



# United Nations Industrial Development Organization

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## Industrial Development Board

### Thirty-sixth session

Vienna, 23-26 June 2009

Item 15 of the provisional agenda

### Preparations for the thirteenth session of the General Conference

## Preparations for the thirteenth session of the General Conference

### Report by the Director-General

Provides general information on the organization of the work of the General Conference, thirteenth session, 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 (twelfth) of the Conference was held in Vienna from 3 to 7 December 2007.

For reasons of economy, this document has been printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies of documents to meetings.



## **II. Background information**

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

2. Subsequent to decisions GC.12/Dec.19, IDB.34/Dec.5 and IDB.34/Dec.9, the Board decided to hold the thirteenth session of the General Conference in Vienna from 7 to 11 December 2009. In this connection, as for previous sessions, UNIDO is requesting the Austrian Federal Government to place at the disposal of the Organization conference facilities at the Austria Center Vienna (ACV) free of charge for those meetings that cannot be accommodated by the conference facilities of the Vienna International Centre during the asbestos removal project. It is planned that the plenary meetings of the General Conference will take place at the M-building.

### **B. Budgetary matters**

3. The resources available for holding the thirteenth session of the Conference, as provided for in the programme and budgets of UNIDO, 2008-2009, total €977,100. 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 documentation will be provided in six languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish);

(c) Summary records, which will be provided for plenary meetings as well as meetings of the main committee, will be issued – to the extent possible – in English during the session and the other five languages will be issued as soon as possible after the session.

### **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 thirty-sixth session of the Board.

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

## 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 tandem with the session and as encouraged by the Conference in resolution GC.9/Res.1, it is planned to hold a forum on industrial development issues. The forum would provide an opportunity for high-level participants to communicate their views on selected topics, and is also proposed for inclusion in the provisional agenda of the session (annex, item 9).

9. 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 thirteenth session, keeping in mind that the possibility of creating additional committees is constrained by the limited resources available (see para. 4 above). Items 7 to 18 and item 20 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.

10. 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 Conferences and has prepared a report to the Conference containing recommendations that cover most of the items on the agenda as well as organizational matters.

## IV. Action required of the Board

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

“The Industrial Development Board:

“(a) Takes note of the information provided in document IDB.36/23;

“(b) Adopts the following agenda for the thirteenth 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 9);

“(d) Recommends to the Conference that items 7 to 18 and item 20 of the provisional agenda be allocated to a main committee of the Conference;

“(e) Recommends that, in the light of experience gained in the preparation of previous sessions of the Conference, the President of the thirty-sixth session of the Industrial Development Board conduct informal consultations for the preparation of the thirteenth session of the Conference.”

## Annex

### Items proposed for inclusion in the provisional agenda

#### General Conference, thirteenth session 7-11 December 2009

	<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. Elections to organs:	Rule 102
(a) Industrial Development Board;	Constitution, Article 9.1
(b) Programme and Budget Committee.	Constitution, Article 10.1
7. Annual reports of the Director-General on the activities of the Organization for 2007 and 2008.	Rule 13.1 (b)
8. Reports of the Industrial Development Board on the work of its thirty-fourth, resumed thirty-fourth, thirty-fifth and thirty-sixth regular sessions.	Constitution, Article 8.3 (b) Rule 13.1 (c)
9. Forum on industrial development issues.	GC.9/Res.1
10. Financial matters:	
(a) Scale of assessments of Member States;	Constitution, Article 15 Rule 13.1 (k)
(b) Financial situation of UNIDO;	Rule 13.1 (l)IDB.27/Dec.2 (e)
(c) Working Capital Fund;	Financial regulation 5.4
(d) Accounting standards:	IDB.32/Dec.5 (d) GC.12/Dec.14
(e) Financial regulations;	Financial regulation 12.2
(f) Appointment of an External Auditor.	Financial regulation 11.1
11. Implementation of the medium-term programme framework, 2008-2011.	Recurrent item

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|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| 12. Medium-term programme framework, 2010-2013.                                                               | GC.2/Dec.23,<br>GC.6/Dec.10, IDB.35/Dec.5                 |
| 13. Programme and budgets, 2010-2011.                                                                         | Constitution, Articles 8.3 (c)<br>and 14<br>Rule 13.1 (i) |
| 14. Cooperation Agreement with the United Nations Development Programme.                                      | IDB.32/Dec.6, para (d) (vi)                               |
| 15. UNIDO Staff Pension Committee.                                                                            | GC.1/Dec.37                                               |
| 16. New social security agreement between UNIDO and the Republic of Austria.                                  | Ref. IDB.36/20                                            |
| 17. Modification of Headquarters Agreement incorporating a new conference facility (M-building). <sup>1</sup> | Constitution, Article 8.3 (d)                             |
| 18. Matters related to intergovernmental, non-governmental, governmental and other organizations.             | GC.1/Dec.41, annex                                        |
| 19. Appointment of the Director-General.                                                                      | Constitution, Article 11.2                                |
| 20. Date and place of the fourteenth session.                                                                 | Rule 13.1 (s)                                             |
| 21. Closure of the session.                                                                                   |                                                           |

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<sup>1</sup> Subject to Austria's timely submission of a revised map of the Headquarters seat and conclusion of an exchange of letters or an agreement between UNIDO and the Government of Austria.