



**AFIDE**

**Association of Former United Nations  
Industry and Development Experts**

“NGO with special consultative status with ECOSOC  
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**AFIDE STATEMENT**

**AT UNIDO INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD 38<sup>TH</sup> SESSION**

**24 – 26 November 2010**

( 1 )

Mr. President ,

Ministers , Excellences , ladies and Gentlemen ,

On behalf of the Association of Former United Nations Industry and Development Experts ( AFIDE ) I have the pleasure to address the UNIDO Industrial Development Board ,s thirty –eighth session . The Agenda of this session contains priority topics assigned by UNIDO member states . AFIDE ,s Statement will focus on select major issues .

The international community ,s attention was drawn to the Summit on the Millennium Development Goals held in September 2010 and the adoption of a goal-oriented action plan and the announcement of major commitments to achieve the eight goals , by the year 2015 . AFIDE took note of UNIDO Document 38/14 /Add.1 , which provides information on the outcome and UNIDO contributions to achieve the Millennium Development Goals , presented at the United Nations High – Level Plenary Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals .

UNIDO;s role in the achievement of MDG goals , namely , the promotion and support of sustainable industrial development in the developing countries with special emphasis on the Least Developed Countries; are crucial in alleviating poverty through employment creation and income generation . This could be achieved by the full utilization of resources , experience and means available in UNIDO , with the implementation of its relevant programs ,among others SMEs ; , Agro-industry Development , renewable Energy and Cleaner Production for Environmental Protection . These activities would contribute to the achievement of 3 specific MDG goals ( Goal 1 Eradication of extreme poverty and hunger , , Goal 3 Promotion of Gender equality and empowerment of women and Goal 7, Ensure environmental sustainability )

Almost all the developing countries are endowed with a variety of natural resources but most of these are either unexploited or partly exploited . The reasons could be various , among others , lack of expertise and the required investment , little or no access to appropriate technology , markets , lack of practical training . In this connection, UNIDO,s pivotal role is crucial in supporting the developing countries to efficiently tap the available resources by effectively channeling UNIDO,s expertise in investment promotion as well as promoting international partnerships so as to solidly contribute to the achievement of the MDGs .

( 2 )

It is worth mentioning that UNIDO's International Yearbook of Industrial Statistics 2010 , reported that industrial growth remained largely uninterrupted by the recent financial crisis in LDCs which was evident for LDCs in general as well as LDCs in Africa . African LDCs have managed to sustain an annual industrial growth rate of more than 5 per cent in 2009. However the pace of industrial growth of African LDCs has been slow than others for the last 15 years . Since the LDCs have been unable to increase their growth rate significantly compared to the developing countries as a whole , their share in total MVA has remained largely unchanged for many years .

Mr. President ,

AFIDE note with satisfaction , UNIDO's new initiative in support of the development of pharmaceutical industry in developing countries with special emphasis on essential health products and medicines , as reported in document ( IDB.38/15 . This program will potentially contribute to the health-related MDG Number 6 ; which aims to diminish HIV /AIDS and malaria and reduce infant mortality and health hazards in developing countries . It will support the efforts and aspirations of the developing countries in filling the gap between the needed essential drugs and those available locally , and contribute to reducing the high cost of these drugs . UNIDO will thus contribute to the achievement of this health -oriented objective as an addition to its contributions to achieve the other mentioned 3 MDGs , within the industrial development context . We take note as well that several UNIDO members states expressed their support of this new initiative in pharmaceutical industry , in their statements in the context of agenda item 7 of the thirty -eight session .

AFIDE also believe that UNIDO could lead coordination of the triangular partnership of South-South cooperation , South - North cooperation , and mobilization of global and regional funds which could contribute to the achievement of the health- oriented MDG .

Mr. President ;

Finally the Association of Former United Nations Industry and Development Experts ( AFIDE ) would like to express its appreciation for UNIDO's continuous support. AFIDE stands ready to cooperate with UNIDO in its relevant programs and activities, by making available its vast knowledge and in-depth experience as most of its members are former UNIDO professional staff and industrial development experts .

( 3 )

In this connection , it is worth mentioning that AFIDE is cooperating at the international level with ECOSOC and the World Bank Global Environment Fund (GEF) . AFIDE is also cooperating with inter-governmental organizations , most recently with the Africa Union . Last October AFIDE participated in Africa Union Commission Expert Group Meeting in cooperation with UNIDO and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa , on the ; Implementation Strategy for the Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa . AFIDE contributions to the Meeting included presentations and discussions of the contribution to the sustainable industrialization of Africa strategies for promoting and supporting the integration of local SME clusters in global value chains .

AFIDE also cooperated recently with an NGO in Africa . One of its members prepared a power point presentation in BOT- Build-Operate –Transfer , for the Forum for Africa Infrastructure in Dakar , Senegal , for participants from African countries .

Mr . President ,

I trust IDB and UNIDO Secretariat see AFIDE as a genuine , reliable partner it can call upon to cooperate with UNIDO and the developing countries to achieve the MDG goals .

Thank you Mr. President