



“UNIDO’s Vision on Partnerships to Scale up Investments for ISID”

Speech of the Director General at the occasion of the

UNIDO FORUM II

4 November 2014, 10:00

Boardroom D, C04

*Your Excellency, Prime Minister Desalegn,
Your Excellency, Prime Minister Dionne,
Mr. Secretary-General,
Honorable guests,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Colleagues and friends,*

It is my great pleasure to welcome you today in Vienna as we convene for the Second of two UNIDO Global Forums on inclusive and sustainable industrial development. In short: ISID. The promotion of Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development is a very clear mandate given by our Member States at the General Conference of UNIDO in Lima, Peru last December.

We have since been implementing the ISID mandate in various ways. A few months ago in June, we convened here in Vienna the first ISID Forum, which was aimed primarily at Government officials and key policy-makers to provide them with an opportunity to exchange views on policies and instruments towards ISID, and to offer concrete testimonies of what has worked in one country and could inspire another.

Today we launch the second ISID Forum with a strong statement: technical assistance cannot remain isolated from the main forces that shape the course of progress in our countries. We need to combine our efforts to enhance the developmental impact of our endeavours. Together we will grow; the partnership will make us stronger. I see representatives of government, bilateral and multilateral development partners, sister agencies of the United Nations System, the private sector, NGOs and academia. As we all assemble here in Vienna for the next two days, we will collectively discuss and advance UNIDO’s new partnership approach to technical cooperation in realising UNIDO’s ISID mandate. Thank you all for coming here today!

I am honoured that you-- participants from across the globe, from a variety of fields and institutions -- have accepted my invitation to come here today. To advance our commitment we will focus during these two days on two concrete applications of country partnerships, in Ethiopia and in Senegal. Therefore I am especially honoured to welcome the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, H.E. Mr. Hailemariam Desalegn, and the Prime Minister of Senegal,

H.E. Mr. Mahammed Dionne. Excellencies, your presence here today clearly demonstrates the importance that governments attach to sustainable and industrial development.

I am also delighted to be able to welcome Mr. Ban Ki-moon, the Secretary-General of United Nations to this Forum. Mr. Ban Ki-moon was with us during our general conference in December 2013 when our Member States unanimously adopted the Lima Declaration, which gave UNIDO a new mandate to promote inclusive and sustainable industrial development. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, I trust you will see that we have made a lot of progress in less than a year.

Honourable guests, excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

The diversity of participants this morning represents what might be called “multi-stakeholder attendance.” This “multi-stakeholder attendance” confirms both the relevance and the interest in our new partnership approach. I hope that over the next days, we will be able to develop from this “multi-stakeholder attendance” to “multi-stakeholder partnerships” between trusted partners, as we seek to scale-up investment for industrial development.

Industrialisation is certainly one of these complex challenges. For industrialisation to take off, a number of things must happen at more or less the same time. Policies should be supportive, business environment must be reasonable conducive, capital should be created, technical and managerial skills should be strong, infrastructure should be put in place, trade logistics should be available and in the end, prices should be competitive, preferably in the world market, but at the very least, in the domestic market. As you can tell, industrialisation is not a one man show. It requires many actors, each contributing in its own distinctive way.

The focus of our forum will be the new pilot partnership programmes for inclusive and sustainable industrial development in Ethiopia and Senegal. We have taken the current situation in both countries into account, and we have identified a number of strong partners in both. Based on what we have learned, we have designed two programmes for country partnerships. We will provide a platform to present our contribution, as well as the contributions of our partners, to support Ethiopia and Senegal’s industrialisation.

The main thrust behind the proposed partnership approach and its business model is the mobilisation of partners and their resources to synergise with UNIDO’s technical cooperation—all with the aim of helping accelerate the recipient countries’ inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

Honourable guests, excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

I would say that these two pilot programmes for country partnership mark the beginning of a larger, more comprehensive and more ambitious approach of how UNIDO undertakes technical cooperation with and for Member States to support their industrialisation agendas. Together with our partners, we will finalise the planning of the partnership country programmes, based on the inputs we receive in this Forum.

Initiating and coordinating the implementation of the partnership programmes will be a challenge. We count on the Governments of Ethiopia and Senegal to lead this process, to coordinate all partners, and to drive the process.

UNIDO is fully committed to supporting the Governments of Ethiopia and Senegal in implementing the two pilot programmes.

Honourable guests, excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

We have been working in a global development setting defined by the Millennium Development Goals for the last fifteen years. The MDGs have led to great achievements in poverty reduction, but large populations are still struggling for real change. If we want to achieve the necessary scale of development, we have to explore the full potential of inclusive and sustainable industrial development. We have to strengthen productive capacities. We have to build enterprises and industries.

We have to reach out to farmers and entrepreneurs who are eager to change their lives and we have to promote economic diversification and structural transformation based on adding value to the natural resources of these countries that are committed to become middle-income countries in the next decades.

Therefore I say: we must work together, we must take advantage of the strength of all partners and we must work cleverly. We must make the most of the limited resources at our disposal. I strongly believe that the benefit of the partnership approach will increase both the impact of the resources Member States have placed with trust in our Organization as well as the impact of the interventions of our partners. And furthermore, lots of business opportunities will be created for the private sector.

This forum presents a transformative opportunity. Together we can achieve industrial and sustainable development for all. I wish the forum many fruitful discussions and great success.

Thank you.