

**UNIDO – Industrial Development Board
41st Session - 24-27 June 2013
Statement by H.E. Ambassador Formica
Permanent Representative of Italy**

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, let me join previous speakers in congratulating you and the other Members of the Bureau on your election.

Let me also express my gratitude to the Director General of UNIDO, Mr. Kandeh Yumkella, and his staff for all the efforts and the achievements made in the last years, and for their hard work in preparing this meeting. Since this is the last session of the Bureau that Mr. Yumkella attends in his capacity as Director General of UNIDO, I wish to express once again my most sincere appreciation for his engagement at the service of the Organization.

At this stage, bearing in mind that the principle of equal footing among Member States should be duly safeguarded, I would like to briefly recall that also Italy submitted a candidacy to the post of Director General of UNIDO and share with you few remarks concerning the programme underpinning our candidature.

For more than forty years Italy has always been supportive of UNIDO, being constantly among the first bilateral donors.

We have been backing the Organization through the challenges and the difficulties of this period of transition, as we always did in the past, encouraging the efforts to develop and implement key reforms that could guarantee its future and its relevance.

In this very spirit, the Government of Italy would like to reiterate and confirm once again its political commitment to UNIDO.

Mr. Chairman,

Nowadays emerging economic policies are increasingly focused on relaunching the economic growth and creating new jobs, through a global return of industrialization and re-industrialization in the 21st century.

As one of the original founding member of the Organization and as a reliable traditional donor, my country is fully aware of the new opportunities arising for UNIDO, as the only UN Agency with the mandate to promote a sustainable industrial development.

Our wish for the next years is to see UNIDO playing a leading role in the definition and coordination of a global industrial agenda, in line with the post-2015 development framework, being an active, well acknowledged protagonist in the fight against poverty, unemployment and environmental degradation, for the sake of socio-economic prosperity and gender equity.

In this regard, we are strongly convinced that UNIDO has a great potential, given its unique, qualified experience achieved in the fields of poverty-eradication through industrial development, trade capacity building, energy and environmental sustainability of manufacturing processes, agro-industry and technical assistance for promoting standards and quality control in industrial production.

Furthermore, Italy attaches great importance to the capacity of the Organization to address the problem of fostering North-South and South-South transfer of technology.

However, it will not be an easy task to turn potential into reality.

To turn potential into success.

In order to do that UNIDO should continue to follow a path of inclusiveness and effectiveness, evolving into a more dynamic, innovating organization, focused on high

development impact and cost efficiency of its operations, developing global solutions to achieve a shared, sustainable growth, as well as strengthening partnerships and cooperation with public and private key partners.

Dedicated efforts should also be deployed to restore trust and encourage non-member States to join or rejoin the Organization.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, we still believe that the Agency has a key role in building a more prosperous, greener and sustainable world.

Nonetheless, we also have to admit that UNIDO is currently at a crossroad.

Now, more than ever, if we, as Member States, do want to keep such a role for the Organization in the future, we should demonstrate a clear unity of purpose.

UNIDO should continue to be relevant, important and significant for all its membership. To work properly, UNIDO will need the support of all its membership. Whether or not the Organization will be able to be truly relevant as a global driver for a sustainable industrial development and a widespread, inclusive growth in the years to come, it will depend on the capacity of building strong synergies and carrying out complementary efforts by all the regional groups within the Organization, by all its Member States.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.