

Agenda Item 3**STATEMENT BY HER EXCELLENCY AMBASSADOR GRACE TSITSI MUTANDIRO, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE AT THE 40TH SESSION OF THE UNIDO INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD (IDB): VIENNA, AUSTRIA: 20-22 NOVEMBER 2012**

Mr President,

My delegation commends UNIDO for devoting most of its resources to the provision of technical cooperation delivery. It is encouraging to note that the increase in funds mobilised, totalling to \$247.5 million in 2011 in project funds, is 36 per cent over that of 2010. This increase translated to an increase in the volume of project services delivered during the same year from \$153.5 million to \$166.7 million as well as an increase in the portfolio of projects and programmes in hand is acknowledged with appreciation.

In this regard, my delegation maintains that adequate, stable and predictable financial resources are essential elements to a more vibrant and effective UNIDO. However, it is imperative that UNIDO focuses at all times on the need to ensure efficient utilisation of available resources and cost cutting measures. The growing demand for UNIDO's technical assistance is

testimony to its critical and continued relevance to the economic development endeavours of its Member States.

Mr President,

My delegation acknowledges with appreciation UNIDO's continuous commitment towards enhanced assistance required to promote industrial development in developing countries. This commitment is evident in increased UNIDO activities in the three thematic areas. UNIDO successfully sought to reinforce productive capacities; nurture investments in value addition of local produce and encouraged States to diversify their economies.

UNIDO's role is in the promotion amongst other activities of sustainable industrialisation, policy advisory, the promotion of south-south cooperation, renewable and sustainable industrial energy efficiency, green industry platform and agribusiness to create industrial growth, is now readily identifiable.

My delegation takes note of document IDB.40/CRP.11 pertaining to the development of local pharmaceutical production in developing and least developed countries particularly in Africa. With respect to the resolve to strengthen local pharmaceuticals in developing countries, my Government is however encouraged that the African Union Heads of State and Government endorsed in July the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa (PMPA). Zimbabwe is actively monitoring the rolling out of the

Business Plan and hopes that the required resources to implement it can be mobilised. The production of generic drugs by local pharmaceutical industries in developing countries is critical towards the attainment of most of the Millennium Development Goals.

Zimbabwe has a nascent pharmaceutical industry that under the Industrial Development Plan (IDP) adopted early this year, government is determined to lend the requisite support for its growth and expansion. Thus Zimbabwe looks forward to the successful implementation of the Business Plan and to establishing beneficial networks with institutions involved in the process. We commend UNIDO's role in this regard as well as the support received from cooperating partners. My delegation also urges UNIDO to expend more effort in strengthening capacity building for the production of generic drugs and the expansion of the local pharmaceutical sectors in developing countries through enhanced South-South Cooperation.

Thank you Mr President.

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Mr President,

My government believes that, in development initiatives, priority focus should always be on the promotion of technology transfer, investment in agro-industries and capacity building components that are necessary for the attainment of sustainable industrial development. Thus, Zimbabwe commends UNIDO's cooperation with FAO, IFAD and other development partners to promote value chain development in Africa, build competitive food supply systems and reduce reliance on food imports.

Zimbabwe is fully supportive of UNIDO's initiatives in agribusiness, trade and job creation which contribute significantly to poverty reduction. We believe that UNIDO's activities in capacity building and technical support in the area of supply chain management, quality and standards will assist developing countries to increase their share of global trade through adding value to their raw commodities. Zimbabwe thus encourages UNIDO to intensify the implementation of the cluster initiative programme, especially

in the undertaking of studies including industrial survey, value chain analysis, preparation and implementation of integrated industrial cluster programmes.

Mr President,

In the thematic area of trade capacity-building, my delegation calls on UNIDO to further promote sustained South-South Cooperation, particularly through building business linkages for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) as well as promoting public-private partnerships. My Government considers SME development and growth a critical factor on the growth agenda as it creates sustainable livelihoods while addressing the challenge of unemployment. Strengthened South-South Cooperation will assist in building industrial bases and capacitate technically qualified entrepreneurs in developing countries. My Government has adopted the general principles of Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) and is in the process of finalizing the legal framework.

Mr President,

Zimbabwe successfully launched its Industrial Development and National Trade policies in March 2012 and is currently developing implementation matrices for the same. Among other things, the Green Industry agenda features as a "cross cutting" theme as Zimbabwe strives to attract new investments for the manufacturing sector, upgrade its production

technologies and enhance industrial sector competitiveness whilst at the same time meeting sustainable development goals highlighted during the recently concluded RIO +20 Conference held in Brazil.

Concerning the Green Industry Initiative, Zimbabwe has come up with a draft concept paper for the program whose objective is to acquire knowledge on Green industry, create and capacitate a government committee to lead Green Industry strategy and policy formulation process with the aim to develop and implement a comprehensive Green Industry Program in the country. In this regard, my Government seeks to draw on UNIDO's expertise and progress registered to date in its implementation of the initiative.

Mr President,

It is a well-known fact that access to energy continues to be a hindrance to effective and efficient industrialisation in most developing countries. Many countries have failed to meet their developmental targets as a result of lack of adequate and reliable energy. Zimbabwe acknowledges with appreciation UNIDO's efforts in this area aimed towards introducing energy efficiency and cleaner production under the Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) programme, the Sustainable Energy for All Initiative (SE4ALL) and the Green Industry Initiative. Energy resource efficiency and cleaner production are the backbone of sustainable industrial development

and economic growth. UNIDO should aim to ensure access to cheap, sustainable and reliable sources of modern energy and the promotion of industrial development underpinned with the creation of green industries that utilize energy efficient technology, sustainable and clean energy.

I thank you

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Mr President,

Concerning the selection process for the post of the Director-General, my delegation endorses the idea of a candidates forum, a practice that has proven to be successful in other organisations agencies. My delegation is of the view that such a platform will greatly enhance transparency, inclusiveness, fairness and objectivity in the process. My delegation hopes that it can be possible to reach consensus on a leading candidate during the 41st Session of the IDB, immediately leading to a special Session of the General Conference to endorse the candidate. This will not leave a hiatus in executive leadership and will ensure a smooth transition. There is already a precedence that worked well in this regard.

I thank you.

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Mr President,

~~Finally,~~ My delegation welcomes the generous offer by the Government of Peru to host the fifteenth session of the UNIDO General Conference. We are confident in Peru's ability to deliver the necessary support and facilities to guarantee a productive and successful session. We, therefore, hope that the IDB can endorse Peru as the next venue of the General Conference.

I thank you.