

## **Acceptance Speech by Director General Li Yong**

**(Headquarters of UNIDO, Vienna, June 28, 2013)**

**Mr. President,**

**Honorable Ministers**

**Your Excellencies,**

**Distinguished Delegates,**

**Dear Colleagues,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is a great honor for me to be appointed as the 7<sup>th</sup> Director-General of UNIDO. At this moment, I stand here as the new DG, excited by this valuable opportunity to serve the Member States, humbled by the responsibility and mission that come with this post, and mindful of your high expectations of me and UNIDO.

I want to express my sincere thanks to all Member States for your trust in me. Your valuable advices inspired me; your recognition heartened me; and your expectations pointed the direction for my endeavor in future. I assure you that I will carry

out the mandate of UNIDO in earnest, and fulfill my duties in an independent, professional and impartial way.

I feel deeply honored by the nomination and sincerely grateful for the strong support by the Chinese government. It presents me a great opportunity to serve UNIDO and fulfill my persistent pursuit for poverty alleviation and international development.

As I take over the baton from my predecessors, please allow me to pay tribute to them. Under their strong leadership, UNIDO has risen to the challenges and keeps forging ahead, contributing to the advancement of sustainable industrial development and international industrial cooperation. Particularly, I want to express my high appreciation of Dr. Yumkella for his wisdom and efforts in leading UNIDO through the good times and turbulent times. Under his leadership, UNIDO has made great strides in poverty reduction, trade-capacity building, energy and environment. Standing on the shoulders of my predecessors, I promise to build on what they have achieved and take UNIDO to a new height.

I also want to take this opportunity to pay my personal regards to other candidates from Afghanistan, Cambodia, Italy, Libya, Poland and Thailand. Their campaign efforts underscore

the importance of UNIDO, their insights and thoughts deeply impressed us.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As a premier agency specialized in sustainable industrial development and international cooperation, UNIDO has traveled an extraordinary journey over the past 50 years. Now in a fast changing new world, UNIDO is presented with a golden opportunity for an ever brighter future. As leaps in technology are profoundly reshaping the global economy, and inclusive and sustainable development moves in full swing, a new chapter of industrial development is unfolding, and the relevance of UNIDO's mandate and mission has never been stronger.

Undoubtedly, UNIDO is also confronted with difficulties and challenges. In response to the new situation, UNIDO must evolve with the times and get better and stronger to meet new demands. We should raise UNIDO's profile in the international development agenda, provide better and tailored services in a demand-driven approach, build stronger partnership to mobilize more resources, ensure delivery to maximize the impact, and provide an enabling environment for the staff to achieve their full potential. I believe our efforts must focus on the following 5 pillars:

1. Further clarify the strategy and direction of UNIDO. We shall boost Member States' commitments to UNIDO and highlight its core mandate. A primary task is to fully prepare for the General Conference in Lima in December 2013 and make it a success. The outcome document produced by the Informal Working Group on the Future of UNIDO has laid solid groundwork in this regard. Meanwhile, we shall enhance our participation in the discussion and setting of the Post-2015 Agenda and the open working group on Sustainable Development Goals to raise the standing and influence of UNIDO in the UN system.

2. Meet the diversified demands of Member States at different stages of development. UNIDO should continue to attach importance to technical cooperation, and make our projects more influential and targeted. We will step up the strategic consultation function of this organization, and do our best in providing policy guidance, technical and experience sharing, and comprehensive solution to member states. This organization will vigorously promote sustainable industrial development, and play a prominent role in industrial upgrading.

3. Strengthen and expand partnerships. We must forge closer and stronger ties with other UN development agencies,

global and regional financial institutions, multilateral foundations, private sector and civil society. To complement traditional North-South cooperation, we shall promote the South-South and the Triangular cooperation.

4. Enhance the efficiency and cost-effectiveness. The structure of UNIDO shall be optimized. The connection and collaboration between the headquarters and field offices need be strengthened to boost the efficiency of organizational operation and program execution.

5. Motivate the staff to their full potential. I feel privileged to lead the excellent staff team of UNIDO. You are the most valuable assets of UNIDO. As the DG, I will create an enabling environment for your career development, emphasize merit-based promotion and ensure all of you can achieve your full potential at UNIDO. After all, UNIDO is as good as you.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The world is changing, UNIDO is also changing. We must be adaptive, responsive, innovative and effective. The time has come, hope and chances are with us. We have no choice but to answer the call of hope, we have no choice but to make UNIDO the best it can be. UNIDO is now embarking on a new journey, and of course, the path towards the attainment of its vision will

be long and sometimes difficult. However, as the Chinese ancient philosopher Lao Tzu remarked, “A thousand-mile journey starts with a single step”. Aiming high, looking far, we must have confidence, we must move forward. We shall translate the commitment of Member States and dedication of staff into concrete actions.

Let us start today. Together, we can carry UNIDO into a better and brighter future!

Thank you!

(942 words)