Understanding Innovation

Innovation is the introduction and application of better solutions that meet new requirements, unarticulated needs, or existing market needs.

Innovation encompasses many aspects: technology, processes, tools, and very importantly - mindset.

It's not only about groundbreaking discoveries but how they are applied including incremental improvements.
Innovation is more than just Technology

We often only think about technology and related tools; but the way we use technology and apply it in our work (policies, tools, process, thinking) often creates positive change.

Innovation should be a **Way of Thinking** that fosters **continuous improvement**.

The core essence lies in harnessing **human potential** to create new processes, products, or ideas that deliver value.
The Power of Incremental Changes

Incremental changes are as important as big discoveries, sometimes even more so.

A small process change that simplifies work, makes it more efficient, saves resources, and time can lead to better decision making.

Seemingly small change can have significant impact on efficiencies - costs, time, resources.
Examples of Innovation within UNOPS (1)

Example 1: Providing Evidence of UNOPS PSC Land Release Operations Contributions to UN SDG using Ai/Deep Learning and Satellite Imagery

Evidence of Land Release Outcomes:

1. Overall value of this development: $1 Billion USD
2. Direct and indirect employment of over 15,000 people
3. 4000 family homes constructed, 1500 apartments.
4. 9 schools and 1 university
5. Over 100 Kms of new roads
6. 77 Hectares of new agricultural land development

In Afghanistan

UNOPS PSC and UNMAS enabled 3,140,234,670 m² of Contaminated Land to be Released

1. Using AI to detect Changes
2. Contextualize Changes
3. Map Changes to SDGs
Examples of Innovation within UNOPS (2)

Example 2: How Innovation has improved HR and Procurement processes at UNOPS

**HR**

- Tells us where to apply corrective pressure

**Procurement**

- Helps identify potential for improving best practices
Examples of Innovation within UNOPS (3)

Example 3: leveraging the prequalification process to push forward gender and diversity mainstreaming

UNOPS PSC has been leveraging its **pre-qualification (PQ) processes** to strengthen our focus on gender and diversity mainstreaming and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA).

As a result, since 2018, PSC has observed the following:

- 13 out of 20 suppliers developed a new or improved an existing Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) policy/procedure
- 6 out of 7 suppliers developed a new or improved an existing gender mainstreaming, diversity, and equal opportunity policy/procedure
The Takeaway

Embracing innovation—whether it's a significant technological breakthrough or a process adjustment — can transform how we work, increase efficiency, and create substantial new value.

Innovation is

the *Way of Thinking*

and path of

*Continuous Improvement*