

**South African Statement delivered at the Second Special Session of the General Conference by H.E. Ambassador Xolisa Mabhongo, Permanent Representative of South Africa, 28 June 2013**

**Mr President**

1. I am pleased to see you at the helm of this Second Special Session of the General Conference.
2. My delegation welcomes the new Director-General, Mr LI Yong to his new position. The Director-General possesses impeccable credentials for this new position. His domestic and international experience will give impetus to the Organisation. Going forward we see UNIDO enhancing its role in the following areas amongst others: Promotion of private sector development; Capacity building, research and development for industrialisation; promotion of green industries and energy for productive activities. The key challenge is also for UNIDO to scale up its activities in all these areas in order to achieve a greater impact. We expect UNIDO to play a key role in the elaboration of the post 2015 development agenda. This will affirm UNIDO as a key player in the broader agenda for poverty eradication.
3. I would also like to express gratitude to the outgoing Director-General, Dr. Yumkella, and thank him on behalf of the South African Government for his tireless effort and dedication to the Organisation. He raised the profile of UNIDO. He focused the Organisation on contemporary pertinent priorities of development. He underscored the important role of UNIDO in poverty eradication. Only through manufacturing and industrial development will our countries face the challenge of unemployment and persistent poverty.

- 
- 
- 
4. We look forward to working with Dr Yumkella in his new position as Special Representative for Sustainable Energy for All initiative and wish him every success in his new endeavour.