

Item 3, 4, 7

STATEMENT BY HER EXCELLENCY AMBASSADOR GRACE  
TSITSI MUTANDIRO, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE AT THE 39<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE  
UNIDO INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD (IDB): VIENNA,  
AUSTRIA: 22-24 JUNE 2011

Mr. President,

Honourable Prime Minister of Cook Islands,

Honourable Ministers,

The Director General of UNIDO, Dr Kandeh Yumkela,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Mr President,

On behalf of the delegation of the Republic of Zimbabwe, I wish to express our pleasure, Ambassador Cho Hyun, at seeing you preside over the 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the Industrial Development Board (IDB). I am confident that under your able leadership our deliberations will be fruitful. I also wish to congratulate members of the Bureau on their election. I assure you of my delegation's full support. My delegation also wishes to express its appreciation to the Director General for his introductory statement, and to the Secretariat for the excellent arrangements for this meeting.

My delegation associates itself with the statements made by the Group of 77 as well as the African Group.

### **Agenda Item 3:**

Mr President,

More than ever before, the ongoing global financial crisis and the attendant challenges particularly for developing countries, have served to underscore the relevance of UNIDO to their pursuit of sustainable economic growth and development. The majority of developing countries are still grappling with the challenges of extreme poverty, hunger and underdevelopment amongst other developmental problems. As we move closer to 2015, the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) remains illusive. In fact, the High Level Plenary Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on the MDGs which was held last year in New York recognised that “the number of people living in extreme poverty and hunger surpasses one billion and that inequalities between and within countries remain a significant challenge”. Thus UNIDO’s mandate under the three thematic areas of poverty reduction through productive activities, trade capacity-building and environment and energy is critical towards the realisation of diversified and sustainable economic growth in developing countries through value addition and increased competitiveness. My Government commends UNIDO for giving priority to resource mobilisation for the technical cooperation programmes, we have noted that in 2010 US\$ 183.6 million was raised and this translates to an increase of almost 15% from 2009.

Mr President,

Recognising that the availability and accessibility by the majority of people living in developing countries to affordable medicines remains a challenge particularly given the prevalence of the high incidences of tuberculosis, malaria and the HIV/AIDS pandemic, Zimbabwe thus welcomes UNIDO's activities in the pharmaceutical sector. There is a compelling need for UNIDO, in collaboration with other UN agencies and international institutions, to strengthen capacity-building for the production of generic drugs and the expansion of the local pharmaceutical sectors. We are grateful to UNIDO for the work done in profiling Zimbabwe's and other African countries pharmaceutical sectors. Whilst acknowledging the importance and relevance of the information to the pharmaceutical industry and Government, Zimbabwe urges UNIDO to expend more focus towards the strengthening of North-South and South-South cooperation in the pharmaceutical sector.

Mr President,

Whilst Zimbabwe reaffirms the view that trade capacity building is critical in ensuring that goods from developing countries achieve the requisite international standards to compete on the global market, we nevertheless wish to emphasise that these standards should not be used arbitrarily as Technical Barriers to Trade by our developed trading partners. UNIDO therefore needs more technical and financial support from cooperating partners and

financial institutions in order to assist developing countries increase their share of global trade. Such increase is predicated upon increased competitiveness, value addition of raw materials and the export of finished products that meet the highest international standards.

**Agenda Item 4 (f):**

Mr President,

It is commonly acknowledged that improved productivity coupled with enhanced value addition to Africa's abundant agricultural and mineral resources are the engine of growth for its economic development. Concerning agriculture, Zimbabwe commends the various activities UNIDO is undertaking in collaboration with FAO, IFAD and other development partners to implement the Action Plan for the Accelerated Development of Africa (AIDA) and Africa's Agribusiness and Agro-Industry Development Initiative (3ADI). We are confident that these initiatives will significantly assist developing countries to enhance agricultural productivity and value chains to promote inclusive growth.

Mr President,

With regards to the manufacturing sector, Zimbabwe has completed its medium-term plan which puts manufacturing at the epicentre of Zimbabwe's economic growth and development. In this regard, the country is now currently reviewing its Industrial Development Policy to fulfil the triple objectives of the medium-

term plan of enhanced value addition, sustainable growth and industrial competitiveness. Zimbabwe is thus looking forward to benefiting from UNIDO's industrial advisory input in this endeavour.

**Agenda Item 7:**

Mr President,

Zimbabwe commends UNIDO's partnership with the Global Environment Fund (GEF) aimed at harnessing sustainable energy in developing countries using nationally available resources. Zimbabwe further commends UNIDO's endeavours to promote industrial development through the creation of green industries that utilise energy efficient technology, sustainable and clean energy. Zimbabwe looks forward to benefiting from programmes in renewable energy under the GEF facility on Renewable Energy for Productive Use.

I thank you.