

GENERAL CONFERENCE, TENTH SESSION

Summary of Eighth plenary meeting

(4 Dec. 2003, p.m.)

Agenda items 7-17,19

Afghanistan

- Stressed the importance of private sector development for overcoming a post-conflict situation.
- Appreciated programmes already formulated and submitted to potential donors for a package of technical assistance within the context of the post-crisis initiative.
- Stressed the need for a rehabilitation-of-industrial-enterprises workshop.
- Called for a medium- to long-term integrated programming mission.

Djibouti

- Observed that global industry was undergoing structural and strategic changes.
- Stressed the need for UNIDO to develop assistance to developing countries that takes into account structural and strategic changes.
- Appreciated UNIDO's technical assistance to help the country's private sector overcome constraints, in particular within the context of globalization.
- Underlined the important role UNIDO played in private sector development.

Uganda

- Explained that cost of energy represented one of the major impediments to development of industrial infrastructure in the country.
- Cited the success of service module two on investment and technology promotion enabling services, in the country.
- Stated that there was a continuing need to address constraints on investments.
- Appreciated the medium-term programme framework and envisaged support to private sector development.
- Referred to UNIDO's ongoing programme in support of medium, small and micro enterprises, where a clear potential exists for balanced development and growth and felt that this programme had transformed the lives of many Ugandans.

Italy (European Union)

- Supported UNIDO's work in energy for poverty eradication and rural development launched in Johannesburg.
- Supported partnership with UNIDO in renewable energy and energy efficiency.
- Cited productivity enhancement as central to the medium-term programme framework and UNIDO's work.
- Wanted to learn from UNIDO's experience as to how it delivered productivity enhancement.
- Stressed the need to align UNIDO's programme with national efforts in developing countries.
- Supported an integrated approach to investment promotion and SME development, in particular on the regional level.
- Stated that technology transfer needed a sectoral approach.
- Cited UNIDO's considerable experience gained in the field of private sector enterprise development, with particular reference to the cluster and networking approach.
- Encouraged further enhance dissemination of tools, best practices and methodologies within the global training programme.
- Supports technical assistance to SMEs, with a view to facilitating their participation in global value chains.

Bolivia

- Cited productivity increases as a route out of poverty.
- Stressed the need to enhance support to small entrepreneurs, in particular in rural areas, as an effective tool for poverty reduction.
- Called for attention to technology transfer barriers facing Bolivia.

Serbia and Montenegro

- Called for expansion of cooperation with UNIDO in cleaner production.
- Felt that the GC round-tables had been valuable as new sources of knowledge.
- Appreciated UNIDO's activities in support of SME development and promotion.

Agenda Item 11 (Funds Mobilization)

Afghanistan

- Will shortly be submitting a number of proposals for funding by the UNTFHS, especially for low-cost housing project, agriculture and rehabilitation of wool factory in Kandahar.

Uganda

- Thanked the donors Austria, Italy, Japan, Denmark for their contributions to the IP.

Agenda Item 12 (a) – Field Representation

EU

- Thanked the Secretariat for the Conference Room Paper on field representation although it regrets that the paper was issued late and the competent offices in the Ministries had no time to analyse it;
- Recognized that field representation is a complex issue; but urges the Organisation to make decisions within the limits of the present resources;
- Requested the Secretariat to evaluate UNIDO field structure and report to Member States at the next IDB in May;
- Was of the opinion that a concentrated structure with larger offices was more cost-effective than a disperse structure with more small offices.

Agenda Item 12 (c) – IPs/CSFs

Djibouti

- Economy was weak in natural resources but there one advantage was the geo-strategic position
- A strategic development to fight against poverty was developed in 2002 which focused on two major areas (fishery and salt)
- A comprehensive programme is being implemented
- Thanked the DG for his untiring support

Uganda

- Countries in Sub-Saharan Africa would gain a lot from the integrated approach
- IP has transformed the life of the Ugandans
- Thanked donors and UNIDO for their support
- Ensured continued commitment and support to UNIDO and its objectives