

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

United Nations Industrial Development Organization,
13th General Conference

Opening Session

Statement by Mr. Reinhold Lopatka, State Secretary
Austria
December 7, 2009

**Mr. President,
Mr. Director-General,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentleman,**

It is a great honour for me to welcome you all today to the opening of the 13th session of the General Conference of UNIDO. At the outset, I would like to convey the heartfelt regrets of Foreign Minister Michael Spindelegger who had hoped to be here himself and transmit his best wishes for the deliberations of this General Conference. Allow me to take this opportunity to express my sincere compliments to the Director General, Mr. Yumkella, under whose excellent leadership UNIDO has become a forward-looking organization that has adapted to changes and has integrated the concept of sustainability as an indispensable part of industrial development.

**Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentleman,**

Austria fully endorses the statement to be made by the Swedish Presidency of the European Union. Nevertheless, I would like to take advantage of my position as the first speaker to high-light some issues of particular relevance:

UNIDO holds a special place in the UN system. Against the backdrop of the current crises, its focus on building productive capacities and on strengthening trade-related capacities is of particular importance. UNIDO is widely recognized as a centre of excellence generating and disseminating industry-related knowledge. The technical cooperation UNIDO provides is highly valued because of the professionalism and expertise of its technical staff. Austria fully shares the Organization's vision to aspire to a world where progress is equitable, accessible and sustainable and where the alleviation of poverty is considered a common goal and a global responsibility.

To successfully fight poverty, economic growth must be translated into productive employment opportunities for all, especially for young people and women - they are key agents for change. UNIDO's work in the countries of the Mano River Union is an excellent example in this respect, which Austria is proud to support. Finding ways of creating productive employment for young people will be the testing ground for sustainable development in many of our partner countries. Opening up perspectives for economic prosperity and social progress is key to stabilizing fragile societies, to successfully reforming security sectors and to preventing radicalization of all kinds.

**Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Enhancing the capacity of partner countries to participate in regional and eventually global trade is increasingly critical for the sustainable development of these countries. The ability of enterprises in these countries to trade internationally depends more and more on their ability to enter into global value chains. First of all, this requires working on the supply side, enabling enterprises to manufacture products with high-export potential in the

quantities and at the level of quality required by the markets. Secondly, it requires evidence of market conformity, enabling these same enterprises to ensure that their products conform to the relevant international standards.

Austria fully supports UNIDO's role as one of the largest providers of trade - related development services, offering customer – focused advice and integrated technical assistance in the areas of competitiveness, trade policies, industrial modernization and upgrading, compliance with trade standards, testing methods and others.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Access to affordable and sustainable energy services has been recognized by the international community as a key factor in overcoming extreme poverty. UNIDO has a long-established comparative advantage in industrial energy efficiency. Furthermore, UNIDO plays an important role in the implementation of major international treaties such as the Montreal Protocol on the Protection of the Ozone Layer, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Austria welcomes UNIDO's active role in the energy debate and supports the important work of Director General Yumkella as chairman of the inter-agency initiative "UN Energy". "UN Energy" strengthens Vienna as a centre for international dialogue and cooperation on energy issues. The establishment of an IRENA Liaison Office in Vienna, which was decided by the Second Meeting of the IRENA Preparatory Commission in June 2009 in Sharm el Sheikh, will enable this new international organisation for the promotion of renewable energies to create an effective interface with the existing energy expertise of the UN system and the World Bank (which also participates in the work of UN Energy). Furthermore, linkages can be developed with other Vienna-based agencies with energy mandates, such as OPEC, the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID) and IIASA.

The Vienna Energy Conference that was jointly organised by UNIDO, the Government of Austria and the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) last June was an excellent occasion to bring together technical expertise and opinion-leaders from all stake-holders in the debate on energy for sustainable development. On the occasion of the celebration of the tenth anniversary of the Global Forum on Sustainable Energy (GFSE), this conference contributed, inter alia, to the discussion on how to best respond to global energy needs in a sound and sustainable manner, provided inputs to the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen and showcased new international energy initiatives such as the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA).

The Conference recommended, inter alia, to establish a global energy objective akin to the Millennium Development Goals, to increase global R & D (Research and Development) on energy efficiency and renewables, and to strengthen the scientific capacity of the UN on energy issues, by drawing more on centres of excellence such as IIASA. Austria looks forward to continuing to cooperate

with UNIDO and IIASA and to co-organizing Vienna Energy Conferences every other year.

With regard to the global efforts to fight climate change, UNIDO has an important mission to accomplish in facilitating better access to reliable and clean sources of energy and in promoting energy efficiency. As a main donor, Austria supports the Organization's focus on sustainable low carbon emission industries and on cleaner and sustainable production. The UNIDO-UNEP Cleaner Production Centres aiming at enhancing the cleaner production capacities in 43 countries in a sustainable manner are a key contribution to a sustained and more equitable economic development.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I shall draw to a close and wish you constructive and fruitful deliberations and an enjoyable and pleasant stay in Vienna.

Thank you for your attention.