

Statement on behalf of United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) by H. Leuenberger, Director Environmental Management Branch

First Meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the UN Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio+20, 18. May 2010

Session 2: A green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication

Dear Mr. Chair

1. UNIDO with its mandate of Industrial development is committed to a sustainable industrial development. Manufacturing industry plays a significant and key role in the wealth creation of all nations. Developing countries need industrial growth for to alleviate poverty and improve the lives of their peoples.
2. UNIDO supports strongly the Green Economy topic as an important pillar for sustainable development. The green economy addresses important aspects of sustainable development and is in the same time also the driver for the severe environmental degradation still going on.
3. UNIDO wishes to emphasize the contribution to be made by the producers and providers of goods and services. Mr Yumkellah, DG of UNIDO, launched an organization wide green industry initiative to focus attention on the role of industry in moving forward in particular the agendas of SCP, waste and chemicals. We launched the initiative for Asia in Manila last year with Government of Philippines, UNEP, ESCAP an ILO. UNIDO is following up the recommendations and commitments and expanding the initiatives to other emerging and developing regions
4. Advancing the green industry agenda is a two-pronged approach. Firstly all producers of goods and services need to reduce their use of energy, water and materials and reduce their emissions and waste. Companies must manage their chemicals and wastes in an environmentally sound manner and re-design it products in such a way, that the environmental impact will be minimized during their life time. This is the greening of industry agenda. This however also requires a vibrant supply of innovative environmental goods and services, including for example waste management and recycling services and environmental technologies. These are the green industries of today and the future.
5. In many cases implementation of green industry practices and technologies is possible with available practices, technology and knowledge, provided available financial, management and technical resources are being focused and directed towards more sustainable patterns of production.

6. UNIDO supports the strong involvement of the Industry in the Green economy discussion including industry associations representing SMEs from developing countries.
7. We would like to propose to concentrate the discussions on aspects which worked well and to present the challenges of sustainable development as much as possible as opportunities for all involved stakeholders.
8. UNIDO stands ready to contribute through its Green industry experiences and know how to the overall discussion of Green economy.

Thank you Mr. Chair

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