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Summary record of the 5th meeting

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President: Mr. Csuday.....(Hungary)
Later: Mr. Elamin (Vice-President).....(Sudan)

Contents

<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Paragraphs</i>
8 Review of the progress of the deliberations of the informal working group.	1-26
9 Personnel matters.	27-34
12 Industrial innovation and productive capacity.	35-44
10 Matters related to intergovernmental, non-governmental, governmental and other organizations	45-47
14 Provisional agenda and date of the forty-first session	48
- Introduction of draft decisions	49-51
3 Annual report of the Director-General for 2011 on the activities of the Organization (<i>continued</i>)	52-53
4 Report of the Programme and Budget Committee (<i>continued</i>)	54-63
(a) Report of the External Auditor (<i>continued</i>)	54-55
(b) Financial situation of UNIDO (<i>continued</i>)	56-59
(c) Strengthening of UNIDO programmes through unutilized balances of appropriations (<i>continued</i>)	60-61

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	(d) Mobilization of financial resources (<i>continued</i>)	62-63
5	Activities of the Evaluation Group (<i>continued</i>)	64-65
6	Activities of the Joint Inspection Unit (<i>continued</i>)	66-67
7	UNIDO activities in environment and energy (<i>continued</i>)	68-69
8	Review of the progress of the deliberations of the informal working group (<i>continued</i>)	70-71
9	Personnel matters (<i>continued</i>)	72-73
10	Matters related to intergovernmental, non-governmental, governmental and other organizations (<i>continued</i>)	74-75
11	Selection process for the post of the Director-General: Introduction of a candidates' forum (<i>continued</i>)	76-79
12	Industrial innovation and production capacity (<i>continued</i>)	80-81
14	Provisional agenda and date of the forty-first session (<i>continued</i>)	82-83
15	Adoption of the report	84-86
-	Statement by the African Union Commissioner of Trade and Industry	87-88
-	Closure of the session	89-90

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

Review of the progress of the deliberations of the informal working group (IDB.40/10, IDB.40/17)

1. **The President** drew attention to the interim reports of the Co-Chairs of the working group, contained in documents IDB.40/10 and IDB.40/17.

2. **Mr. Roca Rey** (Peru), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Group had contributed actively to the elaboration of the components of the analysis of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) and looked forward to the next phase aimed at formulating a sound future strategy for UNIDO. The Group reiterated its position that the consensus rule should be applied to all deliberations leading to the final recommendations for that strategy.

3. The efforts of the informal working group were crucial to the future of UNIDO and were enabling Member States to find common ground and identify organizational limitations. The resulting conclusions would enable Member States to establish a new institutional model for UNIDO in order to facilitate the fulfilment of its mandate. The new vision for UNIDO, which should be formulated in time for the fifteenth General Conference session in 2013 and incorporate the outcomes of the 2012 Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), would allow the Organization to reposition itself within the multilateral system and restore its historical role.

4. **Mr. Adamou** (Observer for Cyprus), speaking on behalf of the European Union (EU), said that governance issues were important for the future of UNIDO. EU support would be determined on the basis of factors such as capacity, performance and potential impact, and of fundamental principles such as respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The EU promoted a results-based approach, involving monitoring and evaluation, which could help ensure accountability and transparency, and it hoped that the informal working group would take that approach into consideration. The impact of the global economic crisis would require an adjustment of the activities of UNIDO, for which guidelines could be provided through the working group. The working group should aim to produce recommendations to increase the efficiency of the Organization's work, and the EU was prepared to contribute to that process. The process should allow the candidates for the post of Director-General to consider the necessary organizational changes.

5. **Mr. Budiman** (Indonesia), speaking on behalf of the Asia and Pacific Group, said that the informal working group provided an important medium for discussions between Member States and the Organization on the future of UNIDO. He hoped that the working group could achieve tangible results as a basis for streamlining the Organization's focus and efforts. Given that the working group had completed its SWOT analysis, the Asia and Pacific Group envisaged a comprehensive and inclusive strategy that took into consideration the views expressed by all Member States and groups.

6. **Mr. Egwuatu** (Nigeria), speaking on behalf of the African Group, said that the SWOT analysis had given Member States the opportunity to evaluate UNIDO and that they could now shape the Organization's future role as a driver for sustainable development. The informal working group was crucial in that regard. While UNIDO had successfully implemented technical cooperation projects in Africa, further work was required to scale up interventions in order to ensure a greater impact on African communities. He expressed appreciation for the presentations made in the context of the working group and for the open nature of the discussions, and looked forward to continued dialogue.

7. **Mr. Rivera Mora** (Observer for El Salvador), speaking on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States (GRULAC), said that GRULAC had participated with enthusiasm in the informal working group and was convinced that Member States could identify future opportunities and resources, maximize and enhance the Organization's experience and raise its profile. The identification of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats had allowed Member States to make a constructive analysis of the work of UNIDO. That analysis, coupled with the information sessions that had been organized, would enable them to formulate a comprehensive strategy. GRULAC hoped that the working group would provide a strategic document that could be endorsed by the fifteenth General Conference session and urged Member States to continue their efforts and support the Co-Chairs.

8. **Mr. Wang Shichun** (China) said that the SWOT analysis was virtually complete and more extensive and in-depth discussions between Member States should follow. The outcome of the informal working group would have an important impact on the direction and objectives of UNIDO in the medium and long term. Member States should be strategic, pragmatic, proactive and steadfast in undertaking the relevant work. China would continue to support and participate

constructively in the working group, to enable UNIDO to play a greater role in global industrial development.

9. **Mr. Marsán** (Cuba) said that Cuba had participated with interest in the meetings of the informal working group and the related meetings of the Group of 77 and China and GRULAC. He thanked the Secretariat for its briefings and presentations, which had informed Member States about the challenges and future of the Organization. The SWOT analysis would enable Cuba to make the necessary recommendations for the continued enhancement of the Organization's role in promoting and accelerating sustainable industrial development. Cuba hoped that efforts would result in the formulation of a strategic document that could be approved by the fifteenth General Conference session in 2013.

10. **Mr. Flores Pinto** (Brazil) said that Brazil had been actively involved in the informal working group and drew attention to its contribution contained in conference room paper IDB.40/CRP.10.

11. A report by the Director-General appearing in United Nations document A/67/223 discussed changes in the way the international community should approach development in the future. The conclusion of the report was particularly interesting and highlighted the fact that most official development assistance for industrial development originated from South-South cooperation, while traditional partners continued to direct the bulk of their assistance to governmental, humanitarian and social areas. The report also stressed that successful equitable and sustainable development would depend on the reintegration of industrial development work in mainstream multilateral cooperation.

12. **Princess Bajrakitiyabha** (Thailand), said that the efforts of the informal working group were crucial and very timely. With reference to the outcomes of Rio+20, she said that Thailand expected UNIDO to play an active role in addressing areas in which it had a comparative advantage, for the achievement of sustainable industrial development goals.

13. With regard to energy and the environment, UNIDO should focus on the promotion of innovative product development, environmentally sound production technology, energy savings and the use of renewable energy in industry. Thailand had taken various measures to support a green economy; the promotion of green industry, Eco Industrial Towns, industrial energy efficiency and cleaner production technology were core initiatives. In March 2011, it had organized a seminar in cooperation with UNIDO entitled "Gearing toward Eco-industrial Towns:

Thailand's Direction and Experiences from Japan and Other Countries", aimed at raising awareness among Thai entrepreneurs of the importance of sustainability for capacity-building. She thanked UNIDO and the Government of Japan for providing speakers for the event and encouraged the Organization to maintain its focus on energy and the environment.

14. She commended UNIDO for its active role in promoting South-South cooperation and thanked the UNIDO Centre for South-South Industrial Cooperation (UCSSIC) in China and the Chinese Government for providing technical cooperation and organizing the first Sino-Thai Symposium on the Rubber Industry in 2011. UNIDO should maintain its South-South cooperation framework and intensify efforts to promote the use of UCSSICs.

15. In April 2012, Thailand had initiated a project in cooperation with UNIDO and funded by the Global Environment Facility, which aimed to transfer technology for producing cassava-based biofuel to neighbouring countries belonging to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

16. The economic downturn and worldwide support for sustainable development had forced developing countries to devise sustainable national industrialization strategies and policies in order to strive for economic growth while protecting the environment and maintaining their competitiveness in the global marketplace. UNIDO should continue to provide expert advisory services on industrial policy to developing countries.

17. **Mr. Audin** (France) said that the SWOT analysis and the information provided to the Member States had laid a sound basis for the formulation of useful recommendations for the future of UNIDO. The financial constraints faced by UNIDO meant that priorities must be set and strategic areas in which the Organization had added value must be identified. The small size of the Organization was an advantage rather than a weakness. UNIDO should not only concentrate on areas in which it had a specific mandate and expertise, but should also find ways to increase its efficiency and develop a culture of partnership, including with the private sector. The success of UNIDO in raising funds over recent years testified to the relevance of its thematic priorities and its focus on technical assistance. The recommendations of the informal working group should aim to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Organization. France attached great importance to a transition toward a results-based approach.

18. **Mr. Odegaard** (Norway) highlighted the importance of gender issues and equitable distribution and growth. Women had the potential to contribute hugely to growth and should not be excluded from growth-related policies. With regard to equitable distribution, while recent growth had pulled millions out of poverty, others had been left behind. Furthermore, an increasingly large share of the world's poor lived in middle-income countries and disparities between rich and poor in the world's poorest countries were increasing. He hoped that the informal working group would take such matters into consideration.

19. **Mr. Egwuatu** (Nigeria) said that Nigeria placed a high premium on the objectives of the informal working group, which would help shape the future of UNIDO. The SWOT analysis presented Member States with ample opportunity to develop a viable and sustainable Organization. He hoped that the efforts of the working group would enable UNIDO to focus on industrialization in developing countries in order to create jobs and empower communities economically.

20. **Mr. Azeez** (Sri Lanka) said that the informal working group had set a good example in consensus-building. It had achieved a great deal during the year and succeeded in giving practical relevance to notions that had initially seemed abstract. The SWOT analysis had been useful in identifying disputed issues, and he hoped that understanding and flexibility on the part of Member States would ensure that progress would be made in settling the differences in the near future.

21. While the informal working group would no doubt contribute to shaping the future of UNIDO, it would also facilitate the process of succession and help the new Director-General find niche areas for future engagement. In that connection, he highlighted the need for a smooth transition. During the transition period, the core staff of UNIDO should ensure that the Organization continued to function efficiently and effectively. Furthermore, the organizational experience gained during the process could be used again in future.

22. The convening power of UNIDO should be explored and expanded to enable the Organization to provide an improved service. Meanwhile, widespread awareness of the Organization's work and relevance could be improved, preferably through the implementation of targeted programmes.

23. With regard to trade capacity-building, developing countries faced the costly challenge of adapting to ever-evolving standards, which restricted their market access. Trade capacity-building should

therefore focus not only on updating standards, but also on facilitating research and development.

24. With regard to energy and the environment, there was a need to improve sustainable industrial waste management, which had been neglected by international organizations in efforts to increase their competitive advantage.

25. Lastly, more could be done by UNIDO to facilitate the transition from conventional to clean energy solutions, beyond focusing on adaptation technology. Assistance could be provided in the areas of sustainability planning, growth maintenance and employment security. The Organization should use its convening power to bring together intergovernmental organizations, United Nations agencies and UNIDO Member States in order to address that issue.

26. He hoped that the working group would consider the points made and develop appropriate guidelines and indicators for consideration at the coming sessions of the Board and General Conference.

Personnel matters (IDB.40/2, IDB.40/18; IDB.40/CRP.6)

27. **Mr. Rivera Mora** (Observer for El Salvador), speaking on behalf of GRULAC, reiterated the importance the Group gave to gender equality and geographical representation. He was pleased that, of the 48 members of staff recruited since the previous report on personnel matters in May 2011, 21 were women. He called for continued improvement in gender equality within the Organization and hoped that more women would assume senior management positions.

28. With regard to geographical representation, he expressed concern about the low proportion of UNIDO staff originating from the GRULAC region, which could be further exacerbated by a possible drop in recruitment in 2013 as a result of planned budget cuts.

29. In addition, the imminent retirement of a significant number of high-level staff would coincide with the transition to a new Director-General. He hoped that that would not have a negative impact on the running of UNIDO and that relevant measures would be taken to ensure a smooth transition.

30. Lastly, he expressed gratitude to Mr. Victor Hinojosa, who would be stepping down as Chief of the Latin America and the Caribbean Programme, and wished him the best for his future endeavours. The work carried out by Mr. Hinojosa and his team had proven very fruitful for the region and UNIDO should continue its present approach. The next Programme

Chief should come from the GRULAC region, with a view to ensuring that projects met the region's needs. He also hoped that the office would be strengthened by the addition of further Professional-level staff.

31. **Ms. Umeda-Nishi** (Japan) said that Japan appreciated the improvement in geographical representation. It would also welcome further personnel-related information, including data relating to separations and reassignments.

32. Japan welcomed the efforts of UNIDO in personnel policy development, in particular the introduction of the Framework for Staff Performance Management, and hoped that relevant information would be provided to Member States.

33. Japan fully supported the policy of decentralization, which was crucial for the delivery of high-quality technical cooperation. However, in order to achieve true decentralization, an appropriate system must be created and those personnel operating field offices must be qualified to do so in an efficient and effective manner.

34. **Ms. Antonopoulou** (Director, Human Resource Management Branch) thanked the delegations for their comments and guidance, which would be taken into consideration. Interested delegations were welcome to obtain further information on the new staff performance management system, which would be covered in a briefing. The representative of GRULAC had made a very important point regarding geographical representation and there was indeed a need for improvement and targeted outreach, since there were recruitment opportunities within the process of succession planning. To that end, the Branch had requested information on professional and technical institutions during bilateral discussions with Member States, in order to target qualified candidates, in addition to the global advertising and outreach under way. She was pleased to say that certain Member States had provided such information. Her office remained at the disposal of interested delegations.

Industrial innovation and productive capacity (IDB.40/24)

35. **Mr. Roca Rey** (Peru), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, welcomed the inclusion of the present item in the agenda at a time when Member States were working to fulfil the commitments made at Rio+20. Innovation and national production systems should be promoted in order to overcome future challenges. Long-term innovation in all sectors of industry was important for the success of industrial policies, the mitigation of and adaptation to climate

change and the transition to a new economy based on sustainability. UNIDO had a key role to play in promoting innovation. The Group supported the implementation of "A 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns" (A/CONF.216/5) and the technology transfer facilitation mechanism as agreed by the participating States at Rio+20. UNIDO should also maintain a high-level dialogue with the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development and assist Member States in implementing its guidelines and resolutions.

36. **Mr. Rivera Mora** (Observer for El Salvador), speaking on behalf of GRULAC, thanked Brazil for proposing the inclusion of the present agenda item. Document IDB.40/24 highlighted interesting questions relating to areas in which UNIDO had a broad field of action. Firstly, innovation was necessary to ensure sufficient production to guarantee the supply of public goods and services and protect fundamental human rights. However, that presented the challenge of closing the technology gap between countries and generating conditions in which innovative technology could ensure increased or better-quality production. Secondly, measures should be taken to promote innovation capacities and introduce new technologies and production methods. Adequate national policies were required to promote long-term, systematic innovation, the optimal use of resources, optimal energy consumption and the development of sustainable production methods. Innovation was one of the biggest challenges for middle-income and developing countries and required development policies in diverse areas such as education, research, trade, business promotion, local development, conservation and environmental protection.

37. Given its experience and knowledge, UNIDO had an important role to play in promoting innovation and facilitating the implementation of the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns (A/CONF.216/5). It should also evaluate options for creating a mechanism to promote the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally friendly technologies, in accordance with the outcomes of Rio+20. GRULAC encouraged UNIDO to take up that challenge and to consider high-level cooperation with the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, assisting Member States in the implementation of its recommendations.

38. UNIDO should also emphasize innovation in its activities related to South-South cooperation, taking into account both the similar challenges facing

developing countries and the technological disparities existing.

39. **Mr. Flores Pinto** (Brazil) thanked the Member States for agreeing to the inclusion in the agenda of the present item.

40. In 2013, the United Nations Economic and Social Council would organize its work for the Annual Ministerial Review around the theme of “Science, technology and innovation, and the potential of culture in promoting sustainable development and achieving the Millennium Development Goals”. Science, technology and innovation were at the substantive core of the outcomes of Rio+20, Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. He commended the work of UNIDO in those areas, noting that the Organization had played a pivotal role in the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development in 1979 and the resulting Vienna Programme of Action, which had come to shape the multilateral framework for science, technology and innovation. Likewise, proposals presented at the Third General Conference of UNIDO in 1980 would come to fruition thirty years later with the establishment of the Cancun Technology Mechanism at the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties, under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

41. As pointed out in document A/67/348, it was vital to reduce consumption and pollution, while also enabling poor communities to attain adequate standards of living. That imposed a moral and political imperative to pursue technological innovation, since countries could only succeed in their efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change if they were able to incorporate innovative techniques and approaches in all sectors of industry. The transition to an economy based on sustainability required bold national policies capable of fostering long-term, systematic innovation. UNIDO had a key role to play in promoting innovation and should lead the implementation of the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns (A/CONF.216/5) and the technology transfer facilitation mechanism, as agreed by Member States at Rio+20.

42. Societies strove for industrial development not only to boost national power and pride but also to empower their citizens and protect fundamental human rights. In continually raising productivity levels, industrial innovation was one of the main factors determining the capacity of a society to offer public services and to grant basic rights to its citizens.

Industrial development was not a choice, but an obligation of all Governments.

43. With regard to innovation, the mandate of UNIDO did not overlap with those of other organizations of the United Nations system, but complemented them. UNIDO had an important role to play in helping Member States develop their innovative capabilities. Innovation would be instrumental in the achievement of the MDGs and helped to enhance the role of SMEs in national development. Since SMEs were the key drivers of growth and poverty eradication, it was important to foster their development and innovative capabilities.

44. Brazil hoped that the new agenda item would be included in future sessions of the Board and would help the Organization re-establish its political status and to offer substantive conceptual contributions to the wider United Nations agenda.

Matters related to intergovernmental, non-governmental, governmental and other organizations (IDB.40/20, IDB.40/23)

45. **The President** said that the Bureau had reviewed and accepted the applications of two non-governmental organizations (NGOs) applying for consultative status with UNIDO, the International Gas Union (IGU) and the Global Alliance of SMEs (GASME).

46. **Mr. Egwuatu** (Nigeria), speaking on behalf of the African Group, welcomed the applications of IGU and GASME, since the activities of both organizations with regard to energy, the environment and trade capacity-building complemented those of UNIDO.

47. **Mr. Wang Shichun** (China) said that, in working with NGOs and governmental organizations, UNIDO would broaden its range of cooperation. China agreed to the two applications and hoped that UNIDO would assess its cooperation with such organizations on a regular basis and report back to the Member States.

Provisional agenda and date of the forty-first session (IDB.40/CRP.7)

48. **The President** drew attention to a note by the Director-General relating to the provisional agenda and date of the forty-first session of the Board, as contained in conference room paper IDB.40/CRP.7.

The meeting was suspended at 11.15 a.m. and resumed at 11.50 a.m.

Introduction of draft decisions (IDB.40/L.2-L.14)

49. **The President** said that, except for a draft decision on the application by two non-governmental organizations for consultative status, which had been approved by the Bureau, and the draft decision entitled “Date and place of the fifteenth session of the General Conference”, which had already been adopted, the draft decisions on the various agenda items had been discussed in informal consultations chaired by Mr. Osawa (Japan), who would report on the consultations.

50. **Mr. Osawa** (Japan), speaking as Chair of the informal consultations, said that 11 documents had been discussed and agreed on. As regards the introduction of digital recordings (IDB.40/25), participants in the informal consultations had recommended that discussions on that matter be deferred to the twenty-ninth session of the Programme and Budget Committee. He thanked all delegations that had taken part in the consultations for the goodwill and spirit of compromise displayed.

51. **The President** said that he would submit the draft decisions approved by consensus in the consultations as drafts of the President for consideration by the Board, together with the draft decision approved by the Bureau.

Annual report of the Director-General for 2011 on the activities of the Organization (continued)
(IDB.40/2; IDB.40/CRP.2, CRP.11, IDB.40/L.12)

52. **The President** drew attention to draft decision IDB.40/L.12, entitled “Knowledge networking and knowledge sharing”.

53. *The draft decision was adopted.*

Report of the Programme and Budget Committee (continued) (IDB.40/12)

(a) Report of the External Auditor (continued)
(IDB.40/3; IDB.40/L.4)

54. **The President** drew attention to draft decision IDB.40/L.4.

55. *The draft decision was adopted.*

(b) Financial situation of UNIDO (continued)
(IDB.40/4, IDB.40/11 and Add.1, IDB.40/22, IDB.40/25; IDB.40/L.5, L.6)

56. **The President** drew attention to draft decision IDB.40/L.5, entitled “Financial situation of UNIDO”.

57. *The draft decision was adopted.*

58. **The President** drew attention to draft decision IDB.40/L.6, entitled “Request from Ukraine for restoration of voting rights based on a payment plan”.

59. *The draft decision was adopted.*

(c) Strengthening of UNIDO programmes through unutilized balances of appropriations (continued)
(IDB.40/5, IDB.40/6*, IDB.40/7, IDB.40/8; IDB.40/CRP.4, CRP.5)

60. No draft decision having been submitted under the item, **the President** proposed that the Board take note of the documentation provided.

61. *It was so decided.*

(d) Mobilization of financial resources (continued)
(IDB.40/2, IDB.40/9; IDB.40/L.8)

62. **The President** drew attention to draft decision IDB.40/L.8.

63. *The draft decision was adopted.*

Activities of the Evaluation Group (continued)
(IDB.40/13; IDB.40/CRP.8)

64. No draft decision having been submitted under the item, **the President** proposed that the Board take note of the documentation provided.

65. *It was so decided.*

Activities of the Joint Inspection Unit (continued)
(IDB.40/14)

66. No draft decision having been submitted under the item, **the President** proposed that the Board take note of the documentation provided.

67. *It was so decided.*

UNIDO activities in environment and energy (continued) (IDB.40/15, IDB.40/16; IDB.40/L.13)

68. **The President** drew attention to draft decision IDB.40/L.13.

69. *The draft decision was adopted.*

Review of the progress of the deliberations of the informal working group (continued) (IDB.40/10, IDB.40/17; IDB.40/CRP.9, CRP.10)

70. No draft decision having been submitted under the item, **the President** proposed that the Board take note of the documentation provided.

71. *It was so decided.*

Personnel matters (*continued*) (IDB.40/2, IDB.40/18 and Corr.1; IDB.40/L.9)

72. **The President** drew attention to draft decision IDB.40/L.9.

73. *The draft decision was adopted.*

Matters related to intergovernmental, non-governmental, governmental and other organizations (*continued*) (IDB.40/20, IDB.40/23; IDB.40/L.3)

74. **The President** drew attention to draft decision IDB.40/L.3, entitled “Applications from non-governmental organizations for consultative status”.

75. *The draft decision was adopted.*

Selection process for the post of the Director-General: Introduction of a candidates’ forum (*continued*) (IDB.40/21 and Add.1, IDB.40/26; IDB.40/L.10, L.14)

76. **The President** drew attention to draft decision IDB.40/L.10, entitled “Forum of candidates for the post of Director-General”.

77. *The draft decision was adopted.*

78. **The President** drew attention to draft decision IDB.40/L.14, entitled “Legislative procedures for the appointment of the Director-General”.

79. *The draft decision was adopted.*

Industrial innovation and production capacity (*continued*) (IDB.40/24; IDB.40/L.7)

80. **The President** drew attention to draft decision IDB.40/L.7.

81. *The draft decision was adopted.*

Provisional agenda and date of the forty-first session (*continued*) (IDB.40/CRP.7; IDB.40/L.11)

82. The President drew attention to draft decision IDB.40/L.11.

83. *The draft decision was adopted.*

Adoption of the report (IDB.40/L.1)

84. **Ms. Tangkittikhun** (Thailand), Rapporteur, introducing document IDB.40/L.1, said that the draft report was incomplete owing to time constraints. The final version, which would reflect all the proceedings, including the decisions adopted, would be compiled in close consultation with the Friends of the Rapporteur.

85. **The President** said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Board wished to adopt the draft report as a whole on the understanding that the Rapporteur would finalize it in consultation with the Friends of the Rapporteur as soon as possible after the closure of the session.

86. *It was so decided.*

Statement by the African Union Commissioner of Trade and Industry

87. **Ms. Acyl** (African Union Commissioner of Trade and Industry) said that the African Union Commission appreciated the technical and financial support that had been provided by UNIDO during the past seven years. Unfortunately, the global share of industrial output and manufacture export of Africa was extremely low compared to the share of other developing regions of the world. Africa was embracing industrialization, and its leaders were determined to seize the emerging industrialization development opportunities, in order to transform the economy of the country in an effective and sustainable way. In January 2008, the African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government had endorsed and adopted a comprehensive plan of action for the industrial development of Africa, which had been developed with the full support and commitment of UNIDO. That plan of action had formed the basis for the industrial transformation of Africa, and drew lessons from the previous African industrial development decade.

88. Over the past seven years, the Conference of African Ministers of Industry had been working closely with UNIDO to develop joint programmes with the African Union. The African Union Commission commended the continued commitment of UNIDO to address the issue of compliance with international standards, youth employment, trade capacity and value addition. The challenge facing Africa was enormous, and thus required the effort and partnership of all stakeholders, especially UNIDO. It was essential to continue building a continued and sustainable partnership with UNIDO to break the vicious cycle of low productive capacity, economic vulnerability and poverty in Africa.

Closure of the session

89. **Mr. Yumkella** (Director-General) expressed gratitude to the many ministers and senior officials who had attended the fortieth session of the Board, as it reflected the continued confidence of Member States in UNIDO. He appreciated the many supportive and encouraging statements made by delegates, both on

behalf of regional groups and in their national capacities. He was pleased at the successful conclusion of the session and was thankful for the cooperation that had enabled such a heavy agenda to be completed in such a short period of time. Note had been taken of the many important issues raised by Member States, and they would be followed up accordingly. He was grateful for the consensus that had been reached on the decision on legislative procedures for the appointment of the next Director-General. That would allow concentration on ensuring an effective transition in the UNIDO management. He was also grateful for the support for the inclusion of the importance of equitable and sustainable industrial development, and for the mandate of UNIDO, in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Millennium Development Goals and the post-2015 development agenda. He looked forward to the successful conclusion of the work of the informal working group, which would produce a strengthened mandate for the challenging times that lay ahead. He thanked the Board for taking the landmark decision to host the next General Conference of UNIDO in Lima in 2013, and hoped that every four years UNIDO would go to other regions to meet its various stakeholders. At the fortieth session, the democratic processes of the Organization had been upheld to ensure the transition to a new administration. He thanked the members of the UNIDO management, particularly Mr. Ajmal, Mr. Piskunov and Mr. Lütkenhorst, for their services to UNIDO. They had had many successes in the past seven years, and they had set a good foundation for the new management, with an Organization with a strong technical capacity that could propel it to greater heights. In his final eight months as Director-General, he would work tirelessly to continue the hard work of UNIDO, to ensure the handover of a viable and strong Organization to the next set of administrators.

90. **The President** expressed his gratitude to all members of the Board for the spirit of cooperation which had prevailed throughout the session, thus ensuring the successful outcome of the deliberations. He also expressed his appreciation to Mr. Yumkella and to all members of the Secretariat. He thanked Ms. Haidara and her team, the interpreters for their flexibility, and also the conference officers and all the other members of the Secretariat whose work behind the scenes contributed to the smooth running of the meetings of the Board. He declared the fortieth session of the Industrial Development Board closed.

The meeting rose at 12.20 p.m.