Keynote Speech by Mr. LI Yong
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at the

Side event: Towards a transformative post-2015 development agenda: Vision and key challenges

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Excellencies,

Honourable guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This is a critical juncture for the international development community. At the end of next year, a new, transformative development agenda will frame the efforts of nations to progress towards sustainable development.

Activities on the post-2015 development agenda are ramping up. For the past three years, Member States have been working intensively to elaborate a post-2015 development framework that is inclusive, universal, ambitious and actionable.

We will soon hear from Ms. Amina Mohammed, the Special Adviser of the United Nations Secretary-General on Post-2015 Development Planning, on what lies ahead in the preparatory process for such an ambitious development framework. Her leadership throughout this process has been truly commendable.

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals proposed by the Open Working Group are ground-breaking, ambitious and transformational. They fully integrate the three dimensions of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental. I am pleased that Member States have agreed to use this proposal as the main basis for the preparation of the post-2015 development agenda.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Sustainable development cannot be defined only by higher levels of income or improved nutrition, education and health outcomes.

First and foremost, it requires higher levels of productivity and capabilities for continuous technological upgrading and innovation. In this respect, I am particularly pleased to see that inclusive and sustainable industrialization is included as one of the 17 proposed Sustainable Development Goals, alongside the building of resilient infrastructure and the promotion of innovation.

The level of ambition we have achieved in the OWG outcome document gives me hope for the post-2015 agenda. But these goals must not be understood as 17 separate silos.
On the contrary, the goal on industrialization impacts on most of the other goals, and vice versa. For example, without clean industrial technologies and innovation, one cannot achieve sustainable production and consumption.

Likewise, without a stable macroeconomic environment, industry and business cannot thrive and create the innovative technologies needed for inclusive and sustainable development.

Without the products from industry, goals such as food security or universal health cannot be achieved.

Similarly, without infrastructure, without water, without energy – we cannot operate industries and achieve industrialization.

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

UNIDO has engaged intensively with the processes leading to the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda. One particularly important recent example of this engagement has been the Organization’s co-leadership, together with the UN Global Compact, of the consultations on engaging with the private sector as one of the Means of Implementation of the SDGs.

Through a series of national and regional consultations, over one thousand representatives from the private sector, governments, regional and international organizations, academia, research institutions, and civil society provided their views on how to secure greater engagement from the private sector within the future development agenda.

Such a dialogue among all actors involved in the development process is central to the new agenda. UNIDO has been among the leading agencies in engaging with multi-stakeholder partnerships and platforms, including this consultation with the private sector.

The results of this and other processes will feed into the Synthesis Report of the United Nations Secretary-General, to be released in the near future. We thank our Member States for their support and encouragement for UNIDO’s efforts in the process so far.

Distinguished Guests,

Now that Member States have agreed to use the OWG proposal as the main basis for integrating the SDGs into the post-2015 development agenda, we need to start focusing on the
implementation modalities and on the overall accountability framework, including reporting and monitoring of the proposed Goals.

The discussion on the effective provision and efficient allocation of Financing for Development will be key to ensuring the success of the SDG framework. By the same token, effective monitoring and reporting mechanisms will promote accountability among development actors, and make a crucial contribution to a better allocation of resources to advance the Post-2015 agenda.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As mentioned this morning, the newly launched Global Sustainable Development Report, developed by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA) will assume a prominent role in the monitoring and accountability framework for the post-2015 development agenda. In particular, it will provide an important input into the work of the High-Level Political Forum as it aims to strengthen the science-policy interface and to review progress on the achievement of the SDGs.

In this connection, we have the honour of hosting today the Vienna launch of the prototype of this report, which will be presented by Mr. Alex Roehrl, Senior Sustainable Development Officer at UNDESA and lead author of the report. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to DESA for having chosen this venue to launch the prototype report in Vienna.

We are particularly pleased that the next addition of the report will include a chapter on “Economic growth, inclusive and sustainable industrial development, and sustainable consumption and production”, the preparation of which UNIDO has been invited to lead. We look forward to working with other agencies and stakeholders on further elaborating the crucial role of inclusive and sustainable industrialization in achieving the post-2015 development objectives in this context.

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

As I mentioned a moment ago, the GSDR is also intended to strengthen the science-policy interface for the implementation of the new development agenda. In this connection, it will seek to identify effective policy instruments and new approaches to policymaking, and will
integrate all policy-relevant scientific assessments and bring them to the attention of policymakers.

In fact, the role of policy-making is particularly important in the new agenda. The successful implementation of the Post-2015 framework will depend crucially on the formulation and adoption of appropriate policies for sustainable development. To be effective, these policies will have to be based on scientific evidence and supported by appropriate linkages between scientific expertise and policymaking.

The interface between science and policy will therefore be a fundamental building block of the Post-2015 development agenda. Institutions such as the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis are key to these processes. IIASA, which is a long-standing friend and partner of UNIDO, is represented here today by Mr. Pavel Kabat, Director-General of the institute, who will speak later in the panel and I warmly welcome him to this event.

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

This has been a crucial and eventful year, also for UNIDO. Only last December UNIDO’s renewed mandate was enshrined in the Lima Declaration to promote Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development as the future of industrial development policy.

As is now widely recognized, industry is a powerful engine of growth, the kind of growth that is more resilient to external shocks than other development paths.

But the interrelated nature of global economies, the scarcity of natural resources in a densely populated world, and the threat of climate change are only a few of the reasons why a transformative change is also needed in the way that industrialization has taken place so far.

The post-2015 framework recognizes the Lima principle that industrial development must be implemented in an inclusive and sustainable way. Only when these parameters are met can industrialization be the pathway to sustainable development, both in the short and in the long term.

Cleaner production, sustainable energy and resource efficiency are examples of how technological progress can make ISID possible.

We are delighted to have in the panel today Mr. Kandeh Yumkella, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Sustainable Energy for All, and my predecessor at
UNIDO. We will hear from him on the crucial role of sustainable energy to power inclusive and sustainable industrial development in the Post-2015 era.

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Bold decision-making will be needed in the months ahead, and your leadership will be key to driving the forthcoming negotiations on the new development agenda.

Now that attention has shifted towards the means of implementation of the Post-2015 agenda, the issue of partnerships for the implementation of SDG 9 on inclusive and sustainable industrialization is assuming critical importance for UNIDO. In this connection, I am particularly pleased to welcome Mr. Wolfram Tertschnig, Director in the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Water and the Environment of our host country, Austria, to our the panel today. He will give us a donor’s perspective on the forthcoming developments with regard to the Post-2015 Agenda.

Funds, foundations, the private sector and other new actors will also play a crucial role in supporting the achievement of the Post-2015 agenda and eradicating poverty.

Among these, let me highlight the leading role of our friends at the OPEC Fund for International Development, which will be represented at this event today at the highest level, by its Director-General Mr. Suleiman Jasir Al-Herbish, to whom I extend my very warm welcome.

Last but by no means least, let me also welcome Her Excellency Ms. Irene Giner-Reichl, the Austrian Ambassador to China and Mongolia, the President of the Global Renewable Energy Forum and a long-standing friend of UNIDO. I am very grateful to her for having accepted my invitation to moderate the panel discussion today.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let us continue to build a strong UNIDO for the great challenges ahead of us. Thank you for your attention and continued support.