

India  
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44<sup>th</sup> Session of Industrial Development Board (IDB) of UNIDO  
November 22-24, 2016  
Agenda item no 3: Annual Report

Madam President,

India joins other delegations in felicitating you on your Presidentship of this session of the Industrial Development Board. I am confident that you will lead the discussions in the present session to a meaningful conclusion. I also thank the Director General for his introductory statement.

Madam President,

India is world's fastest growing economy in 2016. The Indian economy has recorded a GDP growth rate of 7.6 % in 2015-16. This is despite the fact that internationally the overall economic scenario has not been very encouraging in recent years. The current global economic situation is marked by sluggish growth of the advanced economies with a downward revision of growth projections. The Government of India has taken a number of Policy reforms, which are not only bold but also historic.

Under the dynamic leadership of the Prime Minister of India, ambitious programmes of Make in India, Digital India and Start up India have been launched. These programmes will drive and provide impetus to India's growth & progress. They will focus on innovation, design & research & development for industrialization. We work forward to collaborating with UNIDO to successfully implement unique projects at the grass root level.

India as a founding member, congratulates UNIDO on its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Over the years UNIDO and India have supported each

other in furthering the global mandate of the organization. India has contributed resources-financial, managerial and technical besides providing a diverse arena for UNIDO's developmental interventions over the last five decades. India has also has actively cooperated with UNIDO in projects in various developing countries. On UNIDO's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, India reaffirms its commitment to further strengthen its partnership with UNIDO.

We would also like to emphasize the role of UNIDO in helping countries achieve SDGs especially SDG Goal 9, which is focused on building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization and fostering innovation. In this regard UNIDO's core mandate of poverty alleviation, job creation and capacity building is as relevant today as it was 50 years back.

Madam President,

We appreciate that in the year 2015, the organization has been able to receive funds which is the highest in the last 50 years. This will help UNIDO to implement and promote inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID). However increased voluntary contributions and extra budgetary funding can not be a substitute for a robust budgetary position which has suffered in recent years due to departure of member states from the Organization. It is a matter of concern and we need collective thinking on how to prevent member states from leaving the Organization and how to bring those member states that have left the Organization back to its fold. We need to think of ways and means to enhance the value of this Organization. We would urge the DG to organize discussions on this matter so that we can come up with right strategies in this regard.

India has one of the largest and most diversified project portfolios implemented by UNIDO in the world. In the current Country Programme 2013-17, India is funding approximately 20

projects, both ongoing and in the pipeline with an estimated budget of more than US\$100 mn (approx.). For effective implementation of this portfolio as well as assistance to other member states in the subcontinent, India hosts the Regional UNIDO Office for South Asia and the International Centre for Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development. The UNIDO International Centre for Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development, a new framework set up under the Lima declaration, with the aim of increasing industrial competitiveness, technology upgradation and innovation, generation of decent jobs and sustainable environment and energy access has completed its one year of operation on 30th April, 2016.

In recent months, India and UNIDO have worked together to streamline the institutional arrangements for project execution in India and South-South Cooperation activities in other developing countries. To facilitate stronger ownership of project implementation, monitoring, and support; we have requested UNIDO to devise appropriate reporting formats to depict quarterly financial & physical progress of projects, preferably online.

There is tremendous scope to align the UNIDO projects with the initiatives of the Government of India like Make in India, Ease of Doing Business and Digital India. The tried and tested models of project delivery including South-South and triangular cooperation frameworks should continue and be further strengthened.

UNIDO and the Government of India will continue to collaborate on initiatives which contribute towards sustainable industrialization, however, ISID should remain an aspirational goal and it should not become prescriptive. Member States should have the right to maintain their technology choices based on their level of economic development and social conditions in their countries.

I also like to align ourselves with the statements made by Ambassador of Namibia on behalf of the G 77 and representative of Philippines on behalf of the Asia Pacific Group.

Thank you, Madam President.