

AUSTRIA (General Debate)

UNIDO - Fifteenth Session of General Conference

General Debate

Statement by Austria

Mr. Chairman,

[Let me underline that Austria aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union.]

Allow me first of all to thank the government of Peru for hosting the fifteenth session of the General Conference and for the excellent organisation of this meeting. The conference is tackling a number of important issues, the outcome of which will certainly serve as a major impetus for moving UNIDO forward.

Mr. Chairman,

UNIDO is an important member of the United Nations Development Group and of particular importance to Austria as its host country. Through its mandate and work the Organisation is making a major contribution to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals and to the eradication of poverty worldwide. Without a certain degree of industrialisation, the fight against extreme poverty cannot be won. Therefore, UNIDO's role in the international development system remains absolutely relevant.

Nevertheless, UNIDO is presently facing some challenges, which need to be addressed. We therefore fully support the reform process initiated by the former Director General, which is now being pursued by his successor.

In this context, I welcome the outcome document of the informal working group on the future of UNIDO, entitled "Strategic Guidance Document" that contains a number of important measures both for the medium and the long term. The joint effort UNIDO member states undertook for almost a year to elaborate this reform proposal under the able guidance of Costa Rica and Switzerland is a crucial sign of the relevance member states attach to the Organisation as well as for the trust they place in it. We therefore wish to call upon the Director General of UNIDO to build upon the proposals of member states for UNIDO's future.

Austria as host country of UNIDO attaches particular importance to a smooth and efficient functioning of the Organisation. One precondition for such a functioning is a realistic budget that allows UNIDO to fulfil the tasks mandated. We therefore welcome the adoption of the provisional budget for the years 2014-2015 at the 29th Programme and Budget Committee as well as the 41st Industrial Development Board. This budget proposal represents a compromise to which UNIDO contributed through efficiency gains and cost saving measures in its administration. Austria is pleased to have helped to reach this result through its chairmanship of the Programme and Budget Committee.

AVSTRIA GENERAL DEBATE

(General Debate)

2

Mr. Chairman,

Regarding the future activities of UNIDO, Austria would like to underline the relevance of the concept of inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID). We therefore welcome UNIDO's active involvement in the elaboration of the post-2015-development agenda and its efforts to ensure that ISID is properly reflected in the future development framework. The Lima Declaration sends an important and strong political signal in this direction.

In line with the Lima Declaration and being supportive of ISID, Austria has decided to co-chair the Group of Friends for Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development in New York together with Ethiopia. This group of like-minded countries will undertake a joint effort to ascertain that this concept finds a prominent place in the post-2015 development agenda.

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to conclude my remarks by underlining the excellent cooperation between Austria and UNIDO, particularly in the areas of cleaner production and renewable energy, amongst others.

In the field of renewable energy, for example, our joint efforts have already led to the establishment of the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, the establishment of additional centres in other parts of the world has either been decided or is already in the final planning phase. Every other year, Austria, together with UNIDO and the International Institute for Applied System Analysis (IIASA) hosts the Vienna Energy Forum, bringing together an important number of stakeholders and decision makers in the renewable energy sector.

Austria stands ready to continue its close cooperation with the Organisation and to support its endeavours now and in the future.

Thank you.