



United Nations Industrial Development Organization

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Item 11 of the provisional agenda

Preparatory arrangements for the thirteenth session of the General Conference

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Report by the Director-General

Provides information on developments subsequent to the adoption of Board decision IDB.34/Dec.9.

1. At its resumed thirty-fourth session on 2 September 2008, the Board decided to accept the kind offer of the Government of Nigeria to host the thirteenth session of the UNIDO General Conference in Abuja, Nigeria from 7 to 11 December 2009 (decision IDB.34/Dec.9 refers). In accordance with the same decision the Secretariat continued consultations with the Government.
2. Since the Board took its decision, the onset of the global financial crisis has created a challenging environment for many governments. Under such difficult circumstances, a meeting of the Enlarged Bureau of the Board on 17 November 2008 considered a decision by the Government of Nigeria to defer its interest in hosting the General Conference. A letter to the same effect by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nigeria, H.E. Mr. Ojo Maduekwe, dated 14 November 2008, is included in the annex.
3. Enlarged Bureau members expressed their understanding for the timely decision taken by the Government of Nigeria. The Bureau furthermore agreed to recommend reconsidering Board decision IDB.34/Dec.9.

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Action required of the Board

4. The Board may wish to adopt the following draft decision:

“In the context of the serious global financial crisis that has created a challenging environment for many governments, the Board decides:

“(a) To reconsider its decision IDB.34/Dec.9;

“(b) To hold the thirteenth session of the General Conference in Vienna from 7 to 11 December 2009, thereby superseding decision IDB.34/Dec.9.”

Annex

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14 November 2008

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THIRTEENTH SESSION OF THE UNIDO GENERAL CONFERENCE

[*Your Excellency,*]

I acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 6 November 2008, which addressed the offer made by the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to host both the High-level Conference on Agro-Industries in Africa and the thirteenth session of the UNIDO General Conference in September and December 2009, respectively.

We could not agree more with your analyses of the current global financial crisis and its impact on the national budgets of Member States. While we treasure our relationship with UNIDO and had actually looked forward to hosting its thirteenth General Conference, however, in the light of current global circumstances, **I wish to confirm that Nigeria will now host only the High-level Conference on Agri-Business and Agro-Industries Development in Africa in 2009.** We look forward to when we will be in a position to host the General Conference. Meanwhile we have every confidence that UNIDO would provide the necessary support that would make the Agro-Allied Summit a success.

Please accept the assurances of my high esteem.

[*Signed*]

Ojo Maduekwe, CFR
Minister of Foreign Affairs
