

**Opening of the session
Wednesday, 22 June 2011**

**Statement by outgoing President of the Board
His Excellency, Mr. Helmut Böck (Austria)**

Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Colleagues and Delegates,

In declaring open this session of the Board and before calling upon my successor as President of the Board, His Excellency, Ambassador Cho of the Republic of Korea, to take up his place on the podium, I should like to take a few moments to make a few brief remarks.

At the outset, I should like to state that it has been an honour and a privilege for me to have served as President of the UNIDO Industrial Development Board. It was a genuine pleasure to work with so many of you over the last year to ensure the smooth functioning of the sessions and to try and deliver the best possible outcomes for UNIDO.

During this period, the Board had an extremely full agenda of items under consideration at the sessions held last year and I note that this session is just as busy, taking place as it is in conjunction with the second Vienna Energy Forum as well as the Ministerial Meeting on Energy and Green Industry and the Circulo de Montevideo.

I know that there are many delegations with Ministers who are attending the Vienna Energy Forum and the Ministerial Meeting, which is a good indication of the high priority with which many countries view the issues being discussed. In that connection, and on behalf of Austria, which is co-hosting these events, I am genuinely pleased at the positive and enthusiastic response from Member

States and I also welcome the opportunity that we will have later this morning to hear from a number of the keynote speakers from these events.

I should like to add that as all these events are taking place at the same time and in conjunction with this Board session, it is certainly a privilege for our Board to have this opportunity to play a role in participating in this debate on a global strategy to promote access to energy and prioritize global actions on energy efficiency. This is particularly relevant given UNIDO plays such a key role within the United Nations system in highlighting how energy access contributes to the overall development context.

In relation to the agenda for this session, I note that there are a number of important items under consideration, including, in particular our ongoing consideration of the proposals for the programme and budgets, 2012-2013. As many of you will be aware, since we last formally met during the session of the Programme and Budget Committee last month, the Secretariat has proposed revised proposals and a range of innovative options that I hope will facilitate reaching a decision at this Board session. On that basis, my final message as outgoing Board President is to express the hope that we will be able to reach consensus and to adopt a decision on this issue at this session.

In closing my opening remarks as outgoing President, I would also like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all my colleagues on the outgoing Bureau and also the Secretariat for their support throughout the sessions.

I wish the incoming Board President and the other Bureau members every success as they help to guide the deliberations at this session. Thank you.

[ENDS]