



MINUTES

Subject: DG's meeting with the Ambassador of Armenia: Courtesy call
Place & Date: UNIDO HQ, Room D2251, 14 August 2013, 11:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Participants:

Armenian delegation

- H.E. Mr. Arman Kirakossian, Permanent Representative of Armenia to UNIDO
- Ms. Lena Terzikyan, Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of Armenia to UNIDO

UNIDO delegation

- Mr. LI Yong, Director-General
- Ms. Amita Misra, Director, PTC/BRP
- Ms. Solomiya Omelyan, Programme Officer and Officer-in-Charge, Europe and Newly Independent States Programme

Meeting objective: To discuss cooperation between UNIDO and Armenia

Issues highlighted by the Ambassador:

1. Congratulated the Director-General on his election and passed a letter from the Prime Minister of Armenia inviting the DG to visit Armenia at his convenience. Assured the DG of his full support and commitment for fruitful cooperation and wished the DG every success in his new mission.
2. Expressed his appreciation of cooperation with UNIDO, initiated in 1995 following Armenia's independence, which has resulted in the completion of 22 projects, five ongoing projects with a total value of USD 5, 5 million, and the initiation of pipeline projects with a total value of around USD 28 million.
3. Stressed the importance and developmental impact of current ongoing and pipeline projects UNIDO is implementing in Armenia despite their modest scope in terms of financial value. Explained that Armenia has undergone economic, financial, energy, environmental and political crises during the last two decades and is now a good environment to promote innovation, export oriented industries and R&D. However, some challenges still remain, such as partial economic isolation due to tensions and the absence of diplomatic relations with Azerbaijan and Turkey. The main trade routes are through Georgia (80% of Armenian goods are exported through the Georgian territory) and Iran. Good cooperation is maintained with China and the Russian Federation.
4. Touched upon the issue of the Government of Armenia's outstanding arrears vis-à-vis UNIDO. Mentioned that he had discussed the issue with the Prime Minister. A new payment plan should be agreed and could eventually be signed during the DG's visit to Armenia in 2014.
5. Underlined that the launch of the UNIDO Centre for International Industrial Cooperation (UCIIC) is an important milestone in strengthening cooperation.

6. Expressed satisfaction with the work of UNIDO's Head of Operations in Yerevan and BRP in Headquarters.
7. Promised to follow up with his Government on securing high level representation at the upcoming GC in Lima.
8. Invited the DG to the National Day celebrations to be held on 23 September 2013. An official invitation will follow.

Issues discussed by the Director-General:

1. Thanked for the Prime-Minister's congratulations and invitation to visit the country. Showed appreciation for the commitment and interest of the Armenian Government in UNIDO services. Promised to schedule a visit to Armenia in 2014.
2. Noted that UNIDO has a solid project portfolio in Armenia and this positive trend should continue.
3. Briefed the Ambassador on the upcoming GC in Lima in December 2013. UNIDO will reconfirm its mission to promote inclusive sustainable industrial development, and will invite the Member States, UN family, donor community, private sector and civil society to contribute towards the formulation of new tasks for and partnerships with UNIDO. The DG is planning to receive high level representatives of Governments and would appreciate strong representation from Armenia.
4. UNIDO will soon circulate a draft Lima Declaration for comments from the Member States and would appreciate any suggestions on further cooperation from the Armenian side also beyond the Lima Declaration.

Follow-up actions:

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Follow-up action</i>	<i>Responsible Unit/Person</i>
GC in Lima	Invitation to senior Government officials, GC in Lima	PMO
Payment Plan	Submit an updated payment plan to the Armenian Government	PTC/BRP/EUR in cooperation with PSM/FIN
DG's visit to Armenia	Prepare a programme of visit	PTC/BRP/EUR, PTC/FLD/EUR/ARM

Distribution:

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