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Item 15 of the provisional agenda

Review of the progress of the deliberations of the informal working group

Informal working group on the future, including programmes and resources, of UNIDO

Initial progress report of the Co-Chairs (H.E. Ms. A. T. Dengo Benavides, Costa Rica, and Mr. A. Groff, Switzerland)

1. At its thirty-ninth session the Board adopted decision IDB.39/Dec.7, in paragraph (h) of which it decided to establish, as soon as practical, an informal working group of interested Member States to provide guidance on the future, including programmes and resources, of UNIDO on the understanding that the General Conference at its fourteenth session would review the progress of that working group.
2. In compliance with decision IDB.39/Dec.7 (h), and as agreed by the Enlarged Bureau of the Board on 5 September, a meeting took place on 13 October 2011, with the President of the Board, H.E. Mr. Cho Hyun, presiding. At a further meeting, on 11 November 2011, H.E. Ms. A. T. Dengo Benavides (Costa Rica) and Mr. A. Groff (Switzerland) were confirmed as the Co-Chairs of the informal working group. The Co-Chairs delineated the road map for the working group and underlined that they wanted that process to be as practical, transparent and inclusive as possible. All regional groups and Member States were invited to provide inputs to the terms of reference (TORs) of the working group.
3. On 18 November 2011, an information note was circulated with the proposal of the Co-Chairs with respect to the TORs for the informal working group which

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was based on the submissions received by Member States, regional and other groups.

4. At its meeting on 22 November 2011, the working group discussed the TORs presented by the Co-Chairs. Member States largely expressed their support for a well-balanced proposal and provided valuable comments and suggestions. The Co-Chairs were entrusted with integrating these into the final TORs which are issued as an annex to the present report.

Action required of the Conference

5. The Conference may wish to take note of the information provided in the present document.

Annex

Informal working group on the future, including programmes and resources, of UNIDO¹

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Having received a wide range of inputs, the Co-Chairs make the following proposal with respect to terms of reference (TORs) for the informal working group (IWG).
2. A variety of suggestions were put forward, which differed in terms of breadth and focus. The following commonalities were extrapolated:
 - (a) The IWG should work towards a clearly-defined substantive outcome to be reached by the fifteenth session of the General Conference in 2013;
 - (b) In working towards this outcome, the IWG should review the role of UNIDO in promoting industrial development; consider the value that UNIDO could provide in the future; and consider the implications arising in the context of available and foreseeable resources;
 - (c) A range of more specific topics and inputs should remain open for consideration within this framework.
3. The Co-Chairs therefore propose as TORs for the informal working group:

A. The IWG shall work towards the following substantive outcome:

4. The legislative basis of the informal working group (IWG) is contained in IDB.39/Dec.7 (h), which states that the IWG is to “provide guidance on the future, including programmes and resources, of UNIDO”.
5. The proposed substantive outcome of the IWG is thus the provision of such guidance in the form of a strategic document on the future, including programmes and resources, of UNIDO, to be submitted to the General Conference. The strategic document shall provide clear guidance on programmatic and resource issues over a longer time span. It shall be deemed to have superseded comparable guidelines and vision statements adopted by Member States on previous occasions, including:
 - Business Plan for the Future Role and Functions of UNIDO (GC.7/5, annex I, and IDB.17/Dec.2, 1997)
 - Strategic guidelines “Towards improved UNIDO programme delivery” (IDB.26/Dec.7 and IDB.26/15, 2002)
 - Strategic long-term vision statement (GC.11/Res.4, 2005)
6. The document shall serve as a primary instrument guiding UNIDO’s medium- and shorter-term strategic and operational frameworks.

¹ Convened on the basis of decision IDB.39/Dec.7.

B. In order to reach the substantive outcome, the IWG shall conduct its work as follows:

7. In consecutive sequence, the IWG shall (a) review the role of UNIDO in promoting industrial development; (b) consider the value that UNIDO could provide in future in the context of the changing external environment, including amongst others the following events and processes: Rio+20; the UNFCCC process; the Sustainable Energy for All campaign and related processes; the QCPR process; follow-up to LDC IV; and the post-MDG framework; (c) consider the implications arising in the context of available and foreseeable resources.

8. Meetings of the IWG shall be held up to twice a month, and an interim report of its activities shall be submitted to UNIDO's policymaking organs biannually until the fifteenth session of the General Conference in 2013.

C. The IWG shall be open to a range of inputs on specific issues:

9. The inputs submitted to the Co-Chairs of the IWG for consideration in the formulation of the TORs raise a variety of specific issues which shall remain open for discussion as they arise within the consecutive sequence outlined above. It shall be open to all Member States, including through regional and other groups, to raise additional issues which could warrant the attention of the IWG within the framework of its activities. The IWG shall also draw on the expertise of the Secretariat and other relevant information sources, where appropriate through briefings on issues pertinent to its deliberations.

10. The IWG will therefore have recourse to the following, non-exhaustive, list of information materials:

Legislative documents

- Constitution of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, 1979
- Medium-term programme framework, 2010-2013, as amended in document IDB.39/8
- Programme and budgets 2012-2013: revised proposals of the Director-General, document IDB.39/13/Rev.1
- Decision IDB.39/Dec.7 on the programme and budgets, 2012-2013

Submissions by Member States, Regional Groups and other Groups

- Comments submitted by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States to the Informal Working Group on the Future, including Programmes and Resources, of UNIDO
- Comments submitted by the Group of 77 and China to the Informal Working Group on the Future, including Programmes and Resources, of UNIDO
- Priorities of the European Union and its Member States — Informal Working Group on the Future of UNIDO

- Comments submitted by the Government of Japan to the Informal Working Group on the Future, including Programmes and Resources, of UNIDO

Other relevant materials

- A future UNIDO: a study of UNIDO's comparative advantages, areas of concentration, organization, and resources. Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA), 1992
 - Assessment of UNIDO: capacity development for sustainable industrial development under changed conditions. DANIDA, 1997
 - Development cooperation with middle-income countries: Report of the Secretary-General (A/66/220)
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