

TURKEY

DECEMBER 3, 2013

**STATEMENT BY AYHAN KARACA,
DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR EU AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE
REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
TO THE REPUBLIC OF PERU
15th SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF UNIDO**

Madame President,
Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me first of all to congratulate you Mr. President, on your election as the President of the General Conference. We are convinced that under your leadership the Conference will produce fruitful discussions and come to a successful conclusion. I would like to take this opportunity to assure you of my delegation's full support.

Let me also take this opportunity to express my sincere congratulations to Mr. Li Yong, for his recent election as Director General of UNIDO. Turkey has full confidence that during his tenure UNIDO will make great strides in fulfilling its mandate of reducing poverty through sustainable industrial development. Turkey will keep on extending its fullest support to the Director General in this collective endeavor.

Madame President,

In recent years, developments in the global economic and financial situation have increased pressure on and in one way or another, adversely affected almost every single country in the world.

The financial and economic crisis as well as political developments in certain regions in the world, have contributed to high and volatile energy and food prices, which have in turn led to a reverse in some development gains and exacerbated poverty and hunger. This situation, coupled with the main environmental challenges that the world faces, namely depletion of natural resources, loss of biodiversity, scarcity of water resources and impact of climate change has made it all the more urgent for the international community to take the major steps necessary to achieve sustainable development in a manner which does not compromise the well-being of people and the planet.

Needless to say, this goal is easier said than done. However, if we can succeed in looking beyond short-term considerations and provide the political will in this respect, we will find our goals to be very much within our reach.

In these adverse global conditions, it is imperative to pose the question “development at what cost?”. While industrial development is key to lifting millions out of poverty, without the necessary measures, the economic aspect of development bears the risk of erasing the environmental and social aspects of industrial development. Therefore, we must approach development from three sides, in a conscious and balanced manner, taking care not to overlook the

sensitivities and problems of either aspect. This is all the more important as all these three aspects are very much interlinked.

In order to achieve sustainable development through sustainable industrialization, security of energy supply at reasonable prices comes out as one of the essential components. Without energy resources, industrial development cannot be envisaged. Lack of access to modern energy services is not only a major obstacle to sustainable industrial development, but it also leads to the inaccessibility to provision of clean water, sanitation and healthcare and for the provision of reliable and efficient lighting, heating, cooking, mechanical power, transport and telecommunications services.

Unfortunately the outlook for the future is not promising either. The World Energy Outlook 2012, published by the International Energy Agency, projects that unless major measures are taken, in 2030, there will still be more than a billion people without access to electricity and modern energy services.

Therefore it is the collective responsibility of the international community as a whole, with its members which are rich in natural resources and those that have the innovative technology necessary to assist those people in obtaining these services, to work together in a concerted effort to reach our common goal of eradicating poverty.

Madame President,

Achieving sustainable development in an equitable manner necessitates adopting an inclusive approach where all stakeholders in society, from the government, to

the civil society, to the private sector contribute to the means in which the challenges can be tackled.

Therefore, we believe the theme of this General Conference, namely “Towards partnership for a new industrial revolution for inclusive and sustainable growth” is timely and very relevant at this juncture.

Now, I would like to briefly underline certain points which have special importance for Turkey.

Madame President,

Turkey believes that sustainable development is one of the greatest global challenges today. As the wide-ranging impacts of the economic and financial crises as well as climate change and energy and food crises are still being felt across the globe, international cooperation in economic policy making and partnerships in the field of development is more crucial than ever. It is the collective responsibility of the international community to work on renewed commitments with focused, clear and sound policies to urgently address the current development challenges, especially with a view to achieving the international development goals, in particular the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

As we stand less than two years away from our target date for the achievement of the MDGs, we should be aware that our global performance report so far is a mixed one. While we have certainly made considerable progress in this direction, we are seriously off-track on some of the Goals. The developing countries, and in particular the least developed countries as well as countries suffering from conflict

are facing an even more daunting challenge as the hard-won progress on some of the MDGs is under threat.

Achieving the international development goals requires a multi-faceted and comprehensive approach. Their cross-cutting nature necessitates integrated approach and concerted action across many fora.

Turkey believes that UNIDO must continue leading such efforts and is ready to contribute to the global partnership in this regard. UNIDO's effective, coherent and coordinated development agenda will no doubt facilitate the development process. In that respect, Turkey attaches great importance to post-2015 development planning efforts within the UN and stands ready to contribute to these efforts to the best of its abilities.

Madame President,

After serving on the UN Security Council in 2009-2010, Turkey's candidacy once again for Security Council membership for 2015-2016 is a clear demonstration of Turkey's deep commitment to and its active contribution and participation in the work of UN in global political, economic and social matters.

Situated at the epicentre of Afro-Eurasia, Turkey has been working with its partners in its region and beyond to make a difference and leave its footprint in making the world a better place to live in political, economic and social terms, for hundreds of millions of people around the world.

To this aim, while many countries have been shutting their diplomatic missions in Africa and Asia, Turkey has increased the number of its Embassies in Africa to 35. As an emerging donor country, Turkey has increased the amount and the geographical scope of its Official Development Assistance over the recent years. While the contributions have focused on our immediate vicinity initially, in time and parallel to our efforts to further deepen our relations with the Least Developed Countries, the share of the African and Asian countries in Turkey's total foreign assistance has increased steadily. Today, Turkey's official development assistance amounts to 2.5 billion Dollars.

Turkey is committed to continuing on this path and will continue to contribute in no modest terms to international efforts to attain the common goal of sustainable development. However efforts of individual countries, no matter how rich or developed the country and how well intentioned the efforts, will suffice. Once again I must stress that if we are going to succeed in our efforts, we must all work together as one.

Madame President,

Last but by no means least, I would like to turn to Turkey's long association with UNIDO spanning more than four decades. I am particularly happy to note that UNIDO-Turkey cooperation has gone from strength to strength ever since the establishment of the UNIDO Turkey Office in 1967. After signing of a new

agreement between UNIDO and the Government of Turkey in 2000, the Office started serving as the UNIDO Centre for Regional Cooperation.

Many technical projects, seminars and also vocational projects were implemented through UNIDO Centre for Regional Cooperation in recent years, directed especially to the countries of Central Asia, Eastern Europe and Africa. In this framework, Turkey is also pleased to assist UNIDO in extending training programs towards above-mentioned regions and we would like to continue and expand these exercises.

In partnership with relevant stakeholders UNIDO is also carrying out extensive projects particularly in the field of private sector development. The main projects aim to address improving energy efficiency in industrial activity, phasing out of ozone depleting substances in production, identifying and removing persistent organic pollutants, promoting clean energy technologies and improving SME competitiveness and market access among many others.

We remain committed to working with UNIDO as the leading UN agency in promoting industrial development and will continue support its activities globally to attain our common goal.

Lastly, I would like to extend our gratitude to the Government of Peru for the excellent organization of the meeting and the kind hospitality extended to our delegation since our arrival.

Thank you for your kind attention.