

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Marcin Korolec, Minister of the Environment
of the Republic of Poland**

***40th session of the UNIDO Industrial Development Board
Vienna, 20-21 November 2012***

Mr. President, Mr. Director General, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I shall like to express my sincere appreciation for the invitation extended to Poland to attend the 40th Session of the Industrial Development Board of UNIDO. It is for me indeed a great honor to represent my country at this important event.

At the outset please allow me, Mr. President, to join previous speakers in congratulating you and other Members of the Bureau on your election. I am convinced that under your skillful guidance, this Board will reach tangible results.

I shall also seize this opportunity to commend the Director General of UNIDO, Dr. Kandeh Yumkella, for the excellence of his work at the helm of UNIDO. Under his visionary guidance and competent leadership, UNIDO has evolved to become one of the best and most recognized Agencies of the United Nations system.

At this juncture, we have to join efforts to consolidate further this well established position of UNIDO. It is also our shared responsibility to ensure that the mandate of our institution remains even more relevant in this period of multiple crisis.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

From the vantage point of a Representative of a country, Poland, that underwent in the past two decades a quite impressive and positive transition from a development aid beneficiary, to a net contributor to international aid programs, I should like to acknowledge the fundamental role industry played in the process. As I stand before you today, let me assure you that we do not only understand the challenges many of the countries are facing on their development path, I take indeed pride in stating that we are in a lucky position to be able to share some valuable experiences which proved a success. I am stressing this for one good reason: the cycle we went through is very similar to the one UNIDO follows in support of its member countries. This is in my opinion, a fundamental aspect of UNIDO's core mandate, namely to support and promote industrial development of developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition like many of the ones of the Eastern European Group (EEG) Poland belongs to. We all here recognize that industrial development is at the core of the development equation, and that it warrants as such in a sustainable manner, long-term economic growth and social advancement for our peoples. This is UNIDO's original mandate, and I strongly believe that it will remain a relevant one for the future.

In this regard, Poland strongly supports the work of the Informal Working Group on the future of UNIDO. This is a timely initiative which will ultimately allow Member States to make full use of their ownership rights, and will thus contribute to maximise the institutions role, relevance and efficiency, in response to the real needs of its members. Without precluding on the results and conclusions of the Working Group, let me assure you that I will continue to personally follow with great interest and utmost attention, the progress made in this important endeavor. In the same vein, I wish to emphasize that Poland continues to be actively involved in the monitoring of the Programme for Change and Organizational Renewal (PCOR) and we look forward to its implementation, as it will undoubtedly impact the quality of UNIDO's interaction with its beneficiaries.

UNIDO's remarkable achievements, in particular during the last decade, are based on a bold vision which has clearly defined three strategic

areas of interventions. This strategic long-term vision for the period 2005-2015 is slowly approaching the time where one should take stock of what has been realized, what remains to be done, and what will need to be achieved in the future. This is a critical process we should give great attention to. I would hence like to hereby invite the Member States to start a deep reflection process which will ultimately culminate in the formulation of a New Vision for UNIDO, in close collaboration with UNIDO's new Management. An ambitious, integrative and realistic Vision that will shape the work of the institution in the years ahead. This is indeed a challenging task, especially in the current context marked by uncertainty and volatility. But it is a formidable opportunity that shall allow us to come up with a shared and common understanding on UNIDO's effective role as a specialized agency. A global understanding that I would anticipate to continue to be firmly based on country ownership, alignment, and mutual accountability.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

While UNIDO has a clear and unique mandate within the United Nations family of institutions, and while this translates into well recognized comparative advantages that we need to sharpen, it is clear that the overwhelming challenge of development makes it imperative for us to strengthen our cooperation with like-minded development actors. Be it at the level of the United Nations Development Group, the adherence to the MDG initiative, or the endorsement of the Aid Effectiveness framework, UNIDO is making a noticeable and valuable contribution. At the same time, efforts to seek and facilitate an efficient transfer of knowledge, technology, best-practices among Member States, and in particular through South-South cooperation, Triangular cooperation, and Public-Private Partnerships should be pursued and further enhanced. Indeed, UNIDO should spare, neither efforts nor imagination, to forge new collaborative approaches and explore innovative ways of cooperation which bear the prospect of success, for the benefit of all, and in particular LDCs. I shall stress here the growing role of middle-income countries with peculiar needs that shall be addressed, and at the same time their increasing capacity to contribute to the development of others. As we are gathered here at the Headquarters of UNIDO, I am glad to know that the

Global South-South Development Expo has opened its doors this week in Vienna. This is definitely a step in the right direction.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As I have mentioned earlier, Poland has a positive story to tell. Today 33% of our GDP comes from industry, the highest share in the EU. We are proud of our industrial heritage, its successful ongoing transformation, and we are committed to securing its flourishing in the future. And maybe this is why we only read about the European economic crisis in the papers, while Poland throughout this period, was and still is today on a steady growing path. I sincerely wish that many more countries will realize the full potential of their opportunities and the development of a solid, competitive and sustainable industrial base, and I am confident that UNIDO will continue to have a crucial role to play in this process.

I thank you for your kind attention.