

ITALY

Statement by H.E. Ambassador Filippo Formica

Head of the Italian delegation to
the 43rd Session of UNIDO Industrial Development Board
Vienna, 23-25 June 2015

Agenda item 6 et al.

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Thank you, Mr. President,

Since this is the first time I am taking the floor on behalf of my delegation, I would like to join previous speakers in congratulating you for chairing this session of the UNIDO Industrial Development Board. I am confident that under your able guidance the Board will be led to positive conclusions. Please consider the full support of the Italian delegation to your commendable endeavours.

Mr. President,

The Italian views on the items under discussion are fully reflected in the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Luxembourg on behalf of the European Union. Nonetheless, at this stage, I would like to add some considerations in our national perspective on agenda items 3, 4, 5 and 6.

Over time Italy has always been supportive of UNIDO with a longstanding tradition of unwavering commitment to the full spectrum of its activities and programs of Technical Cooperation.

When I looked for the first time at the Annual Report 2014, I could not avoid to linger on those several pages in this document dedicated to many successful initiatives financed by Italy through UNIDO.

It is an indication of a stable and fruitful relationship, further enriched last year with a package of new projects in Africa, South-East Asia and the MENA region worth overall around 5.000.000 EUR.

It is also a sign of UNIDO's potential in terms of collaboration and partnerships with Member States, such as Italy, attaching the utmost importance to manufacturing and industrialization, as key-drivers of a widespread, equitable and sustainable economic development.

In this respect, we are convinced that the framework of the upcoming post-2015 development agenda will open up new opportunities and we are confident that UNIDO will be able to live up with them, given its unique, qualified experience achieved in the fields of: poverty-eradication through ISID; trade capacity building; energy and environmental sustainability of manufacturing processes; agro-industry and technical assistance for promoting standards and quality control in industrial production. The Annual Report and other documents in front of us well epitomize the good results accomplished by this Organization with its programs in all these areas.

I have to say that I can see a common and distinctive trait among them, which precisely lies in the capacity to create job opportunities and to trigger a self-reinforcing economic growth based on sustainable industrialization in the recipient communities. [And] this is all the more important because economic stability is essential to defuse risks of conflict situations and to foster dialogue and peaceful relationships between countries, being also a precondition of geopolitical stability.

We are confident that UNIDO will be able to preserve and to further enhance such a capacity and we support the Director General in all its efforts in this direction.

Mr. President,

We are glad that the last Program and Budget Committee was able to find a compromise on the budget for the biennium 2016-17, striking a balance among different point of views. Such a positive outcome reflects the constructive spirit and the goodwill of UNIDO's membership. It is important that the Secretariat has been provided with a clear financial framework and time enough to work on implementation plans of all its programs for the next biennium.

We believe that PBC Conclusion 2015/4 entitled "PROGRAMME AND BUDGETS, 2016-2017" includes a set of clear guidelines that will allow UNIDO to carry out its mandate, as set in the

MTPF 2016-19, in accordance with its stakeholders' expectations. We, therefore, look forward to the full implementation of this Conclusion.

Needless to say that keeping up with the very high rates of TC delivery in the last years will continue to be the foremost challenge for this Agency, but we are confident that the approved budget proposal and the establishment of the two new funds for voluntary contributions to core activities will enable UNIDO to fulfill its tasks.

In fact, the current financial framework, though undoubtedly constrained by the recent withdrawal of some Member States, has to be seen also as an opportunity to devise innovative solutions and to focus on providing those services where UNIDO may still have a clear comparative advantage on other Organizations.

In this regard, we see a potential in the new PCP approach also to the extent that it will serve as a bottom-up tool for a systematic survey of Member States' priority needs and demands for industry-related services, particularly in LDCs. In our opinion, such a review is necessary to properly assess the quality and the adequacy of UNIDO's services array and, if needed, to readjust it accordingly. Matching UNIDO's supply with Member States' actual demands will be key to the success of the PCP approach.

Along the same lines, we would like to take this opportunity to stress once again the importance of close consultations with Member States and to express our full support to the Director General in all his continued efforts to further advance transparency, efficiency and effectiveness in the Organization.

We also consider as a positive step forward the full participation of UNIDO to the United Nations Resident Coordinator system, as recommended by the PBC. We believe that synergies among different UN entities sharing common goals will be essential to fully reap the benefits from the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda, given its interconnected and cross-fertilizing nature.

The joint participation of the UN system with its "Zero Hunger Itinerary" [ai'tɪn[/ə]rəri] to the EXPO 2015 in Milan, currently underway, it is already a success that confirms the fruitfulness of inter-agency partnerships.

Mr. President,

With this comments, wishing to the Director General every success in his endeavors and reaffirming our confidence in the capacity of UNIDO to give a significant contribution in the global effort to build up a more prosperous, equitable and sustainable world, we take note of document IDB.43/6/Add.1 containing adjustments to the proposals of the Director General on programme and budgets 2016-17 and of the other documents submitted for consideration of this board.

Thank you, Mr. President.