

Agenda Item 3 – Annual Report of the Director-General Statement by Austria

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

Let me first congratulate you, Mister Chairman and the members of the Bureau, on your election and let me assure you of Austria's full cooperation with you.

Let me underline that Austria fully subscribes to the statement delivered by the European Union. In addition, Austria would like to highlight a few points which are of particular importance to my delegation:

In his report the Director-General once more looks back to a successful year. During the reporting period, UNIDO reached a project portfolio of USD 448,8 Mio., surpassing the previous year's numbers by more than USD 63 Mio. At the same time, UNIDO's volume of project services exceeded the previous record from 1990 when UNIDO had twice the number of staff. These developments are a remarkable success in times of economic crisis and constitute a major proof of UNIDO's efficiency and effectiveness, which in turn creates trust among donors.

Despite the important achievements mentioned above, UNIDO plans to continue to work on itself. We agree with the Director-General on the necessity to further align the organisation's activities across its four pillars - technical cooperation, policy advisory, normative and convening functions.

Furthermore, UNIDO will have to play an active role in the Rio+20 follow-up. A number of essential initiatives, such as the Sustainable Development Goals, the creation of a High Level Political Forum, etc. have been launched and we are convinced that UNIDO will continue to contribute to them through projects such as the Green Industry Platform.

Mr. Chairman,

The report of the Director-General points out important activities of UNIDO in the field of sustainable energy. We are pleased to read that the Vienna Energy Forum 2011, which was co-hosted by UNIDO, the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) and the Government of Austria, paved the way for the declaration of 2012 as the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All. The next Vienna Energy Forum will be held in 2013, important financial means have already been set aside by the Austrian Government.

The Sustainable Energy for All-Initiative has been a major success, culminating in the appointment of you, Director-General, as the Special Representative for Sustainable Energy for All by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the establishment of the initiative's office in Vienna, which the Austrian government supports. We trust that the future working relationship between UNIDO and the Sustainable Energy for All Office will be fruitful and mutually reinforcing.

Mr. Chairman,

Now that the Director-General is preparing to leave his post, allow me to thank him in the name of my delegation for his work and the successful path he has put UNIDO on. Other important tasks are waiting for him and we are convinced that he will fulfil them with the same passionate spirit and endeavour like in UNIDO. We are pleased that he has decided to stay in Vienna and we are looking forward to a successful cooperation in his new function.

Thank you.