

Congratulatory Message by H.E. Ambassador Mahmoud Elamin, Chairman of the Group of 77 on the election of Mr. Li Yong as Director General of UNIDO

Agenda item 12:

Mr. President,

The Group of 77 and China highly welcomes the election of Mr. Li Yong from China, as the newly elected Director General.

It is of utmost importance for the Group having as Director General a national from our Group, in particular at this crucial juncture.

The Group is confident that under his able leadership, his experience and knowledge, the Organization will continue to be reinforced and will have a key role to play, especially in the post 2015 development agenda.

Mr. President,

The Group takes this opportunity to warmly congratulate Mr. Li Yong on his election and looks forward to engaging with him upon his assumption of duties, we assure him of our support.

I would also like to commend the other candidates who have conducted a highly professional campaign. We believe that the very pertinent and valuable contributions that they have made during the last few weeks, will help very much in enabling UNIDO to face the challenges ahead and contribute positively to the efforts of the new Director General in future days.

Thank you Mr. President.

G-77

ALL ITEMS + OPENING

Approved by the G-77 Plenary on 21 June 2013/Rev.1
Check against delivery

**Draft Statement of the G-77 and China at the 41st session of UNIDO Industrial Development Board, 24 – 27 June 2013, delivered by
H.E. Ambassador Mr. Mahmoud Elamin, PR of the Sudan**

Mr President, Ambassador Mr. Antonio García – Revilla, PR of Peru

1. On behalf of the Group of 77 and China allow me to congratulate you on your election as the Chair of the 41st session of UNIDO Industrial Development Board as well as other members of the bureau on their election. The Group is confident that under your leadership, this Session of the IDB would be guided in a smooth manner and reach fruitful conclusion.
2. I would also avail myself of this opportunity to thank your predecessor H.E. Ambassador Balázs CSUDAY, Permanent Representative of Hungary, for his commendable conduction of the previous IDB meeting.
3. Allow me to express the Group's sincere appreciation for the arrangements of the meeting as well as the provision of the necessary documentation by the Secretariat.
4. Being this the last meeting Dr. Kandeh Yumkella attends as Director-General of UNIDO, the Group commends him for the overwhelming enthusiasm he has shown in leading the Organization during the past 7 years. The increase in technical cooperation delivery and the strengthening of UNIDO's expertise and role in industrial development are part of his legacy.
5. We have found his remarks useful and inspiring. His reflections on UNIDO's future leave us with hope to move towards a comprehensive industrial development agenda that effectively contributes to a global sustainable development and in which UNIDO, can engage its knowledge and expertise.
6. The Group thanks Dr. Yumkella for his work and wishes him the best for his future endeavors.

The Group will comment on Agenda items 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 13.

Item 3: Annual Report 2012

Mr President,

1. The Group of 77 and China would like to reiterate some of the comments made on this agenda item, on occasion of the 29th Programme and Budget Committee. In this sense, we express our appreciation for the report, which offers detailed information on the activities undertaken by UNIDO during last year.
2. The Group notices with interest the numerous activities the Organization carried out to disseminate knowledge and set development projects across all regions in the fields of poverty reduction, trade capacity building and energy and environment. We welcome as well, the important role of UNIDO to convey and engage more stakeholders in the promotion of industrial development; the Group appreciates in particular, the steps taken to increase south – south cooperation and to promote public – private alliances.
3. Nevertheless, the Group of 77 and China reiterates its concern on the disparity in the resources available for each of the three thematic priorities of the Organization and its distribution among regions.
4. Finally, Mr. President, the Group wishes to recognize the efforts undertaken by the Government of Costa Rica and UNIDO in the organization of the High-level Conference on Middle-Income Countries "Challenges for Sustainable Development and International Cooperation in Middle Income Countries: The Role of Networks for Prosperity", held in San José, Costa Rica from 12 to 14 June 2013, which adopted the "San Jose Declaration. The Group looks forward to the follow-up of the High-Level Conference.

Item 5: Programme and Budgets, 2014 – 2015

Mr President,

1. The Group of 77 and China reiterates its appreciation for the efforts made by the Director General and the Secretariat to present a budget proposal that while adjusted to a reduced membership, contemplated a minimal impact on technical cooperation activities for the next biennium.
2. The Group welcomes the proposal for the period 2014 – 2015, in the total amount of €147,251,013 approved by consensus during the 29th Programme and Budget Committee. The Group acknowledges the efforts made in this regard by H.E. Ambassador Ali A. Soltanieh, Permanent Representative of Iran, in his capacity as Chair of the PBC and his Bureau.

3. At the same time, the Group stresses the need of improving the efficiency in the use of the financial resources available and calls the Secretariat to intensify its efforts to find new ways to reduce expenses and increase fund mobilization for technical activities in all three thematic priorities.

Item 6: Medium-term Programme Framework

Mr President,

1. The Group of 77 and China reiterates its endorsement to the proposal for the extension of the current Medium Term Programme Framework until 2015, bearing in mind the labor of the Informal Working Group on the Future of UNIDO, including programmes and resources, and the discussions on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review (QCPR) that are taking place in the United Nations.
2. Recognizing that the Informal Working Group on the Future has produced already a very important outcome in the form of a Strategic Guidance Document, the Group of 77 and China request the Director General and the Secretariat, to consider and implement as far as possible, some of the guidelines and recommendations provided by the Informal Working Group while a new Medium Term Programme Framework is elaborated and the QCPR process produces its conclusions and recommendations.
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 Organization 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.

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

Mr President,

1. The Group of 77 and China expresses its appreciation for the work of the Co – chairs of the Informal Working group on the future of UNIDO, including programmes and resources, H.E. Mrs. Ana Teresa DENGO, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Costa Rica and Counsellor Alberto GROFF, of the Permanent Mission of Switzerland.

2. The Group of 77 and China actively participated in this Informal Working Group, guided by the strong belief of UNIDO's relevance for development and its contribution for a sustainable future. The Group thanks the Co- chairs for their commitment in fulfilling the task entrusted to the IWG.
3. The "Strategic Guidance Document", outcome document of the informal working group, contains clear, balanced, and pragmatic guidelines and recommendations for a better elaboration of programmatic and budgetary frameworks in UNIDO. It properly reflects the common understanding of Member States on the strengths and challenges of the Organization within the current global development agenda, as well as the performance Member States want to see in UNIDO's cooperation delivery.
4. Due to the above and in line with the Terms of Reference agreed on this matter, the Group of 77 and China considers that this "Strategic Guidance Document", shall be endorsed by the General Conference as basis for the formulation and implementation of the medium-term programme frameworks, the programmes and budgets and other operational programmes of UNIDO.
5. Without prejudice to the foregoing and due to the extension of the current Program Framework until 2015, the Group reiterates its recommendation in the sense that the working guidelines contained in the "Strategic Guidance Document", should be considered in the midterm review of the current MTPF.

Item 8: Environment and Energy

Mr President,

1. The Group of 77 and China takes note of the documents IDB.41/18 and IDB.41/17 related to UNIDO's activities in the fields of environment and energy, respectively.
2. Regarding the activities on environment, the Group highlights the efforts of the Organization to contribute to international initiatives on resource efficient and cleaner production, through the provision of knowledge and technical support for projects in the manufacturing sector, to strength national capacities through the National Cleaner Production Centers and the National Implementation Plans for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, and projects on management of water and waste, among others.
3. The Group is confident that the expertise the Organization has acquired on this field can continue receiving adequate attention and support from relevant donors

and partners. The Group encourages UNIDO, based on its mandate, to keep a clear and targeted focus in all its initiatives related to environment.

4. With regard to energy, the group recognizes the enthusiasm which has guided the actions of the Organization to ensure global recognition of energy as a key driver of development and in this regard, to expand its portfolio of projects in this field.
5. Taking into account the active role of UNIDO to convey relevant stakeholders in this issue, the Group urges the Organization to provide continue support for training programmes and to identify and implement more technical projects addressed to promote industrial energy efficiency, renewable energy for industrial uses and clean technologies.
6. Finally, the Group wants to recognize the leading role of UNIDO in organizing the third version of the Vienna Energy Forum, which is progressively considered as a relevant scenario for discussions on the future of energy. The Group request the Secretariat to inform Member States on a regular basis, on the progress made in following up the key recommendations emerged from the Forum and specifically, on how the Organization will contribute or implement, some of those conclusions.

Item 9: Joint Inspection Unit

Mr President,

1. The Group of 77 and China takes note of the document IDB.41/16 related to the Activities of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) and acknowledges that UNIDO maintain its commitment to accept and implement relevant recommendations formulated on the JIU reports.
2. The Group encourages the Organization to take further steps on the recommendations related to personnel, such as management of sick leaves, staff recruitment benchmarks and consultancies. At the same time, the Group urges UNIDO to move forward in the process of align the planning cycles while fostering coherence and synergies with the United Nations system, what from the point of view of the G77, will contribute to improve the efficiency and visibility of UNIDO's activities.

Item 10: Personnel Matters

Mr President,

1. The Group of 77 and China welcomes the progress report contained in document IDB.41/19, related to the initiatives of UNIDO to develop a new staff performance management system and the introduction of the human capital management module in the enterprise resource planning system (ERP).
2. While reiterating that the staff is the most valuable strength of the Organization, the Group encourages the Director General to assess on a regular basis, the achievements, gains and challenges of the full implementation of the new system to measure staff performance in terms of achievement of both individual and corporate goals.
3. With regard to the recent decisions taken by the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) and recommendations adopted by the United Nations General Assembly that are of relevance to UNIDO, the Group of 77 and China recalls the Programme and Budget Committee Conclusion 2013/3, that among others, request the Director General to keep Member States informed on the actions to be taken to urge the ICSC to take into consideration the financial situation of UNIDO and its Member States, during the comprehensive review of the compensation package for staff in the Professional and higher categories.
4. The Group of 77 and China would like to comment on the issue of gender and geographical representation in the composition of the staff of UNIDO in Vienna and the offices in the field.
5. Taking into consideration the importance the Group attaches to gender balance in the recruitment process, the Group notices with concern the figures contained in Appendix J of the Annual Report 2012, according to which 44% of the total staff are women, just 31% of the total staff in levels P and D are women and 71% of the total women force at UNIDO are in G positions. The Group encourages the Secretariat to ensure a better access to more women to all position levels.
6. With regard to the geographical distribution of the personnel, the Group of 77 and China reiterates that recruitments and appointments to be made by the Director-General, must ensure the highest standard of efficiency, competence and integrity with due regard to the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in accordance with Article 11 of the Constitution of the UNIDO.
7. While the Group stresses the need to safeguard the principles of geographical distribution, it welcomes and encourages the recent merit promotion exercise.

The Group reiterates and requests that equal opportunities for fair and timely assessments are afforded to all officers in their legitimate pursuit of career advancement. The Group believes that a fair promotion process contributes positively to motivating the staff of UNIDO and will thus ensure that the Organization remains a center of excellence, guaranteeing in that manner optimal outputs to the benefit of Member States.

Item 13: 15th session of the General Conference

Mr President,

1. The Group of 77 and China reiterates its high appreciation to the generous offer made by the Government of Peru to host the next fifteenth session of the General Conference of UNIDO in Lima from 2-6 December 2013. The fact that the General Conference is being held in a country of our Group, after 20 years, shows more than ever, the relevance of the organization for the Group of 77 and China.
2. The Group acknowledges with appreciation your efforts, as President of this Board, in order to start in the following months the negotiations of the Lima Declaration and its Plan of Action. The Group is confident that this important document will constitute a milestone for the organization, as the Lima Declaration did in 1975. In that regard, the Group considers that holding the fifteenth session of the General Conference in Lima in 2013 represents an opportunity to strengthen the strategic views on the future of UNIDO.
3. The Group would like to invite the Secretariat to keep Member States informed, including through briefings, on to preparations of the General Conference.

Thank you, Mr. President.