

UPDATE



Association of Former United Nations Industry and Development Experts

NGO with special consultative status with ECOSOC

Consultative status with UNIDO and accredited to GEF Council

Office address: Room E0471, Vienna International Centre

Wagramer Strasse 5, 1400 Vienna, Austria

Tel: (+43 1) 26060 5204

E-Mail: info@afide-un.org

Website: www.afide-un.org

**AFIDE Statement
Thirty - Ninth Industrial Development Board**

Of UNIDO

22-24 June 2011

Mr. President
Excellencies
Distinguished Delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the Association of Former United Nations Industry and Development Experts (AFIDE) I have the pleasure to address the 39th UNIDO Industrial Development Board.

At the outset, I wish to inform you that AFIDE recently celebrated its 14th Anniversary. It consists mainly of former UNIDO professional staff members and other experts and consultants from other UN agencies and NGOs, experienced in industrial and economic development. As an NGO operating at the global level, AFIDE has consultative status with UNIDO, ECOSOC, and the GEF Council and other UN organizations, as well as with regional inter-governmental organizations particularly in Africa.

Looking back at the MDGs, one can only express surprise - as it was already expressed on other occasions - that they did not include energy and clean energy as a development goal and even as a member one Development Goal, as there is no life without energy! It is known that nearly half of world's population does not have access to modern energy services and that 1.5 billion have no access to electricity at all!!! Sustainable industrialization and poverty alleviation cannot be achieved without expanding clean energy access; enhancing industrial energy efficiency and promoting green industry as an integral component of the transition to a green economy. Furthermore current energy systems are inadequate to meeting needs of the world's poor and do not support the transition to low-carbon growth and green economy.

UNIDO's Green industry initiative provides the international community and national Governments with a tool that could foster the positive role of industry in achieving sustainable economic development. The role of industry in bringing about a green economy is to be acknowledged. AFIDE supports

this initiative and will be ready to cooperate in its materialization through several tools, particularly in setting up an independent Energy Access Fund.

As for renewable energy deployment, a number of areas are important such as: credit worthiness of the energy sector; planning for tomorrow; integrating all energy sources with a green favour; financing the energy transformation; empowering local people and private sector.

Sustainable energy is fostered through: Off grid applications; promotion of entrepreneurship for rural growth; new financing models; measures for demand mitigation; and energy efficiency policies and measures; public financing of research and development; active private sector involvement; establishment of partnerships for clean technology, technology transfer and financing; etc.

AFIDE supports the call for action and endorses the view that there was a need to act together, act now and act differently. AFIDE will support UNIDO in developing an Action Agenda with goals and identifiable and measurable benchmarks.

AFIDE's aim is to complement the efforts of the UN system in promoting sustainable industrial development of developing countries and countries in transition by using the accumulated expertise of its members.

I am pleased to inform you that in February 2011, the AFIDE General Assembly elected a new Board and I am honored the Board chose me as AFIDE Acting President.

At present the activities of the Board focus on the following:

1. Consolidating, strengthening, and streamlining AFIDE's mandate and profile in accordance with its statutes.
2. Establishing a strategic partnership with UNIDO's top management aiming at complementary activities.

3. Strengthening and increasing AFIDE membership by encouraging recent retirees of UNIDO, other UN organizations and NGOs to continue their development work for the benefit of developing countries.
4. Upgrading AFIDE's technical expertise and acquiring new technologies in the fields mentioned below
5. Fund-raising for the activities to be launched by AFIDE

AFIDE is a useful platform for former UNIDO staff and their smooth transition to retirement which enables them to make further use of their experience and knowledge in implementing complementary programs for sustainable industrial development. Priority fields for consideration are energy and environment, technology transfer, industrial policies and strategies, poverty alleviation through productive activities and creating a suitable infrastructure for promoting international trade.

AFIDE will be pleased to continue its supportive role in overcoming challenges resulting from current global development trends in such areas as climate change, energy deficiencies, environmental degradation, and low shares of developing countries in international trade, food safety and security which are becoming more critical issues in view of rapid population growth in the developing world.

I trust AFIDE's development objectives are viewed with consideration and understanding.

Thank you for your attention.