



THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

UNIDO Report Launch
“Network for Prosperity”

Check against delivery

S T A T E M E N T

by

H.E. Mr. Feodor Starčević,
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Serbia
to the United Nations

New York, 7 December 2011

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, let me congratulate UNIDO for the successful organization of this important event and the Government of Spain that generously supported, through the MDG Achievement Fund, the project on “Establishing a Global Knowledge System for Private Sector Development”.

In the course of my country’s cooperation with UNIDO, meetings of various relevant Serbian institutions, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Economy and Regional Development, Chamber of Commerce, National Tourism Organization and others, have been held with UNIDO representatives. They helped us highlight specific problems we are facing today and identify the areas where improvements are necessary and provided an opportunity for my country, one of the twelve countries covered by the project, to present its capacities, progress it has made and its future perspectives. All of this is of high importance for Serbia considering its goal to join the European Union and to advance reforms in economic and social sectors. Given the European connectedness, in terms of the use of networks at all levels, we can only benefit from knowledge management and knowledge networking for achieving development goals.

As noted in the Report, knowledge sharing is growing in governmental bodies involved in economic development, but it still lags behind within the corporate sector. However, policy-makers increasingly recognize the potential of secondments, study tours and social networking mechanisms to engage with the private sector and the general public. Serbia supports the recommendations mentioned in the Report, which represents a first attempt to improve the understanding of these and other interrelations. The experiences of the countries presented in this Report will contribute toward that end.

Finally, the number of stakeholders with a voice in the international debate increased significantly and this multiplication and diversification have had positive effects on our deliberations. Serbia believes that the promotion of knowledge networking and network governance can support national, regional and global development objectives.

In conclusion, allow me to reiterate my country's support for the work of UNIDO and to pledge its full cooperation in the future.

Thank you.