

UNIDO and DHL Group join forces to tackle food waste and climate impact

- United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and DHL Group signed a Memorandum of Understanding in the framework of the 28th UN Climate Change Conference

Bonn/Dubai, December 12, 2023: In a significant step towards fostering collaboration and innovation, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and logistics company DHL Group signed a Memorandum of Understanding in the framework of the 28th UN Climate Change Conference in the United Arab Emirates on December 11, 2023. The event featured the partnership signing ceremony and the launch of the “Innovation for Food Systems Transformation” global innovation challenge by UNIDO and DHL Group. Fueled by the collective expertise of both entities, this collaboration strives to transform agribusiness and climate-related initiatives. At the core of this partnership is the drive to enhance food preservation, reduce food waste in African markets, and improve global market accessibility for producers.

The Innovation Challenge serves as a beacon, seeking out trailblazing technology providers who have designed sustainable solutions within agribusiness supply chains and logistics. These solutions ought to be designed to address hurdles within the 'first-mile' supply chain, enhance the livelihoods of farmers, and champion the adoption of a sustainable food system that eliminates all forms of waste. Emphasizing a keen interest in multiple sectors that foster innovative solutions at the crossroads of logistics and sustainability, the collaboration focuses on clean technology, perishable logistics, new sustainable business models, smart solutions, and sustainable packaging and containers.

Gunther Beger, Managing Director of UNIDO’s Directorate for SDG Innovation and Economic Transformation, underscored the commitment to fostering economic transformation and driving innovation for enduring positive change. "This partnership with DHL Group holds immense potential in addressing food security and establishing sustainable food supply chains," affirmed Beger. "Uniting industry expertise and innovative solutions is paramount in tackling global challenges and nurturing a more sustainable future."

Steven Pope, Head of Trade Facilitation at DHL Group, expressed: “DHL Group and UNIDO join hands, committed to minimizing food waste and shifting the paradigms of agriculture. I am proud to sign this Memorandum of Understanding on DHL’s behalf as I believe that this partnership is a beacon of hope. We continue our way towards a more sustainable and equitable global food system, with the aim of uplifting the livelihoods of farmers and ensuring that they will see sustainable benefits in this transformative journey towards a better, more resilient agricultural future.”

This partnership stands as a testament to joined efforts aimed at redefining the future of agribusiness, sustainability, and global impact. Through innovative solutions and concerted actions, UNIDO and DHL pave the way for a world where food waste is minimized, sustainability is prioritized, and markets are inclusive and thriving for producers.

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Press release



You can find the press release for download as well as further information on group.dhl.com/pressreleases

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DHL Group is the world's leading logistics company. The Group connects people and markets and is an enabler of global trade. It aspires to be the first choice for customers, employees and investors worldwide. To this end, DHL Group is focusing on growth in its profitable core logistics businesses and accelerating the digital transformation in all business divisions. The Group contributes to the world through sustainable business practices, corporate citizenship and environmental activities. By the year 2050, DHL Group aims to achieve net-zero emissions logistics.

DHL Group is home to two strong brands: DHL offers a comprehensive range of parcel and international express service, freight transport, and supply chain management services, as well as e-commerce logistics solutions. Deutsche Post is the largest postal service provider in Europe and the market leader in the German mail market. DHL Group employs approximately 600,000 people in over 220 countries and territories worldwide. The Group generated revenues of more than 94 billion Euros in 2022.

The logistics company for the world.



UNIDO is a specialized agency of the United Nations with a unique mandate to promote, dynamize and accelerate industrial development. UNIDO's mandate is reflected in Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 9: "Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation", but UNIDO's activities contribute to all the SDGs.

UNIDO's work is concentrated on three focus areas: ending hunger by helping businesses from farm to fork; stopping climate breakdown by using renewable energy and energy efficiency to reduce industrial greenhouse gas emissions; and supporting sustainable supply chains so that developing country producers get a fair deal and scarce resources are preserved.

Progress by innovation