



United Nations Industrial Development Organization

Distr.: General
25 November 2011

Original: English

General Conference

Fourteenth session

Vienna, 28 November-2 December 2011

Agenda item 10 (b) of the provisional agenda

Financial situation of UNIDO

UNIDO institutional support for the United Nations Secretary-General's initiative on sustainable energy for all

Addendum

Note by the Secretariat

The present note provides additional information on the possible use of unutilized balances in the context of a programmatic area referred to in document GC.14/18, paragraph 14 (b).

I. Introduction

1. Under agenda item 10 (b) of the provisional agenda, the Secretariat presented a report by the Director-General on the unutilized balances of appropriations (document GC.14/18). That document proposed the use of these unutilized balances (UBs) as seed money and/or co-funding for the development and implementation of programmes and projects of UNIDO that are of critical interest to Member States, but that are subject to funding difficulties.

2. In paragraph 14 (b) of document GC.14/18, one such programme is identified under item (ii): securing access to energy for productive uses, with particular emphasis on access to energy by women. The present note links this programme to the broader initiative on Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) launched in September 2011 by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.



II. Background and context

3. Energy is the foundation of economic and social development. From job creation to economic competitiveness, from strengthening security to empowering women, energy is the great integrator. It cuts across all sectors and lies at the heart of all countries' core interests. Now more than ever, the world needs to ensure that the benefits of modern energy are available to all and that energy is provided as cleanly and efficiently as possible. This is a matter of equity, first and foremost, but it is also an issue of urgent practical importance. The SE4All initiative has been launched in a time of great economic uncertainty, great inequity, high urbanization, and high youth unemployment. It is also a time where there is emerging consensus on the need to act cohesively towards global issues such as sustainable development.

4. Three linked objectives underpin the goal of achieving Sustainable Energy for All by 2030:

- (a) Ensuring universal access to modern energy services;
- (b) Doubling the rate of improvement in energy efficiency;
- (c) Doubling the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix.

5. These three objectives are mutually reinforcing. The Secretary-General has formed a High-Level Group to design an action agenda and provide ongoing momentum to the goal of providing Sustainable Energy for All. This will require catalyzing action from a broad array of stakeholders to help meet its stated objectives by 2030. The Secretary-General, in an input to the Rio+20 process described the initiative as follows:

“At Rio+20 we will ask all stakeholders to make a global commitment to achieving Sustainable Energy for All by the year 2030. Reaching this goal will require action by all countries and all sectors to shape the policy and investment decisions needed for a brighter energy future. Industrialized countries must accelerate the transition to low-emission technologies. Developing countries, many of them growing rapidly and at large scale, have the opportunity to leapfrog conventional energy options and move directly to cleaner energy alternatives that will enhance economic and social development.”

6. The action agenda, will be a “living document” that establishes clear actions and commitments over time that will dramatically shift current energy systems pathways on to new trajectories that will aim to:

- Establish firm political commitment;
- Create stable policy and regulatory frameworks;
- Finance the transformation;
- Strengthen local capacity and forge global partnerships;
- Ensure accountability and transparent reporting;

- Strengthen the analytical foundation; and
- Disseminate information.

III. The contribution of UNIDO

7. Within the United Nations system, UNIDO is making a significant contribution towards the development and implementation of this action agenda, in the framework of UN-Energy (www.un-energy.org). This agenda foresees close cooperation and coordination of the international community in the seven specific areas of financing, monitoring and reporting, national planning support, information sharing, capacity-building, demonstration projects and public-private partnerships.

8. UNIDO has already begun to establish research, projects, and cooperative relationships in each of these areas — including the design of approaches to measure energy poverty, supporting training in energy planning, establishing cutting-edge web platforms, promoting regional centres of excellence, and designing public-private partnerships.

9. The delivery of the action agenda, and its associated road maps and platforms is just the beginning, however. It secures the high-level aspirations, but more is required to guarantee delivery. UNIDO is placed at the very centre of the energy issue in the United Nations system. Empowering that role will be critical to building upon the current political momentum on the subject and achieving the ambitious goals of SE4All through long-term action on the ground — especially in the world's poorest regions. Along with key partners from the public and private sectors in all regions of the world, UNIDO can use its unique expertise and leadership position to help guide the global agenda towards energy for all.

10. In order to be able to provide this support effectively, UNIDO would need to establish within its organizational framework a strong secretariat that can draw on the Organization's technical resources and expertise. Similar secretariats have been established to oversee the ongoing work of such global initiatives as Every Woman Every Child, and Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD).

11. Such a secretariat would require an annual operating budget of around \$10 million over a five-year period. The UBs could serve as an important foundation for this budget and ensure a clear role for the Organization. Work programmes would be delivered in the framework of the seven areas outlined above by a dedicated group of professionals.

IV. Action required of the Conference

12. The Conference may wish to take the information contained in the present addendum into consideration in the context of its deliberations of document GC.14/18.