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Recommendations of the Arab Regional Round Table

“The role of manufacturing industries in the economic diversification process of the Arab countries”

The Arab Regional Round Table on “The role of manufacturing industries in the economic diversification process of the Arab countries” was held in Vienna on 4 December 2007, during the twelfth session of the General Conference.

The recommendations of the Round Table are contained in the annex to the present document.

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.

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Annex

Recommendations of the Arab Regional Round Table on “The role of manufacturing industries in the economic diversification process of the Arab countries”

Tuesday, 4 December 2007

- The first Arab Regional Round Table organized by UNIDO on 4 December 2007 in the context of the twelfth session of the General Conference on “The role of manufacturing industries in the economic diversification process of the Arab countries” was highly appreciated by the participants.
- The round table was attended by Ministers, Ambassadors and high-level representatives of Arab multilateral aid institutions as well as regional organizations who contributed to a fruitful exchange of views and shared experiences on the priority issues related to the industrialization of the Arab countries.
- The Director-General of UNIDO addressed the Round Table, expressing his readiness for strengthening UNIDO’s partnership with the Arab countries and their aid institutions.
- The Round Table facilitated the identification of priority issues and areas for cooperation between Arab countries, Arab multilateral aid institutions and UNIDO, which are in line with the Organization’s priorities for sustainable industrial development.
- The Round Table underlined the need for strong support from UNIDO and Arab multilateral institutions to the least developed countries in the Arab region, particularly Djibouti, Sudan and Yemen, with special attention to the Palestinian Authority.
- The participants in the Round Table request that the following recommendations be part of the outcome of the twelfth session of the General Conference of UNIDO:
 1. Preparation, review and implementation of industrial development strategies;
 2. Developing human resources for innovation and technology development, including new and clean technology;
 3. Support for the development of micro, small and medium enterprises;
 4. Establishment and strengthening of Investment and Technology Promotion Offices and incubators in the Arab region;
 5. Enhancing entrepreneurship development programmes with special emphasis on women and youth as well as the removal of obstacles facing the business environment;
 6. Upgrading the industrial sector to improve competitiveness and to facilitate access to markets;

7. Strengthening export sectors through quality management, standardization, certification and traceability of industrial products;
 8. Strengthening South-South cooperation through the implementation of the Arab Industrial Strategy to promote regional integration;
 9. Enhancing partnership and cooperation between UNIDO and Arab multilateral and bilateral aid institutions for the maximization of impact and synergies in support of technical programmes and projects in the Arab region.
- The participants of the Arab Regional Round Table request UNIDO to take the appropriate measures for the implementation of these recommendations and to report on their follow-up.
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