



Ghana

GHANA PERMANENT MISSION
GENEVA

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY OF
GHANA, HONOURABLE HARUNA IDDRISU (MP), AT THE 15TH
SESSION OF THE UNIDO GENERAL CONFERENCE, LIMA, PERU
2-6 DECEMBER, 2013

Madam Chairperson,
Director-General
Excellencies, Heads of Delegation,
Distinguished delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for the opportunity to address you in this august meeting.

2. May I congratulate you on your successful election to steer this meeting and to convey through you the highly esteemed appreciation of the delegation of Ghana to the Government and People of the Republic of Peru for the warm reception accorded us, and the excellent facilities that have been placed at our disposal since our arrival.

3. May I also congratulate your bureau and the UNIDO Secretariat for the organization of this meeting bearing in mind the opportunity that this platform offers us in our quest to dialogue on issues of industrialization which is pertinent to the economic development of Member States.

4. Being the first General Conference of the new Director General, Mr. Li Yong, may I again take this opportunity to welcome him to his new post and to commend him for his personal involvement and engagement of delegations in the preparatory processes for this General Conference. Ghana stands ready to work with you assiduously to support your initiatives.

5. Ghana associates with the theme of this General Conference, "UNIDO: Towards partnerships for a new industrial revolution for inclusive and sustainable growth", in the midst of the precipice that the global community finds itself today. There are no shortages of evidence that industry drives development much as inclusive development cannot be overlooked in this drive. In this regard, let me congratulate UNIDO for having contributed enormously to harnessing and enhancing the industrial capacity of its Member States and having in fact positioned itself as the indispensable organization best placed to further assist countries in their industrial development agenda. UNIDO's distinctive role in the United Nations system as the principal body for the creation of wealth through the pursuit and implementation of industrial policies, with a focus on promoting

growth in the small and medium enterprises sector, the key generator of income in most developing countries and LDCs, cannot be over-emphasized.

6. In coming up with this strategic Conference theme, UNIDO has once again demonstrated its unrelenting interest in encouraging countries to pursue their national industrial interests with a focus on the global economic environment. This intervention is not only appropriate but timely as stakeholders in Member States continue to struggle to define the most appropriate strategies and frameworks for optimizing industrial gains in their national development endeavours.

7. Embracing new paradigms that have the tendency to promote sustainable and inclusive growth among Members, especially the weaker ones among us should be fully supported by all stakeholders. In the wider-African context, actions that are required to accelerate industrialization include the urgent diversification of economies beyond natural resource extraction and agriculture. In fact, the case for diversification remains more crucial today than ever before in view of the volatility of prices of commodities and other primary products that most African countries rely on. Diversification not only broadens the scope for employment creation leading to poverty reduction, but it serves as a buffer to a country's vulnerability against external shocks, promotes technological transfer and

upgrading through FDI thereby ensuring more stable and growth-prone economies.

8. At the national level, Ghana would be one of the first countries to appreciate the support of UNIDO and to attest to the critical role that it has played in its economic development agenda. Members may recall Ghana struck oil in commercial quantities in 2007 and at the request of the Government, UNIDO organized an International Policy Dialogue on Competitiveness and Diversification for Oil-rich economies as a means of helping Ghana to adopt best-practices in the oil and gas sector and seek to diversify its economy in-order to avoid what has come to be known as the oil-curse. Our appreciation also goes to UNIDO for the support in the implementation of the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa Business Plan (PMPA-BP) and the continued support to our Cleaner Production Centre. I wish to encourage UNIDO to continue to avail to Members more innovative and revolutionary industrial ideas and policy frameworks that would enhance our effective integration into the global economy.

9. Before I conclude, I would wish to speak to one important assignment that confronts us here as we deliberate on various issues of interest in the next few days: that is the appointment of an External Auditor for UNIDO for the period 2014 to 2016. A few countries including Ghana have put up candidates for consideration as the next External Auditor of UNIDO. Let me

first of all congratulate all the candidates and to mention the fact that their interest in serving as external auditors confirms the importance that Members attach to the work of this Organization.

10. I would, however, wish to dwell on the candidature of Mr. Richard Q. Quartey, the Auditor-General of the Audit Service of Ghana, which is the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) of Ghana. Mr. Quartey is a Chartered Accountant and was a member of Ghana's United Nations audit team that audited the United Nations for a period of 24 years from 1976 to 2000. He, therefore, has hands-on experience in auditing the United Nations. He also audited the International Criminal Court in Arusha, Tanzania, and currently the External Auditor for the International Maritime Organization (IMO) with a mandate covering 2012 to 2016.

11. The audit approach and strategy of the Auditor-General of Ghana has, among other things, been designed to add value to the external audit function by identifying opportunities for improved management of resources and efficiencies. And this has been based on the unique combination of systems and risk-based audit adopted by the Supreme Audit Institution of Ghana (SAI). This approach benefited the United Nations very well and led to the repeated renewal of the external audit mandate by the General Assembly of the UN during the 24 year period that Ghana served on the UN Board of Auditors. I am happy to inform you that it is this same

professionalism and dynamism that Ghana seeks to bring to UNIDO when given the mandate as the next External Auditor.

12. Let me now conclude by once again congratulating Mr. Li Yong on his appointment as the Director-General of UNIDO and to once again assure him of the unwavering support of Ghana to the ideals of UNIDO. May I also respectfully call on Member States and our development partners to sustain their faith in the Organisation and to increase their support and collaboration towards the pursuit of its programmes, especially in developing countries and LDCs.

13. I thank you, Madam Chairperson.