Remarks of the Chinese Delegation at the 13th Session of the UNIDO General Conference

December 7th, 2009 in Vienna

Mr. Chair,

Let me start on behalf of the Chinese delegation by congratulating on the convening of the 13th Session and on the appointment of you as Chair of the Conference and of your colleagues to their various positions on the Board. Let me also thank H.E. Ambassador Omar Zniber from Morocco for his outstanding contribution as the previous Chair.

Mr. Chair,

The global financial crisis started in 2008 has dealt serious challenges to countries around the world in their economic development, especially industrial development. In response to the crisis, countries have introduced and implemented massive economic stimulus packages. As a result, the international financial market is gradually bouncing back. World economic recovery is gaining foothold. However, the foundation for such recovery is less than solid. There are still a lot of uncertainties and destabilizing factors. The Dubai World incident might likely be repeated going forward. The road to world economic recovery is long and winding. Developing countries, especially LDCs, were the hardest hit in this crisis. The progress on realizing the Millennium Development Goals has been largely undercut. There is an urgent need to revive the economy, create more jobs and improve people’s livelihood by developing industry. Therefore, China welcomes the timely and significant topic of this conference, which is green industry and opportunities for developing countries. Key to this topic is the question of how we could promote the
global, stable and sustainable development of green economies to the benefit of all.

Mr. Chair,

History has proven that with every crisis there comes a major industrial revolution. While the global financial and economic crisis has dealt a heavy blow on manufacturing activities, it also presents rare opportunities for the development of emerging industries. Low-carbon economy, green industries, energy saving and new energy are where future economic growth will come from. Countries need to align their near-term economic priorities with long-term economic prospects. While enabling economic recovery, we should optimize the energy mix, promote industrial upgrading, develop green economies and foster new economic engines to fuel sustainable economic growth.

Given the serious impact of the crisis and intensifying domestic energy and environmental constraints, the Chinese government adopted such measures as “maintaining growth, expanding domestic demand and readjusting economic structure”. The “readjusting economic structure” part of the strategy aims to transform China’s mode of industrial growth, improve the industrial structure and follow the road of green industrial development. The Chinese government remains committed to the basic state policy of resources conservation and environmental protection and to the national strategy of realizing sustainable growth. By pursuing an economic growth model of “low consumption, low emission and high efficiency”, China is nurturing hi-tech industries such as new energy and new materials. On November 26th, 2009, the Chinese government decided that by 2020 it would reduce per unit GDP CO2 emission by 40% to 45% from the level of 2005. This as a binding target will be incorporated into
China’s medium and long-term plan for socioeconomic development. Of course, in the process of developing green industries, China is still under technological and financial constraints. We are ready to work with UNIDO and other countries to take green industry forward.

Mr. Chair,

UNIDO has made positive efforts and contribution within its mandate to the effort of fighting the crisis. We agree with Director-General Dr. Yumkella’s message in the UNIDO Annual Report 2008 that “the core of UNIDO’s mandate is to advance sustainable industrial development and international industrial cooperation”. We note with great pleasure that UNIDO, as an UN agency specialized in promoting industrial development, has followed the three priorities of poverty reduction through productive activities, trade capacity building, the environment and energy in its endeavor of the past two years. It has made remarkable progress through the conduct of technological cooperation. We appreciate Dr. Yumkella’s leadership in terms of actively engaging UNIDO in the reform of the United Nations, improving management and efficiency and the productive work on program implementation and resources allocation. China congratulates Dr. Yumkella on his second term as the Director-General of UNIDO and remains committed to supporting Dr. Yumkella in his leadership position to leverage UNIDO’s special role in promoting industrial development in developing countries and in realizing the MDGs for the greater development of developing countries. China also congratulates the external auditor from Pakistan on his renewal and commits full support to his job in this term. The reports submitted by the external auditor to the conference are fair and objective and will positively influence the future work and reform of UNIDO. China highly commends his productive work.
Mr. Chair,
China appreciates UNIDO’s active role in promoting south-south cooperation. In recent years, south-south cooperation has played an increasingly important role in international development cooperation. It opens up more resources and options for such cooperation and is a valued addition to south-north cooperation. The practices and experience of south-south cooperation are gaining more recognition from the international community. South-south cooperation has its unique advantages. By following such principles as respect for national sovereignty, attaching no political strings, non-interference in each other’s domestic affairs and equality and mutual benefits, south-south cooperation enables the discussion and implementation of cooperative projects.

In order to realize the MDGs, while promoting socioeconomic development domestically, China, being a developing country itself, has been helping other developing countries enhance their capacity for independent development through south-south cooperation. Our proposition is that developing countries should help and cooperate with each other to share their experience in developing economies, improving livelihood and conducting restructuring to formulate a potent and collective response to global challenges. As the old Chinese saying goes, teaching others how to fish is better than giving fish. Since the 1950s, China has conducted productive economic and technological cooperation programs with over 120 developing countries and has provided economic and technical assistance to the best of its ability. At the Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation in 2006, President Hu Jintao announced policy measures in 8 categories.
The committed measures have now been implemented. At the 4th Ministerial Meeting of the Forum in early November 2009, Premier Wen Jiabao unveiled 8 new measures for promoting China-Africa cooperation in the next three years. These measures span over climate change, science and technology, finance, trade, agriculture, healthcare, human capital development, education and people exchange.

Over the past few years, China and UNIDO have worked positively together on south-south cooperation. Thanks to our full preparation, the UNIDO Center for South-South Industrial Cooperation was officially founded in China on July 30th, 2008. The center has started working with developing countries in such areas as new energy and renewable energy, oil and natural gas, chemicals, agro-based industry, low-cost housing and building materials. By drawing upon UNIDO’s global network and resources and through technology transfer and investment promotion, the Center is focused on solving the problems facing the program countries in terms of production, environmental protection, poverty alleviation and job creation. We stand ready to work constructively and creatively with UNIDO to further expand the productive role of the Center in south-south cooperation.

To conclude, China wishes a complete success of the Conference.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.