

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates

Using this opportunity, and on behalf of the Swiss Confederation, I would first and foremost like to congratulate you on your Presidency as well as the entire Bureau on their election. We are confident that you will shepherd us successfully through this week of important deliberations of the General Conference. Like many of the preceding speakers, I also wish to thank Director General Yumkella for his vision and leadership over the tenure of the past four years. We would certainly also like to congratulate him for his re-election and wish him continued success. Together with the dedicated secretariat, we are very much looking forward to a fruitful and productive cooperation with all members of the organisation for the years to come.

Mr. Chairman, UNIDO constitutes an important strategic partner for Switzerland in the field of sustainable industrial development. In particular, the field of resource efficient and cleaner production has been and remains highly relevant to Switzerland's interest within UNIDO. My country had identified the importance of this area over 15 years ago after the Rio conference on development and environment of 1992. Consequently, Switzerland has been pioneer with UNIDO in establishing a network of today over 40 so called „National Cleaner Production Centers” (NCPC) ranging from Latin America, Northern and Southern Africa, Eastern and Southern Asia, the Middle East and Eastern Europe. Most recently, Tunisia has been added to the list of partner countries for such cooperation as agreed between Switzerland and UNIDO during the visit of DG

Yumkella in Berne in October of this year. Switzerland will therefore continue to support a strategy which emphasises "producing more with less", in our view a vital element towards ending carbon-dependency and launching economies on a path to clean and stable development. It is precisely in this spirit that Switzerland fully endorses and co-sponsors the resolution proposed by the EU/G 77 and China on energy and environment of which I was told has just been finalized to be submitted to the General Conference for deliberation.

In this context, let me mention that Switzerland has hosted from October 20th to 23rd 2009 the Annual Conference on Resource Efficient Cleaner Production (RECP) in the city of Lucerne. On this occasion, key elements and the structure for the future of the program have been discussed between Governments, UNIDO, UNEP, IFC, National Cleaner Production Centres and international experts. Switzerland is convinced that the resulting consolidated program approach is a promising answer to the urgent global environment, climate and resource problems. My Government is presently assessing a very substantial contribution to the RECP. Of course, Switzerland would also very much like to see other donors joining this initiative. In January of next year, a donors meeting is scheduled in Zurich in order to inform interested Governments.

On a different note but in the same constructive spirit, Switzerland is prepared to support any consensus regarding the implementation of a comprehensive change management initiative through the usage of unutilized balances. While we are prepared to consider favourably the proposals as put forth, we strongly

encourage UNIDO to shorten the timeframe for the implementation of the change management proposal as highlighted in the feasibility study, so as to make the anticipated positive results clear and visible to all Member States as soon as possible.

Let me, Mr. Chair, also just very briefly highlight other activities that Switzerland is contributing to: These include among others projects in the field of standards, norms and conformity assessments, as part of trade capacity building efforts as initiated by UNIDO in 2001. Our geographical focus here primarily is in Vietnam, Lebanon, Tanzania, Ghana and Mozambique. And finally, we contribute to industrial energy management efforts, such as introducing and implementing national energy management standards. A corresponding program has been agreed between Switzerland and UNIDO for South Africa - based on the coming ISO standard 50001 on energy management. The program aims at increasing competitiveness, stabilizing electricity supply, and improving the carbon footprint.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the world is looking at the Copenhagen climate conference that started this same week. Key decisions for the future global regime of climate change protection including enhanced support for relevant technology transfer is expected from the COP 15 of the UNFCCC. In this context, UNIDO has a key role to play. It is no coincidence that out of 14 pilot projects for climate change technology transfer co-financed by the GEF, 5 have been implemented by UNIDO. We invite UNIDO to even strengthen its efforts in this area and closely cooperate with other agencies in order to solve this urgent global challenge.

Mr. Chair, industrial development in our global economy requires countries to share efforts and expertise, best practices, technologies and methods to utilize resources efficiently in order to reduce global poverty and the depletion of our resources. Switzerland remains committed to lend its hand to the international community and UNIDO as a key partner to address these challenges so as to facilitate sustainable development for our less developed partners that is both ecologically balanced and affordable. Thank you.