

Ministers, Ambassadors, colleagues, friends,

Today is a very special day for all of us. The future of UNIDO - our organisation - has been decided. The organisation that helped so many people to get out of poverty, the organisation that through industrial development put so many countries on the path of growth.

Today you were asked to choose a particular way forward for this organization and decide on its further development. Your vote was a choice between different visions of UNIDO and I'm extremely proud that one of these visions was mine. ~~From the beginning, I strongly believed it is the future we need and the future we want.~~

Over this campaign I learned a lot. About the organisation, about your concerns and about your expectations. I met a lot of professionals, made some friends. I also travelled to places where I saw problems UNIDO needs to deal with in the field. My visit to Adis Abeba, to the African Union Summit, was especially enlightening.

Before these elections, I have already seen that UNIDO was at the crossroads. Many factors brought this organisation into a very difficult position and in order to take it into a safe harbor, a lot of efforts need to be done. In my campaign, ~~I stressed many times that UNIDO needs to stay a universal organization.~~ I am confident that its mandate is relevant for all its members, but we need to increase the feeling of ownership among its member states. ~~Otherwise this organisation will simply disintegrate.~~

Ladies and gentlemen,

I personally care about the future of UNIDO and my country does the same. Therefore, analyzing what is best for the Organization, namely a consensus among all Member States and the commitment to the new administration of UNIDO, I am glad that the new head of UNIDO was elected in the first round.

We don't need another division today and we shall stand behind the new Director General who has managed to gather the greatest support of UNIDO's Member States.

I would like to use this opportunity to thank all countries, which voted for me and all the well-wishers. I'm very glad and proud you accepted my vision of UNIDO and you took it as yours.

I would also like to thank all people I met during my campaign. It was an honour to pick your brains for ideas for my programme. At the same time, I would like to express my thanks to my fellow candidates. Last but not least, big thank you and appreciation to my team which, with limited resources, helped me to reach so far. It was a great privilege working with you.

Let me finish by congratulating the new leader of UNIDO. Sir, I hope you will take UNIDO forward and firmly place the Organization among best UN agencies, where it belongs to. I think it is very appropriate that you take the helm of UNIDO in the year of the snake – a symbol of intelligence. I see it as a good omen for the Organisation.

Sir, I would like to conclude by saying that I am at your disposal for advice and I am ready to share my experience to the benefit of UNIDO. Good luck.

Thank you once again to all of you.