



UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

VIENNA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE

P.O. BOX 300, A-1400 VIENNA, AUSTRIA

TELEPHONE: (+43 1) 260 26-0

FAX: (+43 1) 269 26 69

www.unido.org

unido@unido.org

**PRESS RELEASE
FOR INFORMATION MEDIA
NOT AN OFFICIAL RECORD
CPI/057
Contact: F. Riquelme-Lidon
Tel.: (+43 1) 26026 3004
E-mail: F.Riquelme@unido.org**

Vienna, 3 December, 2003

UNIDO General Conference 10th Session

We just have one agenda: development, peace, security, are the same thing

Speaking to the press on the third day of the General Conference at the Austria Centre here today, the Director General of UNIDO, Carlos Magariños said that ideology should not play the major role in the debate about development and growth. Adding that the United Nations has not been active enough in the development debate, Magariños reiterated the need to create new institutions like an OECD-type organization for developing countries. "Many of the policies that were applied successfully in the '80s and the '90s are not available any more... what we need are policies for the 21st century, to foster growth in developing countries under the multilateral trade agreements." He said: "Poor people don't need more talk, more speeches, more gatherings. Poor people need practical solutions and up to date policies to address poverty at the root level".

Expressing his happiness over the unprecedented attendance of ministers, heads of state and government at the conference, Magariños said "They see this conference as a meaningful forum for concrete discussions" he said it was proof of how relevant UNIDO has become and of a growing need to discuss a new approach to development, trade, growth, poverty and peace.

Referring to the statement of the President of Timor-Leste at the opening session of the conference, Magariños said "People expect independence and freedom to bring them development. That is the challenge of the international community, and unless our world leaders understand the critical dimension of this problem, we have few possibilities to move forward and bring a safer global society. That is why I asked for a reform of the Economic and Social Council, to include these two dimensions. It seems inappropriate to discuss economic and social issues with disregard to the political agenda. We don't have two agendas we just have one agenda, development, peace, security, are the same thing. We believe we can make a meaningful contribution to this discussion."

Magariños noted that countries that managed to emerge from poverty, did so, not by closing their economies, but applying sound economics and intelligent strategies. Significantly, the roundtable on investment in developing countries, held today, spent most of its time deliberating on how to take Africa out of the poverty trap. A central conclusion of the debate was that to reap the benefits of a vibrant private sector, governments have to get basic structures and laws right. Nothing can replace that. The focus was also on the need to stimulate investment while simultaneously promoting the productivity of small and medium-sized enterprises.

The roundtable on Eastern Europe debated the problems and challenges facing the economies of these countries 15 years after the big change-over. At the centre of the discussion was the need to move into a phase where corporate social responsibility and best environmental practices play a bigger role.

The issue of poverty reduction in Latin America was examined at a special roundtable where the disappointing economic performance of the Continent, with its 225 million people living in poverty or extreme poverty, was discussed in detail. There was agreement among panelists that whatever is done to stimulate growth in Latin America, income distribution is at the heart of the matter. Governments will also have to encourage democratic processes and stop corruption and inefficient public spending.

More information on the 10th session of UNIDO's General Conference is at <http://www.unido.org/gc>.