UNIDO Director General Speech

CII Industry Partnership Summit 2015

Plenary Session 8: “Global Development Agenda Beyond 2015”

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is truly an honour for me to discuss global partnerships with this distinguished gathering, which includes representatives of United Nations Member States, multilateral organizations, international industry and commerce, academia and civil society. I would like to offer my sincere thanks to the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion of the Government of India, and to the Government of Rajasthan, for convening this Partnership Summit today.

Partnerships will represent an essential element of the post-2015 development agenda, especially regarding its means of implementation, and thus the full engagement of all of these sectors of society is will be vital to achieving “the world we want.”

But firstly, let us take stock of the progress of the previous benchmark for multilateral action. The Millennium Development Goals framework provides the conceptual foundation for the post-2015 development agenda.
Its overarching objective – to halve extreme poverty worldwide between 1990 and 2015 – has been achieved. Further progress has also been made in terms of goals relating to increasing educational access for children, and providing access to safe drinking water.

However, although the MDGs have made some progress in terms of helping to meet essential human needs, other structural drivers of poverty eradication were not addressed by the MDG framework. Industrialization has, throughout modern history, been the greatest driver of structural poverty reduction by boosting productivity, employment opportunities and wages for poorer citizens. Indeed, no developing country has achieved the economic growth necessary to become a developed country, without an intervening period of industrialization. Yet the MDGs lacked a perspective for eliminating poverty through economic growth. The Sustainable Development Goals framework must learn the lessons of the MDGs and address this critical issue.

Honourable Guests,

This is truly a critical juncture for international development policy.

With the end-point of the Millennium Development Goals in sight, the international community has for some years been developing the post-2015 development agenda as the successor framework for international development policy.
From the beginning, it was clear that the new post-2015 framework must be more ambitious and universal than its predecessor, and must also address the critical issue of economic growth.

It was also evident that the new development agenda would have to be based on new and innovative approaches to policymaking, which would, inter alia, have to prioritize multi-stakeholder partnerships. In the absence of such measures, it would be impossible to address many of the structural challenges which face modern society, such as stagnant growth or recession in many developed countries; widespread unemployment or underemployment among important population groups, including in particular women and young people; unsustainable environmental practices; and the lack of affordable, safe and reliable supplies of food and energy for all.

The eradication of poverty remains the ultimate objective of the post-2015 development agenda. To that end, the Open Working Group, or OWG, established by the United Nations in New York to formulate the Sustainable Development Goals spent 13 sessions negotiating these new goals as the substantive core of the post-2015 agenda, to bring us closer to “The World We Want.”

The OWG outcome document has established 17 Sustainable Development Goals as the basis for the intergovernmental negotiations that will begin next week in New York to determine the final shape of the post-2015 development agenda.
UNIDO was delighted to see that promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization was included as Goal 9, along with building resilient infrastructure and fostering innovation.

Although the OWG outcome document has been accepted by the United Nations General Assembly as the primary basis for the forthcoming discussions on the SDGs, parallel inputs will also feed into the deliberation process. The United Nations System undertook an unprecedented consultation process last year, holding local, national and regional discussions on the post-2015 development agenda. Citizens, private sector actors, Governments, academics, international and regional organizations and civil society all aired their views on how best to frame multilateral sustainable development objectives.

I am pleased to say that UNIDO played its part in this debate. Along with UN Global Compact, UNIDO co-led the consultations on “private sector engagement”, exploring how to leverage the unparalleled dynamism and creativity of industrialists, private sector companies, entrepreneurs and SMEs, towards achieving sustainable development objectives. Those discussions showed the promise of a multi-stakeholder approach to international development goals, incorporating private industry representatives, alongside public sector and civil society partners.
Partnerships will be integral not only to the formulation of the SDGs, but also to the resource flows for implementation of the post-2015 framework. While Official Development Assistance remains a crucial revenue stream for financing development initiatives, significant downward budgetary pressure in many donor states raises significant questions about its availability in the future.

A report from The International Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing has stated that in the face of such challenges the spectrum of funding for future international development frameworks must be broader in the future than it has been in the past. The private sector has both the capacity and expertise to contribute substantially to international development processes, through investments, loans and event philanthropic resources provided by transnational corporations, financial institutions, foundations and other sources. Indeed, resource flows must be harnessed from all available sources – domestic and international, public and private – if we are to address the most pressing challenges of our time.

Likewise, triangular and South-South cooperation will form an essential element of any future development paradigm. It strives to complement existing forms of cooperation, rather than supplanting traditional North-South development models. The potential for achieving the economic, environmental and social objectives of development through South-South cooperation is immense.
Greater technical cooperation and solid partnership models between developing states, based on recognition of sovereignty and mutual respect, can yield win-win scenarios for all parties.

UNIDO facilitates such interactions through implementing technical programmes and partnerships, and by convening South-South cooperation fora. Through the 2013 San José Declaration, Middle Income Countries have already recognized the importance of the United Nations system in fostering South-South cooperation, especially given the essential role that increased industrial output plays in reducing poverty. Likewise, LDCs have committed to achieving greater South-South and triangular cooperation through the 2011 Istanbul Declaration and Programme of Action.

**Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development**

Distinguished Delegates,

In December 2013, UNIDO Member States ratified the Lima Declaration, giving the Organization a mandate to promote Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development as its vision for sustainable development. But what is ISID? UNIDO has repeatedly stressed that “business as usual” for industrial production processes is simply not an option.
The economic benefits resulting from industrialization must be embedded in a robust social and environmental policy framework, minimizing environmental degradation and creating shared prosperity for all.

“Green industry” is crucial to the environmental sustainability objectives of ISID. Cleaner production technologies, resource efficiency and energy efficiency are just three methods through which the negative environmental impacts of industrial production may be greatly reduced. Likewise, social sustainability is essential to the implementation of the ISID concept. UNIDO continually stresses to its business partners both the commercial and social rewards of voluntary regimes such as Corporate Social Responsibility practices. Ethical business conduct is, after all, most efficient: companies wasting the least energy, raw materials and resources are always the most competitive. Truly, this is a win-win paradigm, in terms of both economic and sustainability goals.

In short: industrial development must be inclusive and it must be sustainable – meeting the objectives of UNIDO’s ISID mandate.

Since the Lima Declaration, UNIDO has worked tirelessly to build support for ISID, given its vast transformative potential. With your support, we can realize a more sustainable and equitable future through ISID.
Conclusion

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

If the international community can draw one lesson from the Millennium Development Goals, it is that silo approaches will not be sufficient if we are to successfully confront the vast challenges that lie before us. We must utilize the strengths and resources of all actors – be they from the public sector, private enterprise, or civil society – in order to solve the economic, environmental and social problems that we find ourselves confronted with today. Multi-stakeholder partnerships are simply indispensable to ensuring the effective implementation of the post-2015 development agenda, with its heavy demands on financing, accountability, universality, integration and data. To date, the post-2015 formulation process has been highly inclusive, drawing on the opinions, expertise and research of millions of people, in consultation events held throughout the world. Several processes are already contributing to the knowledge base for the intergovernmental negotiations, which will determine the final contours of the Sustainable Development Goals. UNIDO has been at the forefront of international efforts in convening a wide range of actors from across the development spectrum, in order to advance the post-2015 development agenda.
Distinguished Delegates,

South-South cooperation is a vital mode of cooperation for advancing economic, environmental and social sustainability, and indeed, creating a more equitable global society.

Similarly, Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development has enormous potential to eradicate poverty through economic growth, without accompanying environmental degradation or social inequality.

Inclusive and Sustainable Industrialization is a keystone for realizing these aims. Yet the economic, social and environmental objectives of the post-2015 development agenda cannot be achieved in isolation. It will take the concerted effort of all the stakeholders of the international system to harness the gains that sustainable development can deliver for all of the citizens of this planet. I look forward to some productive exchanges with the delegates and audience today.

Thank you for listening.