

Statement by Ambassador Mr. SHIM Yoon-joe
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea
for the 13th General Conference of UNIDO
Vienna, 9 December 2009

Mr. President,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. At the outset, on behalf of my delegation, I wish to congratulate Ambassador Ali Asghar Soltanieh on your election as President of the 13th session of the UNIDO General Conference. I am sure that under your able leadership this conference will yield productive discussions and fruitful outcomes.
2. I would also like to extend my sincere congratulations to Dr. Kandeh Yumkella on his reappointment as Director-General of the UNIDO for a second term. His reappointment is a clear indication of the Member States' appreciation for his achievements during the first term and support for his efforts to revitalize the Organization.

Mr. President,

3. I note with satisfaction that the UNIDO's performance, financial situation and administrative reforms, including the introduction of results-based management, have made outstanding progress as explained in the Director-General's presentation on Monday. I hope this positive trend will continue in the years to come as the Organization focuses on the priority areas highlighted in the Director-General's Annual Report.
4. In this light, it is noteworthy that the UNIDO has contributed to tackling the global food crisis, one of the major problems facing developing countries. Sharing the UNIDO's sense of seriousness about this challenge, Korea is cooperating on the UNIDO project "Survey about the Post Harvest Losses of Main Food Commodities in ASEAN Countries." I am pleased to reconfirm the Korean government's commitment to the global partnership for food security

by contributing USD 100 million for three years from 2009. These funds will be used not only to provide countries in need with emergency food and nutrition assistance, but also to enhance their agricultural productivity and rural living conditions.

5. Another area in which the Korean government takes special interest is climate change and green growth. In recognition of the urgent need for international cooperation to cope with climate change, our government adopted "Low-carbon Green Growth" as a new national vision last year, and put forward its strategy and action plan in July this year. Under this strategy, Korea has decided to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 30 percent from business-as-usual levels by 2020. This target is quite ambitious for Korea, considering that its greenhouse gas emissions have almost doubled during the past fifteen years (1990-2005), and its industry is still heavily dependent on energy-intensive sectors.
6. The new strategy also includes expanded investment in the development of new and renewable energy technology, which, at the same time, is expected to generate new business opportunities and a great number of new jobs. Our government has also initiated the "East Asia Climate Partnership" program under which it would support the efforts of developing countries in the region to cope with both climate change and economic growth. My delegation therefore highly appreciates the contribution by the UNIDO to the energy and environment field, including the Director-General's leadership in the UN Energy Group, and will deepen cooperation with the Organization in this sector.

Mr. President,

7. Based upon its experiences with economic development, Korea is willing to strengthen cooperation with the least developed countries. We will explore areas where we can most effectively contribute to UNIDO projects and participate more actively in discussions on this issue. I believe that Korea can enhance cooperation with the UNIDO, for example, by way of strengthening the capacity of the least developed countries for their sustainable economic development.

8. In this regard, our government has been reinforcing the UNIDO Investment and Technology Promotion Office Seoul by gradually expanding its budget and appointing a highly qualified official to head the office. I believe that the ITPO Seoul Office will serve as a catalyst for our government to further enhance its contribution to the UNIDO, inter alia, in the field of trade and investment, focusing on the African region.

Mr. President,

9. Before concluding, I would like to inform you that the Republic of Korea has become a member of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC). With its accession to DAC, Korea is striving to transition from emerging donor status to that of an advanced donor. Its ODA will be increased to 0.25% of its gross national income by 2015, which represents a threefold increase of the current level. As a nation that has successfully accomplished the transition from a recipient to a donor in recent history, Korea will fulfill its bridging role between developed and developing countries by not only increasing its ODA but also sharing the lessons and ideas obtained in the process of its rapid economic growth, thereby achieving co-prosperity in a global community. In this sense, we believe the Director General adequately addressed this point in his opening remarks on Monday, stressing that what the LDCs need most is ideas rather than money.
10. Finally, my delegation would like to reiterate the assurances of its full support for your successful chairmanship throughout this session.

Thank you for your attention. //End//