

UNIDO Industrial Development Board
Vienna 10 – 12 May 2010

Intervention by Norway

Agenda Item 3: Annual report of the Director General of 2009 on the activities of the organization.

Mr. Chairman, Ambassador Böck,

Allow me first of all to welcome you as Chairman of this thirty-seventh session of the Industrial Development Board of UNIDO. Let me assure you, the members of the Bureau and the Secretariat, of the full support of Norway for a successful meeting. Let me also thank the Secretariat for the high quality documents prepared for this meeting.

Let me also thank Dr. Yumkella for his/your leadership of UNIDO, under your leadership UNIDO has developed into an effective organization with clear goals and priorities - as outlined in the Strategic Long-Term Vision - that is well-adapted for the work and objectives embodied in the Millennium Development Goals.

We are very pleased with the publication of the Annual Report, and particularly appreciate UNIDO's role in facilitating global forum activities in 2009 in a series of major conferences around the world, not least the events organized as part of the *green industry initiative*. UNIDO has developed its strategic response capacity and support services to Member States through technical cooperation and capacity-building, and at the same time fostering action-oriented partnerships within the UN, with the broader international community, the private sector, civil society, academia and other stakeholders.

UNIDO is working within the same spheres as several other organizations. As a provider of specialized qualifications and services, it is important that the organization continues its efforts to avoid unnecessary duplication. We are very satisfied with UNIDO's commitment to actively pursue "One UN" reform initiatives, thereby contributing to better system-wide coherence and the goal of "Delivering as One" at country-level. Strategic partnerships both within the UN family and with public and private institutions in fields of common interest must be strengthened further. In this process, there are many valuable lessons to be drawn from the Terminal Evaluation of the cooperation agreement with the United Nations Development Programme of September this year.

Norway welcomes the management reforms initiated within UNIDO. We support fully the focus on strengthening field representation, increased staff mobility between headquarter and the field as well as improved career development opportunities for staff in the field.

Norway's support for the work of UNIDO is reflected in our voluntary contributions to the organization. In particular, I would like to point to the special relationship within Trade Capacity Building that has been developed between UNIDO and the Norwegian development agency Norad over the past nine years.

Let me thank the Director-General for your/his continued chairmanship of UN-Energy and also for your/his leadership of the Secretary General's Advisory Group on Energy and Climate Change. These positions provide excellent platforms for contributing to improve inter-agency coordination in this important sector, and as such contributing to important aspects of UN reform.

The rapid growth and economic development in many regions around the world over the last decade - not least in the Asia and Pacific region - has on the one hand lifted millions out of poverty, but it has also led to an increased consumption and demand for energy and water and a depletion of natural resources and environmental degradation and greenhouse emissions. Development comes at a

cost, and UNIDO plays an important role in trying to promote development whilst at the same time trying to mitigate the costs to the environment. Like UNIDO, Norway considers that the direct link between poverty reduction and access to energy and new technologies is an issue that must be addressed as a matter of priority. The promotion of awareness of cleaner and more resource efficient renewable sources of energy is of great importance in our common efforts to fight and adapt to the effects of climate change and to address central development challenges.

UNIDO seeks to enable the poor to earn a living through productive activities, thus to find a path out of poverty. In order for this to materialize, they need the capacity to produce, market, and distribute tradable products. Norway has taken due note also of UNIDO's increased focus on working with least developed countries. This is in line with a strong commitment of my country to support efforts aimed at increasing the opportunities of LDCs to reap the benefits of globalization through an increased participation in international trade.

We also note with satisfaction the central references to rural and women's entrepreneurship in the Annual Report. There can be no development or poverty reduction if half of the population of a country does not have access to, or is enabled to participate in productive activities, including industrial production. Engaging the female half of the population is of the utmost importance in order to stimulate social and economic development.

In closing, let me assure you, Mr.Chairman, that we will continue to following the efforts of UNIDO in our common aim and global responsibility to combat poverty through inclusive globalization and environmental sustainability.

Thank you.