

UNIDO General Conference
Vienna 7-11 December 2009

Intervention by Norway

General Conference 2009
Statement by the Permanent Representative of Norway

Mr. President,

Allow me first of all to congratulate you on your election as President of this Thirteenth session of the General Conference of UNIDO. Let me assure you, the members of the Bureau and the Secretariat, of the full support of Norway for a successful conference. Let me also thank the Secretariat for the high quality documents prepared for this Conference.

Let me join others in congratulating Dr. Yumkella on his re-appointment as Director-General of UNIDO for the next four years. Under his leadership, UNIDO has developed into an effective organization with clear goals and priorities - as outlined in the Strategic Long-Term Vision - that is well-adapted for the work and objectives embodied in the Millennium Development Goals.

We would also like to thank the Director-General and the UNIDO Secretariat for the proposals contained in the Medium-Term Programme Framework 2010-2013. The document sets out the direction and indicates the level of ambition for UNIDO's activities in the years to come. Norway will follow the implementation closely.

We particularly appreciate UNIDO's role in facilitating global forum activities in 2008 and 2009 in a series of major conferences around the world, thereby developing its support services to Member States through technical cooperation and capacity-building, and at the same time fostering action-oriented partnerships

within the UN, with the broader international community, the private sector, civil society, academia and other stakeholders.

Mr. President,

Norway wants to see a UN that responds in a more effective and efficient way to the needs of Member States. By focusing on the three specific priorities of i) poverty alleviation through productive activities, ii) trade capacity building and iii) environment and energy, UNIDO is working within the same spheres as several other organizations, including UNCTAD/ ITC, UNDP, the World Bank, WTO, FAO, IFAD, ISO, ILO and UNEP. As a provider of specialized qualifications and services, it is important that UNIDO continues its efforts to avoid unnecessary duplication, and Norway is very satisfied with UNIDO's commitment to the UN reform processes. The international community is still very much affected by the global financial crises, and in such an environment, strategic partnerships both within the UN family and with public and private institutions in fields of common interest must be explored further and strengthened. In this process, there are clearly many valuable lessons to be drawn from the Terminal Evaluation of the cooperation agreement with the United Nations Development Programme of September this year.

Norway welcomes the management reforms initiated by Director General Yumkella. We support fully the focus on strengthening field representation, increased staff mobility between headquarter and the field as well as improved career development opportunities for staff in the field. We also support the people-centred management approach that has been developed within UNIDO in recent years, with focus on motivation, management culture, ethics and the acknowledgement of staff performance.

Mr. President,

There is great conformity between UNIDO's development vision and the objectives of Norway's development policy, which is to fight poverty and bring about social justice. In the budget for 2009, the Norwegian Government achieved its target of allocating 1 percent of the gross national income (GNI) to international development. In the recently approved budget for 2010, the allocation has been further increased to 1.09 percent. The Government will continue to focus its efforts on priority areas where Norway can make the greatest contribution: the environment and sustainable development; peace-building, human rights and humanitarian assistance; oil and clean energy; women and gender equality; good governance and the fight against corruption; and efforts to reach the Millennium Development Goals. Norway places particular emphasis on efforts to fight climate change and deforestation.

Norway's support for the work of UNIDO is reflected in our voluntary contributions to the organization. In particular, I would like to point to the special relationship within Trade Capacity Building that has been developed between UNIDO and the Norwegian development agency Norad over the past nine years. Norad was one of the first partners to enter into a Framework Agreement with UNIDO, under which a series of programmes have now been financed.

Mr. President,

Let me thank the Director-General for his continued chairmanship of UN-Energy and also for his leadership of the Secretary General's Advisory Group on Energy and Climate Change. These positions provide excellent platforms for contributing to improve inter-agency coordination in this important sector, and as such contributing to important aspects of UN reform.

The 13th General Conference focuses on Green Industry for Global Recovery and Growth. With our colleagues engaged in difficult negotiations in Copenhagen at this very moment, this is certainly an appropriate and timely focus. The rapid growth and economic development in many regions around the world over the last

decade - not least in the Asia and Pacific region - has on the one hand lifted millions out of poverty, but it has also led to an increased consumption and demand for energy and water and a depletion of natural resources and environmental degradation and greenhouse emissions. Development comes at a cost, and UNIDO plays an important role in trying to promote development whilst at the same time trying to mitigate the costs to the environment. Like UNIDO, Norway considers that the direct link between poverty reduction and access to energy and new technologies is an issue that must be addressed as a matter of priority. For this reason we are currently exploring possibilities of greater cooperation with UNIDO in the field of cleaner production and energy effectiveness as a way to address central development challenges. The promotion of awareness of cleaner and more resource efficient renewable sources of energy is of great importance in our common efforts to fight and adapt to the effects of climate change.

Mr. President,

UNIDO seeks to enable the poor to earn a living through productive activities, thus to find a path out of poverty. In order for this to materialize, they need the capacity to produce, market, and distribute tradable products. Norway has taken due note also of UNIDO's increased focus on working with least developed countries. This is in line with a strong commitment of my country to support efforts aimed at increasing the opportunities of LDCs to reap the benefits of globalization through an increased participation in international trade.

We also note with satisfaction the central references to entrepreneurship among women in the new Medium-term Programme Framework for 2010 - 2013. There can be no development or poverty reduction if one half of the population of a country does not have access to, or is enabled to participate in productive activities, including industrial production. Engaging the female half of the population is of the utmost importance in order to stimulate social and economic development. It is furthermore a precondition for Norwegian funding that all grant recipients incorporate the gender perspective into their activities.

Mr. President,

Today, we see that international trade continues to expand, while the least developed countries' share of it is decreasing. UNIDO's Industrial Development Report for 2009, with its special focus on the potential impact that industrial development could have on the low-income countries - or the "Bottom Billion" - that have been left outside the expanding web of globalization, is very instructive in relation to the policies that must be in place for remedying this imbalance. The Norwegian Government's Action Plan for Trade-related Development Assistance identifies UNIDO among agencies and institutions that are considered relevant for promoting trade as a tool for social and economic development.

In closing, let me assure you, Mr. President, of Norway's continued support for UNIDO's activities both in financial terms and through its governing bodies. I very much look forward to following the efforts of the organization in our common aim and global responsibility to combat poverty through inclusive globalization and environmental sustainability.

Thank you.