

Check upon delivery



**GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY**  
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

## **Speech**

**Monique Barbut, CEO and Chairperson**  
**Global Environment Facility**

**Before UNIDO Industrial Board**

**Address to the Industrial Development Board**  
**June 22 @10am**  
**The Hofburg (Imperial Palace) Vienna**

Thank you and it is a pleasure to address the board today. Before I begin my remarks I want to recognize Director General Kandeh Yumkella for his leadership. During his tenure, Dr. Yumkella has elevated UNIDO's presence as a change agent dedicated to inclusive, equitable and sustainable industrial development.

Ladies and gentlemen of the Board:

The energy forum here in Vienna this week gives us the opportunity to celebrate our successes but also to roll up our sleeves and build momentum ahead of the Rio + 20 meeting next year. Through this event we can be the spark that reignites political and financial commitment for a low carbon future that was made a generation ago at the Earth Summit.

For the GEF this October marks our own 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary and what we know from these two decades is that operating as a network has allowed us to draw on the expertise and capacities of civil society and the private sector as well as multilateral development banks and UN agencies, including UNIDO. This gives the Facility a very broad set of competencies, as well as

the ability to move as much money as the combined capacity of partners allows.

Another comparative advantage is that having a neutral secretariat—one that does not implement projects---means the GEF is free to select the best from among the multitude of concepts that all the partners can offer. And from where I stand it is fair to say this philosophy has delivered solid results that have yet to be replicated by anyone our size.

Consider this: since we started in 1991, the GEF has protected more than 10 percent of the earth's total surface area and helped countries avoid the emission of almost 3 billion metric tonnes of CO<sup>2</sup>, at less than US\$1 per metric ton.

GEF investments have also supported more than 30 climate-friendly technologies all over the world.

This year also marks another important milestone in GEF's history: it was five years ago this December when our Council recognized UNIDO's own comparative advantage linking energy efficiency and sustainable

development in the industrial sector. Since then UNIDO has enhanced our portfolio in a myriad of ways --- specifically by ensuring green industrial growth across the developing world.

Take for example, the West Africa Energy Program which focuses on renewable energy and energy efficiency in 18 West African countries most of which are LDCs. This program targets energy access activities for the poor, through nationally-prioritized efforts.

West Africa of course is just part of the story.

Today, UNIDO has the responsibility for close to \$1 billion of GEF leveraged funding. This includes US\$633 million for 36 GEF supported projects approved or in action on climate change. Of that total well over \$500 million comes from other sources including the private sector and this is all within the past four years!

Under the GEF chemical program, UNIDO has managed \$334 million under 68 projects during the last 10 years, addressing persistent organic pollutants

and ozone depleting substances, with \$115 million of direct financing and \$219 million of co-financing.

This is a solid start but as we know the need is still immense across the developing world for clean, reliable energy choices. The trust fund you have established on renewable energy is an important step forward and represents an opportunity to further strengthen global partnerships UNIDO has worked hard to build by delivering a new level of commitment.

In closing I look forward to even stronger ties between UNIDO and the GEF; working together we can boost energy efficiency, tackle existing barriers to renewable energy technologies, and promote energy access to the poor. It is only through a concerted coordinated effort that we will achieve true synergy between development and environment. Rio is only a year away—we don't have a moment to lose.

Thank you.