

GENERAL CONFERENCE, TENTH SESSION

Summary of Sixth plenary meeting

(3 Dec. 2003, p.m.)

Agenda items 7-17,19

Ghana

- Stressed the importance of SMEs in providing employment opportunities as a component of poverty eradication as well as growth promotion.
- Sought technical assistance from UNIDO to establish a metal fabrication and machine tool facility
- Called for UNIDO's assistance to transfer technologies related to cleaner production and to provide support for NEPAD

Thailand

- Emphasized the role of micro enterprise development as a tool to strengthen human capital and promote internationalization of knowledge.
- Mentioned cluster development as a crucial approach to strengthen SME growth.
- Supported the launch of a course on cluster development, in Turin in 2004
- Valued the reference to SME development in the medium term plan and stressed the importance of a vibrant private industrial sector to sustain economic growth and to attain the Millennium Development Goals.
- Recognized that UNIDO' strategy for rural energy for productive uses had contributed to enhancing the Organization's image.
- Would support UNIDO's technical cooperation programmes to develop the LDCs in the region and would like to see the UNIDO Regional office in Bangkok being used as a plat form to strengthen the cooperation

Uruguay

- Appreciated UNIDO's work in SMEs and entrepreneurship development, as a cornerstone for a sustainable strategy of economic development for the country.

Morocco

- Appreciated UNIDO's work in SME development and expressed willingness to develop jointly a project to increase the efficiency of vertical chains in the country.
- Stressed the need for UNIDO' solutions for developing activities that generate revenues and combat poverty while having a positive impact on the environment.
- Called for UNIDO support for NEPAD.

Tanzania

- Commended the contribution of UNIDO in development of SME policy documents and work in women entrepreneurship development.
- Stressed the need for assistance from UNIDO through GEF.
- Welcomed UNIDO's approval of a regional project on mini-hydro-power.

Sri Lanka

- Appreciated UNIDO's work in business incubators, within the framework of the integrated programme for the country.

Pakistan

- Appreciated UNIDO's assistance in eliminating ozone depleting substances, particularly the programme for elimination of CFCs by 2007.
- Welcomed further cooperation on environmental issues with UNIDO in the near future.

Brazil

- Referred to Brazil experience in the field of renewable and expressed the willingness to share this with other developing countries through UNIDO.

Poland

- Cited UNIDO's contribution to private sector development

Viet Nam

- Referred to the importance of SME development and rural development in the integrated programme for the country and commended it for its contribution to the development of the Vietnamese economy.

Agenda item 11 – MTPF (Funds Mobilization)

Morocco

- Expressed concern that initiatives were developed without sufficient involvement of African countries, neither consulting financial institutions. This could lead to a reduced interest in the initiatives and consequently may generate less funding opportunities.

Tanzania

- Appreciated many new UNIDO activities made possible through financial support from GEF.

Sri Lanka

- Thanked the donors Norway and Japan, as well as UNIDO, for providing funding for its IP.
- Looked forward to activities initiated under the post-conflict programme under development, as these could benefit particularly SRL

Brazil

- Announced sending an inter-ministerial mission shortly, to discuss arrears due to UNIDO by Brazil.

Poland

- Considered finding a balance between regular budget resources and funding for TC still a great challenge for both Secretariat and donors.

Thailand

- Considered 2 thematic initiatives highly relevant for organization.
- Hopefully these could lead to mobilization of additional resources and a broader support

Benin

- Acknowledged that UNIDO required more financial resources for its activities.
- It made great efforts to pay its part (=assessed contribution).

Palestine

- Thanked for financial support provided by Italy and Sweden, as well as UNIDO, for funding its IP.

Agenda item 12(a) – Field Representation

Sri Lanka

- Recognized investment promotion arm for the integrated approach to industrialization.

Pakistan

- Affirmed the important role of the UNIDO Office in the country, and is pleased to contribute to the local office costs.
- Welcomed investment promotion activities.
- Pakistan has in place the legal framework governing investments.

Poland

- Recognized the value in promotion of investments through cooperation and use of ITPO as proper instrument to support the private sector.
- Stressed significance of a strong UNIDO field representation.

Thailand

- Asked UNIDO to double efforts in assisting strengthening industrial sector expertise in the country
- As a host to the UNIDO regional office, and considering expansion of regional cooperation, requested UNIDO to further strengthen its presence in the country and region.
- Envisioned Thailand as a hub for technology transfer in the region