UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION
Progress by innovation

60 YEARS

GLOBAL QUALITY FORUM
VIENNA 2026

PROGRAMME

Trust, Trade and Transformation
Through Quality

DATES

4–6 November 2026

Wednesday to Friday

VENUE

Vienna International Centre

Conference Room 3

Vienna, Austria



Letter on Behalf of the Global Quality Forum 2026 Organizing Team

Vienna, 4–6 November 2026

Dear Participants,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the inaugural Global Quality Forum at the Headquarters of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization in Vienna. Thank you for joining us for this first edition, which takes on special significance as we commemorate UNIDO's 60th anniversary.

For six decades, UNIDO has worked with countries and partners to advance industrial development that creates opportunities and improves lives. Quality Infrastructure is central to this mission, helping enterprises compete, protecting people and the environment, and building trust across borders.

Our theme, "Trust, Trade and Transformation through Quality Infrastructure," reflects both the challenges we face and the possibilities before us. At a time of profound economic and technological change, this Forum offers an opportunity to exchange experiences, strengthen cooperation and consider how quality can help countries and businesses respond with confidence.

The strength of this gathering lies in the knowledge and perspectives you bring. I encourage you to contribute openly, learn from one another and use these days to build relationships that will continue beyond Vienna. I hope the discussions and exhibition will inspire practical ideas and lasting partnerships.

Thank you for being part of this inaugural Forum and for your commitment to our shared work. I wish you rewarding discussions and a very pleasant stay in Vienna.

With warm regards,

Alejandro Rivera Rojas

Chief, Division of MSME Competitiveness, Quality and Job Creation

Background

The global economy is being reshaped by changing trade policies, tariffs, shifting supply chains, technological disruption and growing economic uncertainty. Market access increasingly depends on meeting complex technical, sustainability, digital and data-related requirements. At the same time, supply chains are being reconfigured, including for strategic inputs such as critical raw materials. These changes create new opportunities for countries and firms, but they also increase the risks of exclusion where quality-related capabilities do not keep pace.

Compliance is becoming more continuous, data-intensive and requires dedicated investment. Firms are expected to demonstrate not only product quality and safety, but also traceability, environmental performance, circularity and social responsibility. Factors such as regulations, testing, international recognition and coordination among institutions will affect the transaction costs, particularly for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs). Digital tools can reduce duplication and improve transparency, yet they can also create new barriers where infrastructure, skills, cybersecurity and data governance are insufficient.

Climate pressures, resource constraints, migration and social change further affect industrial development and the resilience of communities. Countries increasingly emphasize the importance to verify environmental claims, support clean and emerging technologies, protect human, plant and aquatic health, and ensure that industrial products are safe and fit for purpose. The related challenges cut across sectors, including cosmetics, food, pharmaceuticals, fisheries, automotive and electronics, construction, textiles, chemicals and critical minerals.

Quality Infrastructure (QI) provides the policies, institutions, services and practices needed to define, measure, demonstrate and maintain quality.

01	02	03	04	05
Standards & Technical Regulations	**Metrology**	**Conformity Assessment**	**Accreditation**	**Market Surveillance**
Standards and technical regulations set requirements.	Metrology ensures accurate and comparable measurements.	Conformity assessment provides evidence of compliance.	Accreditation establishes confidence in competence.	Market surveillance and enforcement protect markets and consumers.

When these elements are coherent and internationally connected, QI enhances collaboration, supports innovation and enables trusted trade.

The strategic question is therefore not whether countries need quality systems, but how national, regional and international actors can organize, finance and modernize them to respond to development priorities. The Global Quality Forum 2026 will address this question by moving from the global context to coherent national systems, regional cooperation and sustainable financing, before examining how quality operates across complete value chains, protects people and communities, enables resilient and sustainable industry, and evolves within an increasingly digital economy.

Forum Objectives

Quality Infrastructure is often invisible when it works.

Yet when products cross borders, enterprises enter new markets and consumers count on the safety and performance of a product, a robust system of standards, measurement, accreditation, conformity assessment and market surveillance underpins trust, facilitates trade and protects consumers.

The Global Quality Forum 2026 will bring this system into focus, demonstrating that quality is not simply a technical concern, but strategic infrastructure for trust, trade, industrial transformation and sustainable development.

The Forum will begin with a high-level discussion on the evolution of the global economy and the growing importance of "Quality Infrastructure" for competitiveness, resilience, industrialization, innovation, and market access. It will examine how Quality Policy can translate national ambitions into coordinated actions, aligning the development of Quality Infrastructure with priorities in the areas of industry, trade, investment, exports, MSME development, climate, energy, and health. Participants will also learn how international Quality Infrastructure organizations are responding to technological, commercial, environmental, and social changes, and what their latest work implies for countries seeking to strengthen their own systems.

The discussion will then move from the global and national levels to regional cooperation. Different approaches to harmonization, mutual recognition, shared services, specialization and pooled technical capacity will show how regions can overcome national constraints and support integrated markets. Attention will also turn to the investment and partnerships needed to build sustainable institutions and services, while reducing the cost and complexity that enterprises, particularly MSMEs, face when demonstrating compliance.

From policy, cooperation and financing, the Forum will move into practical application. Complete value chains and priority sectors will show how the different Quality Infrastructure functions work together to protect people, safeguard the planet and advance sustainable prosperity. UNIDO programmes, partner institutions and project beneficiaries will share concrete results and lessons that can be applied in other countries and sectors.

Finally, the Forum will look ahead to how machine-readable standards, digital metrology, remote conformity assessment, artificial intelligence-enabled market surveillance and stronger data governance are reshaping Quality Infrastructure. Throughout the programme, participants will be introduced to UNIDO tools and platforms, including the Quality Infrastructure for Sustainable Development Index, Standards Compliance Analytics, LabNet and Quality Infrastructure along Value Chains approaches. Together, these discussions will connect global challenges with practical solutions and create new opportunities for cooperation, investment and action.

Agenda

WEDNESDAY, 4 NOVEMBER 2026

Building Quality Infrastructure for Resilient and Integrated Economies

08:30 – 09:30 | Welcome Coffee (C-Building 7th Floor)

09:30 – 10:30 | High-level Forum Opening

Moderator: Ms. Shuilie Ghosh, Journalist

Cultural Event & Opening Video

- **Valicha** (Peruvian traditional dance from the Cusco region)
- **Opening Video**

Official Opening

- **Mr. Gerd Müller,** Director General, United Nations Industrial Development Organization

Remarks by Member States

- **H.E. Mr. Wake Goi,** Minister of Commerce and Industry of Papua New Guinea
- **H.E. Mr. Andrew Baasaron,** Minister of Economic Affairs, Entrepreneurship and Technological Innovation of Suriname

Remarks by Development Partners

- **H.E. Mr. Carl Christian Hallergård,** Permanent Observer of the European Union to UNIDO
- **H.E. Mr. LI Song,** Permanent Representative of China to UNIDO

Announcements of New Technical Cooperation Programmes

- **H.E. Mr. Andreas Raphael Nägeli,** Permanent Representative of Switzerland to UNIDO

Signing of Memorandum of Understanding

- **Mr. Philippe Metzger,** Secretary General, International Electrotechnical Commission

Signing of Joint Declaration

- **Mr. Warren Merkel,** Quality Infrastructure Council of the Americas

Group Photo

- **Official Forum Group Photo**

10:30 – 11:15 | Session 1: Quality Infrastructure Responding to a Changing Global Economy

Session 1 examines how changing trade rules, tariffs, supply-chain reconfiguration and technological change are reshaping quality requirements, market access and industrial competitiveness.

Moderator: Ms. Shuilie Ghosh

Speakers & Panellists:

- **H.E. Mr. Wake Goi,** Minister of Commerce and Industry of Papua New Guinea
- **H.E. Mr. Andrew Baasaron,** Minister of Economic Affairs, Entrepreneurship and Technological Innovation of Suriname
- **Ms. Custódia Paúnde,** Secretary of State of the Ministry of Economy for the Republic of Mozambique
- **Mr. Ciyong Zou,** Deputy to the Director General and Managing Director of the Directorate of Technical Cooperation and Sustainable Industrial Development, UNIDO
- **Mr. Harald Jedlicka,** Head of Investment Climate, World Bank

11:15 – 11:45 | Coffee Break

11:45 – 13:00 | Session 2: International Quality Infrastructure in Action

Session 2 explores how international QI organizations are adapting to global change and emerging challenges. It highlights how QI can proactively drive innovation and shape a sustainable future.

Moderator: Ms. Shuilie Ghosh

Video Message

- **Mr. Sergio Mujica,** Secretary General, International Organization for Standardization

Speakers & Panellists:

- **Ms. Roswitha Franz,** Head of Planning and Operations, International Organization for Standardization
- **Mr. Philippe Metzger,** Secretary General, International Electrotechnical Commission
- **Ms. Annette Koo,** Director, Bureau International des Poids et Mesures
- **Mr. Anthony Donellan,** Director, International Organization of Legal Metrology
- **Mr. Brahim Houla,** Chair, Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated
- **Mr. Stefan Haas,** President, TIC Council
- **Mr. Alex Stoichitoiu,** President, IQNET

13:00 – 14:00 | Lunch Break

14:00 – 15:30 | Session 3: Regional Quality Infrastructure for Integration

Session 3 explores how regional Quality Infrastructure cooperation aligns technical requirements, enables cross-border acceptance and supports participation in regional supply chains.

Moderator: Mr. Volodymyr Yakubov, Business Development Director, International Projects, The British Standards Institution

Speakers & Panellists:

- **H.E. Ms. Merewalesi Falemaka,** Permanent Observer of the Pacific Islands Forum to the United Nations in Geneva
- **Mr. Javier Viveros,** Vice Minister of Industry of Paraguay
- **Mrs. Ron Osman Omar,** Director of Industry, Minerals, Entrepreneurship and Tourism, African Union Commission
- **Mr. Scott Steedman,** CEN Board Member and Chair of the European Quality Infrastructure Network
- **Mr. Abah Ofon,** Director, Farrelly & Mitchell

15:30 – 16:00 | Coffee Break

16:00 – 17:30 | Session 4: Financing Quality Infrastructure and Scaling Impact

Session 4 explores financing solutions for Quality Infrastructure and how regional cooperation can scale impact by reducing technical barriers to trade, enhancing market access, and strengthening regional value chains.

Moderator: Ms. Sharonmae Smith-Walker, Chief Executive Officer, CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality

Speakers & Panellists:

- **H.E. Mr. Wake Goi,** Minister for Commerce and Industry of Papua New Guinea
- **Mr. Mouddar Khouja,** Secretary General, Austro-Arab Chamber of Commerce
- **Mr. Roger Brou,** Senior Industrial Development Officer, African Development Bank
- **Mr. Karim ould Chih,** Chief, Division of Innovative Finance and International Financial Institutions, UNIDO
- **Mr. Bernard Bau,** Head, Competitiveness, Quality and Compliance Unit, UNIDO

THURSDAY, 5 NOVEMBER 2026

Quality in Practice: Protecting People, Enabling Industry and Preparing QI for the Future

09:00 – 10:45 | Session 5: Quality Across a Value Chain: Cosmetics as a Complete QI Case Study

Session 5 will use cosmetics as a global case study of how Quality Infrastructure can translate market demand into industrial competitiveness and economic value, bringing practical evidence of how countries can build capabilities that connect local producers with increasingly sophisticated global markets.

Keynote Address: H.E. Mr. Mauricio Gomez Amin, Minister of Trade, Industry and Tourism of Colombia

Bridge Presentation: Ms. Helen Mier Giraldo, Regional Chief Technical Advisor for LAC, UNIDO

Moderator: Ms. Pri Elamthuruthil, Project Coordinator, UNIDO (Discussion Moderator)

Speakers & Panellists:

- **Mr. İhsan Övüt,** Secretary General, Standards and Metrology Institute of Islamic Countries
- **Mr. Hermogène Nsengimana,** Secretary General, African Organization for Standardisation
- **Ms. Priscila Ocampo,** Regional Regulatory Affairs Director / LATAM / Global, Estée Lauder Companies
- **Ms. Mariette van Rooyen,** Executive Director, The Cosmetic Export Council of South Africa
- **Ms. Ana Maria Couras,** President, Association of Perfumery and Cosmetics of Portugal

10:45 – 11:00 | Coffee Break

11:00 – 12:30 | Session 6: Quality Protecting People and Communities

Session 6 uses sector-focused fireside chats to examine how accredited testing, metrology, inspection and traceability protect human, animal, plant and aquatic health while enabling safe production and trade.

Keynote Address: H.E. Mr. Ny Riana Nampoina Raharimanjato, Minister of Industrialization and Private Sector Development of Madagascar

Fireside Chat: Food Safety

Moderator: Mr. Ali Badarneh, Chief, Food Security and Food Systems Unit, UNIDO

- **Ms. Elmé Coetzer-Boersma,** Chief Executive Officer, Agraya GmbH (Global G.A.P.)
- **Mr. Mark Flanagan,** Chief Executive Officer, Safe to Trade
- **Ms. Tatiana Campos,** Executive Director, International Fruit and Vegetable Juice Association

Fireside Chat: Pharmaceuticals

Moderator: Mr. El hadji Abdourahmane Ndione, Chair, ISO Committee on Developing Country Matters

- **Mr. Peter Holl,** Head of Global Business Development, Sartorius
- **Mr. Koissi Midaye,** Principal Quality and Standards Officer and ATCMA ECOWAS Focal Point, ECOWAS Commission
- **Mr. Nkaelang Modutlwa,** Senior Technical Officer, African Medicines Agency

Fireside Chat: Blue Industry

Moderator: Mr. El hadji Abdourahmane Ndione, Chair, ISO Committee on Developing Country Matters

- **Ms. Jayne Gallagher,** President, International Association of Fish Inspectors
- **Mr. Fabio Bignolini,** Co-Founder & Chief Executive Officer, Northern Light Composites

12:30 – 14:00 | Exhibition in the Rotunda

Opening Remarks

- **Mr. Ciyong Zou,** Deputy to the Director General and Managing Director of the Directorate of Technical Cooperation and Sustainable Industrial Development, UNIDO

Cultural Event

- **Cultural Performance & Networking**

Remarks by Partners

- **H.E. Mr. Carl Christian Hallergård,** Permanent Observer of the European Union to UNIDO
- **Ms. Ron Osman Omar,** Director of Industry, Minerals, Entrepreneurship and Tourism, African Union Commission

14:00 – 15:45 | Session 7: Quality Enabling Resilient and Sustainable Industry

Session 7 uses sector-focused fireside chats on automotive and EVs, construction, textiles, and critical minerals and chemicals to show how Quality Infrastructure reduces trade barriers and supports safe, resilient and sustainable industry.

Moderator: Ms. Marianna Karttunen, Deputy Head of Division - Regulatory Policy Division, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

Fireside Chat: Automotive and EVs

- **Ms. Rana Ghoneim,** Director, Division of Energy and Climate Action, UNIDO
- **Mr. Lu Chun,** Chief Representative of China Automobile Standards Internationalization Centre in Geneva, and Head of the International Standards Department at China Automotive Standardization Research Institute

Fireside Chat: Construction

- **Ms. Joanna Nowakowaska,** Policy and Performance Director, Forest Stewardship Council International
- **Mr. Luka Costa,** Chief Executive Officer, International Institute of Welding
- **Mr. Enrique Duarte Luraghi,** President, Paraguayan Industrial Union

Fireside Chat: Textiles

- **Mr. Devendra Gupta,** Head of Product Management, International Association for Research and Testing in the Field of Textile and Leather Ecology - OEKO-TEX
- **Ms. Nesrin Serin,** Founder and Chief Executive Officer, USB Certification
- **Ms. Suna Akbayir,** Chief Executive Officer, ARTECH International & Beyond Bar Code

Fireside Chat: Critical Minerals and Chemicals

- **Mr. Leon Joris Riedel,** Project Advisor, Global Alliance for Responsible and Green Minerals, UNIDO
- **Mr. Craig Updyke,** Senior Director, Global Policy and International Trade, ASTM International

- **Mr. Jules Rommel Touka Tchakonte,** Commission Chief of the Economic Section and Quality Focal Point, Economic Community of Central African States
- **Dr. Amany Asfour,** President, Africa Business Council
- **Mr. Henry Rotich,** Chair, Pan African Quality Infrastructure

15:45 – 16:00 | Coffee Break

16:00 – 17:30 | Session 8: Future-ready Quality Infrastructure

Session 8 examines how digitalization, artificial intelligence and interoperable data are reshaping QI, how standards, measurement and accreditation support reliable environmental monitoring, and how QI systems must evolve to reflect countries' differing priorities, capacities and contexts.

Moderator: Mr. Aik Hoe Lim, Director, Trade and Environment Division, World Trade Organization

Part I: Digital Transformation & AI in Quality Systems

- **Ms. Catharina Kulka-Peschke,** Digital Transformation Liaison, Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt
- **Mr. Jianyu Huang,** Chief Executive Officer, HYNEX Technologies (Guangzhou) Ltd, and Chair of ISO/TC/336 on Laboratory Design
- **Mr. Lance Thompson,** Head, Regulatory Cooperation Unit, UNECE
- **Ms. Martina Paul,** Co-Convenor of ISO/IEC JTC1/SC42/JWG 6 Conformity assessment schemes for AI systems

Part II: Institutional Evolution & Global Perspectives

- **Mr. Ulrich Harmes-Liedtke,** Partner, Mesopartner, and Expert in Quality Infrastructure and Economic Development, PTB International Cooperation
- **Mr. Marcel Gbaguidi,** Director General, West African Accreditation System (SOAC / WAAS)
- **Ms. Sharonmae Smith-Walker,** Chief Executive Officer, CARICOM Regional Organization for Standards and Quality
- **Mr. Steve Sidney,** Executive Director, National Laboratory Association of South Africa (NLA-SA)
- **Mr. Philip Grinsted,** Private Sector Specialist, Business and Competition Team, World Bank Group

18:00 | Cocktail Mozart Room and VIC Restaurant

FRIDAY, 6 NOVEMBER 2026

Measuring What Matters - Data, Evidence and Global QI Insights

09:00 – 10:30 | Session 9: QI4SD Index 2026 Edition Launch

Moderator: Mr. Nigel Croft, Senior Expert in Quality Infrastructure, UNIDO

Presentation: QI4SD Index 2026 – Framework, Key Results & Global Trends

- **Ms. Hedvig Norlén,** Senior Data Scientist, UNIDO

Fireside Discussion: From QI4SD Index Results to Action

- **Ms. Hedvig Norlén,** Senior Data Scientist, UNIDO
- **Mr. Lazizbek Saidoripov,** President of the Euro-Asian Cooperation of National Metrological Institutions and First Deputy Director, Uzbek Agency for Technical Regulation under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan
- **Ms. Sevde Özbey,** Specialist, Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries

Interactive Session

- **Audience Q&A and Final Reflections**

10:30 – 11:00 | Coffee Break

11:00 – 12:30 | Session 10: From Data to Action - Strengthening QI through Trusted Data and Global Systems

This session explores wider questions around data availability and quality, governance and interoperability, verification and trust, and how global data systems can better support QI development, policy and investment decisions.

Moderator: Mr. Brahim Houla, Chair, Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated

Interactive Session

- **Audience Q&A**

Fireside Chat: Strengthening Data Governance for QI - The Role of Global Data Systems

- **Mr. Nigel Johnston,** Chief Executive Officer, Quality Trade

Fireside Chat: From Complex Data to Supply Chain Intelligence

- **Mr. Mukesh Kumar,** Director, Associate Professor, University of Cambridge

Fireside Chat: From Data to Investment Intelligence – UNIDO Investment Platform

- **Mr. Stefan Kratzsch,** Head, Sustainable Investments and Responsible Business Unit, UNIDO

12:30 – 13:00 | Forum Closing

Speakers & Panellists:

- **Mr. Alejandro Rivera Rojas,** Chief, Division of MSME Competitiveness, Quality and Job Creation, UNIDO





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