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Industrial Development Board

Forty-third session

Agenda item 4

Report of the Programme and Budget Committee

and Agenda item 5

Programme and budgets, 2016-2017

Vienna, 23-25 June 2015

Intervention by Switzerland

Mr. Chairman,

We would like to thank the Director-General for the adjustments made to his programme and budgets proposal taking into account the conclusions of the Programme and Budget Committee. Making such adjustments is always a painful exercise, and we do appreciate the effort made by the Organization to meet Member States' expectations. We note that the number of posts has been reduced by seven, and the bottom line of the regular budget by 5.75 million euros, if compared to the first proposal. On the other hand, from a Member State perspective, the adjusted budget proposal still represents a nominal increase of 2.3% on the assessed contributions. At a time of austerity, when many other international organizations are subject to zero nominal growth, this can be seen as a positive signal of support by Member States for this Organization.

Financing for development is high on the international community's agenda at this moment, and we think that UNIDO membership is a good start to implementing the proposed sustainable development goal number nine. We hope that in the favorable environment created by the post 2015 development agenda, this Organization will really start growing again. First and foremost it needs to start growing in members. When inclusive and sustainable industrial development becomes a global undertaking, a joint undertaking by the international community, then the Organization that embodies this objective must also be recognized as an integral and indispensable part of the United Nations system. UNIDO

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has a strong case and should make a new drive for universal membership. At the General Conference, we should issue an invitation to all Members of the United Nations to join or rejoin UNIDO.

Of course, when you plan an invitation, you need to keep your house in order, and the doors wide open. UNIDO needs to demonstrate that it does not behave like an outsider, but acts as a good and useful member of the UN family. In the Lima Declaration, we have asked UNIDO to ensure that it remains aligned with agreed United Nations system-wide frameworks. To this end, coordination needs to occur at all levels, including in the field. UNIDO's participation in the resident coordinator system is a big step forward in this direction. This kind of coordination is not a "nice to have" – it's a core activity. UNIDO is bound by its commitment with other members of the UN Development Group, and it needs to include related expenses in the regular budget. We are glad to see that this will indeed be the case.

Mr.Chairman,

An organization with a global ambition, like UNIDO, has to make a global footprint. That requires wide-spread activities over different continents and regions and in countries at different stages of industrial development. All developing countries ought to benefit from UNIDO membership. Yet at the same time, UNIDO cannot be everywhere, all the time, because its resources are limited. We have to be careful not to overstretch resources. This is a difficult balancing act for the management, one that requires continuous dialogue with all stakeholders. This is particularly relevant in the context of the field network policy.

Switzerland supports the Director-General's proposal to harmonize and consolidate the field structure during the next biennium, and also supports the PBC's recommendations for the Director-General to present a comprehensive action plan, and to consult Member States on its implementation. However, such consultations should not be limited to the host countries of field offices. The field policy is a matter that concerns all Member States, those with and those without country offices. No one should take the existing structure for granted. Rather, we should all ask ourselves how a modern field structure could look like, one that truly covers not just a few select countries, but regions as a whole, and serves the interests of all Member States. UNIDO's participation in a broader-based resident coordinator system, with offices in more than 130 countries, offers great opportunities that should also be further explored. Their interaction with UNIDO's regional and country offices needs to be defined more clearly, and the same goes for the relationship between UNIDO regional offices and the regional bureaux at headquarters. We are convinced that efficiency gains in UNIDO's field network are possible, and we look forward to the comprehensive action plan.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.



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Industrial Development Board

Forty-third session

Agenda item 6

Medium-term programme framework, 2015-2019

Vienna, 23-25 June 2015

Intervention by Switzerland

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to reiterate our appreciation for the Director General's proposal of the medium-term programme framework. We are particularly grateful for the management's prompt response to our request for a medium-term investment plan, which complements the framework.

Switzerland welcomes the fact that the medium-term programme framework builds upon the strategic and programmatic work carried out over the last years, covering the three Ps of sustainable development: "people, profit and planet". We are convinced that UNIDO should continue to implement technical cooperation projects in a broad range of countries, while focusing on a few thematic priorities.

With its three thematic priorities – creating shared prosperity, advancing economic competitiveness and safeguarding the environment – and with results-based management, UNIDO is well positioned to deliver results towards achieving the overarching objective of inclusive and sustainable industrial development. The strategic focus on a few thematic priorities allows UNIDO to sharpen its profile and to position itself very clearly. Especially in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals discussion and in the light of a proliferation of new targets and expectations, a clear programmatic and strategic orientation is a plus. It helps to keep forces together.

While we are happy that the Organization has been successful in acquiring project money, further growth of voluntary contributions – while the regular budget stagnates – also raises a number of concerns. Already now, UNIDO's administrative and management capacity to absorb and process volun-

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tary contributions is stretched to its limits, sometimes jeopardizing the quality and timeliness of project implementation. We are very keen to know how the management intends to address this challenge. In this respect, the very short chapter on the budgetary framework in the MTPF document should be further developed in order to shed more light on the future financial requirements and priorities of the Organization.

We commend the new investment plan for it gives us a much clearer picture of the future investments in the ERP system and ICT infrastructure. We appreciate this transparency, which should encourage Member States to renounce their shares in the unutilized balances of appropriations and transfer the corresponding amount into the Major Capital Investment Fund. However, we understand that other investment expenses may still be funded from the regular budget, and we would also welcome more transparency in that regard.

In concluding, we would like to express our appreciation for the Director-General's leadership in the gender mainstreaming effort. We look forward to the tangible results that the MTPF promises in this and other respects.

Mr. Chairman, I thank you.