AFIDE STATEMENT AT UNIDO GENERAL CONFERENCE
Thirteen session
Vienna, 7 – 11 December 2009
Mr. President,
Your Excellencies, Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

Mr. President,
It gives me pleasure to congratulate you on behalf of the Association of Former United Nations Industry and Development Experts (AFIDE) for your election for the leadership of UNIDO General Conference.

Mr. President, may I also express our congratulations for Dr. Kandeh Yumkella the Director-General of UNIDO for his second term appointment for the leadership of UNIDO in this crucial time in which all the countries of the World, particularly the Developing countries, are facing the great challenges and concerns. The developing countries are facing the negative impact, precarious food and energy security and the endangered environment, particularly climate change.

Mr. President,

The economic and financial crisis has greatly affected the industrial sector in most of the developing countries and particularly the Least Developed Countries. As a result of this crisis, many factories and small scale industries have closed down and jobs were lost, thus shattering the hope of sustainable development.

The industrialized countries are continuing their efforts to find stand-alone solutions as well as introduction of collective measures to confront the financial and economic crisis. On the other hand, the majority of the developing countries are unable to take the necessary action at the national level nor collectively due to the lack of information or awareness for monitor of the impact of the current crisis confronting them.

The success of the manufacturing sector in the developing countries is one of the most crucial factors for the development and achievement of the United Nations millennium goals. Lessons can be learned from the success of
the limited number of developing countries which are able to alleviate the negative impact of the current finance and economic crisis. These countries are the ones which have achieved success during the last few decades in building a strong industrial manufacturing base. UNIDO in supporting these countries in successfully building their industrial sector is highly appreciated by them. The many success stories are source of aspiration for UNIDO. It has effectively contributed to improving their basic infrastructure and institution building, for strengthening their industrial development base. UNIDO has also successfully contributed to their technology development in industrial sectors such as chemical, mechanical engineering, iron and steel industries and agro-based industries. Human resource development was also strongly supported by UNIDO.

The developing countries need to review their policies and strategies of the industrial sector to make the necessary changes required as a result of the current crisis. Lessons learned can be studied and shared with other developing countries particularly the Least Developing Countries. In this connection, the strengthening of UNIDO South–South Cooperation is crucial.

Mr. President,

The Association of Former United Nations Industry and Development Experts (AFIDE) is an NGO with UNIDO observer status and special consultative status with ECOSOC and accreditation to GEF Council. AFIDE has a unique character and affinity with UNIDO due to the fact that the majority of its members are former UNIDO professional staff and development experts who are fully aware of UNIDO's industrial expertise. AFIDE is ready to respond to UNIDO's call for cooperation. AFIDE continues to show interest and goodwill since its establishment of relationship with UNIDO 12 years ago. AFIDE had participated in all UNIDO IDB sessions and General Conferences and delivered statements. In each of its statements, AFIDE focused on current and priority development issues and presented several proposals and offers of cooperation with UNIDO were expressed in all AFIDE statements at these sessions. AFIDE had positively responded to UNIDO invitation to participate and prepare a paper in the International Conference on Sharing Innovative Agribusiness Solutions, held on 26–27 November 2008 in Cairo, Egypt.

AFIDE stands ready to cooperate further with UNIDO in program and project preparation as well as presentation of technical papers, studies and joint activities for benefiting the developing countries.

Almost recently in the questionnaire sent by UNIDO to all NGOs a document GC.13/11 on matters related to the promotion of private sector participation in the Forestry sector.
Mr. President,

Finally, AFIDE wishes UNIDO every success under the leadership of its Director-General in his second term.