

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

--

**MESSAGE ON THE 40th ANNIVERSARY
OF THE UN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (UNIDO)
Vienna, 28 November 2006**

With its expertise and technical assistance programmes in a critical area of sustainable development, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization plays a valuable role in efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger, protect the environment and help developing countries build their capacity to benefit from world trade. UNIDO contributes to the implementation of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. UNIDO is also one of six “core” UN agencies in the Global Compact corporate social responsibility initiative, focusing in particular on small and medium-sized enterprises.

During the past decade, UNIDO has also carried out a far-reaching programme of reform and renewal -- drastically downsizing both its budget and its staff while introducing management reforms, placing new emphasis on partnerships and focusing its activities on the internationally agreed development priorities. Thanks to these efforts, UNIDO is now better positioned to carry out its primary tasks: helping developing countries to produce goods that can compete in the global marketplace, and building a socially responsive, employment-generating and environmentally sound pattern of industrialization. Indeed, not long ago, UNIDO faced a crisis, its mission and future unclear. But with the support of its Member States and the hard work of its staff, UNIDO turned itself around, and can look to its future with confidence. It has demonstrated that downsizing need not mean making less of a difference, and more broadly that the United Nations can adapt, reinvent itself and improve the services it provides to the world’s people.

In that spirit, it gives me pleasure to congratulate UNIDO – its membership, staff and Director-General, Kandeh Yumkella -- on its 40th anniversary. Please accept my best wishes for continued success in the years ahead.