



Industrial Development Board

Forty-third session

Agenda item 6

Medium-term programme framework, 2016-2019

Vienna, 22-24 November 2016

Intervention by Ambassador Claude Wild, Head of delegation of Switzerland

~~Mr. Chairman,~~ *Madam President,*

I would like to reiterate our appreciation and support for the Director General's initiative to create an integrated results and performance framework (IRPF) for UNIDO. This instrument was an innovative feature of the medium-term programme framework (MTPF) as presented by the Director-General in April last year, and we continue to see it as a key element of results-based management. The monitoring of results is precisely what the Member States had called for in the Strategic Guidance Document and in the Lima Declaration.

and transparency

We realize that the design and introduction of an indicator framework is a complex undertaking that requires serious study and broad consultations with all stakeholders. We commend the task force established in the Secretariat on its efforts to develop robust and relevant indicators and address the remaining issues, like data availability. It is good to see that UNIDO's new enterprise resource planning (or ERP) system does generate data that can be utilized for measuring organizational performance. Switzerland is particularly pleased to see that UNIDO intends to make good use of the SDG indicator framework for measuring development results. This will not only avoid duplication of work but also ensure that UNIDO strives to achieve the same goals as its partner agencies in the UN development system.

The review process undertaken by the task force has led to a revision of certain indicators, while others need to be further revisited, according to the latest report. Under the action plan presented by the Secretariat, some indicators may be refined, adjusted, replaced, or dropped altogether. The baselines will be quantified, and most importantly, the management will set target values, thus determining the Organization's level of ambition. We expect this process will take another few months, and we are prepared to wait until then before the IRPF becomes operational.

The final version of the framework will be different from the set of indicators that was presented to the General Conference last year. For the sake of transparency, we propose that an updated MTPF for the period 2018-2021 should be presented to the Board next year. This updated version would allow Member States to take note of the revised IRPF in its final shape, complete with baselines and target values. Switzerland has submitted a draft decision to that effect.

More generally, we would like to encourage the Director-General to consider reviewing and updating the medium-term planning framework every second year. We see the MTPF as the most valuable tool for UNIDO's strategy development. It has a four-year horizon and therefore complements the biennial programme and budget by looking deeper into the future. Obviously, the MTPF's added value as a mid-term planning instrument greatly diminishes after two years – unless we review and update it regularly, in step with the programme and budget.

Last but not least, we also think that the MTPF should be aligned as soon as possible with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system.

The QCPR is currently going on in New York and will provide strategic guidance for the UN development system as a whole. The corresponding General Assembly resolution is expected to be adopted before the end of this year. As the Director-General states in document IDB.44/12, UNIDO has participated in this process and is gradually aligning its strategic planning cycles with the QCPR cycle. Updating the MTPF next year would offer a chance to achieve early alignment.

To conclude, let me quote from the Lima Declaration (*"Towards inclusive and sustainable industrial development"*, adopted in Lima, Peru, on 2 December 2013): "We believe that the approaches adopted by the Organization must be periodically reviewed to ensure that it remains aligned with agreed United Nations system-wide frameworks and responds effectively to emerging new development challenges. To this end, the Organization needs more robust and results-oriented monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, and improved reporting formats that better suit the requirements of Member States."

Madam President,

~~Mr. Chairman~~, I believe that we should stay this course and take a step forward at this session of the Board.

I thank you.