

**Agenda Item 8: Evaluation activities**

Madame President,

The Asia-Pacific Group underscores the importance of an effective evaluation mechanism as a tool for determining the effectiveness of the Organization in fulfilling its mandate and measuring the impact it creates for its stakeholders.

The Group is pleased to note that, according to the last independent evaluation conducted covering the period 2014-2015, the relevance of UNIDO's Programs and Projects remains high and that ownership and participation of counterparts are increasing in general.

The Group also notes that the Report states that these were based on the needs/challenges of target institutions/enterprises and were well-aligned to government policies, strategies, and priorities, as well as addressing key challenges to inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

The Group welcomes the finding in the evaluation report that UNIDO's role and contribution as well as those of its counterparts were appreciated, reflecting the perception that the benefits of UNIDO's interventions outweighed their costs.

The Group, however, wishes to draw attention to following findings in the report namely: that projects were activity or output-driven rather than outcome-focused and that severe underfunding of some programmes limited their chances for impact or scope at the point where the evaluation was conducted.

The Group calls on the Secretariat to take stock of the findings of the Office for Independent Evaluation and to take appropriate steps to address areas for improvement, as well as to further enhance areas of strength.

With these comments, the Asia-Pacific Group takes note of the Secretariat's report contained in IDB.44/13.

Thank you Madame President.