Statement delivered by

THE LEADER OF PAKISTAN DELEGATION

at the Thirty-seventh (37th) Session of the UNIDO Industrial Development Board (IDB)
at Vienna, 10-12 May 2010

Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. I would like to congratulate you, Mr. President, (Ambassador Helmut Boeck, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Austria) on your election as the President of the current session of the Industrial Development Board. Given your rich experience, we look forward to productive deliberations under your leadership. I assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation. I also extend warm felicitations to the other members of the Bureau on their election.

Mr. President,

2. We have very carefully listened to the Director General’s remarks. We appreciate his wisdom and vision, and the Organization’s achievements under his dynamic leadership. We wish him further success and assure him of Pakistan's full support and cooperation.

Mr. President,

3. My delegation has carefully examined the information contained in the documents IDB.37/6 entitled Cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme and UNIDO’s Field Representation and would like to thank the Secretariat for providing concise information on the developments since the General Conference session in December last year.

4. The Cooperation Agreement between UNIDO and UNDP was signed in 2004 for a five years’ term. Its functioning was evaluated by the UNIDO-
UNDP Joint Terminal Evaluation. The findings of the evaluation exercise are contained in the Terminal Evaluation Report. This Report contains important findings and recommendations.

Mr. President,

5. After the termination of the UNIDO-UNDP Cooperation Agreement, one of the urgent questions facing UNIDO, in our view, is the status of the UNIDO Desks housed inside UNDP premises under the Agreement. Practicable modalities need to be identified and appropriate arrangements worked for the un-interrupted and smooth functioning of such Desks. We understand that UNIDO is already engaged in consultations with UNDP to evolve operational and administrative arrangements to regulate, during the short term, the operation of the UNIDO Desks located within UNDP premises.

6. My delegation is of the view that any long term decision on the location of the UNIDO Desks within UNDP premises or otherwise should be based not only on the financial cost and benefit analysis but also factors such as UNIDO’s separate identity and its visibility. It would be recalled that great stress has been laid on the UNIDO’s separate identity and its visibility in its Long Term Vision Statement.

Mr. President,

7. My delegation regards the 2004 UNIDO-UNDP Cooperation Agreement as a forerunner of the UN system-wide Coherence. Though the Cooperation Agreement has been overtaken by the later events, yet the Agreement’s underlying concepts of effective decentralization, enhanced field representation and greater cooperation between UN agencies remain as valid and as relevant today as they were five years ago.

8. Pakistan accords utmost importance to a meaningful, result-bearing decentralization process leading to an enhanced field representation of the Organization with a better and greater technical cooperation as its dividend. I would like to draw your attention to the fact that the need for decentralization has been acknowledged in UNIDO, for quite some time now. Thus on the one hand the 1997 Business Plan on the Future Role and Functions of UNIDO called for an effective decentralization of activities and strengthened field representation, while on the other the 2005 Strategic Long-Term Vision Statement describes continuation and strengthening of an
effective decentralization of Organization’s functions and activities to the field as one of its Regional Dimensions.

9. Therefore, my delegation is of the view that effective decentralization and enhanced field representation should continue to occupy high place in the organizational goals of UNIDO. In this connection, we note that the Director General has already introduced certain policies such as field mobility which contribute towards decentralization. Since it is the field offices that undertake Technical Cooperation activities and deliver in the field, decentralization and delegation of powers to the field offices would contribute to enhancing Organization’s overall performance.

Mr. President,

10. My Delegation strongly believes that with the nature of the mandate it has, as well as its active participation in the ongoing Delivering as One initiative, UNIDO cannot afford to limit its field presence to a small number of states. Therefore, in view of the current international developmental agenda and priorities, expansion in UNIDO field representation is imperative. Such an exercise should, however, be undertaken in a carefully planned, gradual and phased manner in the light of the recommendations of the Terminal Evaluation Report of the Agreement in consultation with the Member States. This would allow for fine-tuning and evolution of best practices for subsequent cases. Also this strategy will not over-stretch the organizational capabilities.

11. Again with the pilot countries now entering the implementation stage of the Delivering as One initiative, my delegation calls upon the Organization to undertake necessary delegation of authority to field offices so that the pilot phase may run smoothly.

Mr. President,

12. As regards the third target of the UNIDO-UNDP Cooperation Agreement i.e., inter-agency cooperation, it is reassuring to note that UNIDO is already taking part in the Delivering as One initiative in all the eight pilot countries. Pakistan being one of the eight pilot countries, we note with satisfaction that the process is moving ahead at a considerable pace. My delegation hopes that mutual cooperation, support and synergies will lead to cost savings and greater fund mobilization on the one hand and higher efficiency and output on the other. We, like all other Member States, are
very optimistic about this initiative and hope that it would lead to its intended results.

Mr. President

13. Before I conclude, I would like to acknowledge the role that UNIDO is playing in the industrial development of Pakistan. Pakistan-UNIDO relations go back more than four decades when UNIDO office was established in Islamabad in 1968. UNIDO has undertaken more than one hundred fifty (150) projects in Pakistan, in areas including Trade Related Technical Assistance (TRTA), Small and Medium Enterprises Cluster Development, Technology Foresight, Phasing out of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS), and Women Entrepreneurship Development. An Integrated Programme is also underway, while a few project proposals are under consideration at the Secretariat.

14. We hope that financial resources required for the ongoing projects would continue to be made available in a timely and sufficient manner so as to retain the momentum of the projects and to maximize the benefits being derived from them.

Thank you Mr. President.
The Thirty-seventh (37th) Session of the Industrial Development Board (IDB) Vienna, 10–12 May 2010

Statement by Representative of Pakistan

Agenda Item:11 Personnel matters

Mr. President,

My delegation thanks the Secretariat for preparing the document IDB.37/8 on Personnel Matters. It contains useful information about personnel-related developments, including Common system developments and matters pertaining to the Staff Rules.

2. My delegation has noted the following with particular interest:

(i) Improvement in the gender balance,
(ii) Evaluation of field mobility policy,
(iii) Finalization of the new Code of Ethical Conduct and the Policy on Protection against Retaliation,
(iv) Programme for Financial Disclosure and Declaration of Interests,
(v) Institutional arrangements for the implementation of the Programme for Change and Organizational Renewal (PCOR),
(vi) Thirty-five new appointments in the professional and higher categories,

Mr. President,

3. We appreciate the Director General’s initiatives aimed at raising the morale and improving the professionalism of the Secretariat staff. The Human Resource policy reforms are expected to impact positively on the performance of the Organization. To make them more useful, the Secretariat may also consider developing online training programmes. This would help keep the staff more abreast of latest developments.

Mr. President,

4. My delegation has noted that out of 35 professional/senior level appointments made during 2009, only 10 were from non-represented and underrepresented states. This amounts to less than 30%. We would urge a greater share for the under presented and non-represented member states. This would contribute to more equitable geographical distribution and to a greater gender balance.
5. Another important point that merits consideration is recruitment from non-member states. Many international organizations have adopted a policy of recruitment from member states only. My delegation would recommend that the Secretariat brief the member states on the possible costs and benefits of adopting such a policy in UNIDO.

6. Lastly, Mr. President, preference for the best suited candidates for a job is perfectly all right. One way of ensuring this would be that all member states be provided with information about vacancies available. My delegation suggests that all the vacancy announcements be conveyed to Permanent Missions so it gets the widest possible circulation among the member states.

Thank you, Mr. President.