

**Rede des Herrn Bundespräsidenten**  
**Opening of the 16<sup>th</sup> UNIDO General Conference**  
**30 November 2015**

Check against delivery!

Honourable President of...,  
Honourable Prime Minister of...,  
Ministers and Vice-Ministers,  
Chairperson of Africa Union Commission  
President of the General Conference,  
Director General,  
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to welcome you to the opening of the 16<sup>th</sup> General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

This Conference comes at the juncture of four landmark anniversaries:

- The 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations,
- 60 years of Austrian UN Membership,

- The soon upcoming 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of UNIDO in Vienna, and finally
- 30 years of UNIDO's transformation into a Specialized Agency, thus honouring its important contribution to the overall work of the United Nations.

These anniversaries present a stock-taking opportunity, but also a moment to look ahead.

Seventy years ago, world leaders came together to create the United Nations to foster peace, dialogue and international cooperation on the basis of 51 member states. Today, the United Nations have more members than ever, are more relevant than ever and over the course of the last seven decades, the organization has evolved and adapted to new developments.

UNIDO was created in 1966 to promote and accelerate industrialization in developing countries. The eradication of absolute poverty through industrialization was the main focus of UNIDO's work and in order to underline its importance for the work of the UN system, UNIDO became

a Specialized Agency 30 years ago. Since then, the organization has constantly evolved to adapt its strategies to tackle the challenges of sustainable development in an ever changing world. In the late 1990s, UNIDO reformed its agenda to adapt it to the Millennium Goals.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The last session of the General Conference in December 2013 resulted in the adoption of the Lima Declaration, entitled “Towards Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development”. In accordance with this declaration, UNIDO began to position the concept of inclusive and sustainable industrial development in all processes leading to the formulation of the post 2015 development agenda.

And in September 2015, at the Summit for the Adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in New York, at which I had the honour to represent Austria, 17 sustainable development goals were

adopted, among them Goal 9: *“Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation”*.

I would like to congratulate Director General LI Yong for the important role he played during the negotiation process. His wisdom and management capability were a cornerstone to this success. He is also very successfully working on changing an output-oriented organization to an outcome-oriented one, thereby underlining that the effects of UNIDO’s technical-cooperation work are more important than how much money is spent. Recent developments underline the important role of UNIDO in providing decent livelihoods especially in those countries from which we receive now so many refugees.

Excellencies,

As I have just pointed out, it has been just two months since we adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In this global agenda with its 17 sustainable development goals and its underlying 169 targets nobody is to be left behind and all countries have to work together to reach these ambitious targets over the next 15 years in the following areas:

Partnership, People, Planet, Prosperity and Peace.

Each of the five “P’s” stands as a synonym for actions to be taken.

- Partnership stands for strengthened global solidarity, focussed on the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable.
- People stands for the eradication of poverty and hunger,
- Planet stands for the protection of the planet which is our environment,
- Prosperity is synonym for achieving economic, social and technological progress,
- Peace means fostering peaceful, just and inclusive societies which are free from fear and violence.

All of these areas are interconnected and cannot be tackled separately.

Austria takes the Sustainable Development Goals very seriously and is committed to their implementation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The successful implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals is intrinsically linked to UNIDO's contribution. One of the major challenges for sustainable development is decoupling economic growth from negative environmental impact. With the new mandate for Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development contained in Agenda 2030, UNIDO is the agency best suited to link economic, social, and environmental aspects of industrial development. This is why Austria strongly supports the UNIDO-UNEP Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production Strategy. Austria has funded this very successful programme since its introduction in 1995 with more than 12,3 Mio. US-\$.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Over the last 20 years, Austria has been one of UNIDO's largest donors in absolute terms. Austria also continues to fully support UNIDO and its programme activities, thereby supporting its valuable contribution to the Agenda 2030. At the same time, we appreciate when recipient countries show their commitment to the organization as well as ownership for their respective country programmes by providing national input.

International organisations can only fulfil their mandate meaningfully if all parties live up to their financial obligations. It is therefore crucial that all past and present Member States pay assessed contributions in full and on time.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Since May, Austrian officials together with representatives of other elected Member States have been consulting and facilitating discussions in order to reach consensus on the topics on the Agenda of this Conference. I am pleased to note that with the help of all of you,

agreement has been reached in principle on the vast majority of draft decisions before us. In this respect, allow me also to thank the Director General and his staff for their continuing efforts.

I now wish all delegations a very successful week and a pleasant week in Vienna.

Thank you very much.