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**Statement of the Asia and Pacific Group
at the 41st Session of the UNIDO Industrial Development Board
Vienna, 24-27 June 2013**

**Delivered by H.E. Ambassador Cheng Jingye,
Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China**

Mr. President, (H.E. Ambassador Antonio GARCÍA REVILLA, PR of Peru)

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Asia and Pacific Group in the UNIDO. The Asia and Pacific Group congratulates you on your election as the President of the 41st Session of the Industrial Development Board. The Group would also like to congratulate other members of the Bureau on their election.
2. The Group is confident that under your able guidance and with your excellent skills and experience, this session will reach fruitful conclusions and assures you of its fullest cooperation to this effect.
3. The Group would also like to thank H.E. Ambassador Balázs CSUDAY of Hungary, for his excellent work in presiding over the 40th session and for his significant contributions to the selection process of the new Director-General of UNIDO.
4. The Group commends the Director General, Dr. Kandeh Yumkella for his invaluable contribution to the steady growth of the UNIDO's portfolio in the last 8 years.
5. The Group would also like to thank the Secretariat for the preparation of the documents for this meeting.
6. The Group would like to make statements on Agenda items 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 12 and 13 in the course of discussions on each item.

Thank you Mr. President.

**Agenda Item 3
Annual Report of the Director General for 2012**

Mr. President,

1. The Asia and Pacific Group takes note of the document IDB.41/2-PBC.29/2 regarding the 2012 Annual Report of the Director General of UNIDO and appreciates the work done by the secretariat for its finalization. The Group acknowledges UNIDO's efforts in the promotion of sustainable industrial development, and looks forward to further effective implementation of activities and programs that fosters industrial development and eradicates poverty in the region.
2. The Group values the key role played by UNIDO at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) and welcomes the outcome document of the Rio+20, in this regard; the Group encourages UNIDO to take an active role in setting

sustainable development goals (SDGs) that will provide a new framework for global development.

3. The Group notes with interest that the level of shares of submitted projects by region has increased in the Asia and Pacific region to 20%, compared to 17% in 2011. In this regard, the group encourages UNIDO to further foster the submission of projects in the Asia and Pacific region and particularly the Arab sub-region.
4. The Group takes note that the level of fund mobilization and sources of funding in comparison with previous years remain stable. However, the Group is concerned about the non-equitable allocation of the resources and calls for the optimal and balanced utilization of funds among the three thematic areas.

Thank you Mr. President.

Agenda Item 4
Report of the Programme and Budget Committee

Mr. President,

1. The Asian and Pacific Group welcomes the report of the Programme and Budget Committee, and acknowledges with appreciation the positive efforts made by the Committee under the leadership of the Chairman H.E. Ambassador Soltanieh, Permanent Representative of Iran, in increasing the transparency and accountability of UNIDO. The Group is in support of the adoption of the series of decisions recommended by the Committee in its report.
2. The Group takes note of the financial situation of UNIDO, and appreciates the contributions of the secretariat in coping with the unexpected situation of the withdrawal of certain member states. In addition, the Group encourages the secretariat to further rationalize the expenditure and promote efficient allocation of the available financial resources.

Thank you Mr. President

Agenda Item 5
Programme and Budgets, 2014-2015

Mr. President,

1. The Asian and Pacific Group recommends to the Board the approval of the Programme and Budgets 2014-2015, Revised Proposals by the Director General, and of Conclusion 2013/3 of the 29th Session of the Programme and Budget Committee. In particular, the Group recommends the approval of estimates of regular budget gross expenditures of €147.2 million to be financed from assessed contributions in the amount of €143.7 million and other income of €3.5 million.
2. The Group appreciates the efforts of the Secretariat in presenting a reduced regular budget for 2014-2015, including in applying the principle of minimizing the negative

programmatic impact and preserving the Organization's capacity to deliver technical cooperation. The Group welcomes the sustained pursuit of efficiency gains and cost-savings in the operations of the UNIDO and in the implementation of its activities.

Thank you Mr. President

Agenda Item 6
Medium-term programme framework

Mr. President,

1. The Asia and Pacific Group reiterates its understanding of the reasons behind the Director General's proposal to extend work with the current MTPF 2010-2013 until the expiry of the forthcoming biennium 2014-2015.
2. However, taking into consideration the substantial efforts of the informal working group on the future, including programmes and resources, of UNIDO which produced a valuable final document, the Group would like to invite the Director General and the Secretariat while elaborating a new MTPF, to consider and implement the guidelines and recommendations provided by the informal working group as well as whenever appropriate, the recommendations stemming from the ongoing QCPR deliberations.
3. Meantime and until the expiry of the biennium 2015, bearing in mind that the MTPF is a revolving four-year document updated every two years in order to represent the programmatic and managerial response of the Organisation to the emerging challenges, the Group would like as well to request the Director General and the Secretariat to undertake a midterm biennial review of the extended MTPF taking into consideration the guidelines and recommendations provided by the informal working group on the future of UNIDO as well as the conclusions of the QCPR process.

Thank you Mr. President.

Agenda Item 7
Informal working group on the future, including programmes and resources, of UNIDO

Mr. President,

1. The Asia and Pacific Group wants to reiterate its appreciation for the efforts of the Co-Chairs of the informal working group on the future, including programmes and resources, of UNIDO, H.E. Ms. A. T. Dengo Benavides, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Costa Rica and Mr. Albert Groff, Counsellor of the Permanent Mission of Switzerland.
2. The Group takes notes with appreciation of the document IDB.41/24, and in this regard the Group values the effort and the productive discussion of the informal working group, and emphasizes the importance of the formal adoption of the

strategic guidance document by the policy making organs of UNIDO in compliance with the terms of reference of the group.

3. The Group recognizes the significance of the strategic guidance document, and wishes to stress that this document should serve as the basis for any steps to be taken by the newly elected Director General of UNIDO.

Thank you Mr. President.

Agenda Item 10
Personnel matters

Mr. President,

1. The Asia and Pacific Group welcomes and encourages the recent merit promotion exercise. Meanwhile the Group stresses the need to safeguard the principles of geographical distribution, fairness of treatment, and equal opportunities in such exercise. The Group requests that careful monitoring, supervision and follow-up by the Human Resource Department is carried out, in order to ensure that all officers benefit from equal assessment opportunities. The Group believes that a fair promotion process contributes positively to the technical cooperation delivery and the overall performance of the Organization.

Thank you Mr. President.

Agenda Item 12
Recommendation of a candidate for the post of the Director General

Mr. President

1. The Asia and Pacific Group would like to congratulate Mr/ Ms..... for being recommended by the 41st Session of the Industrial Development Board (IDB) of UNIDO to the General Conference for appointment as the next Director General of UNIDO.
2. The Group would also like to take this opportunity to commend the outgoing Director General Mr. Kandeh Yumkela for his vision and strong leadership through which UNIDO was able to face the current financial crisis caused by withdrawal of some member states.
3. The Group attaches great importance to the work of UNIDO in fostering industrial development in its member states and hopes that the new Director General will ably guide the organization in fulfilling its core mandate. The Group wishes to see UNIDO as a truly specialized agency within the UN system.
4. The Group is confident that under the able leadership of Mr./Ms.... , UNIDO will be able to accomplish all the tasks set out before it and deliver technical cooperation effectively, efficiently and substantially in all three thematic priority areas. The Group wishes to see a focused UNIDO – focused on niche areas where it has

developed strength and expertise especially, in the last decade. The Group assures you of its fullest cooperation in your endeavor in this regard.

Thank you Mr. President.

Agenda Item 13
Preparations for the fifteenth session of the General Conference

Mr. President,

1. The Asia and Pacific Group highly appreciates the great generosity offered by the Government of Peru to host the 15th session of the General Conference in December 2013, and will make joint efforts with other groups to ensure the full success of the event.
2. The Group considers that the process of industrialization and reindustrialization, *inter alia*, are continuing to play a pivotal role in driving the sustainable growth and poverty eradication, and it is recognized that UNIDO is the sole agency aiming to promote sustainable industrial developments under the umbrella of the United Nations systems. In light of that, the mandate of UNIDO still remains valid, and is becoming more relevant with the Post-2015 Development Agenda, despite the recent withdrawal of certain member states and the limitation of financial resources.
3. The Group is of the view that, facing all the opportunities as well as the challenges, it is just the high time for the member states to revisit their commitments to the Organization and renew it in an all-fresh Lima Declaration and Action Plan.
4. The Group recognizes that the preparation work for the new Lima Declaration and Action Plan shall be intensified in the coming months, and the Group has the strong belief that the important document shall serve as the landmark of the Organization, under the leadership of the newly elected Director General, in entering into a new phase of development.

Thank you Mr. President.