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**Medium-term programme framework,
2008-2011**

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Item 7 of the provisional agenda

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2008-2011**

Medium-term programme framework, 2008-2011

Proposals of the Director-General

Provides information on proposed activities in the forthcoming medium-term programme framework period, 2008-2011.

1. This note is presented in accordance with General Conference decision GC.2/Dec.23, as subsequently amended in decision GC.6/Dec.10, which requests the Director-General to submit to the Board in the first year of each fiscal period, through the Committee, a draft medium-term programme framework (MTPF) for the four years that follow the current fiscal period. It also complies with paragraph (b)(v)d of the same decision, which requests the Director-General to indicate a general ceiling for the biennium 2008-2009 based on anticipated resources and on programme activity.

2. At its eleventh session held in November-December 2005, the General Conference adopted, in resolution GC.11/Res.4, the strategic long-term vision statement for UNIDO covering the period 2005-2015. Based on earlier guidance provided by the Member States, inter alia through the Business Plan on the Future Role and Functions of UNIDO and the Strategic Guidelines towards Improved UNIDO Programme Delivery, this strategic long-term vision statement calls on UNIDO to profile itself as a competent, effective, efficient and professional organization, contributing to relevant international development objectives, in particular the Millennium Development Goals, and to the sustainable industrial development of developing countries and countries with economies in transition. In pursuit of these objectives, the strategic long-term vision statement provides for UNIDO to use its comparative advantage to ensure value addition within the framework of the United Nations development system.

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3. Specifically, the strategic long-term vision statement calls upon UNIDO to focus its programmatic activities on three areas: Poverty reduction through productive activities, trade capacity-building, and environment and energy. The Organization's activities within these focus areas are to be characterized by a number of cross-cutting approaches and regional dimensions, and are to be supplemented by appropriate measures to mobilize adequate financial resources for the provision of its services. In addition, the strategic long-term vision statement stipulates that UNIDO will continue to enhance its cooperation arrangements with other international, regional and subregional organizations in the relevant areas of UNIDO activities as a means of contributing to the coherence of the United Nations development system.
4. In adopting the strategic long-term vision statement, resolution GC.11/Res.4 requests the Director-General to take it into account when formulating and implementing the medium-term programme frameworks, the programmes and budgets and other operational programmes during the period under coverage. Responding to these requests, UNIDO will ensure that the MTPF for 2008-2011, which will be the first such document to be formulated since the adoption of the strategic long-term vision statement, will correspond closely to this vision statement in both substance and presentation.
5. With this objective in mind, UNIDO is in the process of refining its technical cooperation services and aligning them more closely with the requirements of the strategic long-term vision statement. This process will involve the adoption of a number of measures aimed at enhancing the programmatic content of UNIDO's services and strengthening the efficiency and effectiveness of their delivery in accordance with the specific needs and priorities of its Member States and other stakeholders. These enhancements are expected to cover the programmes themselves and the modalities of their implementation—e.g. through an increased focus on South-South cooperation and a strengthening of UNIDO's field operations—as well as the administrative, managerial and financial support services provided for them.
6. At the same time, due regard will be paid to the fact that the rolling nature of the medium-term programme frameworks provides for an evolution of UNIDO's programmatic activities from one medium-term period to another through the mechanism of a period of overlap. Consequently, UNIDO will ensure that the proposed medium-term programme framework for 2008-2011 will build upon the foundations laid by the preceding MTPF for 2006-2009, and that the transition between the two will be accomplished with a minimum of disruption.
7. Thus, as indicated above, UNIDO's programmes of technical cooperation during the period covered by the MTPF for 2008-2011 will address the three areas of thematic focus identified in the strategic long-term vision statement, namely poverty reduction through productive activities, trade capacity-building, and environment and energy. The services provided under these areas of focus will continue to be based on the eight service modules which form the basis of the medium-term programme framework for 2006-2009, adjusted and adapted to meet the evolving international development agenda and the requirements of UNIDO's Member States, and enhanced and strengthened for increased impact. The modalities of programme delivery, comprising principally integrated programmes and country service frameworks and supplemented, where appropriate, by stand-alone projects, will also remain in place, but will similarly be subject to revised guidelines and procedures to ensure their enhanced effectiveness.
8. As the definition of specific areas of programmatic refinements is still in progress, it is considered advisable to defer the presentation of a detailed proposal

of the medium-term programme framework for 2008-2011 to the thirty-second session of the Industrial Development Board.

9. The resources required for the implementation of the medium-term framework 2008-2011 will have to be determined in conjunction with the finalization of its substantive content.

Action required of the Committee

10. The Committee may wish to take note of the information provided in the present document.
