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Industrial Development Board Forty-first session

Summary record of the 1st meeting*

Held at the Vienna International Centre, Vienna, on Monday, 24 June 2013, at 10 a.m.

Temporary President: Mr. Csuday..... (Hungary)

President: Mr. García Revilla..... (Peru)

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* No summary record was issued for the private section of the meeting.

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The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Opening of the session

1. **The Temporary President** declared open the forty-first session of the Industrial Development Board.

Election of officers

2. **The Temporary President** said that he had received the following nominations: Mr. Antonio García Revilla (Peru) for the post of President; Ms. Grace Mutandiro (Zimbabwe), Mr. Aliyar Azeez (Sri Lanka) and Mr. Alberto Groff (Switzerland) for the posts of Vice-President; and Mr. Sergey Sizov (Russian Federation) for the post of Rapporteur.

3. *The candidates were elected by acclamation.*

Statement by the Temporary President

4. **The Temporary President** congratulated the new President and other members of the Bureau and wished them success in their work.

5. As the outgoing President, he said that it had been an honour and privilege to serve as President of the Board. On his election, he had said that UNIDO was at a crossroads, which should be seen not only as a challenge but also as an opportunity, and that it was the responsibility of the Member States to use that opportunity for the benefit of the Organization. In that context, significant work had been achieved by the informal working group on the future, including programmes and resources, of UNIDO, and he wished to thank all Member States that had been actively involved in the group's work and, in particular, the Co-Chairs Ms. Dengo Benavides of Costa Rica and Mr. Groff of Switzerland for their efforts to facilitate discussions in finalizing the Strategic Guidance Document.

6. With regard to the election of a new Director General, he was confident that UNIDO staff and Member States would work together to ensure that the transition at the executive level of UNIDO was smooth. The large number of excellent candidates for the post of Director General demonstrated the Organization's strength. Elections were inherently complex and delicate processes, but he had no doubt that, regardless of the outcome, all would endeavour to work together for the betterment of the Organization.

7. *Mr. García Revilla (Peru), President, took the Chair.*

Statement by the President

8. **The President** expressed his gratitude to the Board members for electing him to preside over the forty-first session, and commended the outgoing President for his work.

9. The Government of Peru attached great importance to the promotion of sustainable industrial development in developing countries and therefore wished to reiterate its firm commitment to UNIDO as a leading organization in that area, whose work contributed to greater well-being, income generation through economic diversification, value added and job creation. That commitment was demonstrated by the fact that Peru would host the fifteenth session of the UNIDO General Conference in Lima. The Government of Peru hoped that the second Lima declaration and plan of action, which would be negotiated in Vienna, would be adopted at that session; that would be as much a milestone for the Organization as the Lima Declaration and Plan of Action on Industrial Development and Cooperation adopted in 1975.

10. Lastly, he thanked Mr. Yumkella for his hard work as Director General and wished him every success in his future responsibilities.

Adoption of the agenda (IDB.41/1 and Add.1; IDB.41/CRP.1)

11. *The provisional agenda (IDB.41/1) was adopted.*

12. **Mr. Yumkella** (Director General) expressed his gratitude to the outgoing Bureau, and in particular to the outgoing President. It was thanks to Mr. Csuday's commitment and leadership that the previous session had been conducted in such a constructive manner.

13. He congratulated the new President and Bureau on their election and was confident that, under the leadership of Mr. García Revilla, the Board could be assured of the successful completion of its work.

14. The Board faced a busy schedule in addition to the election of a candidate for the post of Director General. Inter alia, it would consider his proposal to extend the medium-term programme framework, which would give the new administration time to develop a new framework based on its own vision for the Organization, and the outcome document of the informal working group on the future, including programmes and resources, of UNIDO, entitled "Strategic Guidance Document", which would also be made available to the new team so that they could develop the direction UNIDO would take in the future. He was pleased that, for the first time in 20 years, a session of the General Conference would be held in

one of the developing regions, and expressed the hope that alternate sessions would continue to be held in other regions in order to enable UNIDO to present its case and observe the realities of economic transformation and development in those regions.

15. In his final address to the Board, he wished to reflect on the achievements of the past eight years and on how he saw the future. It had been a unique honour and privilege, as Director General, to serve humanity at the heart of the United Nations. On his election in 2005, he had undertaken to be guided always by results. The importance of why results mattered was given by the context in which he had taken up his post, and three major issues in particular: the debate as to whether UNIDO was relevant; the global financial crisis and how to mobilize resources for the Organization; and the ongoing debate on climate change and sustainable and inclusive development.

16. In 2006, UNIDO had faced an existential crisis: a number of proposals for restructuring the United Nations system, submitted to the General Assembly, had called for UNIDO to be merged with other agencies, while others had called for its dissolution; at the same time, some Member States had been ready to withdraw from the Organization. In response to that crisis, the Board had decided that UNIDO should enhance its visibility globally by engaging with countries and that the Director General should engage directly with the Chief Executives Board for Coordination and the High-level Panel on United Nations System-wide Coherence to present the case for the Organization. Consequently, he had travelled extensively during his first four years in office and UNIDO had undertaken numerous activities in Member States and organized international events. Representatives of the High-level Panel had been invited to Vienna to observe how the Organization worked and what it did. Those efforts had finally succeeded. The debate today was no longer on whether UNIDO was relevant but rather on whether it was consistent with the development agendas and priorities of the individual countries.

17. The global financial and economic crisis had raised the questions of what to do with limited resources and how to raise funds in such circumstances. Every dollar of funding received since the crisis had struck had been raised by the Organization's staff through good programme design and innovation. The result of that hard work was that the portfolio of UNIDO programmes had doubled since 2005; more money had been raised during that period than in the past two decades, in spite of the difficulties faced. Moreover, US\$ 210 million in funding from

the Global Environment Facility (GEF) had been mobilized.

18. In the past two months, there had been some debate as to whether environmental programmes were part of core industrialization and whether UNIDO should pull back from such programmes. Were it to do so, it would become irrelevant, since present-day industrialization and the expansion of industries were inextricably linked to environmental sustainability and green economy.

19. UNIDO had been able to continue to grow during the crises of the past years because it had focused on analysis and policy advice. It was important to understand new trends and new technologies; UNIDO must therefore be up to date and its staff must have the best possible knowledge, analysis and data. In addition, it was important that UNIDO continue to pursue its "global forum" activities, participating in events relating to green industry, trade and energy in order to project its knowledge, listen to new ideas around the world and make its presence and relevance felt. In that way it would be able to raise money for its programmes and earn recognition as a centre of excellence.

20. His administration had introduced a holistic programmatic approach encompassing a number of new areas, including trade capacity-building, the Green Industry Initiative, energy and partnerships with the private sector. UNIDO had also strengthened its relations with: the European Union, UNIDO's strategic decision to open an office in Brussels having resulted in an increase in the value of its portfolio from US\$ 4 million to US\$ 100 million, a figure that was expected to increase even more; the middle-income countries, a relationship that would be of key importance for the future of the Organization; the BRICS countries (Brazil, the Russian Federation, India, China and South Africa), which had become more actively engaged with, and increased their funding to, UNIDO; and the African Union. Furthermore, it had worked to strengthen South-South cooperation. Such activities would continue to be relevant in the future. The holistic approach and the partnerships developed had made the Organization's achievements possible despite the crises faced. The hard work of its staff had resulted in a steep rise in technical cooperation delivery. Although there had been a significant drop in funds mobilized in 2012, due in part to processes related to the GEF replenishment cycles, UNIDO had raised more than US\$ 280 million at the height of the crisis in 2011, the highest sum in the Organization's history. However, that success must not be taken for granted. The financial crisis was not

over; UNIDO must therefore continue to be innovative, to engage with its partners and Member States and even to scale up some of the work already done.

21. The third major area of focus during his tenure, climate change and sustainable development, was a global issue. UNIDO must engage in the post-2015 debate and be ready to demonstrate how it could influence wealth creation, inclusive growth and employment. He used the term “wealth creation” rather than “private-sector development” because the latter implied corporate social responsibility, whereas developing countries were interested in technology transfer, investment and wealth creation through supply chains and value added. UNIDO had laid the foundations for the development of those areas but would need to ensure that it remained up to date.

22. With regard to change management, while much remained to be done and UNIDO needed to catch up with some other agencies in reforming its administrative practices, much had been changed and careful choices had ensured that technical cooperation delivery, fundraising and the progress of the Organization’s work had not been negatively affected. Knowledge management, risk management and the ability to demonstrate value for money were crucial to the change management process. His administration had also introduced “360-degree” evaluation for all staff. In 2012, the Joint Inspection Unit had compared several United Nations agencies that had introduced change management and enterprise resource planning and had rated UNIDO highly for remaining within cost and schedule targets.

23. He had first come to work for UNIDO 17 years previously, at a time when the Organization was in crisis. He was now leaving at a time when UNIDO was facing a minor but real crisis, but also a period of opportunity. There were numerous developments in green growth and the green economy; opportunities for wealth creation were constantly emerging in developing countries. In order to ensure that those opportunities were not missed, industrialization and employment creation — and the stability created by employment — were necessary. The key issue was not simply aid but how UNIDO would engage with and support countries in their transformation. That was his legacy, and one that he hoped others could build on.

24. **Mr. Brou** (Minister of Industry of Côte d’Ivoire) paid tribute to the work of the outgoing Director General. In that connection, the President of Côte d’Ivoire had decided to confer on Mr. Yumkella the title of *Commandeur de l’ordre national*.

25. After a decade of social and political crisis, Côte d’Ivoire was consolidating peace and national reconciliation and returning to the path of economic and social development. In the framework of the Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the Government was supporting the process of dialogue between all sectors of society. There had been regional and municipal elections in April 2013 and the Government’s measures to promote growth and the private sector had begun to bear fruit. The rate of growth in 2010 had been 9.8 per cent, as against -4 per cent in 2011. A 9 per cent growth rate was predicted for 2013 and 10 per cent in 2014 and 2015. At the same time, improvements in macroeconomic governance and public finance management had enabled the country to eliminate a substantial part of its foreign debt.

26. With such progress, it would be possible to realize the President’s vision of making Côte d’Ivoire an “emerging country” by 2020. The National Development Plan for the period 2012-2015 had been established, with the support of development partners and private investors. The Plan would make industry — particularly agro-industry — a major pillar of development. The aim was to process at least 50 per cent of agricultural production within the country and to bring industry up to 40 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP) by 2020. To that end, the Government would make private initiative the engine of its economic and social development and had undertaken a range of reforms to improve the business environment and attract direct foreign investment.

27. An action plan would be adopted to improve the indicators of the business environment, with: the adoption of a new code of investment in line with international standards; the introduction of a one-stop shop to facilitate the establishment of enterprises within 48 hours; the establishment of trade courts to deal with economic trade disputes; a one-stop shop for foreign trade; and the reorganization of the management of industrial areas through public-private partnerships.

28. The successful industrial development of Côte d’Ivoire would require greater regional integration. The country was therefore making every effort to promote a common regional industrial policy through the West African Economic and Monetary Union and the Economic Community of West African States, in line with the policy of the African Union.

29. The Board was faced with two decisions of particular importance for the future of the Organization. The first related to the adoption of the

document on the future, including programmes and resources, of UNIDO. He commended the work of the informal working group and was confident that the implementation of its recommendations would strengthen the relevance and the unique role of UNIDO within the United Nations system. The second decision related to the election of the next Director General. His role would be crucial in revitalizing the Organization's activities and increasing the confidence of Member States in UNIDO in order to prevent, or even reverse, the current trend towards the departure of countries from the Organization.

30. International industrial cooperation was crucial. He called on Member States to renew their commitment to UNIDO so that it could continue to play its role in promoting industrialization in developing countries, particularly the least developed countries.

31. **Mr. Ortom** (Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment of Nigeria) said that, as a member of the Industrial Development Board, Nigeria would actively support the ongoing structural changes in the Organization. Under the new leadership and using its SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analysis programme, UNIDO would be able to promote better service delivery to its Member States.

32. The recent financial and economic crisis had been aggravated by environmental factors, of which climate change had the most critical consequences. Access to energy for countries like Nigeria was a pressing challenge and was central to sustainable development. Sustainable development could transform many industries, but it had to be achieved through a shift to a global green economy. That shift could lead to a new industrial revolution aimed at promoting large-scale industrial transformation using low-emission technologies and resource-efficient growth. Nigeria, in line with other Member States, was reshaping its developmental paradigm in industrial operations to promote resource efficiency. It was prepared to collaborate with the international community in order to adapt to the Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) initiative, as discussed at the Vienna Energy Forum 2013.

33. He noted with appreciation the significant contributions made by UNIDO in Nigeria, in particular its efforts towards achieving sustainable industrial development and its collaboration on activities that were in line with the Government's Transformation Agenda. Nigeria would continue to welcome partnership with UNIDO in order to benefit from the Organization's expertise in agribusiness and

agro-industries and the solid minerals, petrochemicals and service industries, sectors in which Nigeria had the potential to attract foreign direct investment. Nigeria was collaborating with the UNIDO Regional Office in Nigeria to promote the Nigerian Agribusiness and Agro-industrial Development Initiative. It was important for Nigeria to continually solicit the agricultural expertise of UNIDO, as agriculture was an area of priority for the Government.

34. It was vital that, while focusing on industrial development, the employment of young people and development of their entrepreneurial skills should be a priority. Nigeria appreciated the contribution of UNIDO to the organization of the ongoing job fair in Abuja and Lagos, and requested its continued support.

35. Nigeria was committed to reaching a successful outcome in the discussions on the future of UNIDO and to ensuring that the Organization's sustainable development projects in Member States were not affected.

36. He congratulated Mr. Yumkella for the commendable work he had done during his tenure as Director General of UNIDO.

37. **Mr. Yu Jianhua** (Deputy International Trade Representative of China) said that the global economy was recovering, although there were many uncertain and unstable factors. Global development issues remained prominent and, despite the progress made by the international community, it would be a challenge to meet all of the Millennium Development Goals in time. To achieve economic and social development, countries around the world were paying more attention to the development of the real economy, including industry. Some developed countries had adopted reindustrialization strategies, while a large number of developing countries, particularly the least developed countries (LDCs), hoped to achieve economic and social development through faster industrialization.

38. He thanked Mr. Yumkella for his important contribution to the development of UNIDO and said that the election of the new Director General was an opportunity for UNIDO. The Chinese Government had nominated Mr. LI Yong, Vice Minister of Finance of China, as a candidate for the post.

39. The Chinese Government was committed to fully supporting the work of UNIDO and would significantly increase its voluntary contribution to the Organization with a view to enabling it to play a greater role in promoting sustainable industrial development.

40. China thanked the co-chairs of the informal working group on the future, including programmes

and resources, of UNIDO for their efforts and endorsed the proposals that UNIDO should leverage its unique strengths, take a results-oriented approach and prioritize work in productive capacity-building, trade capacity-building and sustainable production and industrial resource efficiency in order to better fulfil its mandate of promoting sustainable industrial development.

41. Over the previous few years, the Organization had faced difficulties and challenges, including the withdrawal of several Member States. However, its Member States still had great faith in it and, as the world paid greater attention to industrial development, the core mandate of UNIDO was receiving greater recognition and would become even more relevant in the post-2015 development agenda. The fifteenth session of the General Conference would be an opportunity to reinvigorate the Organization and to decide on priorities for its future.

42. China and UNIDO had achieved significant results in sectors such as the promotion of practical technologies, capacity-building and the utilization of clean energy. China was planning to increase its cooperation with UNIDO through South-South cooperation and other modalities, in order to further the exchange of development experience with other developing countries, promote industrial advancement and achieve common development.

43. **Ms. Magali Silva** (Deputy Minister for Micro and Small Enterprises and Industry of Peru) thanked Mr. Yumkella for his leadership of UNIDO.

44. Over the previous decade, annual growth in Peru had averaged 7 per cent but the share of industry in the generation of value added had remained stagnant, at 14 per cent, while other areas, such as construction, services and trade, had increased their share.

45. In Peru, the Government was revising its priorities and developing an inclusive national industrial development plan based on: the building of infrastructure; promotion of the use of science, technology, innovation, entrepreneurship and knowledge transfer; sustainable growth in harmony with the environment and the promotion of sustainable energy.

46. Peru was one of the most diverse countries in the world. It had many natural resources but 28 per cent of its people lived in poverty, some in extreme poverty. There was a need to promote public-private partnerships and to bridge the productivity gaps that existed between Lima and the regions, and between enterprises of different sizes. The Government

recognized the importance of micro and small enterprises for growth in Peru.

47. **Ms. Mościcka-Dendys** (Undersecretary of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland) thanked Mr. Yumkella for his excellent work at the helm of UNIDO. Under his visionary guidance and leadership, UNIDO had evolved to become an important and respected actor of the United Nations system.

48. UNIDO had a unique mandate within the United Nations family, and well-recognized comparative advantages. It was the responsibility of all the Member States and other partners to ensure that the Organization focused on that mandate, which was more relevant than ever in the current period of multiple crises and was the best guarantee for bringing benefits to all Member States, in particular the LDCs and middle-income countries. It was also imperative to strengthen cooperation with like-minded development partners and to pursue other means of cooperation, in particular South-South and triangular cooperation, as well as public-private partnerships.

49. UNIDO Member States should make full use of their ownership rights within the Organization. Moreover, the role of the Organization at the international level must be further increased, and its relevance and efficiency enhanced. UNIDO must continue to be reshaped to meet the current needs of its Members.

50. The remarkable achievements of UNIDO were based on a bold vision. The time was approaching to take stock of what had been achieved, what had not, and what future action was required. Poland would work in close collaboration with the Organization's new management to finalize an ambitious, integrative and realistic vision for UNIDO that would shape its work in the years ahead. That was a challenging task, especially in the current context, which was marked by uncertainty and volatility. However, it would be an excellent opportunity to reach a common understanding on the role of UNIDO as a specialized agency, based on country ownership, alignment and mutual accountability.

51. She stressed the fundamental role that industry had played in the transition of Poland over the previous 20 years from a development aid beneficiary to a net contributor to international development assistance. The share of industry in Poland's GDP was the biggest in the European Union, and Poland was also the only member State of the European Union whose economy had steadily grown during the economic and financial crisis. Poland wanted to remain a strong industrial country that championed industry as a way of fighting

poverty all over the world. Poland was also one of the few countries worldwide that had managed to combine industrial growth and development with a strong commitment to meeting environmental targets. It was keen to share its industrial expertise and experience for the benefit of UNIDO.

52. Poland had nominated Marcin Korolec, current Minister for the Environment of Poland, as a candidate for the post of Director General. The vision that he had for UNIDO was based on responsible and results-focused leadership, as well as efficient and transparent management. His nomination was proof of the commitment of Poland to the goals of UNIDO.

53. Poland was proud of its industrial heritage and successful, ongoing transformation. Its economy was based on small and medium-sized enterprises and relied on the ingenuity of its people. By successfully overcoming the financial crisis it had proved that small, local solutions were sometimes the best way of solving global problems.

54. **Mr. Abdelwahid Yousif Ibrahim Mokhtar** (State Minister, Ministry of Industry of the Sudan) commended Mr. Yumkella on his creative approach to galvanizing efforts to promote sustainable industrial development, particularly in the LDCs, in the face of political and economic challenges. Mr. Yumkella had worked with perseverance for seven years to fight poverty and reinforce capacities, always on the basis of well-formulated plans.

55. He welcomed the *Annual Report of UNIDO 2012* (IDB.41/2) and commended Mr. Yumkella's achievements, in particular with regard to technical cooperation. He noted the Organization's work in the field and activities aimed at attaining the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

56. Effective, sustainable industrial development was a vital element in the development strategy of the Sudan, which aimed at modernizing the industrial sector, in particular agro-industry. Agricultural and water resources should be used to their full potential in order to achieve food security. The Sudan had recently made major progress in the food and pharmaceutical sectors, while at the same time preserving the environment. It had also taken steps to seek renewable energy solutions and developed the textile, leather and construction industries.

57. The Sudanese industrial sector had evolved extremely rapidly, allowing the country to increase its gross domestic product and attract direct foreign investment. It also sought to develop creative

approaches for the distribution of income within the context of a three-year programme for 2012-2014.

58. The Sudan was satisfied with all the activities of UNIDO. A programme document for the modernization of the industrial sector would probably be signed during the current session.

59. Efforts had been made to develop training and education, placing a focus on priority sectors.

60. The Sudan appreciated UNIDO's technical cooperation programmes, and thanked the States and donor organizations that had contributed to them. It hoped that UNIDO would develop its relations with international institutions and donors in order to implement necessary industrial modernisation projects, many of which were aimed at increasing productive capacity while strengthening the private sector.

61. The Sudan commended the work of UNIDO in the clean energy sector and the efforts of the Chair of UN-Energy in implementing projects for sustainable development in developing countries and the LDCs.

62. The Sudan thanked UNIDO and Austria for having jointly organized the 2013 Vienna Energy Forum and stressed that renewable energy was vital for sustainable development.

63. The Sudan appreciated the efforts of the informal working group on the future, including programmes and resources, of UNIDO, in particular with regard to the Strategic Guidance Document. Member States should make use of the recommendations and conclusions of that document in formulating an action plan for integrating all the activities of UNIDO in the face of economic and political challenges.

64. The highly qualified candidates put forward for the post of Director General of UNIDO demonstrated that the Organization had earned the trust of Member States.

65. **Mr. Formica** (Italy) thanked Mr. Yumkella for his service to the Organization, his vision and his inspiring words.

66. Italy had also submitted a candidature for the post of Director General. In nominating Ms. Diana Battaglia, it had proposed not only a candidate but also a programme for the future of the Organization.

67. Italy had supported UNIDO for over forty years, including through the difficult transition period, and had encouraged efforts to develop and implement key reforms that could guarantee its future and relevance. His Government reiterated its political commitment to UNIDO.

68. Emerging economic policies were increasingly focused on boosting economic growth and creating jobs through industrialization. Italy was fully aware of the new opportunities arising for the Organization as the only agency of the United Nations family with a mandate to promote sustainable industrial development. UNIDO should play a leading role in the definition and coordination of a global industrial agenda in line with the proposed post-2015 development framework and act as an active player in the fight against poverty, unemployment and environmental degradation. UNIDO had great potential, given its unique experience in the fields of poverty eradication through industrial development, trade capacity-building, energy and the environment.

69. Italy attached great importance to the potential of the Organization to foster North-South and South-South technology transfer. However, it would not be an easy task to turn potential into reality. UNIDO should continue to strive for inclusiveness and effectiveness, evolving into a more dynamic, innovative organization focused on high development impact and cost efficiency, developing global solutions to achieve shared, sustainable growth and strengthening partnerships and cooperation with public and private partners.

70. Efforts should also be made to encourage non-Member States to join or rejoin the Organization.

71. UNIDO had a key role to play in building a more prosperous world, but was currently at a crossroads. Now more than ever, Member States should demonstrate unity in order to maintain the Organization's role in the future.

72. UNIDO should continue to be relevant and important for all its Members and would need their support. Its role as a global driver for sustainable industrial development depended on the capacity to build strong synergies and on the complementary efforts of all its regional groups and Member States.

73. **Ms. Sibunruang** (Thailand) noted that, more than 45 years after the establishment of UNIDO, Member States were continuing to develop and perfect the Organization despite financial and operational constraints, thanks to their desire to maximize its performance and relevance.

74. The battle for the post of Director General had been hard-fought, since all the Member States cared so deeply about the future of UNIDO. All the candidates had proposed clear missions and strategies.

75. Thailand had also nominated a candidate, illustrating its strong commitment to UNIDO, and was

confident that Mr. Pongvas Svasti could emulate the success of Mr. Yumkella. While serving as Minister for Industry, Mr. Svasti had been a champion of development and had attracted a large amount of foreign investment to Thailand. He was therefore the right person to take on the challenges faced by UNIDO.

76. Contrary to what was sometimes suggested, UNIDO was a relevant, active Organization and its Member States had the ability to collectively shape the future. It was greater than the sum of the ambitions of its Member States and was more than simply a collection of countries of the North and South. Member States would continue to work together for inclusive growth and remind the world of the importance of UNIDO within the United Nations system.

77. Thailand congratulated Mr. Yumkella on his tireless efforts and wished him success in his future position.

78. **Mr. Erfani** (Afghanistan) thanked Mr. Yumkella and wished him success in his new role.

79. The people of Afghanistan and the international community had come a long way over the previous 12 years and were implementing all the necessary measures to ensure a successful transition period. Multilateralism and a strong engagement with international organizations were core elements of the country's foreign policy in its efforts to integrate globally.

80. With its positive economic outlook and determination to integrate, Afghanistan was ready to contribute to international organizations, in particular UNIDO. It had accordingly decided to put forward a very committed candidate for the post of Director General, Mr. Sham L. Bathija. Mr. Bathija had been serving as a Minister and Senior Economic Adviser to the President of Afghanistan and for many years had been the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development's Coordinator for the Central Asian Republics. He had also acted as focal point for the LDCs and landlocked countries, the Organization of Islamic Conference, the League of Arab and Gulf States and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). With his decades of experience in the economic and industrial fields, Mr. Bathija could offer highly professional services. Afghanistan therefore sought the support of all Member States for his candidature.

Organization of work

81. **The President** proposed that the Board once again decide to suspend rule 32 of the rules of procedure regarding the quorum, except for meetings at which substantive decisions were to be taken. Rule 80 provided for a 24-hour period of notice of a proposal for suspension, which could be waived if no representative of a member of the Board objected. If he heard no objection, he would assume that the Board wished to suspend rule 32.

82. *It was so decided.*

Recommendation of a candidate for the post of Director General (IDB.41/21 and Add.1, IDB.41/22)

83. **The President** said that, in accordance with rule 61.3 of the rules of procedure, item 12 was to be considered in a private meeting. In accordance with rule 73.3, he requested that all non-essential staff, members of the general public and representatives of the media should leave the conference room.

The public meeting rose at 12.05 p.m.