

Updated



SID

Society for International Development

Statement by the Society for International Development to the UNIDO General Conference, December 2009

Thank you, Mr. President,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

SID, the Society for International development, is an NGO that promotes a broader concept of development; for example, several years ago it contributed quite extensively to the launch of the UNDP Human Development report. It sees economic development not just as an end in itself, but as something to be linked to the alleviation of poverty, the fight against injustice the promotion of gender equity and ecological sustainability

The Vienna Chapter of the Society for International Development notes with satisfaction UNIDO's commitment to poverty reduction. The resources it has devoted to bettering the plight of the bottom billion speak for themselves. The enormity of the problem has been presented most tellingly in the re-launched Industrial Development Report: which is truly a flagship publication.

Industrial activities can reduce poverty. Most of them do, and they do so most efficiently in small and medium enterprises, - and here the impact is strongest and most sustainable, when the links to foreign trade are firmest. SID thus welcomes the importance that UNIDO attaches to the promotion of small and medium enterprises and the many linkages between enterprise development and trade capacity -building.

If it to be lasting, industrial development cannot exclude any section of society – neither women, who make up more than 50 per cent of humankind, nor young people, who currently account for an overwhelming proportion of the population in developing countries.

SID thus welcomes the prominence UNIDO is giving to its entrepreneurship programmes for women and young people. SID is particularly appreciative of the fact that gender issues are to be mainstreamed into all the Organisation's activities.

SID is most impressed by the efforts of UNIDO directed towards the greening of industry. We see it as an optimal path to ensuring both the economic efficiency and the sustainability of industrial activities.

The Vienna chapter is very much aware of the endeavours of UNIDO to enter into closer partnership with civil society. Members of civil society are just as much

stakeholders in the development policy dialogue as are corporations, governments and international organisations. That we are here today bears testimony to the Organisation's recognition of the value that varying viewpoints and the practical grass-roots experience of non – governmental organizations can add to its activities.

For its part, the Vienna chapter is intent upon participating in the UNIDO programmes related to corporate social responsibility which has proven itself a suitable conduit for the transfer of new cultural value systems and innovative ways of thinking. CSR also facilitates interaction between companies and public policy-makers.

We trust that other NGOs and civil society organisations will also seek closer cooperation with UNIDO. In so doing, they can make a contribution to overcoming the fourfold crisis in which the world is mired:

- the economic and financial crisis;
- the food crisis;
- the energy crisis; and
- the looming environmental and climate crisis.

In a world facing those crises, partnership between all actors in the development process – governmental and non-governmental, public and private - is the key to success. We thus welcome the untiring efforts of the Director-General to enter into closer cooperation with NGOs and promoting activities close to the heart of SID.

Thank you, Mr. President