

India

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**THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD OF UNIDO
40th SESSION [20-22 NOVEMBER 2012]**

INDIA: STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR R. SWAMINATHAN

Mr. President,

At the outset, let me congratulate you on your election as the President of the 40th Session of the Industrial Development Board (IDB) of UNIDO. I also take this opportunity to congratulate all other office bearers on their elections to the respective posts. I am confident that under your able leadership, this IDB will be able to accomplish all the tasks set out before it. My delegation assures you of its fullest cooperation.

2. My delegation would like to associate itself with the statements made by Ambassador of Peru on behalf of the G-77 and Ambassador of Indonesia on behalf of the Asian Group. I would take this opportunity to make a few additional comments on various agenda items under consideration.

Agenda item No. 3: Annual Report 2011

Mr. President,

3. At the beginning let me underscore the importance that we attach to the work of UNIDO in fostering industrial development in the developing and least developed countries.

4. I would like to take this opportunity to once again underline that "growth with quality" would be enabled by development of in-house expertise in core areas of UNIDO's functions, in particular, in the three thematic priority areas. We strongly believe that UNIDO should continue to invest in enhancing its capacity to create a niche for itself and distinguish itself from other organizations that have a similar portfolio of projects. In this context, my delegation is gratified to find that chapter 7 of the Annual Report does, indeed, provide information on selected projects that display precisely the successful outcomes that can be achieved by targeting UNIDO's special strengths.

Agenda item 4: Report of the Programme and Budget Committee

Mr. President,

5. The financial aspect of UNIDO's functioning is indeed an important matter and we must optimize the use of available resources. We wish to see a more efficient UNIDO – efficient in terms of utilization of scarce resources

both financial as well as human. My delegation would strongly urge all Member States to fulfill their obligations towards the Organization so as to steadily reduce outstanding assessed contributions to the Organization.

6. We also hope to see early fruition of the targets aimed by UNIDO's Programme for Change and Organizational Renewal (PCOR) towards improving knowledge management and networking.

Agenda Item 8: Review of the progress of deliberations of the informal working group

Mr. President.

7. We had intensive discussions among member states on the "Future of UNIDO" under the able guidance of the two co-Chairs from Costa Rica and Switzerland. Important elements have come out from these discussions which have identified the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to the organization. We now hope to begin with a process where these elements could form the basis for providing strategic recommendations which in turn will provide the necessary guidance and vision to UNIDO. In this context we welcome the proposal by the two co-Chairs to convene a workshop with an external facilitator and look forward to actively contributing to its deliberations.

8. India has actively participated in these discussions and would continue to provide constructive suggestions. We believe that UNIDO has established itself as a valuable partner for growth and prosperity in its mandated areas of functioning. We wish to see a more focused UNIDO – focused on niche areas where it has developed strength and expertise especially in the last decade. Its expertise needs to be further utilized in more efficient ways and that's where our focus should be. We wish to see UNIDO established as a truly specialized agency within the UN system.

Agenda item 13: Date and Place of the fifteenth session of the General Conference

Mr. President.

9. I would take this opportunity to extend my delegation's support to hosting of the fifteenth General Conference of UNIDO in Lima in December 2013 and request the IDB to adopt the draft decision put before us by G-77 on this issue.

Thank you Mr. President