

CROATIA
ITEM 5

Industrial Development Board

37th Session, 10-12 May 2010 Vienna

Statement by the Republic of Croatia

Agenda item 5: UNIDO's Contribution to the Millennium Development Goals

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

At the outset allow me to congratulate you and the other Bureau members on your election and thank you for the comprehensive reports prepared for this session.

Particularly this year and in the light of the upcoming High-Level Plenary Meeting of the 65th Session of the General Assembly, the Croatian delegation is assured that due priority will be given to the specific means through which UNIDO can contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Croatia also commends UNIDO's active role in the United Nations Development Group MDG Task Force, which aims to provide strategic inputs for review at the High-Level Plenary Meeting in September 2010.

Mr. Chairperson,

In aligning itself with the statement delivered by European Union, Croatia would like to use this opportunity to briefly highlight some national perspectives and activities related to supporting the achievement of the MDGs within the broader framework of UNIDO's development objectives.

Only last week, on 6th and 7th of May, in cooperation with UNIDO as the implementing agency, the Croatian Ministry of Economy, Labour and Entrepreneurship, Croatian Centre for Cleaner Production supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, officially launched at the Regional Conference in Zagreb the "Regional Network for Corporate Social Responsibility Competence for Central, South and Eastern Europe". The Network has been established to assist local small and medium-sized enterprises to conduct business in a socially and environmentally responsible way and to promote their competitiveness on the regional and global markets. In addition to that, the Network will serve as a platform to promote the exchange of information, experiences and best practices in the field of Corporate Social Responsibility and also serve as a catalyst to establish public-private partnerships and other CSR-related activities in the countries of this region. To date, 6 countries have officially submitted membership to the Network.

Mr. Chairperson,

The overall objectives of the joint CSR project - promotion of human resource development, skills and knowledge transfer, as well as networking among entrepreneurs and SMEs - provide a direct contribution to the implementation of the MDGs. In the first place of the MDG 1 by supporting UNIDO's approach to reduce poverty through sustained economic growth generated through private sector development. The enhanced role of entrepreneurs and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) as the main sources of economic activities which support productivity growth and poverty reduction in developing countries and countries in transition, can provide preconditions to generate employment opportunities and increase investments.

To meet the MDG 7 – Ensuring environmental sustainability - Croatia shares UNIDO's view that networks and technology centres which support the development of local capacities for the implementation of mitigation strategies at regional and national levels – such as joint UNIDO-UNEP National Cleaner Production Centres in more than 40 developing and transition countries - would in the future concentrate more on strengthening of national capacities to facilitate environmentally sound technologies (ESTs) and sustainable product development.

Croatia also recognizes the objectives of UNIDO strategic plan for 2010 and beyond about intensifying the East-East cooperation and necessity of sharing the technological experiences and knowledge transfer. As an emerging donor country, Croatia has contributed according to its means to the current CSR Regional Network project, supporting in that way the MDG 8 – Promotion of partnership for development. Being a coordinator of the Regional CSR Network, Croatia, believes that it is possible to meet international and EU standards through building of partnerships and sharing of experiences and best practices, either through strengthening our own national institutional structures or by providing technical and expert assistance to other countries of the region.

Mr. Chairperson,

Finally, let me reiterate that Croatia fully supports the indispensable role of UNIDO and its partner organisations with its focus on promoting and implementing of MDGs in the international development architecture and advancing so human welfare.

Thank you.