

Statement by H.E. Arman Kirakossian, Ambassador and Permanent
Representative of the Republic of Armenia to UNIDO at the 42nd Session of
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Honorable Mr. President, Honorable Director General Li Yong,
Distinguished colleagues,

I would like to begin by congratulating you Mr. President and other Members of the Bureau on your election and extend our delegation's support for the fulfillment of your task.

I would like also to thank the Director-General for presenting the achievements of the Organization and for the detailed and comprehensive Annual Report for 2013. The increase in the volume of technical cooperation programmes by about 18% in one year is very impressive and it is a clear evidence of the growing trust of member-states in UNIDO and serves as a basis for indisputable value of the implemented programmes for reaching an inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

As far as the Republic of Armenia is concerned we are very pleased to note sizeable growth of both the number and volume of UNIDO projects. We do hope that it will lead to desired impact and up-scaling. In this context, we highly appreciate the creation of a Partnership Branch mandated to transform technical assistance into investment flows from key international financial institutions and other development partners.

The key objective of 2014-2017 economic development policy of the Government of the Republic of Armenia is to provide decent jobs for the population as a contribution to sustainable economic and industrial development. It is emphasized that job creation will be on the top of all structural and sectoral policy objectives.

We highly appreciate UNIDO's assistance in this regard. At the same time I would like to express our wish to see not only setting up a financial facility for this purpose as presented in the Annual Report for 2013, but also transfer knowledge, in particular, proven methodologies, experience and best practices to local entities to ensure the sustainability of achieved results. While we cannot underestimate creation of new jobs in the service sector, we see UNIDO's value added in creating and supporting industrial start-up SMEs.

The Government of the Republic of Armenia considers energy saving in industry as one of priorities of country's energy security in view of increasing economic competitiveness and as an important measure towards climate change mitigation.

Taking this opportunity I should like to thank the Secretariat staff for preparing the project concept in this field and request UNIDO to take necessary actions to mobilize GEF funds for the implementation of this project. The project envisages various mechanisms and measures aimed at phasing out the obsolete production capacities, strengthening the management of large energy consuming industrial sectors and enterprises as well as promoting the application of advanced energy efficient technologies through the attraction of investments.

One of the key directions of the economic development policy in Armenia is to increase competitiveness of manufacturing industries based on public-private partnership arrangements, specifically by the introduction of modern technologies. The on-going UNIDO project, which is financed by the Voluntary Contribution of the Russian Federation to the UNIDO Industrial Development Fund, is targeted at improving competitiveness of export-oriented industries, focusing on the light industry and is expected to serve as an example of what can be achieved with the international assistance. We do hope that the project will, indeed, address needs of the entire sector rather than benefitting several individual companies.

Another important issue is to make UNIDO technical cooperation projects replicable and to create a multiplier effect addressing needs of more target beneficiaries. In this sense, we would like to highlight the importance of transferring the knowledge and methodologies provided by UNIDO to universities and

institutions, which have considerable number of highly qualified and experienced experts. These institutions in their turn would be in the capacity after the completion of the projects to widely spread the acquired technical knowledge and skills across the country. This chain of transfer of UNIDO expertise would result in maintaining the sustainability of projects results.

To conclude, I would like to extend the sincere gratitude of my Government to UNIDO and to you Director General for the fruitful and cohesive ongoing cooperation and express hope that in the coming years we would be able to intensify and enhance the existing level of interactions and to optimize cumulative administrative expenditures through synergies and efficient coordination among individual UNIDO projects, Government institutions and counterparts for the benefit of inclusive and sustainable industrial development of Armenia.

Thank you, Mr. President.