



Event Concept Note

Accelerating Climate Innovation: A2D Facility Annual Event 2025

Date and Location: 19-22 May, 2025, Nairobi, Kenya

Background

The transition to clean energy and sustainable and inclusive industrial development is one of today's most pressing global challenges. Achieving climate targets by 2050 requires transformative shifts across sectors, such as electricity, industry, transport and buildings, with 35% of the necessary emissions reductions needing to come from technologies still at the demonstration stage (IEA, 2023). This underscores the critical need to accelerate the commercialization of innovative climate solutions.

Demonstration projects that can have a "lighthouse" effect, are particularly critical in facilitating sustainable transitions, as they showcase the feasibility of innovative solutions, addressing operational challenges, and catalyzing scalability and replication.

The A2D Facility Annual Event offers a unique platform for stakeholders across the world to collaborate, partner, share knowledge, and highlight successes in implementing demonstration projects in developing countries. By fostering connections among project developers, financiers, industry associations, and other key actors, the event aims to accelerate the development and implementation of projects.

The A2D Facility Annual Event is organized by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), which is the specialized agency of the United Nations with the mandate to promote inclusive and sustainable industrial development. Its 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 of the SDGs. UNIDO's vision is a world without poverty and hunger, where industry drives low-emission economies, improves living standards, and preserves the liveable environment for present and future generations, leaving no one behind.

UNIDO's work is concentrated on three focus areas:

- o Stopping climate breakdown by using renewable energy and energy efficiency to reduce industrial greenhouse gas emissions;
- o Supporting sustainable supply chains so that developing country producers get a fair deal and scarce resources are preserved;
- o Ending hunger by helping businesses from farm to fork.



The Accelerate-to-Demonstrate (A2D) Facility, managed by UNIDO, aims to accelerate the commercialization of innovative clean energy solutions in developing countries (countries that are eligible to receive Official Development Assistance (ODA)). It has an initial focus on critical minerals, clean hydrogen, smart energy, and industrial decarbonization, which are key areas for meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), climate targets, and catalyzing sustainable and inclusive industrial development in developing countries.

The Event

The A2D Facility Annual Event is a global platform designed to foster collaboration, knowledge exchange, match-making and networking amongst key stakeholders from the climate innovation and clean energy transition ecosystems.

The A2D Facility Annual Event 2025 aims to build an internationally recognized community of key stakeholders for planning, implementing, operating and scaling demonstration projects in developing countries, and facilitate knowledge-sharing, sharing of lessons learned, and opportunities for stakeholders to network and collaborate.

The A2D Facility Annual Event 2025 will address some of the most pressing challenges and opportunities in planning, implementing and scaling innovative clean energy demonstration projects in the thematic areas-of-focus for the A2D Facility. The following guiding questions will steer the event's discussions, workshops, and knowledge-sharing sessions:

- How can the implementation of demonstration projects in developing countries be accelerated?
- What are the main challenges and how can they be overcome, particularly in critical minerals, clean hydrogen, smart energy and industrial decarbonization projects? What examples of successful projects exist?
- What is needed to facilitate scalability and replicability?
- How can gender equality, inclusion and safeguards be embedded in the implementation and operation of demonstration projects in developing countries?
- How can private finance be unlocked for demonstration projects in developing countries?
- What is the role of Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs), UN agencies and international organizations in facilitating the implementation of innovative demonstration projects in developing countries?



Agenda

The Annual Event is a 3.5-day-event with plenary sessions, workshops, evening receptions and activities, a site visit and numerous opportunities for networking. The summary agenda is below and a detailed agenda will be available soon on the A2D Facility website.

Day 1 – Monday, 19 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none">o Arrival and registration (afternoon)o Welcome reception and networking (evening)
Day 2 – Tuesday, 20 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none">o Plenary session: Openingo Thematic sessionso Impacts sessionso Plenary sessiono Evening reception
Day 3 – Wednesday, 21 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none">o Plenary sessiono Impacts sessionso Thematic sessionso Impacts sessionso Plenary session: Closingo Evening activity
Day 4 – Thursday, 22 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none">o Site visit (all day)

Language

The working language of the A2D Facility Annual Event 2025 will be English. Attendees are expected to have a proficiency level of at least C1 or equivalent. Please note that interpretation and translation services will not be provided.