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**GENERAL CONFERENCE OF UNIDO
2ND SPECIAL SESSION (28 JUNE 2013)**

INDIA: STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR R. SWAMINATHAN

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR GENERAL

Mr. President,

At the outset, let me congratulate you on your election as the President of the 2nd Special Session of General Conference of UNIDO. I also take this opportunity to congratulate all other office bearers on their election to the respective posts. I am confident that under your able leadership, this General Conference will be able to accomplish all the tasks set out before it. My delegation assures you of its fullest cooperation.

2. My heartiest congratulations to Mr. Li Yong who has been appointed by the General Conference to succeed Dr. Kandeh Yumkella as the next Director General of UNIDO. I would like to assure Mr. Li Yong full cooperation of my Government and my delegation.

3. I would also like to take this opportunity to convey my appreciation for the strong leadership and vision provided by Dr. Yumkella to the organization over the past seven and half years and for successfully steering the Organization through a very difficult phase. I would like to make a special mention of the fact that under his leadership, UNIDO was successful in increasing fund mobilization for the technical cooperation programme despite global financial crisis. I would also like to commend him for carving out an important role for UNIDO in the field of energy and climate

change. I wish him all the best in his new endeavour and look forward to continue my Government's close cooperation and association with him.

Mr. President

4. I would like emphasize that my Government attaches great importance to the work of UNIDO in fostering industrial development in the developing and least developed countries. We believe that UNIDO has established itself as a valuable partner for growth and prosperity in its mandated areas of functioning. We are confident that Mr. Li Yong will be able to provide strong leadership and guidance to enable the Organization to fulfill its core mandate.

Thank you.
