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Industrial Development Board

Forty-first session

Vienna, 24-27 June 2013

Item 13 of the provisional agenda

Preparations for the fifteenth session of the General Conference

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Report by the Director General

The present report provides general information on the organization of the work of the fifteenth session of the General Conference, including items proposed for inclusion in the provisional agenda.

I. Introduction

1. The General Conference of UNIDO is the principal organ of the Organization, consisting of representatives of all Members (Articles 7.1 and 8.1 of the Constitution). The main functions of the Conference are stipulated in Article 8.3 of the Constitution. In particular, the Conference should determine the guiding principles and the policies of the Organization. Unless it decides otherwise, the Conference is to hold a regular session every two years, at the seat of the Organization (Article 8.2). The last regular session (fourteenth) of the Conference was held in Vienna from 28 November to 2 December 2011.

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II. Background information

A. Date and place of the Conference

2. Subsequent to decision GC.14/Dec.21, the Board decided to hold the fifteenth session of the General Conference in Lima from 2 to 6 December 2013 (decision IDB.40/Dec.13). It is planned that the meetings of the General Conference will take place at the Westin Lima Hotel and Convention Center.

B. Budgetary matters and financial arrangements by the Government of Peru

3. The Organization's resources available for holding the fifteenth session of the Conference, as provided for in the programme and budgets of UNIDO, 2013-2014, total €1,109,500. The budget of the Conference is based on the following assumptions:

(a) The session will last five working days providing for 10 plenary meetings as well as meetings of the main committee and geographical groups;

(b) Interpretation for plenary and main committee meetings and documentation will be provided in six languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish);

(c) Unless decided otherwise by the Board, summary records will be provided for plenary and main committee meetings in all six languages as soon as possible after the session.

4. In accordance with rule 8 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference, the actual additional costs directly or indirectly involved in holding a session away from Headquarters shall be borne by the host Government. In keeping with decision IDB.40/Dec.13, the Secretariat is about to finalize its negotiations with the Government of Peru on a Host Country Agreement, which specifies the cash requirements from the Government of Peru to cover additional expenses related to staff travel, preparatory missions, shipment of security and registration equipment, replacement of conference service staff and security officers, supplementary support staff and a provision of contingencies. The entire financial contribution from the Government of Peru to cover these expenses in the amount of €1,630,068 was received by UNIDO on 4 April 2013. During a second preparatory mission to Lima from 8 to 10 April 2013, the Secretariat also discussed the in-kind contributions to be borne by the Government of Peru which include, inter alia, conference premises and facilities at the Westin Lima Hotel and Convention Center, local support staff, local transportation and police protection. A detailed paper specifying these requirements will be annexed to the Host Country Agreement which is expected to be signed in mid-2013 at the latest.

C. Agenda

5. In accordance with Article 9.4 (g) of the Constitution, the Board prepares the provisional agenda for each session of the General Conference. Rule 13 of the rules

of procedure of the Conference provides guidelines for the contents of the provisional agenda of a regular session of the Conference. Furthermore, in accordance with rule 12, the Board shall prepare that provisional agenda on the basis of a list of items proposed for inclusion as submitted by the Director General.

6. Annotations indicating briefly the history of each item, the proposed documentation, the substance of the matter to be discussed and earlier relevant decisions by the Conference or other organs of the Organization will be issued following the forty-first session of the Board.

7. A list of items proposed for inclusion in the provisional agenda for the fifteenth session of the Conference is contained in annex I to the present document, together with an indication of relevant mandates for the items.

D. Documentation

8. In accordance with rule 23 of the rules of procedure of the Conference, documents required for consideration of items on the provisional agenda will be distributed by the Director General in all languages of the Conference to all recipients of the provisional agenda not later than forty-five days before the opening date of the session.

III. Organization of the work of the Conference

9. In keeping with practice of previous sessions of the General Conference, an overarching theme has been developed for the fifteenth session “UNIDO: Towards partnerships for a new industrial revolution for inclusive and sustainable growth”.

10. As encouraged by the Conference in resolution GC.9/Res.1, it is planned to hold a forum on industrial development issues. At the fifteenth session the forum will take place during plenary meetings to provide an opportunity for high-level participants to communicate their views on selected topics, thereby allowing for a thematic and interregional debate (annex II, proposed schedule of work). In line with resolution GC.9/Res.1, it is suggested that the forum be included in the provisional agenda of the session (annex I, item 9).

11. With a view to enhancing the debate on critical issues, it is proposed to introduce a speaking limit during the general debate of five minutes for Member States and ten minutes for regional groups.

12. At its previous sessions, the Conference established a main committee to which it allocated a number of agenda items. The Board may wish to recommend to the Conference a similar procedure for its fifteenth session, keeping in mind that the possibility of creating additional committees is constrained by the limited resources available (see para. 3 above). Items 7 to 18 of the proposed draft agenda would thus be referred to the main committee for a more focused debate aimed at the preparation of consensus draft decisions and resolutions for submission to the plenary.

13. The work of the previous sessions was also facilitated by setting up, under the guidance of the President of the Board, informal consultations for the preparation of

the Conference. Such an informal group, composed of representatives of permanent missions to UNIDO in Vienna, has met prior to previous sessions of the Conference and has prepared a report to the Conference containing recommendations that cover most of the items on the agenda as well as organizational matters.

14. Since the fifteenth session of the Conference will take place away from Headquarters, the need for informal consultations under the guidance of the President of the Board will be even more critical. For previous sessions of the General Conference away from Headquarters (Bangkok, Thailand (1987), and Yaoundé, Cameroon (1993)), such consultations composed of representatives of Permanent Missions met during several months before holding those sessions. Taking into consideration past experience and the particular situation, the Board may wish to suggest the early commencement of informal consultations chaired by the President of the Board.

15. To facilitate the work of the informal consultations in advance of the travel of delegates to Lima, it is strongly recommended to adopt the successful approach of other organizations in establishing a deadline for the submission of draft decisions and resolutions of three weeks prior to the Conference.

16. The Government of Peru has expressed the wish that Member States may consider adopting a second Lima Declaration and Plan of Action. In 1975, the Second General Conference of UNIDO took place in Lima and adopted the Lima Declaration and Plan of Action on Industrial Development and Cooperation.

IV. Action required of the Board

17. The Board may wish to consider adopting the following draft decision:

“The Industrial Development Board:

- “(a) Takes note of the information provided in document IDB.41/23;
- (b) Adopts the following agenda for the fifteenth session of the General Conference:

[...]

- (c) Agrees to hold a forum on industrial development issues within the framework of the General Conference (provisional agenda, item 9);
- (d) Recommends to the Conference that items 7 to 18 of the provisional agenda be allocated to a main committee of the Conference;
- (e) Recommends that, in the light of experience gained in the preparation of previous sessions of the Conference, the President of the forty-first session of the Industrial Development Board conduct informal consultations for the preparation of the fifteenth session of the Conference;
- (f) Urges Member States to submit to the informal consultations any proposed draft decisions or resolutions by 11 November 2013.”

Annex I

Items proposed for inclusion in the provisional agenda¹

General Conference, fifteenth session 2-6 December 2013

	Mandate
1. Opening of the session.	Rule 34
2. Election of officers.	Rule 35
3. Adoption of the agenda.	Rule 17
4. Organization of work.	Rules 44-47
5. Credentials of representatives to the Conference.	Rule 28
6. Elections to organs:	Rule 102
(a) Industrial Development Board;	Constitution, Article 9.1
(b) Programme and Budget Committee.	Constitution, Article 10.1
7. Annual reports of the Director General on the activities of the Organization for 2011 and 2012.	Rule 13.1 (b)
8. Reports of the Industrial Development Board on the work of its fortieth and forty-first regular sessions.	Constitution, Article 8.3 (b) Rule 13.1 (c)
9. Forum on industrial development issues.	GC.9/Res.1
10. Financial matters:	
(a) Scale of assessments of Member States;	Constitution, Article 15 Rule 13.1 (k)
(b) Financial situation of UNIDO;	Rule 13.1 (l), IDB.27/Dec.2 (e), IDB.40/Dec.5
(c) Working Capital Fund;	Financial regulation 5.4
(d) Financial regulations;	Financial regulation 12.2, document IDB.41/14 also refers
(e) Appointment of an External Auditor.	Financial regulation 11.1
11. Programme and budgets, 2014-2015.	Constitution, Articles 8.3 (c) and 14; Rule 13.1 (i)
12. Medium-term programme framework.	GC.2/Dec.23, GC.6/Dec.10, GC.13/Res.3, GC.14/Dec.18, document IDB.41/8 also refers

¹ To be updated to take account of mandates adopted by the Board at its forty-first session.

	Mandate
13. Lima Declaration and Plan of Action 2013.	Proposed by Peru (rule 13.1 (g))
14. UNIDO activities related to energy and the environment.	Proposed by the Director General (rule 13.1 (b))
15. UNIDO activities related to the Vienna Ministerial Declaration and Plan of Action of the Least Developed Countries.	GC.14/Res.6
16. Personnel matters, including UNIDO Staff Pension Committee.	Staff regulation 13.2, document IDB.41/19 refers GC.1/Dec.37
17. Matters related to intergovernmental, non-governmental, governmental and other organizations.	GC.1/Dec.41, annex
18. Date and place of the sixteenth session.	Rule 13.1 (s)
19. Closure of the session.	

General Conference, fifteenth session

2-6 December 2013, Lima/Peru

Overarching theme: “UNIDO: Towards partnerships for a new industrial revolution for inclusive and sustainable growth”

PROPOSED TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF WORK

<i>Monday, 2 December 2013</i>	<i>Tuesday, 3 December 2013</i>	<i>Wednesday, 4 December 2013</i>	<i>Thursday, 5 December 2013</i>	<i>Friday, 6 December 2013</i>
1st plenary meeting 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	9 a.m. General Committee	9.15-10.15 a.m. Credentials Committee (<i>tentative</i>)		
Opening — General debate Statements by Heads of State and Government	3rd plenary meeting 10 a.m.-1 p.m. General debate	5th plenary meeting 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Forum	7th plenary meeting 10 a.m.-1 p.m. General debate	9th plenary meeting or Main Committee — 7th meeting 10 a.m.-1 p.m. (if required)
		<i>Interregional debate</i> From policy to action: How to make industrialization inclusive and sustainable Strengthening associative models for industrial development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Credentials of representatives to the Conference (item 5) • Appointment of an External Auditor (item 10 (e)) 	
2nd plenary meeting 3-4 p.m.	4th plenary meeting 3-4 p.m. General debate	6th plenary meeting 3-6 p.m. Forum	8th plenary meeting 3-6 p.m. General debate	10th plenary meeting 3-6 p.m. Consideration and adoption of decisions and resolutions
General debate 4-7 p.m. Forum Panel 1: Partnerships for industrial development Panel 2: Industrial development as a Sustainable Development Goal	Main Committee — 1st meeting 10.30 a.m.-1.30 p.m. 4th plenary meeting 3-4 p.m. General debate	Main Committee — 3rd meeting 10.15 a.m.-1.15 p.m. 6th plenary meeting 3-6 p.m. Forum	Main Committee — 5th meeting 12 noon (<i>tentative</i>) 8th plenary meeting 3-6 p.m. General debate	
		<i>Interregional debate</i> Economic diversification and industrialization in countries rich in natural resources. Empowering women: Fostering entrepreneurship Job strategies for inclusive and sustainable development		
	Main Committee — 2nd meeting 3.30-6.30 p.m.	Main Committee — 4th meeting 3.30-6.30 p.m.	Main Committee — 6th meeting 4.30-7.30 p.m. (<i>tentative</i>)	