



UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

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Industrial development organization turns forty

Vienna, 17 November 2006 – Forty years ago, on 17 November 1966, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution establishing the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) as its industrial development arm. In 1985 it became a specialized agency with its own budget and governance structure.

Since its establishment, UNIDO has been assisting developing countries to achieve sustainable industrial development and reduce poverty by helping the poor to earn an income and improve their quality of life. Today the Organization focuses on three areas, which contribute to global efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals – poverty reduction through productive activities, trade capacity building, and energy and environment.

UNIDO seeks to stimulate the growth of small and medium scale enterprises and is active in promoting productive activities for rural development. The Organization's trade capacity work focuses on helping countries and their enterprises to take part in international trade by assisting them to produce competitive goods that conform to international standards. UNIDO promotes the use of cleaner production methods by helping industrial enterprises to use chemicals, raw materials, energy and water in a more environmentally friendly and cost-effective manner. The Organization assists countries to meet environmental norms and standards and comply with international protocols.

The Director-General of UNIDO, Kandeh K. Yumkella, today expressed his gratitude and appreciation to the Organization's staff who, since 1966, through their commitment and efforts have made UNIDO's achievements possible. He said that UNIDO's work and its focused services would remain in demand in the changing context of multilateral development cooperation.

UNIDO Headquarters in Vienna will celebrate the 40th anniversary on 28 November at the Austria Centre, Hall D, Bruno-Kreisky-Platz 1, starting 10 a.m. A press area is foreseen for the media in room G561.

Director-General Kandeh K. Yumkella of UNIDO, followed by Austrian and international dignitaries, will open the ceremony. Antonio Maria Costa, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna, will deliver a statement by Mr. Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations. The morning ceremony will also feature short statements from former executive heads of UNIDO.

In the afternoon, a panel discussion on "*Reducing Poverty Through Sustainable Industrial Growth*" will take place, moderated by Todd Benjamin, CNN Financial Editor, with keynote speaker Peter Sutherland, Chairman of BP. The panel will consist of international experts from both the private sector and governments, international organizations and civil society. The latest detailed version of the programme, including a list of participants, is available at www.unido.org.

Media representatives are cordially invited to attend and should inform the contact below of their participation. The event will be made available as live stream at www.unido.org

UNIDO's offices in Africa will celebrate the event jointly with the Africa Industrialization Day, which is observed every year on 20 November. This year's theme is "*Reducing Poverty Through Sustainable Industrial Growth*".

For more information and to confirm media participation please contact:

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Note for editors

UNIDO is a specialized agency of the United Nations that works towards improving the quality of life of the world's poor by helping countries achieve sustainable industrial development. UNIDO views industrial development as a means of creating employment and income in order to overcome poverty. It helps developing countries produce goods they can trade on the global market, and helps provide the tools – training, technology, and investment – to make them competitive. At the same time, it encourages production processes that will neither harm the environment nor place too heavy a burden on a country's limited energy resources. UNIDO has 171 Member States and has its headquarters in Vienna, Austria (please visit www.unido.org).