

STATEMENT BY CHIRATIDZO IRIS MABUWA

HEAD OF DELEGATION OF ZIMBABWE AT THE 16TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF UNIDO, VIENNA, 30 NOVEMBER-4 DECEMBER 2015

Madame President,

On behalf of the Zimbabwe Delegation, I would like to begin by adding our voice in congratulating you on your election as President of this Conference and would also want to welcome the Marshall Islands as a new member of UNIDO.

Madame President,

Following the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by the United Nations in September 2015, it is envisaged that UNIDO will accordingly universalize its mandate of Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID) in pursuit of the SDGs Goal 9, of "***Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation***". Zimbabwe notes and acknowledges that this conference is taking place within the context of the complementary mandates of the SDGs and the ISID.

Zimbabwe, developed a socio-economic framework which focuses on industrialization as the centre of this transformation plan. The framework highlights the incremental benefits that can accrue if the primary extractive industries can be supported along their respective value chains. In addition the country has revised the framework to a **Ten Point Plan** for

development, which aims to grow the extractive industries to a value creation plan. On the other hand, I am happy to report that when Zimbabwe was chairing SADC in 2014, during the 34th Summit, the region adopted the Industrialization Strategy.

I am glad to report that Zimbabwe is party to Africa's Agenda 2063 which has placed the role of industrialization as a panacea of poverty alleviation in Africa. Indeed this has happened during the tenure of Zimbabwe's Chairmanship.

Theme of the 16th General Conference

Zimbabwe notes that this Conference is being organized under the theme **"Sustainable industrialization for shared prosperity"**, which will afford participants an opportunity to actively participate in the Industrial Development Forum , which will incorporate resolutions of the Fourth UNIDO Inclusive and Sustainable Development (ISID) Forum and the second UNIDO Donors Meeting.

Madame President,

Zimbabwe and UNIDO Cooperation

Zimbabwe wishes to applaud its good working relations with UNIDO specifically on on-going preparatory projects which includes the review of Zimbabwe's Industrial Development Policy, assistance on the Green Industry Initiative and on Development of a Pharmaceutical Industry Strategy. It is envisaged that these projects will form the basis for a fully-fledged Country Program.

Review of Industrial Development Policy 2012-2016

On the project to review our Industrial Development Policy which is coming to the end of its tenure in March 2016, UNIDO was one of the key stakeholders who were invited by the Ministry, to assist in the review process. UNIDO offered technical assistance to the review process and informed the stakeholders meeting that its EQUIP Model could be used to provide a framework to the review process. A number of officers from the Ministry have been trained by UNIDO on EQUIP and other Development Strategic Models and the stakeholder meeting noted and acknowledged that UNIDO would be a useful partner in the Industrial Policy review process as they had worked with our State Agency on Country Statistics Management , ZIMSTAT before. UNIDO advised that statistics would be very useful for an evidence based policy framework. It is therefore envisaged that UNIDO will work closely with our ZIMSTAT to develop country statistics and working indicators, which will guide the policy makers to focus on the country's core-competencies when selecting its priority sectors for further development.

Pharmaceutical Development Strategy

The project was launched in November 2014. Implementation of the sectoral development strategy is ongoing, but is likely to be completed later than the 31 December 2015 target due to uncompleted consultations with various stakeholders. UNIDO facilitated the setting up of the

Pharmaceuticals Working Group which has been spearheading the strategy development for this sector. Matters outstanding now are:

- i. Consideration of import permits on 23 medicines that are locally produced ;
- ii. Consideration of the pharmaceutical sector as a Special Economic Zone and
- iii. Finalization of the sector's access to regional markets.

Green Industry Initiative

The initiative aims at mainstreaming issues of the environment, climate and social considerations into the operations of industries. The initiative aims at addressing existing industries' capacity to go green and to introduce green technologies to new entities.

The initiative was split into two phases namely:

- i. The information gathering/dissemination through study tours and local workshops/dialogues with key stakeholders and
- ii. The development, funding and implementation of the Green Initiative in the medium to long-term.

Phase one was completed in 2012 to 2014, with the support of UNIDO, HIVOS and the Business Council for Sustainable Development of Zimbabwe (BCSDZ).

Implementation of Phase two is currently ongoing with UNIDO having started the ball rolling by sending a Green Industry Expert in May 2014. The expert met with key stakeholders for an assessment programme. The

UNIDO Mission of 19-23 October 2015 further firmed up on the components of the initiative to three subcomponents as follows:

- i. Support for the development of policies, strategies and incentives for green industry development
- ii. Establish green industry pilots (30 to 50 projects have been identified) and
- iii. Provide support towards a Green Industry Fund by providing seed money that will leverage on private sector and financial institutions inputs.

Madame President,

UNIDO Team Visit of 19 to 23 October 2015

Zimbabwe wishes to acknowledge that a UNIDO team of experts was in Zimbabwe from 19 - 23 October 2015 on a country programme formulation mission. The visit is in response to the invitation extended to UNIDO by my Government. The Delegation met various Government Ministries/ Departments, private sector chambers of commerce & industry and international organizations which are resident in Zimbabwe.

The team managed to draw up a draft a tentative country program to support Zimbabwe's industrial competitiveness covering the following areas;

- i. Support Industrial Policy review and set up the implementation program
- ii. Support to Value Addition, Beneficiation and access to competitive markets for selected value chains
- iii. Industrial Upgrading for SMES and support Institutions
- iv. Technical Cooperation on Industrial Statistics

- v. Business responding to Climate Change (Green Industry Initiative) and
- vi. Pharmaceutical Industries Recovery Program (2nd Phase)

Zimbabwe is looking forward to expedience in the conclusion of the Country Programme and the beginning of its implementation in 2016.

Targeted Assistance to Middle Income Countries

Zimbabwe wishes to acknowledge the current development thrust by the UN to provide an enhanced and targeted assistance to Middle Income Countries and Landlocked Countries, such as our country, and indeed the PCP for LCDs, as this will go a long way to provide an inclusive growth framework and alleviate poverty among the various sectors of our society.

Side Events during the 16th General Conference

Zimbabwe wishes to lend its support to events which took place from the first day of this conference particularly on the outcomes of the following important events:

- i. Youth Workshop: it is critical to provide our youth with the requisite skills to develop their entrepreneurial acumen and to be self-reliant in order to widen the employer base and provide sustainable growth of our economies;
- ii. The Donors Meeting and the 4th UNIDO Forum on ISID: Zimbabwe supports the engagement of our Development

Partners in planning for development. In Zimbabwe, we have included Development Partners in our Zimbabwe Agenda for Socio Economic Transformation (ZIMASSET) policy blueprint. Zimbabwe has noted the importance of including our Development Partners at the planning stage as the country has benefitted from advice and useful critiques of certain strategies during the crafting stage, this has improved the success rate during implementation of the various programs.

- iii. **Pilot Programs on ISID:** Zimbabwe noted the success stories of ISID in our sister countries in Ethiopia and Senegal and we support the replication of these projects to the rest of the developing world.

Madam President , on behalf of my delegation allow me to end by thanking the Director General of UNIDO His Excellency Mr Li Yong, for his leadership of UNIDO , whose relevance has been scaled up since the Lima Declaration in 2013 and also for hosting this 16th General Conference and for providing a focused agenda for developing industry through ISID.

I thank you.

Chiratidzo .Iris. Mabuwa (Honourable)
HEAD OF DELEGATION FOR ZIMBABWE
3 DECEMBER 2015