

Agenda Item 3: Annual Report of the Director General for 2015

Madame President,

2015 was a banner year for UNIDO, in that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, most notably Goal 9 which was universally adopted by the community of nations accepted the importance of building resilient infrastructure and promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization and fostering innovation.

The Group appreciates the Director General's efforts in mainstreaming inclusive and sustainable industrial development or ISID in UNIDO's policy and operational mandates, as well as taking steps to make UNIDO's systems, structures and processes become more effective and efficient.

The Group also notes, in particular, that USD57.6M worth of technical cooperation expenditure was spent in 2015 on regional and country projects in the Asia-Pacific region, including the Western Asian Arab States. This amount is the second largest in terms of expenditures per region given to UNIDO Member States and was sourced from various donors, trust funds, and the UNIDO regular budget.

The Group notes that the concentration of projects in the Asia-Pacific region is on thematic area of Energy and Environment, where USD 42.9M was allocated, as compared to USD6.4M and USD 7.8M were allocated on the Poverty Reduction

through productive activities and Trade capacity-building. The Group is of the view that a better balance of technical cooperation expenditures among the three areas is needed as they are all of great importance for the region.

With these comments, the Asia-Pacific Group takes note of UNIDO's 2015 Annual Report contained in IDB.44/1.

Thank you Madame President.