

LDC Ministerial Conference 2015: Operationalizing ISID for LDCs: “the path to graduation and beyond”

6th Edition – 26, 27 November 2015 – Vienna, Austria
Vienna International Centre
C Building, Boardroom D

09:30-10:30 Opening session

***SPEAKING NOTES : H.E. Mr. Ahmed Abtew, Minister of Industry, Ethiopia, the elected
Chair of the LDC Ministerial Conference***

Excellences, Honourable Ministers,
Heads of Delegations,
Your Excellency, Mr. Gyan Acharya, Under-Secretary-General of UN Office of the High
Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small
Island Developing States,
Mr. Li Yong, Director-General of UNIDO,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am deeply honoured to chair the 2015 LDC Ministerial Conference entitled
“Operationalizing ISID for LDCs: “the path to graduation and beyond”. This year’s meeting is
the 6th edition of a series of successful Conferences that have been organized throughout the
years by UNIDO.

Moreover, this event is a sequel of a great collective effort, that began in 2007, and was
further supported in 2011 by the adoption of the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) at the
Fourth UN Conference on LDCs in Istanbul, Turkey.

The Istanbul Programme of Action for the next decade 2011-2020 spells out a number of
development priorities: the strengthening of productive capacities in LDCs, private sector
initiatives, trade, investment, technology, energy and South-South cooperation role as well as the
need for sound and efficient structural transformation process. These priorities bear immediate
relevance to the mandate of UNIDO to use manufacturing as a dynamic force to propel the

wheels of economically effective, ecologically friendly and socially desirable pattern of industrial development in LDCs.

Least Developed Countries are facing multiple challenges, such as eradication of extreme poverty, the governance deficit, the globalization and climate change. Nevertheless, LDCs are not characterized only by these challenges. Our countries represent great reservoirs of untapped potential. We have the tools and the capacity to overcome these barriers, because we are strong and resilient nations. Many of our nations are naturally petroleum rich; others are largest producing countries of various commodities. Releasing this potential will be one of the core targets of both the Agenda 2030 and the IPoA 2020.

The newly adopted Sustainable Development Goals address the root causes of poverty and the need for development that works for all. Indeed, the new Development Agenda seeks to promote sustainable and inclusive economic growth, social protection and a healthy environment. These remain priorities for LDCs on our path to graduation.

Having said that, I am looking forward to this Conference which will provide an opportunity to clearly define the remaining barriers impeding LDCs' graduation, as well as identify possible ways to jointly overcome these challenges within the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, while establishing linkages between the Sustainable Development Goals and promoting the implementation and the mainstreaming of ISID mandate into national development policies.

This Conference will represent a timely platform to discuss the transition from the United Nations Summit in September 2015 to the comprehensive high-level midterm review of the Istanbul Programme of Action, to be held in June 2016, in Antalya, Turkey.

Our vision, as LDCs, is to create inclusive and sustainable economic Growth and build strong and resilient societies. I sincerely trust that this meeting will contribute to the operationalization of such vision.

Finally, let me now proceed to the next item of the Conference which is the Adoption of the Agenda of the Conference.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Is this Agenda acceptable to delegations?

[Pause briefly]

I see no objection. It is so adopted.

Now, I would like to give the floor to:

1. Mr. Li Yong, Director General UNIDO
2. Mr. Gyan Acharya, USG and High Representative of UN OHRLLS
3. H.E. Ms. Fatima Haram Acyl, Commissioner for Trade and Industry, African Union Commission
4. H.E. Mr. Launsky-Tieffenthal, Ambassador, Director General, Section for Development Cooperation, Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs, Austria

[After the statements are delivered]

Honourable Ministers, Excellences,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Due to the time constraints and efficiency purposes we will have a short recess of 3 minutes, in order to reorganize the seating arrangements.

I thank you very much for your patience and I wish you all a fruitful debate.