

## Workshop: "Scaling Innovation Through Demonstration Projects"

### 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.

### About UNIDO and the A2D Facility

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations with a unique mandate to promote, dynamize and accelerate sustainable and inclusive industrial development. The ~USD 80 million Accelerate-to-Demonstrate (A2D) Facility is a flagship initiative implemented by UNIDO, which focuses on accelerating the implementation of demonstration projects of innovative, scalable climate solutions in ODA-eligible countries. The aim is to bridge the critical gap between early-stage innovation and large-scale commercial deployment in four key initial areas: critical minerals, clean hydrogen, smart energy and industrial decarbonization. The A2D Facility published three comprehensive, new [market assessments](#) on these thematic areas at COP 29 in November 2024.

### Workshop

The A2D Facility is organizing a global workshop focused on enhancing the development of catalytic demonstration projects in ODA-eligible countries. These workshops aim to build capacity, strengthen stakeholder engagement, and raise the visibility of the A2D Facility.

Open to participants from all countries, the workshop will physically be held across different time zones to accommodate participation across different regions, with the option to join online through a live stream for those unable to attend in-person: Brazil, South Africa, Indonesia and Mexico. The workshop will be of interest to a range of stakeholders, such as project developers, industry associations, technology adopters, financiers, multilaterals and other stakeholders essential to fostering ecosystems that support innovation and scalability in these countries.

The workshop will provide key benefits to attendees by:

- **Expanding Networks:** Connecting stakeholders with potential collaborators, project developers and financiers to create lasting partnerships on developing, implementing and scaling demonstration projects.
- **Building Knowledge and Skills:** Sharing insights on what makes a demonstration project catalytic and scalable, and overcoming key challenges in project implementation.

Important Information: The workshops will strictly adhere to the below Agenda items. Questions related to specific project developments (of technical and/or financial nature) in connection with a past or forthcoming A2D Call for Proposal(s) will not be entertained.

### Tentative Programme

While each location has its own local dates and times, the overall agenda is consistent across all workshops. The current agenda (subject to change) is provided below.

- 2 April 2025, São Paulo, Brazil
- 10 April 2025, Mexico City, Mexico
- 16 April 2025, Jakarta, Indonesia
- 22 April 2025, Johannesburg, South Africa

Time	Activity
08:30 – 09:30	Breakfast Networking and Registration
09:30 – 10:00	Opening Remarks and Agenda
10:00 – 10:45	UNIDO and the Climate Innovation Portfolio
10:45 – 11:15	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11:15 – 12:00	Current A2D Facility-Supported Demonstration Projects
12:00 – 13:00	Market Assessments: Landscape of Innovators, Technologies, Existing Projects and Financing Mechanisms for Climate Innovation
13:00 – 14:30	<i>Lunch Break</i>
14:30 – 15:30	Designing and Implementing Demonstration Projects: Lessons Learned, Dissemination and Monitoring Impacts
15:30 - 16:00	<i>Coffee Break</i>
16:00 – 17:00	Gender Equality, Social Inclusion and Safeguards
17:00 – 17:30	Workshop Wrap-Up and Questions and Answers
17:30 – 20:00	Networking Reception