ 2 million for Productive Sectors Development Programme (PDSP) in Somalia will convene in Mogadishu on Wednesday, July 14, 2021.

The launch ceremony will take place with the presence of Hon. Khalif Abdi Omar, Minister of Commerce and Industry, Federal Government of Somalia; H.E. Alberto Vecchi, Ambassador of Italy to Somalia; and H.E. Adam Abdelmoula, United Nations Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia.

Mr. Dejene Tezera, Director of UNIDO Agro-Business Department (UNIDO HQs), as well as Mr. Ygor Scarcia, UNIDO Somalia Industrial Development Expert and OIC UNIDO Somalia, was among the honorable guests.

The PSDP for Somalia is a flagship economic development effort undertaken by the UN and implemented by UNIDO, FAO and ILO in close partnership with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources and Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Federal Government of Somalia.

The PSDP will address constraints to unlock the potential for the Somali economy to create jobs and expand economic opportunities, particularly for youth and women. The focused interventions of UNIDO, FAO and ILO aim to strengthen the governance of public and private economic institutions to provide direct support to productive sectors and SMEs development.

The program has been designed in full alignment with the UN Somalia Cooperation Framework (2021-2025) to offer a programmatic and technical response to the economic development priorities identified by the Federal Government of Somalia within its 9th National Development Plan (NDP 9).

The PDSP drew an initial allocation of \$ 2 million granted by the Government of Italy through the UN Somalia Multi Partner Trust Fund (MPTF).

At the ceremony, the Government of Italy will formalize the additional allocation of \$ 2 million for the PDSP, from an additional contribution to the UN Somalia MPTF.

The PDSP is envisaged to mobilize a total of \$ 15-20 million over the period of 4 years to assist Somalia's economic recovery and development.

Representatives of UN entities, development partners for Somalia and Somali stakeholders are also expected to attend the ceremony through WebEx.

At the launch Ceremony, the Federal Minister of Commerce and Industry, H.E. Khalif Abdi Omar, welcomed the contribution by Italy. He added, in particular, this additional contribution of Italy to the programme would help expand the network of UNIDO and Somali Chamber of Commerce and Industry back-ed Enterprises Development Units network, increase the numbers of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) having access to critical financing solutions while also boosting the role of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in supporting the development of productive sectors.

“Indeed, the work of the PSDP is appreciated by the Government of Somalia, as it is support to the public and private sectors together (and) in supporting the Somali economic growth potential,” added Minister Khalif.

The Italian Ambassador to Somalia, H.E. Alberto Vecchi, said the Italian Government’s provision of funding under the PSDP is in line with the Government of Italy’s strategy for international development in coordination with its multilateral partners.

He added that the Italian Cooperation, which is the development arm of the Italian Government, seeks to promote the concept of work as a concrete tool to enhance social cohesion, peace and stabilization as a prerequisite for human development to create opportunities for youth and other vulnerable groups.

“Through a strategy of private sector development, the Somali authorities and their international counterparts can indeed play a very effective and productive role critical to increase access to job opportunities, especially for women and youth,” said Ambassador Vecchi.

He added, “Employment creation and continuous dialogue between the federal government and federal member states on concrete issues represent essential elements to support Somalia achieve the goals as set forward in the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030”.

The Deputy Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Somalia Humanitarian and Resident Coordinator H.E. Adam Abdemoula, noted that the PSDP sets the stage for economic development in Somalia and is a critical part of the Sustainable Development Agenda of the UN.

“Over the last three decades, Somalia has focused on humanitarian aid. With improved political and economic stability, there is a need for a paradigm shift in the objectives of aid towards achieving development goals. It is thus high time for rolling out development initiatives,” noted Abdemoula.

H.E. Adam Abdemoula continued “We can attain this goal through promoting sustainable livelihood, creating employment, providing access to skills development programmes, enhancing productive value chains, supporting demand-driven entrepreneurship initiatives, and facilitating access to finance for enterprises.

Thanking the Italian Government for funding the first and the second initial phase of the programme, he invited also more stakeholders and donors to join the programme and support UNIDO, FAO and ILO in their commitment to contribute to the development of Somalia productive Sectors.

Speaking from the UNIDO headquarters in Vienna, the Director of the UNIDO Agro-Business Department, Dejene Tezera said the agency would play a role in coordinating economic development programmes in Somalia.

Through the PSDP, under the leadership of UNIDO, with FAO and ILO, the three agencies leverage their core areas of technical and specialized expertise to address constraints of job creation and access to economic opportunities, particularly for women, youth, and other vulnerable groups among the Somali society.”.

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