

item 3.8,

**STATEMENT BY HER EXCELLENCY, AMBASSADOR GRACE  
TSITSI MUTANDIRO, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE AT THE FORTY-FIRST SESSION OF  
THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD, VIENNA, AUSTRIA:  
24 TO 27 JUNE 2013**

Mr President,

Honourable Ministers/Deputy Ministers,

Executive Secretary,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates

On behalf of the delegation of the Republic of Zimbabwe, it is my pleasure to see you, Ambassador Antonio Garcia-Revilla, chairing this Session of the IDB. I am confident that you will lead the deliberations to their fruitful conclusion and I assure you of my delegation's full support. I further wish to congratulate other members of the bureau on their appointment. Further, my delegation appreciates the Secretariat's excellent arrangement of this meeting.

My delegation acknowledges the estimable work done by your predecessor, H. E. Ambassador Balazs Csuday, Permanent Representative of Hungary for successfully presiding over the work of the 40<sup>th</sup> Session of the IDB.

I also take this opportunity to express appreciation for the work accomplished by the Co-Chairs of the Informal Working Group on the future of UNIDO, including programmes and resources, Ambassador Mrs Ana Teresa Dengo, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica and Mr Alberto Groff of the Permanent Mission of Switzerland. My delegation supports the recommendation that the "Strategic Guidance Document" be endorsed by the General Conference to be held in Lima later this year.

Mr President,

My delegation thanks Mr Kandeh Yumkella for his introductory statement. We commend him on his able stewardship of the Organisation during his tenure. Mr Yumkella's visionary leadership allowed the Organisation to not only transform to fit current global demands but also to expand exponentially in Technical Cooperation delivery, capacity-building and promotion of green industry in developing countries. As a result of these efforts, the relevance of UNIDO has ceased to be a debatable issue, giving way instead to focus being on how to strengthen the Organisation. I wish him success in his next assignment.

Mr President,

My delegation, once again, wishes to congratulate the Director General elect, Mr Li Yong on his election, and this is testimony of the trust and confidence reposed in him by Member States of UNIDO. I would like to assure him of my delegation's full support and cooperation in fulfilling this mandate. I further wish to commend all the candidates for the

prosperous, visible future for effective sustainable industrialisation of developing countries.

Mr President,

My delegation associates itself with the statements delivered by the G77 and China and the African Group.

Mr President,

Concerning the annual report of the Director General, my delegation acknowledges the high priority that Technical Cooperation continued to receive despite the reduced delivery of US\$158 million in 2012, comparable to US\$ 248 in 2011. Zimbabwe believes that, the promotion and strengthening of both public and private industry in order to facilitate job and wealth creation is the most efficacious way in the fight against chronic poverty. My delegation is of the view that priority should be afforded to the promotion of industrial technology transfer and capacity building.

Mr President,

Similarly, we should remain mindful of the compelling need for investment in agro-industries to alleviate poverty in rural communities and strengthen the manufacturing sector. My Government is fully supportive of UNIDO's initiatives in agribusiness and trade promotion and it believes that its activities in capacity building and technical support in the areas of supply chain management and quality and standards will assist developing countries increase their share of global

other development partners to promote value chain development in Africa that is built on competitive food supply systems through the reduction of reliance on food imports, is to be commended.

Zimbabwe is developing its clothing and textile sector underpinned by a cluster driven programme. We look forward to tapping into UNIDO's expertise in value chain analysis, preparation and implementation of integrated industrial cluster programmes, which is part of our Industrial Development Policy 2012 - 2016.

Mr President,

Zimbabwe is of the view that the strengthening of pharmaceutical sectors in developing countries should give special be brought to the forefront. UNIDO should give special focus on the production of basic generic medicines through expansion of the local pharmaceuticals sector to ensure affordable, accessible drugs that comply with global standards. My government supports the UNIDO/AU partnership on the Pharmaceutical manufacturing Plan for Africa that is intended to promote self-sustainability and global market competitiveness of the continent's pharmaceuticals.

As we consider the future of UNIDO, my delegation believes its activities in the area of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) must be strengthened. Initiatives such as building business linkages and the promotion of public-private partnerships contribute to the development of SMEs which are a critical element of the growth agenda that creates sustainable livelihoods and mitigates the challenge of unemployment. Strengthened South-South Cooperation will assist in building industrial bases and capacitate technically qualified entrepreneurs in developing

general principles of Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) and is currently engaged in the process of finalizing the legal framework.

Mr President,

With regards to UNIDO activities in environment and energy, I wish to reiterate my government's belief that access to energy is not only fundamental but is also a catalyst for industrial development and economic growth. We fully support the inclusion of energy in the post-2015 development agenda. My delegation, therefore, commends UNIDO's programmes that seek to reduce energy poverty in developing countries through technical support and skills transfer to ensure access to cheap, sustainable and reliable sources of modern energy. My delegation is of the view that prioritising the creation of green industries that utilize both efficient and sustainable clean energy through application of appropriate technology will significantly promote sustainable industrial development.

In this regard, my Government has come up with a draft concept paper on green initiative program with the assistance of UNIDO and the Republic of Korea. The objective of this program is to acquire and internalize knowledge on Green industry, create and capacitate a government committee to lead Green Industry strategy and policy formulation process, disseminate information and stakeholder framework involving business and labour and develop as well as source funding to enable implementation of a comprehensive Green Industry Program.

I THANK YOU