

**STATEMENT OF THE ASIA AND PACIFIC GROUP**  
**FOR THE 15<sup>th</sup> GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE**  
**UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION**

GENERAL STATEMENT  
TUESDAY MORNING

2-6 December 2013 - Lima

Delivered by the  
Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran  
in its capacity as the Chairman of the Asia and Pacific Group

**Madam President,**  
**Distinguished Heads of State and Government,**  
**Honorable Ministers and Deputy Ministers,**  
**Director General Li Yong,**  
**Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

1. On behalf of the Asia and Pacific Group, I wish to congratulate you, Your Excellency Ms. Gladys Triveno, Minister of Production of Peru, on your election as President of the 15<sup>th</sup> General Conference of UNIDO. The Group also appreciates the preparation made by the government of Peru and Secretariat for this General Conference and welcomes the comprehensive and objective opening remarks delivered by Director General Li Yong. We are confident that under his able leadership, UNIDO will improve its role among the international community as a leading international development organization.
2. On behalf of the Group, I would like to thank the Director General and the Secretariat for preparing the annual reports 2011 and 2012.
3. We deeply believe that, UNIDO as a specialized agency working towards sustainable industrial development must remain responsive to the needs and requirements of all Member States. We request UNIDO to continue its endeavors to create capacities within developing countries to enable them to emerge as effective manufacturing and trading partners in the global market. Furthermore we welcome UNIDO's initiatives undertaken with multinational partners in this field.
4. The Group takes note of the document GC.15/4 on Forum on Industrial Development issues. We hope that the deliberations at the high-level forum comprising of the panel discussions and the interregional debates will provide a critical catalyst for reinvigorating UNIDO's mandate and placing the industrial development in an inclusive and sustainable manner at the centre of the post 2015-development agenda. In particular, the Group expects that the intense discussions and recommendations from the forum be reflected in UNIDO's regional programmes and projects in due course.

5. The Group takes note of Document GC.15/11 which offers a comprehensive overview of the financial situation of UNIDO in the current biennium. We appreciate the increase in the collection rates of assessed contributions for the years 2012 and 2013. We urge the Member States, including former Member States that have yet to pay their outstanding contributions or settle their financial liability, to fulfill their financial commitment to UNIDO without delay. We encourage the Director General and the Secretariat to redouble efforts to effect the payment of these outstanding assessed contributions.
6. We note with concern the reported decline in technical cooperation activities in the first three quarters of 2013. The Group trusts that the Secretariat should appropriately address the matter through, inter alia, continuing to devise innovative ways for further rationalizing expenditure to ensure the efficient, effective and sustainable allocation of available financial resources, which we believe will positively contribute to increase the technical cooperation delivery.
7. The Group takes this opportunity to thank the Auditor General of Pakistan for his valuable contribution to the improvement of the efficiency, transparency, and overall performance of UNIDO.
8. The Group takes note of document IDB.41/5 and its addendum, and supports the approval of the proposed Programme and Budget for 2014-2015, which will insure the capacity of the Organization to provide tailored services to Member states, particularly in the area of technical cooperation, for the next biennium. The Group also appreciates the efforts of the Secretariat in preparing a revised proposal as a prompt response to the unforeseen situation of the withdrawal of certain member state.
9. The Group believes that, as the only specialized UN agency working towards promoting inclusive and sustainable industrial development, UNIDO will significantly engage in the new international development agenda for the next decades. In this context, the Group encourages the Organization to further strengthen and build on its existing partnerships and mobilize more financial resources, with a view to ensuring its sustained growth and prosperity.
10. The Group welcomes the "Strategic Guidance Document" of the Informal Working Group on the future, including programmes and resources of UNIDO. This document will provide programmatic and budgetary guidance to the organization, as well as ensuring Organization's relevance in the emerging post-2015 framework. The document will also serve as the most significant source of strategic input for the Director General. The Countries of the Asian Group therefore hope that the document will be approved at this session of the General Conference and be put to work as the basis for the formulation and implementation of the Medium-Term Programme Framework (MTPF), programme and budgets, and other operational programmes of UNIDO.

11. The Group takes note of the documents GC.15/5 and GC.15/6 regarding UNIDO activities related to energy and environment. The group commends the work of UNIDO in promoting competitiveness of industries through enhanced industrial energy efficiency measures, increased use of renewable energy for productive uses and industrial applications and scaling up clean and innovative energy technologies. The achievements of the trust fund on renewable energy (TFRE) in promoting use of renewable energy for more than two years now are noteworthy in this regard. The group also commends UNIDO's partnerships with forums like the Vienna Energy Forum, the Global Green Growth Forum, the Green Industry Initiative, Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL), and Global Environment Facility.
12. The Group requests UNIDO to build on the good work already done and aim for larger energy programmes and environmental projects with concrete impacts on the ground in the GEF 6 project cycle which begins in July 2014.
13. The Group welcomes UNIDO's activities related to agribusiness, trade and job creation in the Asian region, and looks forward to the delivery of further projects that contributes to the creation and promotion of employment. Furthermore, the Group welcomes the Organization's role in building national capacities in creating manufacturing value added in agribusiness, and creating an important link between buyers and consumers to support Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).
14. The Group supports UNIDO's Industrial Development activities targeted for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) as well as the Middle Income Countries (MICs).
15. The Group welcomes the outcome of the recently concluded 5<sup>th</sup> LDC Ministerial Conference and looks forward towards the implementation of the UNIDO Least Developed Countries (LDC) Strategy 2012-2020, adopted in 2011.
16. The Group notes that UNIDO's activities targeting LDCs are in the areas of agribusiness, trade capacity-building and investment programmes, private sector development, and energy and environment. Within the Asian Group in UNIDO, there are 14 countries designated as LDCs by the United Nations. We therefore look forward to UNIDO replicating these activities for LDCs in the Asia-Pacific region.
17. While Middle Income Countries (MICs) are a very heterogeneous group, they are also faced with shared development challenges, such as falling behind the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and vulnerability to the middle-income trap. The Group, therefore, welcomes the initiatives of the United Nations and its specialized agencies, such as UNIDO, in re-examining their engagement with MICs and considering new strategies, policies, and mechanisms of cooperation.
18. We take note of proposed UNIDO's programmatic engagement in the MICs, such as within the areas of promotion of local innovation and technological learning, resource efficiency and competitive green industrial growth; North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation; and capacity building and value addition for increased

competitiveness and market access through compliance with international standards. It is important to underline that any strategy on poverty reduction at a global level must support poverty reduction in MICs at the national or subnational level, since most poor people live in MICs.

19. The Group welcomes and encourages the recent merit promotion exercise. Meanwhile the Group stresses the need to safeguard the principles of geographical distribution, fairness of treatment, and equal opportunities in such exercise. The Group requests that careful monitoring, supervision and follow-up by the Human Resource Department is carried out, in order to ensure that all officers benefit from equal assessment opportunities. The Group believes that a fair promotion process contributes positively to the technical cooperation delivery and the overall performance of the Organization.

**Thank you, Madam President.**

IRAN ( ASIA-PACIFIC )

MONDAY AFTERNOON

AG Statements

On adoption of Lima Declaration  
On appointment of External Auditor

**AG Statement After adoption of Lima Declaration**

The Group endorses the "Lima Declaration: Towards Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development" and hopes it will serve to promote the Organization's role as well as to feed in the 3 documents that constitute the UNIDO's planning framework namely the Strategic long term vision, the MTPF and the Biennial budget.

The Group would also like to express its heartfelt appreciation for the work done by the Permanent Mission of Peru in Vienna, particularly the constructive approach and valuable efforts of Ambassador Antonio Javier Alejandro GARCIA REVILLA in conducting the informal meetings in Vienna which successfully produced the Lima outcome document.

It is also important to ensure an effective follow-up for the Lima Declaration so that the momentum is not lost and our efforts remain continuously relevant and meaningful as we move into a period of consultations on the post-2015 development agenda.