



“UNIDO’s Partnership Model for Implementing SDGs”

Speech of the Director General at the occasion of the

UNIDO FORUM III

14 July 2015

Your Excellency, Mr. Hailemariam Desalegn, Prime Minister of Ethiopia,

Honorable Ministers,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

All protocol observed

It is my great privilege to be with you today in this historic hall, where 52 years ago a group of visionary African leaders gathered to create the Organization of African Unity, the precursor of today’s African Union. One of the noble objectives of those leaders was to promote the economic and social development of Africa. As I stand before you today I am fully aware of the deep responsibility that rests upon all of us to fulfill this objective.

As the Director General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, I am fully committed to supporting its achievement through my Organization's mandate of inclusive and sustainable industrial development, or ISID. Looking back over the past year or so, when we initiated our Programme for Country Partnership, or PCPs, as a means of operationalizing our ISID mandate in two pilot countries, Ethiopia and Senegal, I can hardly believe the tremendous progress that has been achieved in such a short time.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

All of our partners, including those present at this event today, have been with us since the beginning of UNIDO's ISID mandate, and I would like to take this opportunity to express my deep gratitude for their strong support and commitment.

I would like in particular to commend the strong leadership of the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, H.E. Mr. Hailemariam Desalegn, and the President of Senegal, H.E. Mr. Macky Sall for their dedicated commitment in implementing the PCPs for the development of their countries and peoples, and as a contribution to Africa's industrialization. In this connection, I would like to inform you that while President Macky Sall unfortunately had to cancel his participation at this Forum at short notice due to other pressing commitments, I am very grateful that he gave me an hour of his valuable time on Sunday evening to provide additional guidance on the further development of the PCP in Senegal.

My special thanks go to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-moon. Mr. Secretary-General, your visionary leadership has rallied the United Nations system and Member States to support the upcoming Sustainable Development Goals, which address, in a holistic and universal manner, economic growth, social inclusion and environmental sustainability.

I would also like to commend the strong leadership of Dr. Zuma in promoting the inclusive and sustainable industrialization of Africa.

Excellency, I recall my first meetings with you in which you specifically called for UNIDO to get things moving on industrialization to support the economic and structural transformation of Africa.

In this connection, I would also express my sincere gratitude to President Jim Yong Kim of the World Bank and President Donald Kaberuka of the African Development Bank for their firm and unstinting support for the PCP initiative. Indeed, President Kim has made a special effort to be with us today despite very pressing commitments elsewhere.

I would like to highlight the ongoing strong partnership with the European Union, and in particular the European Commission, represented here by the Director General for International Cooperation and Development, Mr. Frutuoso de Melo. Director General, thank you for being with us today.

I am very pleased to welcome Dr. Naoko Iishi, CEO and Chair of the Global Environment Facility, which is taking a leading role in the fight against climate change and is a long-standing and close partner of UNIDO. My thanks also go to Professor Justin Lin and Professor Jeffrey Sachs, two eminent thinkers in the field of development, for joining us today.

Last, but by no means least, I would also like to convey my sincere thanks to my dear friend Carlos Lopes, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, for his visionary leadership and tireless advocacy in promoting the industrial development of Africa.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As the international community formalizes the post-2015 development agenda, we are particularly pleased to note that the proposed SDGs duly acknowledge, in Goal 9, the importance of inclusive and sustainable industrialization, together with resilient infrastructure and innovation. Indeed, the whole history of development throughout the world demonstrates the critical contribution of industry to this process. There is not a single country in the world that has achieved lasting economic and social development without having undergone an industrial transformation.

The crucial challenge that the global community has gathered here in Addis Ababa to address is how to finance the achievement of the SDGs. In my view, this challenge is so immense that no single entity or institution will be able to overcome it on their own. I firmly believe that it can only be resolved through effective multi-stakeholder partnerships bringing together all the major players in the development process, including governments, bilateral and multilateral development agencies, national and international development finance institutions, the private sector, civil society and academia.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

UNIDO is proud to have developed the Programme for Country Partnership, and is pleased that many countries in all developing regions have already expressed their interest to be considered for the next round of PCPs initiated by UNIDO. I can assure you that we will continue our efforts to increase the commitment of the global development community to work together to advance ISID on the African continent and elsewhere.

In closing, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, allow me to thank you once more for sharing your priceless time and valuable thoughts today. With your constant support for UNIDO, I believe this is a unique opportunity today to discuss how we can together fulfill the promise of ending poverty. I wish the forum a great success.

Thank you.