

STATEMENT BY MADAM MARIA H. BILIA, DEPUTY PERMANENT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND TRADE AND HEAD OF DELEGATION OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA, AT THE FIFTEENTH SESSION OF UNIDO GENERAL CONFERENCE IN LIMA, PERU ON 2ND DECEMBER – 6ND DECEMBER, 2013.

Your Excellency the President of the 15th UNIDO General Conference;

Your Excellencies;

Distinguished Delegates;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Madam President, On behalf of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, my delegation and on my own behalf, I wish to express deep appreciation to the Government of Peru for warm welcome and hospitality accorded to my delegation since our arrival in Lima. Also let me take this opportunity to join my colleagues in congratulating you for being elected to chair this year's Conference. I am sure, with your leadership skills; you will guide this conference through constructive deliberations for the development of our countries. Equally, let me congratulate the **UNIDO Director General, Dr. Li Yong**, for coming on board to spearhead the vision of UNIDO. We believe that his wisdom, strength and endurance qualities will enable him to steer UNIDO through this critical and crucial moments for its sustenance. I wish to assure him of my country's support in carrying out his responsibilities.

Madam President, it is a fact that industrial development is a key factor in bringing about structural change to set the economies of poor countries on the path of sustained economic growth, and lift the majority out of poverty. In recognition of this, Tanzania has been undertaking various measures to enhance industrialisation pace. Such measures include formulation of policies, strategies and programmes aiming at reorganization and reorientation of industrialization processes as a tool of inclusive and sustainable growth. The industrial revolution agenda has been given top priority at the national level. The Tanzania Development Vision, 2025 underscores the importance of industrialization in driving the development agenda. To this end come 2025, the economy is expected to be a semi-industrialized one strengthened by supportive industrial and service activities. The first Five Year Development Plan– 2011 to 2016 emphasizes the building of a foundation for self-propelling industrialization and export-led growth where industrial sector has been identified as a core priority. In addition to this, both domestic and Foreign Direct Investments are being given top priority through Tanzania Investment Policy which also underscores importance of investments in economic zones such as clusters and parks to address infrastructure challenges.

Madam President, 70.3% of Tanzania population depends on agriculture. Therefore Tanzania is implementing policies and strategies targeting value addition to agricultural produce. The country is implementing programmes such as Kilimo Kwanza (Agriculture First), Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT) focusing on developing agriculture and agro processing to add value in the rural area and create wealth. SAGCOT is located in areas which have large

arable land and plenty water for irrigation, ease production of power and access roads and railway line. We are doing this with the support of development partners whom we treasure their support. These efforts will be enhanced to ensure inclusive growth and wealth creation and facilitate transfer of technology. I take this opportunity to invite interested Partners to **invest** in this Corridor which is also very rich in minerals.

Madam President, Another key area where Tanzania is highly focusing and supporting is development of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). These are important as they spur industrial revolution and employment creation addressing the missing link in economic development agents. In Tanzania SMEs account for about 94% of the firms out of those 54% are owned by women. SMEs contribute about 27.9% of the country's GDP. These are clear indication that SMEs have a role in job creation and poverty alleviation. Thus, to attain the sustainability of the industrial revolution it is imperative that SMEs are supported. We hope UNIDO and development partners will continue supporting SMEs in obtaining required technological development for their sustainability.

Madam President, As Tanzania endeavour to implement different sectoral strategies imbedded in the Five Year Development Plan and the Tanzania Development Vision, 2025 in general; issues of women, youth, skills and entrepreneurship development and environmental concerns, are seriously considered. This is so done to ensure inclusive and sustainable economic development.

Madam President, As we are approaching 2015 we are all aware that current Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are coming to an end. We thank development partners for their support in the implementation of MDGs programmes where notable improvement has been attained in the social sector. However, despite the attained results, poverty remains a challenge in Tanzania. In order to redress this situation, and to meet challenges ahead, the post-2015 development agenda **must** consider all the three dimensions of sustainable development, namely economic growth, social inclusiveness and equity, and environmental sustainability.

Madam President, The United Republic of Tanzania highly appreciate UNIDO activities in Tanzania. UNIDO has been focusing on energy and environmental related issues as well as SMEs support including integrating women and youth activities to ensure sustainable industrial and inclusive development. Also UNIDO has been working on capacity building for evidence based policy formulation and industrial competitiveness, technology upgrading seeking to assist industries in improving efficiency while providing linkages between suppliers and large buyers. UNIDO is working closely with relevant stakeholders in ensuring successful implementation of the Africa Agribusiness and Agro processing Development Initiative programme. It is our hope that UNIDO will continue these efforts as we forge ahead towards a sustainable industrial revolution.

Madam President, While we echo the theme of this year's conference: "Towards Partnerships for a new industrial revolution for inclusive and sustainable growth"; we believe our partners especially developed

countries including BRICS will open their markets without stringent conditions for processed products from LDCs. This will halt the 2,000 plus years syndrome of commodity trading in these countries which result in imbalanced and uncompetitive business. This is the only way we can attain **sustainable partnership**. I assure you that Tanzania is committed to integrating issues raised in the Lima Declaration into national strategies to achieve expected goals on human development, poverty reduction and industrial revolution toward inclusive and sustainable development.

I thank you all for your kind attention

Lima, Peru. December, 2013.