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## **Industrial Development Board**

### **Forty-fifth session**

Vienna, 27-29 June 2017

Item 15 of the provisional agenda

### **Preparations for the seventeenth session of the General Conference**

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### **Report by the Director General**

The present report provides general information on the organization of the work of the seventeenth session of the General Conference, including items proposed for inclusion in the provisional agenda.

## **I. Introduction**

1. The General Conference of UNIDO is the principal organ of the Organization, consisting of representatives of all Members (Articles 7.1 and 8.1 of the Constitution). The main functions of the Conference are stipulated in Article 8.3 of the Constitution. In particular, the Conference should determine the guiding principles and the policies of the Organization. Unless it decides otherwise, the Conference is to hold a regular session every two years, at the seat of the Organization (Article 8.2). The last regular session (sixteenth) of the Conference was held in Vienna, from 30 November to 4 December 2015.

## **II. Background information**

### **A. Date and place of the Conference**

2. In line with General Conference decision GC.16/Dec.17, the seventeenth session of the General Conference will be held in Vienna from 27 November to 1 December 2017. It is planned that the meetings of the General Conference will take place in the M-building of the Vienna International Centre.

For reasons of economy, this document has not been printed. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies of documents to meetings.



## **B. Budgetary matters**

3. The Organization's resources available for holding the seventeenth session of the Conference, as provided for in the programme and budgets of UNIDO, 2016-2017, total € 864,638. The budget of the Conference is based on the following assumptions:

(a) The session will last five working days providing for 10 plenary meetings as well as meetings of the main committee and geographical groups;

(b) Interpretation for plenary and main committee meetings and pre-session documentation will be provided in six languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish);

(c) As per Board decision IDB.43/Dec.6 (o), with the suspension of rule 65 of the rules of procedures, summary records will not be provided for the seventeenth session of the Conference.

## **C. Agenda**

4. In accordance with Article 9.4 (g) of the Constitution, the Board prepares the provisional agenda for each session of the General Conference. Rule 13 of the rules of procedure of the Conference provides guidelines for the contents of the provisional agenda of a regular session of the Conference. Furthermore, in accordance with rule 12, the Board shall prepare that provisional agenda on the basis of a list of items proposed for inclusion as submitted by the Director General.

5. Annotations indicating briefly the history of each item, the proposed documentation, the substance of the matter to be discussed and earlier relevant decisions by the Conference or other organs of the Organization will be issued following the forty-fifth session of the Board.

6. A list of items proposed for inclusion in the provisional agenda for the seventeenth session of the Conference is contained in annex I to the present document, together with an indication of relevant mandates for the items. A provisional schedule of work is contained in annex II to the present document.

## **D. Documentation**

7. In accordance with rule 23 of the rules of procedure of the Conference, documents required for consideration of items on the provisional agenda will be distributed by the Director General in all languages of the Conference to all recipients of the provisional agenda not later than forty-five days before the opening date of the session.

## **III. Organization of the work of the Conference**

8. In keeping with practice of previous sessions of the General Conference, an overarching theme has been developed for the seventeenth session "Partnering for impact — achieving the Sustainable Development Goals".

9. As encouraged by the Conference in resolution GC.9/Res.1, a forum on industrial development issues is foreseen. Further to the positive experience gained at the sixteenth session, it is planned to again have the forum on industrial development issues combine both the Forum on inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID), as well as the UNIDO donor meeting. The ISID Forum and the donor meeting will take place during plenary meetings to provide an opportunity for high-level participants to communicate their views on selected topics, thereby allowing for a thematic and interregional debate (annex II, proposed schedule of work). In line with resolution GC.9/Res.1, it is suggested that the two events be

included in the provisional agenda of the session under the title “Forum on industrial development issues” (annex I, item 10).

10. With a view to focusing the debate on critical issues, it is proposed to introduce a speaking limit during the general debate of five minutes for Member States and ten minutes for regional groups.

11. At its previous sessions, the Conference established a main committee to which it allocated a number of agenda items. The Board may wish to recommend to the Conference a similar procedure for its seventeenth session, keeping in mind that the possibility of creating additional committees is constrained by the limited resources available (see para. 3 above). Items 7 to 23 of the proposed draft agenda would thus be referred to the main committee for a more focused debate aimed at the preparation of consensus draft decisions and resolutions for submission to the plenary.

12. The work of the previous sessions was also facilitated by setting up, under the guidance of the President of the Board, informal consultations for the preparation of the Conference. Such an informal group, composed of representatives of permanent missions to UNIDO in Vienna, has met prior to previous sessions of the Conference and has prepared a report to the Conference containing recommendations that cover most of the items on the agenda as well as organizational matters.

13. Taking into consideration past experience, the Board may wish to suggest the early commencement of informal consultations chaired by the President of the Board. To facilitate the work of the informal consultations in advance of the General Conference, it is strongly recommended to adopt the successful approach of other organizations in establishing a deadline for the submission of draft decisions and resolutions of three weeks prior to the Conference.

#### **IV. Action required of the Board**

14. The Board may wish to consider adopting the following draft decision:

“The Industrial Development Board:

(a) Takes note of the information provided in document IDB.45/XX;

(b) Adopts the following agenda for the seventeenth session of the General Conference:

[...]

(c) Agrees to hold a forum on industrial development issues within the framework of the General Conference (provisional agenda, item 10);

(d) Recommends to the Conference that items 7 to 23 of the provisional agenda be allocated to a main committee of the Conference;

(e) Also recommends that, in the light of experience gained in the preparation of previous sessions of the Conference, the President of the forty-fifth session of the Industrial Development Board conduct informal consultations for the preparation of the seventeenth session of the Conference;

(f) Urges Member States to submit to the informal consultations any proposed draft decisions or resolutions by 3 November 2017.”

## Annex I

### Items proposed for inclusion in the provisional agenda<sup>1</sup>

#### General Conference, seventeenth session 27 November to 1 December 2017

|  | <b>Mandate</b>   |
|--|--|
| 1. Opening of the session.   | Rule 34  |
| 2. Election of officers.   | Rule 35  |
| 3. Adoption of the agenda.   | Rule 17  |
| 4. Organization of work.   | Rules 44-47  |
| 5. Credentials of representatives to the Conference.   | Rule 28  |
| 6. Appointment of the Director General.  | Constitution, Article 11.2<br>Rule 103.4<br>Rule 104<br>GC/S.2/Dec.7           |
| 7. Elections to organs:  | Rule 102   |
| (a) Industrial Development Board;  | Constitution, Article 9.1  |
| (b) Programme and Budget Committee.  | Constitution, Article 10.1   |
| 8. Annual reports of the Director General on the activities of the Organization for 2015 and 2016.               | Rule 13.1 (b)  |
| 9. Reports of the Industrial Development Board on the work of its forty-fourth and forty-fifth regular sessions. | Constitution, Article 8.3 (b)<br>Rule 13.1 (c)                                 |
| 10. Forum on industrial development issues.  | GC.9/Res.1, IDB.44/Dec.9 (e)(iii)  |
| 11. Financial matters:   |  |
| (a) Scale of assessments of Member States;   | Constitution, Article 15<br>Rule 13.1 (k)                                      |
| (b) Financial situation of UNIDO;  | Rule 13.1 (l),<br>IDB.27/Dec.2 (e)   |
| (c) Working Capital Fund;  | Financial regulation 5.4   |
| (d) Appointment of an External Auditor;  | Financial regulation 11.1  |
| (e) Financial regulations ( <i>if required</i> ).  | Financial regulation 12.2  |
| 12. Programme and budgets, 2018-2019.  | Constitution, Articles 8.3 (c) and 14; Rule 13.1 (i)                           |
| 13. Medium-term programme framework, 2018-2021.  | GC.2/Dec.23,<br>GC.6/Dec.10,<br>GC.13/Res.3,<br>GC.14/Dec.18,<br>IDB.44/Dec.10 |
| 14. UNIDO, gender equality and the empowerment of women.   | GC.16/Res.3  |

<sup>1</sup> To be updated to take account of mandates adopted by the Board at its forty-fifth session.

|  | <b>Mandate</b>  |
|--|---|
| 15. UNIDO and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.   | GC.15/Res.1<br>GC.16/Res.2  |
| 16. UNIDO activities related to energy and the environment.  | Proposed by the Director General (rule 13.1 (b))                                  |
| 17. UNIDO activities related to agribusiness, trade capacity-building and job creation.                                | Proposed by the Director General (rule 13.1 (b))                                  |
| 18. UNIDO activities related to the Vienna Ministerial Declaration for the Least Developed Countries.                  | GC.16/Res.4   |
| 19. UNIDO activities related to cooperation with middle-income countries taking into account the San José Declaration. | IDB.41/Dec.4  |
| 20. Personnel matters, including UNIDO Staff Pension Committee.  | Staff regulation 13.2, document IDB.45/17 refers<br>GC.1/Dec.37,<br>IDB.44/Dec.13 |
| 21. Matters related to intergovernmental, non-governmental, governmental and other organizations.                      | GC.1/Dec.41, annex  |
| 22. Support by the Republic of Austria towards the financing of an educational institution.                            | IDB.44/Dec.14   |
| 23. Date and place of the eighteenth session.  | Rule 13.1 (s)   |
| 24. Closure of the session.  |   |

## Annex II

April 2017

**General Conference, seventeenth session****27 November to 1 December 2017, Vienna****Overarching theme: “Partnering for impact — achieving the Sustainable Development Goals”****PROPOSED TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF WORK**

| <i>Monday, 27 November 2017</i>  | <i>Tuesday, 28 November 2017</i>   | <i>Wednesday, 29 November 2017</i>   | <i>Thursday, 30 November 2017</i>  | <i>Friday, 1 December 2017</i>   |
|--|--|--|--|--|
|  | 9 a.m.<br>General Committee  | 9.15-10.15 a.m.<br>Credentials Committee ( <i>tentative</i> )  |  |  |
| <b>1st plenary meeting</b><br><u>10 a.m.-12:30p.m.</u><br>Opening — General debate<br>Appointment of the<br>Director General<br>Statements by Heads of State<br>and Government | <b>3rd plenary meeting</b><br><u>9-10 a.m.</u><br>General debate<br><br><u>10 a.m.-1 p.m.</u><br>Donor meeting | <b>5th plenary meeting</b><br><u>10 a.m.-1 p.m.</u><br>General debate  | <b>7th plenary meeting</b><br><u>10 a.m.-1 p.m.</u><br>General debate<br>Credentials of representatives to<br>the Conference<br>Appointment of the External<br>Auditor (if required) | <b>9th plenary meeting</b>   |
|  | <b>Main Committee</b> — 1st meeting<br><u>10.30 a.m.-1.30 p.m.</u>   | <b>Main Committee</b> — 3rd meeting<br><u>10.15 a.m.-1.15 p.m.</u>   | <b>Main Committee</b> — 5th meeting<br><u>10.30 a.m.-1.30 p.m. (<i>tentative</i>)</u>  |  |
| * * * *  | * * * *  | * * * *  | * * * *  | * * * *  |
| <b>2nd plenary meeting</b><br><u>3-4 p.m.</u><br>General debate<br>OR<br>Keynote speech<br><br><u>4-6 p.m.</u><br>ISID Forum   | <b>4th plenary meeting</b><br><u>3-4 p.m.</u><br>General debate<br><br><u>4-6 p.m.</u><br>ISID Forum           | <b>6th plenary meeting</b><br><u>3-4 p.m.</u><br>Launch of the Industrial<br>Development Report<br><br><u>4-6 p.m.</u><br>General debate | <b>8th plenary meeting</b><br><u>3-6 p.m.</u><br>General debate  | <b>10th plenary meeting</b><br><br>Consideration and<br>adoption of decisions and<br>resolutions |
|  | <b>Main Committee</b> — 2nd meeting<br><u>3.30-6.30 p.m.</u>   | <b>Main Committee</b> — 4th meeting<br><u>3.30-6.30 p.m.</u>   | <b>Main Committee</b> — 6th meeting<br><u>3.30-6.30 p.m. (<i>tentative</i>)</u>  |  |