

Intervention from the Ethiopian Delegation at the General Debate of the 18th UNIDO General Conference

First of all on behalf of my delegation, I would like to express sincere greetings to the people and Government of UAE for their warm reception in the beautiful city of Abu Dhabi and all the continued effort during the course of the week to make us feel at home. What we have seen around the UAE is nothing short of a miracle, standing out as peculiar testimony on how far a nation can go and achieve greatest heights if blessed with visionary leadership that instills can-do attitude in its people.

I would like to extend my appreciation to UNIDO under the able leadership of Mr. Li Yong who is being widely recognized as devoted champion of least developed countries' especially African Industrialization

Chairperson

The burgeoning population and the challenges of creating livelihood and decent jobs for the youth entering the job market by the millions every year, coupled with declining commodity prices and the associated falling revenue limiting availability of resources for investment are adding to the predicament facing our countries. Ethiopia is convinced building a vibrant manufacturing sector is key to avert looming social and economic problems and has set itself an ambitious target to increase the contribution of the industry sector to the national GDP from 15% to 28% and contribution of the manufacturing sector from 5% to 18% clearing the path for the country to reach its aspired goal of becoming a hub in light manufacturing by 2025.

As a largely agrarian country, we are very aware we have to realize the transformation of the agriculture sector first which still constitutes over 35% of the GDP engaging over 80% of our population. The government has introduced policies and implemented flagship programs to commercialize and transform the agricultural sector in transition to building an industrial economy with a focus on the agro-industry sector. Subsequently three agriculture linked sectors vis textile, leather and agro-food processing have received top priority considerations in the country's policy and economic development strategy. Those three sectors and the agricultural production and supply system which is supposed to feed agro-processing sector account for the lion share of the public and private investment portfolio

At this juncture it has to be noted that the strong partnerships forged through the PCP has provided an ideal platform to collectively and closely monitor and evaluate fund mobilization and funding distribution by sector and address strategic gaps as partners and build capacity for implementation of initiatives. Major focus is given to investing in high impact areas e.g. manufacturing and energy to boost productive capacity of the nation resulting in broad-based, socially and environmentally sustainable growth and development; and Ethiopia realizes that sustainability can only be enhanced if all this effort is backed up by equally substantial investment on science, technology and innovation

Chairperson

There is high level of deprivation in our countries, lack of infrastructure, capital is in short supply and all these coupled with fluctuations in commodity prices, natural disasters increase risk and vulnerability. To forestall risk and vulnerability, we must take advantage of the more diversified development financing landscape and also make use of new financing instruments, Our abilities to mobilize, sequence and make effective use of a wide variety of both financing sources and financing instruments and strategies will be central to our ability to achieve the ambitious new sustainable development agenda. This is possible through PCP and UNIDO has been instrumental in supporting Ethiopia to mobilize finance for PCP projects through multi-stakeholder partnerships.

In this connection, we would like to underscore the need for comprehensive support from development partners to achieve the monumental task of build the required institutional capacity to lead modern industrial infrastructure development and management, resource mobilization and investment promotion in order to leapfrog and join the club entering the fourth industrialization era and create an affluent society free from hunger and deprivation. Critical in what is going to prove an uphill struggle and rocky road ahead to ensure sustainable development is the need to forge strong horizontal, south-south linkages, collaboration and partnerships for exchange of experience and best practices but also create a coherent, organized voice that demands to be heard and reckoned with, a voice that resonates to influence international policies and stir them in favor of the underserved, which is us, the least developed countries.

Thank you for your attention!!!!