

Ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues,

It is a distinct honour for me to now conclude day one of UNIDO's First Regional Conference on Sustainable Industrial Development.

It has been a busy day filled with excellent presentations and good discussions. We have witnessed that indeed countries from the CIS region have already undertaken due policy actions and practical steps for implementing environmental sustainability measures in industry. We also share the common awareness that we need to do more along all the whole value chain of production and consumption.

Today's panel session 1 has given us valuable opportunities to discuss the applicability of existing strategies and policy instruments for the promotion of green industries.

We have learned about the requirements posed to governance by greening industries and decoupling economic prosperity from environmental degradation and the introduction of the circular economy model. We have also gained valuable insights into the preconditions that are required to successfully implement such initiatives. First and foremost, strong commitment of businesses to greening industries is required. Importantly, the Government needs to play the absolutely indispensable facilitating role. This can be supported by government regulations and targeted policy making.

We have also learnt how the use of resource efficient and cleaner production technologies provides sustainability and resilience to economic development,

while at the same time improving environmental performance, energy and income security, as well as human wellbeing. Equally relevant, we have understood about the barriers faced by businesses in implementing cleaner technologies and mechanisms to overcome them.

Given the characteristics of current production and consumption practices, increasing industrial energy efficiency and the successful implementation of associated policies and programmes forms one of the key focus areas of this gathering. In this context, today's discussions have provided important learnings on how Energy Management Systems (EnMS) can provide a structured and systematic approach to integrating energy efficiency in business culture and everyday practices.

Energy efficiency becomes a low hanging fruit for enhancing economic and social development across different economies and understanding its real value is increasingly important.

Promoting energy efficiency and implementing sustainable energy management systems becomes a window of opportunity to not only increase economic competitiveness but also to create high-value green jobs, while at the same time safeguarding the environment we all depend on.

Against this background, I am sure we all look forward to tomorrow's discussions on leveraging the necessary financing for making the green promise a reality. Two interesting sessions will take place to present the actual trends in public-private partnerships and other financing opportunities for green technologies and sustainable energy project.

Our insightful exchanges can now continue in a more leisure atmosphere. I am glad to announce that a reception will take place at 5 pm in the VIC restaurant.

We are adjourn for today. Thank you