

UNITED NATIONS



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THE SECRETARY GENERAL

--  
**OPENING REMARKS AT THE 15TH SESSION  
OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE  
OF THE UN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (UNIDO)  
Lima, 2 December 2013**

[Salutations]  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to be in Lima for the fifteenth session of the UNIDO General Conference.

I would like to express my great appreciation to the Government of Peru for hosting this important event.

Let me also congratulate Mr. LI Yong for assuming his post as the UNIDO Director General earlier this year.

Almost 40 years ago, delegations of all members of the United Nations gathered here and adopted the Lima Declaration on Industrial Development and Cooperation.

That declaration was a milestone.

It aimed to increase the developing countries' share of world industrial production.

It also paved the way for UNIDO to become a specialized agency.

Both objectives were achieved.

At this General Conference, you will again decide on a milestone document – a second Lima Declaration calling upon UNIDO to support its Member States and they strive to achieve inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

This new framework document will create the foundation for the coming decades of UNIDO's important work as the central agency in the United Nations for all matters related to industrialization.

The world faces three overarching challenges: accelerating action towards the Millennium Development Goals; shaping a bold and inspiring new development agenda; and reaching a new legal agreement on climate change.

The deadline for all these objectives is the year 2015.

The next two years will thus be crucial in steering the human family on a safer, more prosperous and sustainable path.

Industry and the private sector in general will play an important part in this effort. I see three ways in which UNIDO is especially well placed to contribute.

First, UNIDO can help us build on the impressive progress we have made towards the MDGs, and help shape and implement the post-2015 development agenda.

The world will not fully achieve our development goals without a close partnership with the industries that promote growth and jobs.

We will not eradicate poverty without the industries that promote innovation and technology transfer.

Industrial development can also be a powerful enabler of social development by creating opportunities for women and young people.

Second, UNIDO and industry can create momentum for environmental sustainability.

Industry needs to take on greater responsibility for cleaner production and improved resource efficiency.

Industry must protect the planet's resources and emphasize sustainable consumption and production.

Let us work together to realize the three goals of my Sustainable Energy for All initiative -- ensuring universal access to modern energy, doubling the rate of improvement in energy efficiency, and doubling the use of renewables in the global energy mix.

Sustainable energy is the golden thread that connects economic growth, social equity, a healthy environment and a stable climate.

That brings me to the third area where UNIDO can make a difference: meeting the climate challenge.

Climate change is a threat to the development and prosperity of all nations.

We must do everything we can to keep global temperature rise to below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

The decisions adopted at the UN Climate Change Conference eleven days ago are an important stepping stone toward a universal legal agreement in 2015.

But greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise. We need to progress further and faster. Climate finance will be crucial.

I will be convening a Climate Summit next September in New York.

I am inviting Heads of State and Government, along with leaders from finance, business, local governments, the knowledge community and civil society.

The aim is to catalyze both political support at the highest levels and action on the ground.

I count on UNIDO to contribute its insights and technical expertise, supporting the necessary rapid transition of our global industries to adopt more climate-friendly business models.

Excellencies,

This is a pivotal moment in the world's affairs.

We face inequality, volatility and uncertainty. We see rapid urbanization. A growing world population means we need to produce more goods and services while using ever less resources and emitting ever less waste and pollution.

These are formidable challenges. But we also face a wealth of opportunities for common progress. Knowledge and technology continue to advance. We have growing examples of progress and success that can be scaled up with the right policies, incentives and investments.

The world needs inclusive and sustainable industrial development to do its part in seizing the moment and contributing to the common good.

In that hopeful spirit, I wish all of you successful deliberations at this UNIDO General Conference, to shape the future course of UNIDO's hugely important work and mandate.

Thank you very much.