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UNIDO - Monaco - Crans Montana Forum cooperation

Following the visit of UNIDO Director-General Kandeh K. Yumkella to Monte Carlo in June (to receive the Prix de la Fondation and participate as a panelist in the Energy discussions at the 17th Crans Montana Forum) a UNIDO delegation, led by Chief of Cabinet Wilfried Luetkenhorst was there 18 - 20 July 2006, to follow up on the Director-General's discussions on UNIDO's future activities with Monaco and the Crans Montana Forum.

The first meeting, on 19 July, was with Mr. Jean-Paul Carteron, chairman and founder of the Crans Montana Forum, to discuss options for a formalized cooperation between UNIDO and the Forum. There was general agreement that the combination of the Crans Montana Forum’s high-level networks and convening power, and UNIDO's substantive expertise, constitute complementary assets that can be brought to bear on key themes of the development agenda. A memorandum of understanding (MoU) is being put together to give the general direction of future joint activities. The objective of the partnership is to stimulate international debate, further the understanding of complex development challenges and promote exchange of experience and best practices. Various venues and themes, including energy and youth employment, were proposed for further deliberation. It is anticipated that agreement on the MoU and concrete joint projects will be reached by September 2006.

On 20 July the delegation met with Mr. Laurent Anselmi and Mr. Frederic Platini, Head of Monaco's Bureau for International Cooperation. As of 1 August, 2006, Mr. Anselmi is the new adviser to the Cabinet of Prince Albert. A general briefing on UNIDO was given to Messrs. Anselm and Platini covering programme priorities, modalities of operation and funding, cooperation with other donor countries, and previous interactions between UNIDO and Monaco.

In terms of possible future cooperation, Mr. Anselmi proposed a strong link to the private sector in Monaco and expressed special interest in cooperation covering investment opportunities in Africa. In this context, he pointed out that the development cooperation activities of Monaco were concentrated on Africa where some 70% of projects were implemented. In view of the current reorganization of both the Monegasque Government and the organized private sector (Chamber of Commerce and Industry), Mr. Anselmi proposed that a meeting be held in early 2007 with the purpose of presenting UNIDO programmes to a wider group of stakeholders. The possibility of working together on the implementation of Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects under the Kyoto Protocol was also mooted.

Monaco is one of UNIDO’s more recent partners. It formally became a member state of UNIDO on 23 January, 2003.