

UNIDO 16th General Conference
30 Nov - 4 Dec 2015, Vienna

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**Madam President, sincere congratulations on your election
and all the best in the continuation of your work!**

Distinguished colleagues!

**Besides the views that the European Union expressed at
this General Conference, which Croatia fully supported, let
me share with you a few words in my national capacity.**

**One year ago I participated at the second edition of ISID
Forum, here at the UNIDO's Headquarters. At the time I was
strongly impressed by the quality of debate and ideas
exchanged at the Forum. It was clear, already then, that
UNIDO took a good decision by promoting an
industrialization that is inclusive and sustainable. In other
words, promoting an industrialization that brings benefits
to different parts of society and at the same time protects
the environment.**

**So far, I haven't said anything new or surprising, probably
you all agree that a moderate industrialization is what this
world needs, or more precisely, what UNIDO's member
states need.**

What I'd like to stress and share with you, because I consider it interesting, is how UNIDO's expertise, style of work and methods helped directly the envisioning of industrial policy in Croatia.

Over last year UNIDO's experts came to Zagreb, our capital, twice for consultations and seminars. The joined delegation from the ministry of foreign and european affairs and the ministry of economy came to Vienna for deep and comprehensive consultations on all types of modalities and frameworks for cooperation that could be established between Croatia and UNIDO.

These meetings helped us a great deal to enhance our internal cooperation between different ministries and agencies, but also to enhance the cooperation of our country with the neighbouring countries - in order to prepare future common projects under UNIDO's umbrella.

What we learned from UNIDO is the importance of partnership.

For UNIDO the term partnership is much more than a well-chosen phrase - it is a necessity. I would go even further and say that UNIDO is one of international organizations that promote the most partnership as pattern of thinking, policy making, planning and implementing projects.

And learning how to work together as partners: government, private sector / donors, development banks, academic community and civil society, remains a challenge, and a final goal.

The task of industrialization, as well as the task of modernization of the existing industrial capacities, are very complex tasks - but they are inevitable for any government wishing to see some real development.

Speaking about modernization, let me mention at this point that the restructuring of shipbuilding industry in Croatia is taking place in line with the multi-year-programme for this sector and under strict monitoring mechanism. Shipbuilding was traditionally Croatia's strong point, and we are doing our best to restructure and modernize this industrial branch the best we can.

Inspired by the findings of UNIDO's Lima Declaration, Croatia adopted its Industrial Strategy in 2014. Only one year later the measurable result of the implementation of this Strategy, the industrial growth, increased twice as much we expected, and it tells us we are on the right track.

Still, what remains a real challenge for the time to come is to achieve that two very important rates are growing at the same time: industrial growth and employment growth.

A comprehensive process of reindustrialization of Croatia is presently well under way and its main results are expected by the year 2020.

Ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues,

this 16th General Conference is marked with positive energy, new understandings and believes that we can achieve much more if we join forces where we can complement each other, and work as partners - within countries and between countries.

Croatia is looking forward to benefit even more from UNIDO's rich knowhow in the field of industrial development. And we are ready to continue building the culture of partnership, so present at this Conference, and carry on learning from our partners.

Thank you very much for your attention.