

**UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT
ORGANIZATION
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13th session**

Statement by Croatia
Vienna, 8 December 2009

Mr. President, Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the delegation of Croatia, I would like to express my warm congratulations on your election as President of the General Conference. I am confident that this General Conference will prove to be truly successful under your leadership. Let me assure you of the full support and cooperation of my delegation. I would also like to join the previous speakers in congratulating the other members of the Bureau, on their election.

Croatia has already aligned itself with the statement delivered by Sweden on behalf of the EU. Now, I would like to highlight some points in national capacity.

Croatia recognizes that UNIDO has been successfully revitalized under Director-General's capable leadership, and I take this opportunity to congratulate Director-General Yumkella on his re-election, wishing him every success in leading this important Organization through the challenging time ahead.

Croatia is of the view that UNIDO is a key international development organization and should continue to play an indispensable role in promoting industrial development, particularly in attaining the Millennium Development Goals. To achieve these goals, efficiency and accountability should be the guiding principles in all of UNIDO's activities. Furthermore, UNIDO's three thematic priority areas need to be addressed with the utmost precedence, namely: a) Poverty Reduction through productive activities; b) Trade Capacity-Building; and c) Energy and Environment.

It is heartening to note that UNIDO has now achieved a high degree of financial stability. This is the result of the efforts made by the Director-

General and his competent staff as well as Member States who have displayed responsibility in meeting their financial obligations. We should commit ourselves to maintain similar results in the future.

Mr. President,

The Government of Croatia appreciates the programs under the Medium-term Program Framework, 2008-2011. The Medium-term Program Framework, 2010-2013 has evolved from the previous Medium-term Program Framework. Its continuity guarantees the most focused and meaningful application of UNIDO's expertise.

We highly commend the cooperation between UNIDO and other international organizations because it enhances the efficiency and synergy of UNIDO's activities. Croatia has always been a strong advocate of the UN reform process. Therefore, we welcome the proactive stance taken by the Director General and his staff aimed at advancing system-wide coherence.

Croatia and UNIDO have productive cooperation in various fields, and especially in the field of "Corporate Social Responsibility".

In cooperation with UNIDO as the implementation agency, the Ministry of Economy, Labour and Entrepreneurship of the Republic of Croatia and Croatian Centre for Cleaner Production as coordinators, started in February 2009 activities on the new project entitled "*Establishment of a Regional Network for Corporate Social Responsibility Competence for the Central, Eastern and South-East Europe Region*". Project goals are multilevel and include local, national, regional and global partners.

The creation of the *Regional Network for Corporate Social Responsibility Competence* can provide an active contribution to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, supporting specifically the MDG 7 – environmental sustainability, MDG 3 - gender equality and MDG 8 - promotion of partnership for development. Through involvement of private sector, the Project can also benefit the creation of employment opportunities (MDG 1) and consequently support fight against poverty.

Overall objective of this Project is to increase competitiveness and market access for small and medium size enterprises in CEE and SEE region. Even if the countries in Central, Eastern and South-East European region have achieved different stages of economic and

environmental performances, we are convinced that it is possible to meet international standards through building of partnerships. We use this opportunity to encourage and call on other countries from Central, Eastern and South-East European region to consider their participation in the joint regional Project as well as the opportunity to announce that a Regional Conference on *Corporate Social Responsibility* is to be held in Zagreb in March 2010.

At the conclusion, allow me to reiterate the appreciation of the Republic of Croatia for the efforts of UNIDO in realisation of its priorities – poverty reduction through production, trade and capacity building, energy and environment. In addition, we firmly believe that continuation of UNIDO's policy of the results-based-management will produce positive achievements also in the years to come.

Thank you.