

Statement
by His Excellency Ambassador A.Sychov
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Belarus
to the International Organizations in Vienna
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General debate

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Mr. President,

The delegation of the Republic of Belarus would like to congratulate you on election to the post of President of the 13th session of UNIDO General Conference and wish you and members of your bureau successful work. Let me state that our delegation is confident that under your guidance the General Conference will be successful in addressing its important agenda items.

The current session is taking place at a crucial moment for the international community. Not many historical events are left in human collective memory as a watershed. Today we are facing such an important watershed – the problem of climate change. This problem represents a serious global challenge that lies athwart our movement towards a prosperous future.

It is necessary to start such a movement now – at the International conference on climate change that is held these same days in Copenhagen. We are convinced that the international community has no alternative other than to develop a new international agreement on climate change, which is to replace the Kyoto Protocol in a few years time.

The global scientific consensus points to such a need, which, in turn, should generate political consensus among all countries of the world towards concluding a kind of a “New Deal” on climate change.

The essential nature of the Deal is quite clear – the future belongs to the “green” technologies or as we often call them renewable sources of energy for the simple reason that fossil fuels are not only finite, but pose a vital threat to our lives.

Therefore, security and sustainable development on the planet much depend on how successful the international community will prove in putting renewable energy at its service. Besides, the “green” technologies should become an economic “engine” that will both extricate the world from the current crisis and drive future global economic development.

What does UNIDO have to do with all this? As a matter of fact, it has much to do.

UNIDO should no less than stand in the vanguard of global efforts at the implementation of the “New Green Deal”. We think that there are all necessary preconditions for UNIDO to discharge such a role.

First, the Organization has come to enjoy a high degree of trust among its members, owing much to its non-politicized stance, respect for diverse ways of development of its Member States, objectivity and impartiality.

Second, UNIDO has turned into an integral and viable part of the United Nations family, which has been undertaking an effort to implement the global development agenda adopted at the latest United Nations Summits and other global fora.

Third, the UNIDO senior management successfully implements its strategic vision with regard to turning the Organization into an effective instrument for global and industrial development.

Last, but not least, UNIDO enjoys undisputed comparative advantages in the areas of energy and climate change due to its activities over many years on increasing energy efficiency and introducing renewable sources of energy, as well as the successful two-year chairmanship of UNIDO Director-General Dr.Kandeh Yumkella in the "UN-Energy".

The implementation of the global "Green Deal", as we see it, is a problem of political rather than technical nature. Indeed, we have effective technologies for renewable sources of energy, mainly in industrially developed countries. Thus, what is at issue is how to ensure that such technologies become available to all countries of the world.

We believe that it is necessary to develop within the United Nations a global mechanism that would ensure fair access to renewable technologies for all countries in the world. This matter was duly reflected at the UN General Assembly thematic debate on energy held last June. It is a good beginning, but what we need is to move towards practical implementation of the initiative.

What is also required is a clear algorithm of action by key international actors that would enable all of us to comprehensively apply modern technologies for new and renewable sources of energy with the view to attaining the Millennium Development Goals. We hope that UNIDO will take an active part in this process.

Mr.President,

In the context of a future agreement on climate change I cannot help touching upon national experience with the implementation of the current agreement, namely, the Kyoto Protocol.

Unfortunately, for several years already Belarus has been trying to achieve what may seem a paradox – to assume serious commitments on reducing emissions in the atmosphere. With that we are willing to assume commitments that are more serious than those of many of our neighbors and even of some countries of the European Union. Against this background it is not clear why many states, which, by the way, lead in calls for a post-Kyoto agreement, prevent us from assuming legally binding and serious commitments in the framework of the Kyoto Protocol.

In this regard let me appeal to all states to expedite the ratification of Belarus' accession to the Kyoto Protocol. I hope that this appeal will be heeded.

Mr. President,

The Republic of Belarus attaches great importance to industrial development in propelling its national economy. It is industry that ensures stable work of other sectors, consumer demands in industrial products, as well as country's export capacities and its security.

Belarus builds its industry in accordance with the Concept and Programme for Industrial Development of the Republic of Belarus for 1998-2015, which seeks to provide sustainable and high industrial growth predicated on modernization, to upgrade technological structure of industrial production, and to raise its competitiveness through quality improvement.

At present, Belarus wields diversified industrial capacities. Notwithstanding, we aspire to move towards embracing new modern technologies, and establishing innovative-production industries, which meet the demands of global innovative technologies markets.

Energy efficiency, new and renewable sources of energy, ICT technologies; and industrial bio-technologies all stand as the areas for priority action in the context of our industrial policies.

The Government of the Republic of Belarus sees an important role for United Nations Industrial Development Organization in assisting Belarus' national efforts to attain various industry-related objectives. We have a history of fruitful co-operation with the Organization.

Today, we determine new areas, where UNIDO can provide assistance to our industrial development. These are energy, transfer of technologies, agro-industries, food security, and auto infrastructures.

Likewise, we attach great importance to co-operation with UNIDO along the line of "East-East". In this regard we welcome the Memorandum of Understanding that was signed in January 2009 between UNIDO and the European Asian Economic Community (EurAsEc), as well as the willingness of the Russian Federation to become a donor in support of the implementation of this initiative.

We are convinced that expansion of Organization's programme activities in Belarus would be expedited by establishing in our country a UNIDO focal point.

Mr.President,

In conclusion let me state the following.

In the current world the demand for UNIDO capacities and services will surely be growing. Likewise, there are preconditions for enhancing the UNIDO's role and importance, especially in the context of the "New Green Deal". By reelecting Dr.Kandeh Yumkella as UNIDO Secretary General for another term we express our collective confidence that such a future vision for UNIDO will be realized.

In this regard let me assure all of you that the Republic of Belarus stands ready to actively assist in attaining these objectives.

Thank you for your kind attention.