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**PRESS RELEASE
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CPI/056
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Vienna, 2 December, 2003

UNIDO roundtables deepen debate on policy options and priorities for least developed countries

The UNIDO Industrial Development Forum on *The Role of Industrial Development in the Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals* (MDGs) is into its second day. The Forum is part of the 10th Session of UNIDO's General Conference being held in Vienna 1 – 5 December. So far, the roundtables on the MDGs, trade, environment and post-crisis reconstruction have raised issues of far reaching importance for the developing countries, particularly the least developed countries.

At the MDG roundtable the view was expressed that for the international community to achieve the MDGs they have to first live up to the pledges they have made. Then the sustainability of the achievement depends on creating conditions of growth, diversification and industrialization. And this needs a dynamic private sector.

Focusing on the need to develop supply capacities, if trade is to play a role in helping the poor, the trade roundtable emphasised the importance of a coordinated multi-agency approach, involving not only the UN agencies but also other technical partners.

The roundtable on environment examined evidence of the dawning of a new industrial revolution, which is replacing the concept of recycling with one where the waste of one process is food for another. How circular flows of materials will affect international trade was one of the main questions raised.

The roundtable on post-crisis rehabilitation emphasized that while emergency and humanitarian relief were priority needs, no peace will last without rehabilitation, reconstruction and building of productive capacities. Again, for this to succeed government, private sector, donors and international organisations must work together. It was agreed that as the specialised UN agency for industrial development, UNIDO can play a more active role in rehabilitation and reconstruction in countries facing a post-crisis situation.

More information on the 10th session of UNIDO's General Conference is at <http://www.unido.org/gc>.