

STATEMENT MADE ON BEHALF OF HON. HARUNA IDDRISU,
MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY, GHANA AT THE
SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF
UNIDO, VIENNA, 28 JUNE 2013

Mr. Chairman,
Director General of UNIDO,
Honourable Ministers,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for Ghana to participate in this Special session of the General Conference to endorse the Director General-elect, Mr. Li Yong of China.

2. Ghana associates itself with the statements made by the distinguished Ambassadors of Sudan and Egypt on behalf of the G77 and China and the African Group respectively.

3. I wish to join others in congratulating you, Mr. Chairman, and other members of the bureau on your election and to express my appreciation for the able manner in which you have so far guided proceedings of this august body. We are confident that under your able stewardship this session will be conducted in an efficient manner and to a successful conclusion. I would also like to express our appreciation to Dr. Kandeh K. Yumkella, the outgoing Director General of UNIDO for his comprehensive statement. Our thanks and

appreciation also go to the Secretariat for preparation and providing the documents for this Special session of the General Conference.

4. Allow me at the outset to stress the distinctive role of UNIDO in the United Nations system as the principal body for the creation of wealth through manufacturing, with focus on promoting growth in the small and medium enterprises sector, the key generator of wealth in most developing countries. Ghana intends to intensify and deepen its relationship with UNIDO.

5. The ultimate significance of UNIDO's support is to enable developing countries think through the interface between their own national development policies and the global economic environment. This is valuable to all stakeholders in developing countries as they struggle to define an appropriate developmental strategy and their relationship with the global system. It is important for developing countries to fully implement crucial policy recommendations made by UNIDO to ensure that industrialization works for sustainable growth and inclusive development in this decade.

6. Permit me, at this juncture, to put on record the effort made by Dr. Yumkella, the outgoing Director General of UNIDO for putting the Organisation on higher pedestal within the UN System. His support for developing countries through programmes, technical cooperation activities, fund mobilization and capacity building of staff will be remembered. Leaders like Dr. Yumkella are hard to come by. UNIDO was lucky to benefit from his talent for these years. The Ghana's

delegation wishes him higher achievements in his new Office in the UN system.

7. I would like to join others before us in congratulating all the candidates who put themselves up for the post of Director General of UNIDO. Definitely, they have enriched the UNIDO in several ways. More importantly, Ghana would like to extend its sincere congratulations to Mr. Li Yong for having emerged just in the first round as the Members' choice. Ghana wishes to assure him that he would enjoy all the support that it has to offer. We stand ready to work with him in a very positive manner. With his strong academic qualification and rich background experience, we sincerely believe that Mr. Li Yong appreciates very well the challenges of the UNIDO system and the specific difficulties of Member States. It is our hope that he would make every effort in facilitating our work to the best of his ability.

8. The actions that are required to accelerate intra-African trade and industrialization include stronger implementation of political commitments under existing regional trade agreements and the urgent diversification of economies beyond natural resource extraction and agriculture. In fact, the case for diversification remains more persuasive today than ever before because of the continued volatility of primary product prices and the uncertainties about long-run price trends. Diversification not only broadens the scope for employment creation and poverty reduction, but it also increases a

country's economic resilience to external shocks, promotes technological upgrading and knowledge acquisition, and thereby makes income more stable and predictable.

9. To break into manufacturing, African countries in particular and developing countries in general will need to strengthen their competitiveness by enacting policy reforms to ensure more competitive markets for transport and trade facilitation, undertake infrastructure investments that reduce the costs of inputs, and increase productivity to promote value addition. Given the central role of the private sector, improving the investment climate and reducing the cost of doing business for companies and the informal sector are essential. Consequently, more innovative approaches to monetize the assets, build the capacity, and enhance the productivity of small and informal enterprises, particularly in the agriculture sector, should be explored.

10. The synergy between intra-regional trade and global trade integration, particularly the critical importance of development-friendly trade agreements, promotion of value chain and transfer of technology with global partners that provide broad and comprehensive market access, must simultaneously be strengthened. As an important strategy in dealing with transnational development challenges, North-South and South-South cooperation as well as triangular cooperation can strengthen vulnerable economies not only through mobilizing financial assistance but also through increasing

their capacities on the ground, by extensive economic and technical cooperation on a demand-driven basis and by sharing experiences.

11. I would like to conclude by urging all Member States of UNIDO and our development partners to increase their collaboration and support for UNIDO during the tenure of Mr. Li Yong to enable UNIDO deliver efficient and effective services to Member States, especially developing countries.

Thank you