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Industrial Development Board

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Vienna, 1–3 July 2019

Item 19 of the provisional agenda

**Preparations for the eighteenth session of the
General Conference**

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Report by the Director General

The present report provides general information on the organization of the work of the eighteenth session of the General Conference, including items proposed for inclusion in the provisional agenda.

I. Introduction

1. The General Conference of UNIDO is the principal organ of the Organization, consisting of representatives of all Members (Articles 7.1 and 8.1 of the Constitution). The main functions of the Conference are stipulated in Article 8.3 of the Constitution. In particular, the Conference should determine the guiding principles and the policies of the Organization. Unless it decides otherwise, the Conference is to hold a regular session every two years, at the seat of the Organization (Article 8.2). The last regular session (seventeenth) of the Conference was held in Vienna from 27 November to 1 December 2017.

For reasons of economy, this document has not been printed. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies of documents to meetings.



II. Background information

A. Date and place of the Conference

2. In decision IDB.46/Dec.11, the Board decided to hold the eighteenth session of the General Conference in Abu Dhabi from 3 to 7 November 2019. The meetings of the General Conference are planned to take place at the Emirates Palace Hotel.

B. Budgetary matters and financial arrangements by the Government of United Arab Emirates

3. The Organization's resources available for holding the eighteenth session of the Conference, as provided for in the programme and budgets of UNIDO, 2018–2019, total €876,300. The budget of the Conference is based on the following assumptions:

(a) The session will last five working days providing for nine plenary meetings as well as meetings of the main committee and geographical groups;

(b) Interpretation for plenary and main committee meetings and documentation will be provided in six languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish).

4. In accordance with rule 8 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference of UNIDO, the actual additional costs directly or indirectly involved in holding a session away from Headquarters shall be borne by the host Government. In keeping with decision IDB.46/Dec.11, UNIDO is finalizing its negotiations with the Government of the United Arab Emirates on a Host Country Agreement. As part of these negotiations, the Secretariat has undertaken two preparatory missions to Abu Dhabi, from 9 to 12 October 2018 and from 24 to 28 February 2019. A delegation from the United Arab Emirates also came to Vienna from 17 to 18 October 2018. The Host Country Agreement breaks down the estimated financial commitment required from the Government of the United Arab Emirates into one part to be directly covered by the United Arab Emirates and one part for which the Government will have to transfer funds to UNIDO. The direct costs to the Government of the United Arab Emirates include, inter alia, Conference premises and facilities at the Emirates Palace in Abu Dhabi, local support staff, local transportation and police protection, travel and accommodation of UNIDO and United Nations staff servicing the Conference, and shipment of necessary equipment.

5. Taking into account the costs to be met directly by the Government and the advance of €37,473 paid by the Government on 31 January 2019, the Government shall deposit with UNIDO the remaining amount of €437,173.95. This includes costs related, inter alia, to the preparatory missions, the replacement of conference service staff and security officers, supplementary support staff, and a provision for contingencies. These financial contributions from the Government of the United Arab Emirates will be received by UNIDO upon signature of the Host Country Agreement, but no later than 10 June 2019.

C. Agenda

6. In accordance with Article 9.4 (g) of the Constitution, the Board prepares the provisional agenda for each session of the General Conference. Rule 13 of the rules of procedure of the Conference provides guidelines for the contents of the provisional agenda of a regular session of the Conference. Furthermore, in accordance with rule 12, the Board shall prepare that provisional agenda on the basis of a list of items proposed for inclusion, as submitted by the Director General.

7. Annotations indicating briefly the history of each item, the proposed documentation, the substance of the matter to be discussed and earlier relevant

decisions by the Conference or other organs of the Organization will be issued following the forty-seventh session of the Board.

8. A list of items proposed for inclusion in the provisional agenda for the eighteenth session of the Conference is contained in annex I to the present document, together with an indication of relevant mandates for the items.

D. Documentation

9. In accordance with rule 23 of the rules of procedure of the Conference, documents required for consideration of items on the provisional agenda will be distributed by the Director General in all languages of the Conference to all recipients of the provisional agenda not later than forty-five days before the opening date of the session.

III. Organization of the work of the Conference

10. In keeping with the practice of previous sessions of the General Conference, an overarching theme has been developed for the eighteenth session: “Industry 2030 – Innovate. Connect. Transform our Future.”

11. As encouraged by the Conference in resolution GC.9/Res.1, a forum on industrial development issues shall be part of the Conference’s sessions. Following the adoption of the Lima Declaration at the fifteenth session of the General Conference and in line with the successful approach of the sixteenth and seventeenth sessions, UNIDO’s ISID Forum and the launch of the Industrial Development Report (IDR) have been incorporated into the Conference’s plenary as the principal elements of the forum on industrial development issues. At the eighteenth session, the ISID Forum is planned for the second plenary meeting. It will provide participants with an opportunity to engage in a high-level dialogue on various aspects of industrial development, exchange knowledge, forge partnerships and shape strategies for advancing ISID. The launch of the IDR is planned for the sixth plenary meeting. The proposed schedule of work for the Conference is attached in annex II to the present document.

12. To focus the debate on critical issues, a speaking limit is proposed for the general debate. As in the past, this limit would be five minutes for Member States and ten minutes for regional groups.

13. At its previous sessions, the Conference established a main committee, to which it allocated a number of agenda items. The Board may wish to recommend to the Conference a similar procedure for its eighteenth session, keeping in mind that the possibility of creating additional committees is constrained by the limited resources available (see para. 3 above). Items 7 to 24 of the proposed draft agenda would thus be referred to the main committee for a more focused debate aimed at the preparation of consensus draft decisions and resolutions for submission to the plenary.

14. The work of the previous sessions was also facilitated by setting up, under the guidance of the President of the Board, informal consultations for the preparation of the Conference. Such an informal group, composed of representatives of Permanent Missions to UNIDO in Vienna, has met prior to previous sessions of the Conference and has prepared a report to the Conference containing recommendations that cover most of the items on the agenda, as well as organizational matters.

15. Since the eighteenth session of the Conference will take place away from Headquarters, the need for informal consultations under the guidance of the President of the Board will be even more critical. For previous sessions of the General Conference held away from Headquarters (Bangkok (1987), Yaoundé (1993), and Lima (2013)), such consultations composed of representatives of Permanent Missions to UNIDO in Vienna, met during several months before holding those sessions. Taking

into consideration past experience and the particular situation, the Board may wish to suggest the early commencement of informal consultations chaired by the President of the Board.

16. To facilitate the work of the informal consultations in advance of the travel of delegates to Abu Dhabi, it is strongly recommended to adopt the successful approach of other organizations in establishing a deadline for the submission of draft decisions and resolutions of three weeks prior to the Conference.

IV. Action required of the Board

17. The Board may wish to consider adopting the following draft decision:

“The Industrial Development Board:

- (a) Takes note of the information provided in document IDB.47/27;
- (b) Adopts the following agenda for the eighteenth session of the General Conference;

[...]

- (c) Agrees to hold a forum on industrial development issues within the framework of the General Conference (provisional agenda, item 9);
- (d) Recommends to the Conference that items 7 to 24 of the provisional agenda be allocated to a main committee of the Conference;
- (e) Recommends that, in light of the experience gained in the preparation of previous sessions of the Conference, the President of the forty-seventh session of the Industrial Development Board conducts informal consultations for the preparation of the eighteenth session of the Conference;
- (f) Urges Member States to submit to the informal consultations any proposed draft decisions or resolutions by 14 October 2019.”

Annex I

Items proposed for inclusion in the provisional agenda¹

General Conference, eighteenth session, 3 to 7 November 2019

	Mandate
1. Opening of the session.	Rule 34
2. Election of officers.	Rule 35
3. Adoption of the agenda.	Rule 17
4. Organization of work.	Rules 44–47
5. Credentials of representatives to the Conference.	Rule 28
6. Elections to organs:	Rule 102
(a) Industrial Development Board;	Constitution, Article 9.1
(b) Programme and Budget Committee.	Constitution, Article 10.1
7. Annual reports of the Director General on the activities of the Organization for 2017 and 2018.	Rule 13.1 (b) IDB.46/Dec.13 (i)
8. Reports of the Industrial Development Board on the work of its forty-sixth and forty-seventh regular sessions.	Constitution, Article 8.3 (b) Rule 13.1 (c)
9. Forum on industrial development issues.	GC.9/Res.1, [IDB.44/Dec.9 (e)(iii)], [IDB.45/Dec.14(c)]
10. Financial matters:	
(a) Scale of assessments of Member States;	Constitution, Article 15 Rule 13.1 (k)
(b) Financial situation of UNIDO;	Rule 13.1 (l), IDB.27/Dec.2 (e)
(c) Working Capital Fund;	Financial regulation 5.4
(d) Appointment of an External Auditor;	Financial regulation 11.1
[(e) Financial regulations.	Financial regulation 12.2]
11. Programme and budgets, 2020–2021.	Constitution, Articles 8.3 (c) and 14; Rule 13.1 (i)
12. Mid-term review of the medium-term programme framework, 2018–2021.	GC.2/Dec.23, GC.6/Dec.10, GC.13/Res.3, GC.14/Dec.18, GC.15/Dec.17, GC.16/Res.1, GC.17/Res.1 IDB.44/Dec.10
13. UNIDO and the United Nations Development System Reform, including the new Resident Coordinator System and the field network.	IDB.46/Dec.12 (f)

¹ To be updated to take account of mandates adopted by the Board at its forty-seventh session.

	Mandate
14. UNIDO, gender equality and the empowerment of women.	GC.16/Res.3, GC.17/Res.3 (13)
15. UNIDO and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.	GC.15/Res.1 GC.16/Res.2
16. Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa	IDB.46/Dec.13 (i)
17. UNIDO activities related to energy and the environment.	Proposed by the Director General (rule 13.1 (b))
18. UNIDO activities related to agribusiness, trade capacity-building and job creation.	Proposed by the Director General (rule 13.1 (b))
19. UNIDO activities related to the Vienna Ministerial Declaration for the Least Developed Countries.	GC.16/Res.4 GC.17/Res.5 (6)
20. UNIDO activities related to cooperation with middle-income countries, taking into account the San José Declaration.	IDB.41/Dec.4 GC.17/Res.6 (4)
21. Personnel matters, including UNIDO Staff Pension Committee.	Staff regulation 13.2, document IDB.45/17 refers GC.1/Dec.37, IDB.44/Dec.13
22. Matters related to intergovernmental, non-governmental, governmental and other organizations.	GC.1/Dec.41, annex
23. Date and place of the nineteenth session.	Rule 13.1 (s)
24. Closure of the session.	

Proposed tentative schedule of work of the eighteenth session of the General Conference, 3 to 7 November 2019

Overarching theme: Industry 2030 – Innovate. Connect. Transform our Future.

<i>Sunday, 3 November</i>	<i>Monday, 4 November</i>	<i>Tuesday, 5 November</i>	<i>Wednesday, 6 November</i>	<i>Thursday, 7 November</i>
		[thematic breakfast]	[thematic breakfast]	[thematic breakfast]
		<u>8.30–10 a.m.</u>	<u>8.30–10 a.m.</u>	<u>8.30–10 a.m.</u>
1st plenary meeting <u>10 a.m.–1 p.m.</u>	3rd plenary meeting <u>9.30–11.30 a.m.</u>	Credentials Committee (tentative) <u>9.30–10.15 a.m.</u>	7th plenary meeting <u>10 a.m.–12 noon</u>	9th plenary meeting <u>10 a.m.–1 p.m.</u>
Opening of the session	General debate	5th plenary meeting <u>10 a.m.–1 p.m.</u>	General debate	Consideration and adoption of decisions and resolutions
Statements by Heads of State and Government	[thematic event]	General debate	Credentials of representatives to the Conference	
General Debate	<u>11.30 a.m.–1 p.m.</u>			
	Main Committee – 1st meeting <u>10 a.m.–1 p.m.</u>	Main Committee – 3rd meeting <u>10.30 a.m.–1 p.m.</u>	Main Committee – 5th meeting <u>10 a.m.–1 p.m.</u>	
General Committee <u>2.30–3 p.m.</u>	[thematic event] <u>1.30–3 p.m.</u>	[thematic event] <u>1.30–3 p.m.</u>	[thematic event] <u>1.30–3 p.m.</u>	
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2nd plenary meeting <u>3–6 p.m.</u>	4th plenary meeting <u>3.30–6 p.m.</u>	6th plenary meeting <u>3.30–4.30 p.m.</u>	8th plenary meeting <u>3.30–6 p.m.</u>	
UNIDO Forum on Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development	General debate	Launch of the Industrial Development Report	General debate (if required)	
		General debate <u>4.30–6 p.m.</u>		
	Main Committee – 2nd meeting <u>2–4 p.m.</u>	Main Committee – 4th meeting <u>3–6 p.m.</u>	Main Committee – 6th meeting <u>3.30–6 p.m.</u> (if required)	
Reception [hosted by the Director General and the United Arab Emirates] <u>6.30–8 p.m.</u>	[host country event] <u>6.30–9 p.m.</u>	[host country event] <u>6.30–9 p.m.</u>	[host country event] <u>6.30–9 p.m.</u>	