

## ITALY

Statement by H.E. Ambassador Guglielmo Ardizzone

Head of the Italian delegation to  
the 15th Session of the General Conference  
Lima, 2-6 December 2013

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*Thank you, Madam President,*

*At the outset, let me join previous speakers in welcoming you as the President of this 15<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Conference. We are confident that under your able guidance we will make good progress during this week.*

*I would like to assure you and the other members of the Bureau of the full support of the Italian Delegation in your endeavours to steer our work towards fruitful conclusions.*

*Madam President, Director General of UNIDO, Excellences, Distinguished Guests,*

*The Italian views on the themes under discussion are fully reflected in the statements of the European Union. Nonetheless, at this stage, I would like to add a few considerations in our national perspective.*

*Almost forty years ago, in 1975, the adoption of the first "Lima Declaration on Industrial Development and Cooperation" represented an historical turning point for UNIDO, recommending to the UN General Assembly that UNIDO be converted into a specialized agency.*

*Four decades later, with the adoption yesterday of a new Lima Declaration "Towards inclusive and sustainable industrial development", another milestone in UNIDO history has probably been reached, paving the way for a new, prominent role of UNIDO in the*

*definition and coordination of a global industrial agenda, and preparing the Agency to act in the upcoming post-2015 development framework.*

*Throughout all this period, Italy has always been very supportive of UNIDO, being constantly among the first bilateral donors, both in terms of assessed and voluntary contribution. Just to give you a very significant figure, our "investment" in the Agency in the last decade amounted to more than 100 millions of Euros.*

*It is now time again for the Member States to take a decision on the Unutilized Balances of Appropriations (UBs) of the last biennium. In this regard, let me commend UNIDO for the efforts undertaken in the last years, in order to settle the problem of repayments by Member States of their arrears. We are aware that reinvesting these extra resources in some of the most efficient UNIDO initiatives may represent an incentive for accelerating the conclusion of further repayment plans of assessed contribution by other Member States. Therefore, despite the current financial constraints, I have the honour to announce that the Government of Italy has decided to release its share of UBs, in order to support future initiatives to be identified on the basis of our common priorities.*

*Madam President,*

*My country would like to reiterate and confirm once again its commitment towards the Agency as a privileged partner for poverty eradication through an inclusive and sustainable industrial development. As one of its founding member and as a traditional donor, Italy is fully aware of the new opportunities arising for UNIDO, as the only United Nations agency with the mandate to promote a sustainable industrial development.*

*Our wish for the coming future is to see UNIDO strengthening its role in the definition and coordination of a global industrial agenda, in line with the post-2015 development framework. In this regard, Italy welcomes the engagement of UNIDO in the post-2015 processes and other relevant dialogues to highlight the importance of inclusive and*

*sustainable development for poverty eradication and calls on the Agency to continue its efforts and to advocate for its reflection in the new international development agenda.*

*We are convinced that UNIDO has a great potential, given its unique, qualified experience achieved in the fields of poverty-eradication through sustainable patterns of industrial development, trade capacity building, energy and environmental sustainability of manufacturing processes, agro-industry and technical assistance for promoting standards and quality control in industrial production.*

*Italy will also continue to attach the utmost importance to the capacity of UNIDO to address the problem of fostering North-South and South-South transfer of technology, also for "greening" the industries in developing countries.*

*UNIDO will need the support of all its membership to achieve its ambitious goals and work properly. Whether or not the Agency will be able to be truly relevant as a global driver for an inclusive and sustainable industrial development and a widespread and sustained growth in the next future, it will depend on the capacity of building strong synergies and carrying out complementary efforts by all its Member States.*

*Madam President,*

*Along these lines, let me stress once again that the bond between UNIDO and Italy is well-grounded. It is based on shared thematic and geographical priorities, and it has brought remarkable results in several fields of technical cooperation, such as: the development of clusters and SMEs (Small and Medium enterprises); the support for interregional projects, aimed at promoting and developing origin and export consortia; the assistance to programs of trade facilitation for further access to international markets; the promotion of sustainable agro-industries; the women empowerment and the creation of youth employment, in particular in the Mediterranean region.*

*Allow me now to share with this distinguished audience some of the most fruitful experiences of the Italian partnership with UNIDO.*

*Apart from projects aimed at industrial development in specific countries, like for example Ethiopia and Iraq. Turning to agri-business, trade and job creation, Italy will continue to support those initiatives aimed at fostering sustainable and pro-poor agribusiness development, such as the promotion of clusters of SMEs and export consortia, and the integration of farms into regional and global supply chains. In this regard, I would like to recall the widely acknowledged success of the project ETRACE – Excellence Centre for Traceability and Agribusiness Trade in Egypt.*

*My country attaches great importance to sustainable models of agribusiness, nutrition, food security and global hunger eradication. In this regard, let me remind you that Expo 2015 in Milan will be mainly dedicated to these issues, which will stay at the centre-stage of the upcoming development agenda.*

*Therefore, we would like to encourage UNIDO to strengthen its technical assistance related to the promotion of agroindustry, and to foster its partnership with FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization), IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development) and other relevant stakeholders, building up synergies and complementarities in this crucial field.*

*As far as job creation is concerned, I would like to emphasize once again that employment represent a top priority for Italy, as for many of us. We believe that economic growth should be mainly directed to the creation of decent jobs. In this respect, I would like to mention the recent launch of a project to facilitate youth entrepreneurship and enterprise development in four vulnerable regions of Tunisia. The Italian Cooperation has been contributing to such a promising project, along with USAID and Hewlett-Packard, as we are confident in the expertise and the implementing capacity of UNIDO in this field.*

*Coming now to energy and environment, Italy takes note with satisfaction of UNIDO activities in this regard, acknowledging its specific role in furthering a cleaner and more sustainable industrial development through the promotion of energy efficiency in manufacturing processes, the dissemination of international standards and the technical assistance in the field of renewable energy for productive uses. We would also like to*

*reiterate our deep appreciation for the efforts carried out by the Agency in improving the contribution of its TC programmes to the attainment of the MDGs (Millennium Development Goals), in particular MDG 7, through its commendable projects and activities in the areas of energy and environment, accounting for more than 40% of the overall technical cooperation provided last year. We are confident that UNIDO will be able to sharpen its profile in the post-2015 development framework, playing its part in the accomplishment of future SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) and assisting its Member States in their transition to a “greener” economy.*

*Madam President, Director General of UNIDO, Excellences, Distinguished Guests,*

*In wishing to the Director General Li every success in his endeavors, allow me to conclude by reaffirming the commitment of Italy towards UNIDO and our confidence in its capacity to give a significant contribution in the global effort to build up a more prosperous and sustainable world.*

*Thank you, Madam President.*