

Mr. Chairman,

We wish to join the other delegations in thanking the Secretariat for the excellent preparation of this session and to thank Director-General Yumkella for today's impressive presentation of the 2012 Annual Report reflecting UNIDO's achievements in promoting sustainable industrial development towards job creation, sustainable livelihoods, food security, equitable growth and poverty eradication.

At the outset, allow me to emphasize Israel's steadfast commitment to continue working together with UNIDO in fulfilling its mandate.

We wish to note the extensive collaboration that has developed between Israel and UNIDO since the signing of an MOU on technical development cooperation in 2012. During this time, we have worked together in areas of common interest to both UNIDO and MASHAV - Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation- to implement the goals set out in the MOU for the benefit of developing countries and countries in economic transition, in accordance with global, regional and national development priorities.

One measure of our success can be seen in the heightened visibility of UNIDO among relevant Israeli leaders and the

private sector. In their acknowledgement of the important work being done by the Organization, the government of Israel is in the process of adopting UNIDO's Green Industry Platform and the Platform has already been adopted by several manufacturing associations throughout the country.

This success is attributed to the professionalism, flexibility and enthusiasm of UNIDO's staff at headquarters, and the dedication of UNIDO's field offices.

Another area in which Israel is partnering with UNIDO is on the economic empowerment of women and youth to combat unemployment by implementing programs focusing on the food value chain, technical training on agricultural entrepreneurship and developing livelihoods in rural regions in partnership with East African states.

The recent joint UNIDO-MASHAV workshop held in Haifa on "Agribusiness as a Means for Women's Empowerment in Africa" witnessed the coming together of professionals from UNIDO, Israel, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and South Sudan during which participants were made aware of UNIDO's guidelines and long-term strategic vision.

In light of the UN Resolution on "Entrepreneurship and Development" , initiated by Israel and adopted in 2012, we are now contributing to UNIDO's "IDEA" program in West Africa on fostering micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises, while stressing the positive role entrepreneurship plays among women and youth in promoting job creation.

Mr. Chair,

Understanding the potential of renewable energy, as well as the importance of energy efficiency in industry, we have successfully collaborated with UNIDO's Energy Efficiency Branch by hosting a seminar in Israel on "Clean Technologies". We were also pleased to have a representative of Israel's Ministry of Energy serve as a panelist in the recent Vienna Energy Forum on the subject of Smart Cities. Israel is poised to widening its scope of collaboration with UNIDO in areas including renewable energy, green industry, and water management. Future projects are also being discussed.

Israel looks forward to hosting UNIDO at the International "WATEC" Exhibition to be held in Tel Aviv in October wherein UNIDO is invited to share its expertise and vision.

At the 20th Conference of African Ministers of Industry held recently in Nairobi, Mr. Yumkella emphasized the

important role industry must play in the post-2015 agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. Israel supports this position and is poised to strengthen its partnership with UNIDO towards achieving this end.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, we extend our sincere congratulations to Mr. Yumkella on his appointment to the post of the UN Secretary General's Special Representative for Sustainable Energy for All and CEO of the initiative and wish him much success in his new capacity.

Israel acknowledges with much esteem Mr. Yumkella's dynamic and effective leadership during the past eight years, thereby raising UNIDO's profile as a global partner for prosperity and improving its visibility within the United Nations system.

We also wish to thank UNIDO's Informal Working Group on the Future, Including Programs and Resources for their hard work and dedication, and congratulate them on the compilation of the "Strategic Guidance Document" which will define and guide our work in the coming years.

Thank you.