

# The 8th Hongqiao International Economic Forum Parallel Session Free Trade Zones Driving Industrial Innovation and Global Trade

**Date:** 5 November 2025, 14:00 – 17:00 (UTC+8)

**Venue:** Conference Room C003, 3rd Floor, Office Building C, National Exhibition and Convention Center (Shanghai)

**Hosts:** United Nations Industrial Development Organization  
Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China

**Organizers:** China International Center for Economic and Technical Exchanges  
China International Import Expo Bureau  
National Exhibition and Convention Center (Shanghai)

## Introduction:

Free trade zones (FTZs), as key platforms to liberalize and facilitate trade and investment, play an instrumental role in advancing global openness and economic growth. Through South-South and triangular industrial cooperation (SSTIC), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) supports developing countries in establishing and operating FTZs and special economic zones (SEZs). Relevant initiatives promote knowledge sharing, capacity building, and policy advice, with the aim of fostering industrial innovation and sustainable development and strengthening international economic and trade cooperation. As a prelude to this forum, UNIDO organized a training in Morocco for African FTZ and SEZ managers in September, which was highly appreciated by the participants.

In this context, the forum is co-hosted by UNIDO and the Ministry of Commerce of China (MOFCOM), convening representatives from governments, international organizations, financial institutions, businesses, and academia. Participants will delve into the significance, challenges, and opportunities in FTZ development. The discussion will spotlight innovative, collaborative strategies and best practices, to expand the common ground for international cooperation and unlock the unique potential of FTZs to drive global economic recovery and sustainable growth.

## Program:

**Master of Ceremonies:** Ms. LI Dongning, News Anchor, China Global Television Network (CGTN)

Time	Segment / Speaker
13:30-14:00	Sign-in
<b>1. Opening Remarks (10 minutes)</b>	
14:00-14:05	Mr. Gerd Müller, Director General, United Nations Industrial Development Organization
14:05-14:10	Mr. SHENG Qiuping, Vice Minister, Ministry of Commerce of China
<b>2. Keynote Speech (10 minutes)</b>	
14:10-14:20	Ms. WANG Chunying, President, The Export-Import Bank of China

### 3. Launching and Presentation (40 minutes)

- 14:20-14:30 **I. UNIDO' s South-South and Triangular Industrial Cooperation: A Strategic Framework for FTZ Development and Partnership**  
**Presenter:**  
Mr. YAO Shenhong, Director, Division of Strategic Planning and South-South Cooperation of UNIDO
- 14:30-14:40 **II. UNIDO Industrial Park Platform: Progress and Achievements**  
**Presenter:**  
Mr. Francesco Azzena, Project Coordinator, Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific of UNIDO
- 14:40-14:50 **III. Report on the Development of China' s Pilot Free Trade Zones (2025)**  
**Presenter:**  
Mr. CUI Weijie, Vice President, Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation
- 14:50-15:00 **IV. China-UN Global South-South Development Facility**  
**Presenter:**  
· Ms. Dima Al-Khatib, Director, United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (video message)  
· Ms. LI Shuyin, Deputy Director General, China International Center for Economic and Technical Exchanges

### 4. Panel Discussion (100 minutes)

- 15:00-15:50 **Topic I – Unlocking FTZs and SEZs for Industrial and Trade Growth**  
Moderated by Mr. Kanishka Raj Rathore, Programme Officer, Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific of UNIDO  
**Panelists:**  
· Mr. Sim Vireak, Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Kingdom of Cambodia  
· H.E. Mr. James Kimonyo, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Rwanda to China  
· Ms. SONG Yuyan, Secretary General, Green Partnership of Industrial Parks in China  
· Mr. Ludwig O. Daza, Director General' s Representative & Manager, Ecozone Development Department of Philippine Economic Zone Authority
- 15:50-16:40 **Topic II – Collaborative Strategies for FTZ and SEZ Development**  
Moderated by Ms. LI Shuyin, Deputy Director General, China International Center for Economic and Technical Exchanges  
**Panelists:**  
· Mr. YAO Shenhong, Director, Division of Strategic Planning and South-South Cooperation of UNIDO  
· Mr. Chalee Khansiri, Director of International Industrial Economics Division, Office of Industrial Economics, Ministry of Industry of the Kingdom of Thailand  
· Ms. Aida Zainol Abidin, Chief Corporate Officer, Kulim Technology Park Corporation Sdn. Bhd. of Malaysia  
· Ms. XU Chun, Secretary General, Global Alliance on AI for Industry and Manufacturing Centre of Excellence & Assistant Dean, Shanghai AI Research Institute

### 5. Closing (20 minutes)

- 16:40-16:45 **Master of Ceremonies:** Summary and Closing
- 16:45-17:00 **Group photo**