

ZIMBAWE



**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY THE HONOURABLE
DEPUTY MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND
COMMERCE, C. I. MABUWA AT THE 15TH
SESSION OF THE UNIDO GENERAL
CONFERENCE:**

LIMA, PERU: 02 – 06 DECEMBER 2013

Madame President,

Honourable Ministers,

The Director General of UNIDO, Mr. Li Yong

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

On behalf of the delegation of Zimbabwe, I wish to extend appreciation to the people and Government of Peru for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to us. I further recognize the outstanding arrangement made for this Conference by the Government of Peru and UNIDO.

Madame President,

I wish to congratulate you, Honourable Minister Gladys Triveño on your election as President of the 15th Session of the UNIDO General Conference. I am confident that under your able leadership, our deliberations will be fruitful. I assure you of my delegation's full support. I also extend congratulations to other members of the Bureau on their election.

Madame President,

My delegation also congratulates Mr LI Yong on his well-deserved appointment as Director General of UNIDO. Mr LI Yong has joined UNIDO at an opportune time when our collective focus is towards making UNIDO relevant in the post 2015 agenda epoch. Thus far, Mr LI Yong has demonstrated both visionary leadership and innovativeness to the Organisation and Zimbabwe pledges its full support and cooperation towards the successful fulfilment of his vision.

My delegation associates itself with the statements made by the Group of 77 + China as well as the African Group.

Madame President,

Current global economic and social challenges such as the rising youth unemployment, the financial crisis, increased levels of poverty and climate change coupled with the inability to fully realise the MDGs make it even more compelling that we collectively address how we can collaborate and inject greater impetus towards a new industrial revolution for inclusive and sustainable industrial development. The attainment of the necessary socio-economic transformation that we all seek within the context of the post-2015 development agenda, can only be predicated on making industrial development a priority. Thus the theme of this conference, "UNIDO: Towards partnerships for a new industrial revolution for inclusive and sustainable growth", is apt as it underscores the importance of social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development as well as social inclusion. The theme embodies the necessary prerequisites such as public private partnerships, job creation, economic diversification, equitable social conditions, women and youth empowerment, entrepreneurship and poverty alleviation.

Madame President,

My Government is keenly following the ongoing discussions on the post 2015 Development Agenda. While recognizing that since their adoption in 2000, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have formed the global benchmarks for development progress, building substantial inroads in alleviating challenges associated with health, poverty, hunger, disease and women and children among others, my delegation calls for further action to scale up the successes and identify further opportunities to realize these goals. Renewed commitment to the MDGs would feed into and enrich the discussions towards a development framework for 2015 and beyond. As such, my delegation is convinced that the post 2015 Agenda should embrace inclusive and sustainable industrial development as a primary goal in the fight against poverty and socio-economic transformation.

Madame President,

Further, my delegation believes that the priority focus of cooperation among regions should be reinforced by the promotion of technology transfer, investment in agro-industries, improved energy access and capacity building components that are necessary and critical for the

attainment of sustainable industrial development. In view of that, Zimbabwe applauds UNIDO's partnerships with multilateral and private development partners to build synergies aimed at promoting economic growth.

Madame President, my Government recently adopted the Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socio-Economic Transformation (Zim Asset) that will underpin our national development from 2013 to 2018, as we seek to rebuild our economy. We will focus on harnessing the country's abundant human and natural resources as well as adding value to and benefiting our primary products. Zim Asset's vision is to provide an enabling environment for sustainable economic empowerment and social transformation for the people of Zimbabwe. This vision resonates with UNIDO's new thrust of inclusive and sustainable industrial development given that both are focussed on empowerment and economic growth.

Zimbabwe will seek to tap into UNIDO's competencies in the implementation of Zim Asset in particular in employment creation, entrepreneurial skills training, value addition and beneficiation, policy advisory, enhancing SMEs and strengthening public private partnerships as well as ensuring technology access.

My delegation calls on UNIDO to further promote sustained South-South Cooperation, particularly through building business linkages for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) as well as promoting public-private partnerships. My Government considers SME development and growth a critical component of the growth and development agenda. Strengthened South-South Cooperation will assist in building industrial hubs and capacitate technically qualified entrepreneurs in developing economies. Already, my Government has adopted the general principles of Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) and is currently engaged in the process of finalizing its legal framework.

Madame President,

My government believes that access to affordable energy is indispensable to industrial development and economic growth. We therefore commend UNIDO's programmes in the energy sector that seek to reduce energy poverty through technical support and skills

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transfer to ensure access to cheap, sustainable and reliable sources of renewable energy. The promotion of industrial development underpinned by the creation of green industries that utilize both efficient and sustainable clean energy through application of appropriate technology should be given priority attention. Zimbabwe has benefitted from UNIDO's expertise in formulating the draft concept paper on the green initiative program. We look forward to further collaboration in the greening of our industry.

Madame President,

My delegation is confident that through underscoring their commitment to inclusive and sustainable industrial development in the Lima Declaration, Member States have acknowledged UNIDO's vital role towards this goal. It is therefore critical that the relevance of UNIDO is given due recognition in the outcome of the post 2015 Development agenda deliberations.

I THANK YOU.