



LDC Ministerial Conference 2015:  
Operationalizing ISID for LDCs:  
“The Path to Graduation and beyond”

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Closing speech by:

Li Yong

Director General

United Nations Industrial Development Organization

Excellences, Honourable Ministers,

Your Excellency, Mr. Gyan Acharya, Under-Secretary-General of the UN Office  
of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked  
Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States,

Heads of Delegations,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with great pleasure that I bring this important and successful Ministerial  
Conference to a close.

I am immensely thankful to all of you: honourable Ministers, high-level panellists,  
discussants and distinguished delegations, for your vibrant participation and  
fruitful contribution to UNIDO LDC Ministerial Conference.

I would like to express my gratitude, in particular to the Chair of the Conference  
H.E. Mr. Ahmed Abteu, Minister of Industry of Ethiopia.

I also wish to take this opportunity to sincerely thank H.E. Mr. Gyan Acharya, Under-Secretary-General of the UN Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, for his personal engagement and his organization's unconditional support throughout the preparation and the conduct of this conference.

Your presence, alongside the many LDC Ministers who have joined us, underlines the importance attached by LDCs to the industrialization process and the graduation endeavour.

Please also allow me to commend our colleagues from UNIDO who dedicated themselves to organizing this significant event, including our field based colleagues. You have all made a crucial contribution to the success of this event.

Furthermore, I think we all agree that the moderators as well as panellists have done an outstanding job in leading the discussions and deserve our great appreciation.

I would also like to thank the Permanent Missions accredited to UNIDO for their unyielding commitment.

Likewise a special thank you goes to UNOV Conference Services, the UN Safety and Security Services, and to the many interpreters and technicians.

Congratulations to all of you for making this Conference such a success!

Excellences, Honourable Ministers,

Heads of Delegations,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you may know, this is the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of a series of LDC Ministerial Conferences that have been organized by UNIDO. However, this year's Conference has a special significance as it lines up with important and defining international gatherings held throughout 2015, such as for instance, the Third International Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa, the Sustainable Development Summit, the 3<sup>rd</sup> ISID Forum and the upcoming COP 21.

It also precedes the comprehensive high-level midterm review of the Istanbul Programme of Action, taking place next year in Antalya, Turkey.

As such, this Conference provided a timely opportunity to clearly:

- Take stock of the remaining impediments to achieving the goals set by the IPoA with an industrialization perspective
  
- Define the best approaches for promoting the implementation and the mainstreaming of ISID into national development policies and economic programmes
  
- Establish linkages between all actors involved in the operationalization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and in particular SDG-9 on building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization and fostering innovation
  
- Acknowledge that there is no path to graduation without strong and truly committed partnerships

- Outline a robust set of ISID implementation mechanisms for the next five years bearing in mind the IPoA timeframe, including truly innovative financing schemes and instruments coupled with a clear government commitment to both implementation and resource mobilization.

I would like to express my deep appreciation for the dynamic participation in all the sessions of this Conference. Indeed, more than 300 participants from 70 countries have honoured us with their presence and their great insights, as have representatives of more than 15 UN agencies and international Organizations, and at least 50 private sector entities from around the world.

I also note with great satisfaction that the Conference reaffirmed the strategic need to work hand in hand to achieve our commonly defined goals showcased in the 2030 agenda for sustainable development. Indeed, as H.E. Mr. Ahmed Abtew, Minister of Industry of Ethiopia and the Chair of this year's conference stressed, development and the graduation process are not set in stone.

Excellences, Honourable Ministers,

Heads of Delegations,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

LDCs should be the agents of their own development, and UNIDO stands ready to advise, support and facilitate this process of structural transformation and ensure a successful path to graduation.

In this regard, we need to think big, act fast and aim high, in order to make an inclusive, resilient and sustainable world a reality; while protecting the planet and leaving no one behind.

Once again, congratulations to all of you for making this Conference exceptionally meaningful.

I look forward to seeing you again soon.