For reasons of economy, this document has been printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies of documents to meetings.
Annex

Ministry of Trade, Industry and Tourism
From the Deputy Minister for Enterprise Development

Bogotá, D.C., 25 August 2004

Sir,

I have the honour to address you concerning the offer made by the Government of Colombia to host the eleventh session of the General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in the city of Cartagena.

I should like to inform you that, owing to the financial difficulties that the country is currently experiencing and the need to prioritize the necessary investments, we have reached the conclusion that we are not in a position to ensure that the Conference will be staged in an appropriate fashion. For that reason, the Government has decided to withdraw its offer. I should say, in that connection, that the reasons that led Colombia to offer to host the Conference remain valid; and we hope that, in the not too distant future, we shall be able once again to propose that the city of Cartagena should play host to a UNIDO General Conference.

The fact that the Colombian Government has had to reconsider its position on hosting the Conference does not, in any sense, imply diminution in Colombia’s commitment to UNIDO. On the contrary, we recognize the important work carried out by the Organization to promote sustainable industrial development as an indispensable element in the fight against poverty and social inequality, in accordance with the goals for development established at the United Nations Millennium Summit.

I hope, Sir, that you and the members of the Organization will understand the reasons that have led our Government to take this difficult decision.

Accept, Sir, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

[Signed]

Carlos Alberto Zarruk Gomez
Deputy Minister for Enterprise Development

Mr. Carlos Margariños
Director-General
UNIDO
Vienna