

Statement

by
UNIDO Director General LI Yong
after meeting the President of Peru

UN Headquarters
New York, 23 September 2013

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I have just finished a very important meeting with the President of Peru. We also signed the agreement confirming Peru's agreement to host the fifteenth session of the General Conference of UNIDO in Lima, Peru, from 2 to 6 December 2013.

On behalf of UNIDO, I want to express my gratitude to the President and people of Peru for this excellent gesture of hosting the General Conference of UNIDO. I would also like to express our gratitude to the government of Peru for passing a decree declaring the UNIDO General Conference to be a matter of national interest to Peru.

This is a great opportunity for me to also thank in particular H.E. Ms. Gladys Triveño, the Minister of Production, H.E. Ms. Eda Rivas, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and H.E. Ms. Magali Silva, now the Minister of Foreign Trade and Tourism, as well as H.E. Mr. Antonio García, Permanent Representative of Peru to UNIDO in Vienna, who have been very supportive throughout the preparation of this event.

I am confident that the generous offer of Peru for hosting the fifteenth session outside of Vienna for the first time in 20 years will prove to be the catalyst for periodically taking the General Conference of UNIDO outside of Vienna, thereby bringing UNIDO closer to our member regions.

Ladies and gentlemen,

About 1000 delegates are expected at the General Conference, ranging from Government officials from 172 countries, UN organizations, business community, academia and civil society. For the first time, this Conference will incorporate eight industrial development forum events into the overall discussion.

Prior to the General Conference, we are organizing two ministerial events and we expect to bring together around 50-60 ministers of industry from Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and from countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The conference is taking place at a critical time, as the international community is discussing the developmental framework for the future. The enduring challenges of poverty eradication and job creation confirm the relevance of UNIDO's mandate more than ever. As a specialized agency, UNIDO plays a very crucial role in accelerating economic growth which is instrumental for reducing poverty and achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

At the initiative and under the leadership of the Government of Peru, Members States of UNIDO are consulting on a new Lima Declaration that will shape the future strategic direction of the Organization. It is expected that the resulting Lima Declaration will firmly place the concept of inclusive and sustainable industrial development at the centre of the ongoing international debate on the post-2015 development agenda.

The resulting agreements and commitments from Member States during the next General Conference will certainly feed into the overall roadmap for the implementation of UNIDO's mandate to support its Member States. The General Conference and the adoption of the Lima Declaration will be a milestone for UNIDO's future mandate in promoting inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

To conclude, I would like to, once again, express our deepest gratitude to the President of Peru for his tremendous support and interest in the work of UNIDO.

I am looking forward to seeing you in Lima.