

GENERAL CONFERENCE, TENTH SESSION

Summary of Seventh plenary meeting

(4 Dec. 2003, a.m.)

Agenda items 7-17,19

Tunisia

- Cited ongoing integrated programme from which, *inter alia*, the private sector was benefiting through upgrade of productivity and management skills.
- Referred to the key pillars of programme, including strengthening of individual enterprises and upgrading business service centres.
- Cited the modernization programme as bringing knowledge, best international practices and expertise.
- Proposed that UNIDO undertake innovative steps to promote high and information technologies, thus allowing developing countries to innovate.
- Expressed gratitude for the Italian-funded integrated programme component, making possible diagnosis of the local leather and shoe industry during the Phase I of the project and awaited transfer of approved funds for Phase II, to implement recommendations.

Lesotho

- Requested UNIDO's assistance in helping the country to achieve sustainable industrial development as set out in the Millennium Development Goals.
- Announced that the Government was planning to approach UNIDO for provision of technical assistance to local priority industry sectors, such as textiles and other agro-industries.
- Explained that relevant legislation for promotion of trade and investment had been introduced in the country and invited UNIDO, as a partner, to catalyze further promotion of these areas.

IAEA

- Emphasized the importance of nuclear sciences and technologies in water resource management and environmental restoration.
- Described its water resource management programme using isotope hydrology to understand the water cycle, to estimate ground-water resources and establish levels of pollution.
- Gave examples of water resources management programmes in sub-Saharan Africa.
- Described the IAEA GEF-funded project in the Guarani Aquifer programme.

- Described collaboration on environmental protection through the IAEA Marine Environment Lab work in ICZM, especially work on the red tide problem.
- Proposed closer cooperation with UNIDO in these areas, based on synergies that could be further exploited, to improve scientific and technological programmes and strengthen South-South cooperation.

South Africa

- The country had limited capacity for investment promotion.
- Saw UNIDO as a partner in poverty alleviation.

Romania

- Cited UNIDO's past assistance in the privatization of enterprises.
- Looked forward to UNIDO's support in further strengthening business centres.
- Recognized that industrial development must be accompanied by protection of the environment.
- Stressed the need to include an environmental component in UNIDO's programmes and projects in the country.
- Felt that access to GEF was insufficiently explored.
- Observed that, through UNIDO, the country would benefit from and expand participation in GEF programmes.
- UNIDO should integrate its environmental activities with other related programmes in the region.
- Announced that the country would play a role, partially, as a donor in a future.
- Proposed that UNIDO cooperate more with regional/inter-regional organizations.
- Pointed out that, in recent years, UNIDO's activities in Romania had concentrated mostly on conversion of installations in the refrigeration and aerosols sub-sectors targeting the phase-out of ozone-depleting substances under the Montreal Protocol.
- Expressed satisfaction with the ongoing Montreal Protocol projects and recognized the essential role UNIDO has played in the elaboration of project documents and approval of projects by the Executive Committee of the Multilateral Fund.

Belarus

- Announced that a country service framework was being developed, in which technology commercialization, investment, standardization and environmental issues would play a key role.
- National capacity and competence in the environment field can greatly contribute to UNIDO's efforts in this area.

- Proposed establishment in the country an international centre for innovative technologies, for the benefit of the whole region.
- Pointed out that the country had resources with high intellectual and scientific and technological potential and could ensure technology transfer to the developing countries, including provision of training facilities in many sectors, such as machine building, agro-industry, high technology and management of water resources.
- Invited UNIDO's support to enhance private sector development by strengthening SMEs and local business support systems.
- Underlined the importance of upgrading small entrepreneurial activities for industrial reform and development.

AFIDE

- UNIDO should examine the principal factors influencing the direction of FDI including South-South Cooperation and advise developing countries on suitable investment policies and industrial development strategies to attract FDI.
- Investment agreements with foreign investors should reflect the interest of the developing countries. The lack of information and expertise in developing countries inhibits them from securing the best possible deal from the potential foreign investors. UNIDO should provide the technical assistance for negotiations covering FDI.
- The strengthening of the capacity of developing countries especially the LDCs to benefit from the FDI will require the development of their human resources and institutions. To provide the support required by the developing countries to ensure that FDI contributes to their development process, UNIDO should revamp its investment promotion institutional infrastructure in Vienna so that it could service the needs of the developing countries at the national level effectively. Special emphasis should be placed on the development of national institutions and national expertise. The latter will require the re-establishment of human resource development unit in UNIDO.
- Was fully aware that the lack of sufficient resources in recent years has compelled UNIDO to curtail its investment promotion and human resources activities.
- Urged this Conference to recommend the allocation of additional resources for investment promotion and human resources tasks of UNIDO. A special appeal could be made to donors for funds for this specific purpose.

Agenda Item 11 (Fund Mobilization)

Romania

- Recommends UNIDO to search for diversification in its various sources for funding its activities. Considers that GEF funding is insufficiently being

explored, though understandably, the approval process is rather lengthy and complicated.

Agenda Item 12 (a) – Field Representation

Tunisia

- Thanked UNIDO for maintaining an office in Tunis, for which the government was pleased to contribute.

South Africa

- Welcomed the forthcoming establishment of a full fledged UNIDO Regional Office in the country. It will be beneficial for the people of South Africa and the countries in the region.
- Appreciated UNIDO will provide sufficient number of technical staff to the regional office.

Romania

- Was confident that the decentralization process to the field will enable UNIDO to respond more effectively and enhance country level operations.
- Stressed significance of a strong UNIDO field representation.

Belarus

- Affirmed that UNIDOs real work is at the country level.
- Supported reprofiling and enhancement of regional offices.
- Stressed need to enhance the work of the URs, and need to better interface with Government, UN system, international financial institutions and donors.

Agenda Item 12 (c) – IPs/CSFs

Tunisia

- IP aimed at reinforcing assistance to industrial sector
- Thanked Italy for the help and funding
- Thanked UNIDO for providing necessary funds
- Future IP to cover also regional projects on multilateral basis
- New components such as high technology and information technology could be included

South Africa

- Invited UNIDO to pave the way of moving South Africa into the global arena