

Agenda Item 7: UNIDO field policy and network

Madame President,

The Asia-Pacific Group takes note of the steps taken by the Director-General to implement the provisions of the “Strategic Guidance Document” to address the Organization’s financial challenges, in particular the provision on the adjustments in the field network offices. The Group appreciates the efforts by the Director-General and Secretariat to hold briefings and consultations with Member States on the adjustments in the field network.

The Group, however, wishes to underscore that in no way should the field network readjustments adversely affect the delivery of technical cooperation services to Member States. While acknowledging the need for the organization to be financially sound, the efficient delivery of technical cooperation services must not be sacrificed.

At the same time, the Group notes that, in the process of readjustment, the leadership in the UNIDO country offices has been differentiated between international and national professional staff.

The Group reiterates its call for the Organization to accord the same level of access for national professional staff as is done for international professional staff

to ensure that the delivery of technical cooperation services and level of engagement is consistent and equitable across throughout UNIDO's field network.

Finally, the Group stresses that the readjustment in UNIDO's field network should result in enhanced and strengthened cooperation between UNIDO and other stakeholders in the field such as national government agencies, the private sector, and other partners. In this context, the Group calls for a periodic review and evaluation of UNIDO's field network structure on a results-oriented basis, and apply further enhancements as necessary.

With these comments, the Asia-Pacific Group takes note of the Director-General's report contained in IDB.44/7.

Thank you Madame President.