



*Speech by*

***Rt. Hon. Raila Amolo Odinga, EGH, M.P  
Prime Minister of the Republic of Kenya***

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(UNIDO) General Conference***

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**MR. PRESIDENT  
DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN**

Let me first of all congratulate you on your election as president of the 13th Session of the UNIDO General Conference and also congratulate the Director General, Mr. Kandeh Yumkella on his re-election as the Director-General for a further four years.

**MR PRESIDENT**

This 13th General Conference coincides with the opening of COP 15 on Climate Change in Copenhagen. This is particularly opportune, because UNIDO is one of the lead agencies in providing technical assistance in renewable energy and energy efficiency for developing countries. UNIDO is expected to play a key role in transfer of technology in the global campaign to mitigate global warming and adapt to climate change.



I therefore hold high expectations for UNIDO. And I expect the debate in this General Conference to contribute substantially to a successful outcome of COP 15 that must feature an agreement on (a) ambitious targets on mitigation, (b) a very climate Change financing facility for adaptation programmes of developing countries, and (c) concrete modalities for transfer of technology to developing countries.

## **MR. PRESIDENT**

Africa contributes less than 3% of global Green House Gas emissions. Yet it is bearing the greatest burden of climate change. Ice caps of Mt Kilimanjaro and Mt. Kenya are all but disappeared. Extreme weather has become a norm for Kenya. We now have either drought or floods.

The Government of Kenya has already begun implementing strong adaptation and mitigation programmes. We shall restore our forests and water towers, and increase forest cover in the country from less than 3 % at present to 10% by 2020. Kenya will rapidly develop green energy, particularly geothermal, and will become a Green Economy by 2020.

UNIDO is an important contributor to Kenya's adaptation and mitigation efforts. The UNIDO Kenya Country Programme, known



as KENYA INTEGRATED PROGRAMME PHASE 2, aims at enhancing energy Efficiency for Kenya's Industry and SMEs; and strengthening the Kenya National Cleaner Production Centre to promote cleaner and energy efficiency in SMES. This forms parts of more general objectives to improve the investment climate in Kenya, and promote growth and competitiveness of Kenyan industries, particularly SMEs.

I note in particular the "Lightening Up Kenya Programme." This programme involves establishing Renewable Energy Centres for Business Promotion for Kenyans living in rural areas, far away from electricity grids. The Centres are managed by communities, and produce energy from locally available renewable energy sources. Power generated in these Centres is to be used for promoting local processing activities such as grain mills, saw mills, welding, carpentry, weaving and egg hatcheries.

The Lightening Up Kenya Promramme also aims to reduce the excessive use of kerosene for home lightening, by providing energy efficient LED lamps for households that are not connected to electricity grids. The plan is to have those LED lamps manufactured locally. In Kenya and other countries in Africa, kerosene is the main source of fuel in rural poor and urban slums. It is a main cause of fire and major health hazards.



The UNIDO Country Programme also includes important activities in other areas as well. For example, the Programme focuses on: (a) establishing a Subcontracting and Partnership Exchange; (b) capacity Building for Kenya Investment Authority ; (c) Trade Capacity Building in agro-Industry products; and (d) Eastern Africa Bamboo Project.

#### **MR. PRESIDENT**

The Government of Kenya endorses and supports the UNIDO Kenya Country Programme. Indeed, the Government has already committed US\$5000,000 to jumpstart this Programme. I also appreciate the support of European Union, the United States, Japan, India and other countries that are contributing to its financing.

While this Programme is very useful, we must admit that financially, the scale of some of the activities are just too small to make a substantial difference. For example, for the bamboo project, Kenya was allocated US \$436,700. The remaining fund for 2009 is US \$ 80,000.



I therefore appeal to you, the Delegates who gather in this General Conference, to substantially increase financial support to UNIDO. I also appeal to you to mandate UNIDO to assist African countries realize the benefits of accelerated technology of transfer, through among others, the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM).

#### **MR. PRESIDENT**

Kenya has had a long history of productive relations with UNIDO, benefitting from the numerous activities and technical expertise. We are grateful for this partnership with UNIDO, and will continue to work with you to make a difference in industrialization in Kenya.

I thank you for this opportunity and I look forward to meaningful and fruitful resolutions from this Conference to help us in the industrialization of Africa.