



**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR MIROSLAVA BEHAM,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SERBIA
TO THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN VIENNA,
AT THE LAUNCH OF THE STUDY “NETWORKS FOR PROSPERITY”
ORGANIZED BY UNIDO**

14 November 2011

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me first express my appreciation for the kind invitation to speak at today's event.

The launch of the report “Networks for Prosperity: Achieving Development Goals Through Knowledge Sharing” marks an important step in the implementation of the project “Establishing a Global Knowledge System for Private Sector Development”. As is known, the report is also the result of study missions to the 12 countries covered by the project.

Allow me to emphasize that – in the framework of the mission to Serbia – the discussions and meetings of the UNIDO representatives with their Serbian interlocutors have been, on both sides, assessed as successful. The representatives of the Serbian institutions – among them the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Economy and Regional Development, the Serbian Chamber of Commerce, the National Tourism Organization of Serbia and others – had the opportunity to present their capacities, progress made and the future perspectives in their respective fields of activity. The meetings were also a good opportunity to outline specific problems Serbia is facing today, identify the areas where there is need for improvement and define possible ways forward.

For the Government of the Republic of Serbia, having set an ambitious reform agenda, with membership in the European Union as its key strategic priority, any assistance providing a more efficient and effective social, economic and political development is of great value. In a globalized, interconnected and interdependent world, which becomes more and more complex, knowledge management, knowledge sharing and building networks is an indispensable prerequisite for successful development. In this sense we hope that synergies resulting from this project will efficiently contribute to Serbia's progress in terms of her EU accession agenda, where good governance, sustainable development and social inclusion play a prominent role. Private-public partnership and private sector development, as a vehicle for achieving equitable and sustainable growth in all its aspects, are placed high on the list of political and economic priorities in Serbia.

Let me assure you in this context that the Republic of Serbia will also, in joint efforts with the UN agencies and strategic international development partners, continue to be committed to implementing the Millennium Development Goals.

In concluding, allow me to express our deepest gratitude to all partners involved in this project, in particular to the Spanish Government for its generous funding.

Thank you for your attention.