

Congratulatory Statement
made by the delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany
during the 2nd Special Session of the General Conference of UNIDO

Thank you, Mr. President, for giving me the floor.

As this is the first time that Germany takes the floor in this session, my delegation would like to congratulate you, Mister President, and the other members of the Bureau, on your election and would like to assure you of our full cooperation for a successful conclusion of this session.

Germany aligns itself with the statement made by Ireland of behalf of the European Union.

My delegation would like to thank Mr. Kandeh Yumkella for his excellent work in the service and to the benefit of UNIDO during the past 17 years, during 8 of which he served as Director-General of the organization.

Mr. Yumkella has deeply transformed the organization by widening the scope of its activities, attracting new donors and making UNIDO known worldwide.

We wish him success in his new assignment as the United Nations Secretary General's Special Representative and CEO of the Initiative "Sustainable Energy for All". Please be assured that Germany will continue to support and cooperate with him in this new function.

On Monday, the UNIDO Industrial Development Board elected Mr. Li Yong of the People's Republic of China to be recommended as new Director-General of UNIDO to this Special Session of the General Conference. Half an hour ago, he was appointed.

The fact that 7 countries presented candidates for this election is proof of the continued support to UNIDO by all its member states. My delegation would like to thank all candidates for their campaigns, especially all the new ideas they instilled into our continuing debate on the future of UNIDO.

We congratulate Mr. Li wholeheartedly on his election. We are looking forward to cooperating with him as closely as we have done with Mr. Yumkella.

Mr. Li,

a lot of work lies ahead of you and us.

The 41st Session of the Industrial Development Board which ended this week requested you to present a provisional outline of the “Medium-term programme framework” 2016-2019, already next year. Furthermore, Member States are preparing to deliberate on a “Lima Declaration and Plan of Action” to be decided upon at the upcoming 15th Session of the General Conference. Also, the new “Programme and Budget” 2014-2015 has to be implemented against a backdrop of financial restraints from member states and a change in membership of the organization.

Let me assure you that Germany remains deeply committed to UNIDO.

The mandate of UNIDO remains relevant to all its member states but there is need to retake again the ownership of the organisation. We believe that UNIDO’s core mandate which is sustainable industrial development, needs to be strengthened further.

My delegation will actively take part in a constructive and consensus-oriented way in all future discussions.

Germany remains a strong partner of UNIDO.

We stand ready to engage with you and your team to further improve UNIDO and secure its future.

Thank you, Mr. President.