



United Nations Industrial Development Organization

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Agenda Item 3

Annual Report of the Director-General for 2010

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Statement by Switzerland

Mr. Chairperson,

On behalf of Switzerland, let me congratulate you on your election. We would like to extend our best wishes to you and the newly elected board and assure you of our support for the upcoming discussions. Switzerland also thanks Director-General Yumkella and the Secretariat for their continued and unwavering efforts for UNIDO as highlighted in the Annual Report.

Mr. Chairperson,

My delegation has had the honor of conducting the budgetary discussions during the 27th Session of UNIDO's Programme and Budget Committee this May. As we all know, the discussions were particularly difficult this year. Not only does the prevailing state of the global economy impose certain constraints, UNIDO also has to deal with a decline in the number of member states and the resulting decrease in contributions. Mindful of these difficulties, the Programme and Budget Committee has decided to reduce the proposed budget for the biennium 2012-2013. Switzerland believes that Member States have reached a compromise that adequately balances national budgetary constraints and necessary financial requirements of the organization. We hope that Member States will be able to accept this compromise in order to allow UNIDO to move ahead.

While there is a tentative agreement on the budget level, we have yet to discuss how UNIDO will implement the cuts. The Secretariat has already made respective suggestions, but my delegation believes that we, the Member States, have to assume responsibility as well and give guidance to the Secretariat. UNIDO might be able to absorb the cuts partially through savings generated by its Programme for Change and Organizational Renewal (PCOR) or through general efficiency gains. However, a reduction of this size, as we know, will also necessitate significant substantive adjustments. Agreement on such substantive adjustments will only be possible if we have a clear idea about how we want UNIDO to develop in the future. Therefore, the question of where we see potential for savings is linked to the more important question of what strategy we want to pursue in the coming years. Ultimately, when considering where to cut and where to invest, we, the Member States, have to think about our vision for UNIDO and about where UNIDO can make a real difference

Switzerland believes that one of the main pillars of UNIDO's future development should be its Green Industry initiative. Efforts in this particular area are conducive to the achievement of a sustainable development because sustainable industrial development contributes to economic development and poverty eradication. Therefore, the case for green industry has to be made in all preparations leading up to the Rio+20 Conference to ensure an industry-inclusive outcome.

Green Industry programmes are also important to address the global challenges of climate change and the greening of our economies. Negotiations on a global climate regime are ongoing. Delivering climate and resource relevant innovations and expertise in particular to small and medium sized enterprises in developing countries are a highly effective way to limit global warming. Therefore, we strongly encourage UNIDO to increase its efforts to position the network of National Cleaner Production Centres as a key platform for climate relevant technology transfer and collaboration. In this regard, Switzerland welcomes the joint UNIDO-UNEP Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production Program (RECP). We also encourage UNIDO to contribute to limiting global warming through its role as strategic implementing partner of additional climate funds such as under the Global Environment Facility or the Green Climate Fund.

Mr. Chairperson,

UNIDO may currently face difficult times and tough trade-offs, but at the same time UNIDO's specialized know-how is more than ever relevant and the demand for its services is steadily increasing. My delegation continues to believe in the important role UNIDO has to play, in particular in relation to issues such as sustainable development and climate change. Switzerland stands ready to support UNIDO in its efforts in this regard.

Mr. Chairperson, I thank you.