

STATEMENT

**By H.E. Mr. Arman Kirakossian,
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Armenia
At the Fourteenth session of the General Conference of UNIDO
28.11-02.12.2011 Vienna**

Madam President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to extend my congratulations to Her Excellency, Ms. Veronica Sion on her election as the President of the General Conference. I am sure that this Conference will prove to be successful under her leadership. I would also like to join the previous speakers in congratulating the other members of the Bureau on their election.

At the outset I would like to underline that an overarching theme of the Conference “The new industrial revolution: making it sustainable” is of critical importance to the Republic of Armenia which is currently developing a new industrial development strategy. While this strategy focuses on the accelerated development of export-led industries it covers key aspects of sustainability: economic, environmental and social.

The major goal is to contribute to the generation of productive employment for generating income and accomplishing social goals. It is combined with a need to ensure an adequate supply of renewable and non-renewable resources and to safeguard human health and the quality of life.

It is worth noting that despite of the blockade of Armenia by Azerbaijan and Turkey, as well as the economic and financial problems affecting many countries all over the world, the Armenian industry continues its recovery after the decline in 2008-2009. Thus, in nine month of this year it achieved double digit growth of about 13 per cent compared with the same period of the last year.

Madame President,

In order to keep this momentum the Government is carrying out a number of industrial support programmes to promote poverty reduction and the development of competitive industries. A special emphasis is placed, in particular, on assisting small and medium scale industries.

In this context, I would like to congratulate UNIDO for designing, developing and launching an innovative networking mechanism in the Eurasian Economic Community (EurAsEC). At the same time I would like to thank the Government of the Russian Federation for providing necessary financial resources through its contribution to the Industrial Development Fund for establishing a network of Centers for International Industrial Cooperation.

A Centre, recently established in Armenia, is expected to address pressing needs for support in various specialized areas of industrial cooperation where UNIDO has expertise and experience and is able to provide value added services enhancing the competitiveness of enterprises through quality and productivity improvement, facilitating their access to markets, subcontracting and supply chains and networks, fostering industrial partnerships and strategic business alliances. It will also ensure access to UNIDO's accumulated knowledge and skills in increasing industrial productivity combined with the diffusion of environmentally sound technologies.

The Centre is also expected to design and develop new technical cooperation programmes and projects, as well as jointly with local and international partners, to mobilize resources for their implementation.

Taking this opportunity I would like to note that the impact of support provided by UNIDO Center on industrial development in Armenia depends on the availability of resources for its operations. While the Government of the Republic of Armenia provides required in-kind resources it is necessary to secure donor funding for some limited time until the Centre becomes self-sustainable.

Madame President,

Regarding the social dimension of industrial development I would like to dwell on an on-going project in Armenia aimed at enhancing practical and useful skills of vulnerable groups in rural areas.

In support of the Government's efforts, several United Nations organizations, including UNIDO, developed a project to create a basis for sustainable development in two local communities in Armenia by using an integrated approach covering poverty reduction, education, health, and local environmental challenges.

Within this project, financed by UN Human Security Fund, UNIDO, in particular, supports the empowerment of poor, vulnerable rural households as well as forcibly deported from Azerbaijan a big number of refugees, by encouraging their participation in economic life. A special focus is on women and youth. A microcredit facility is being established to support local businesses. Upon the completion of a detailed study on available renewable energy resources in the region, UNIDO will support the improvement of access to modern and clean energy services through the construction of pilot biogas plants, with specific training activities for the local population in the operation and maintenance of these energy systems.

Madam President,

In the pursuit of goals related to the promotion of environmentally sustainable industrial development, the Republic of Armenia meets its obligations under international environment agreements. With UNIDO's assistance and in the context of the green industry initiative, a range of activities and projects aimed at encouraging resource efficient and cleaner production processes, environmentally sound technologies and environmental practices in industry has been already carried out.

In particular, the Republic of Armenia is currently completing enabling activities on the implementation of the Stockholm Convention on the elimination of the release of persistent organic pollutants (POPs). The objective of these activities is to develop and

formulate a National Implementation Plan (NIP), strengthen national capacity and enhance knowledge and understanding amongst decision makers, managers, industries and the population at large on POPs. By achieving this objective the country will be enabled to manage the elimination of POPs and implement other projects financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

Madame President,

I would like to conclude by thanking UNIDO for playing a catalytic role in assisting the Republic of Armenia in strengthening productive capacities and meeting environmental challenges to realize green industry concept.

Thank you.