



Industrial Development Board

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Item 8 of the provisional agenda

Implementation of the field policy action plan

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Report by the Director General

In line with decision IDB.44/Dec.11, this report provides the Board with information on the implementation of the field policy action plan. The report builds on the field policy action plan presented to the sixteenth session of the General Conference (GC.16/6) and the first report presented to the forty-fourth session of the Board (IDB.44/7).

1. At the forty-fourth session of the Board, the Director General reported progress on the first phase of operationalization of the action plan (IDB.44/7). The Director General also outlined the rationale of the field adjustments and the process and outcome of bilateral consultations held in early 2016 with the affected Member States. These consultations had provided further guidance to the Organization in rationalizing the field structure. In addition, the report on the new field architecture included key features, such as the responsibilities and functions of field offices.
2. The action plan is being implemented in a phased approach, to cause minimum disruption of activities and to ensure a smooth transition. The guiding principle for the implementation is for UNIDO to maintain a physical presence in 47 countries through regional and country offices, and to ensure that no staff member who is on board is released.
3. As part of the outcome of the above-mentioned bilateral consultations, key activities were prioritized under the action plan. These included filling up vacancies and implementing rotations and reassignments of senior international staff. Concurrently, the Director General has continuously assured Member States of the ongoing support of the Organization to the programmatic interventions in the countries covered under the field restructuring.

For reasons of economy, this document has not been printed. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies of documents to meetings.



4. Under the second phase of the implementation of the action plan, the following actions were undertaken by the Organization since its progress report (IDB.44/7):

(a) Four senior posts at the level of Director were filled for the regional hubs in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean regions. Deployment to the field commenced in the first quarter of 2017;

(b) Three senior posts at the level of Director were reassigned at Headquarters at the end of last year, following the reduction of senior posts in the field. They were replaced by three international Professional staff at the P-5 level, for Regional Offices in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean regions;

(c) Following the reduction of Country Offices headed by international Professional staff at the P-5 level, fourteen senior national Professional staff positions were planned for recruitment, including three existing vacancies. Currently, nine new Country Representatives were selected for the following countries: Afghanistan, Algeria, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, Jordan, Morocco, Philippines, Sierra Leone and Sudan. The recruitment process for the other five countries, namely the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan, Madagascar, Tunisia, and Viet Nam, are expected to be completed by the end of the first quarter of 2017; and

(d) A formal orientation programme for the new country representatives is being organized as part of the capacity-building interventions planned for the field.

5. Some of the important milestones from 2016 continue to be priorities for UNIDO in 2017. It is therefore important to note the substantial and fundamental involvement of the field network in such issues as the operationalization of the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa and the engagement of UNIDO with the Group of Twenty (G20), including in their consideration of industrialization in Africa and least developed countries (LDCs) and of the G20 New Industrial Revolution Action Plan.

6. The field network has and continues to be involved in programmatic work on Programmes for Country Partnerships and in the implementation of ongoing country programmes. It also provides substantive contributions to the reporting mechanism for both the global and the voluntary national reviews of the high-level political forum, under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council.

7. Within the new UNIDO approaches to technical cooperation, the field offices will identify, formulate and undertake close monitoring of programmes, initiatives and developments, in line with the priorities of the respective country and with regional perspectives. In addition, the field offices are expected to provide timely and efficient administrative and operational support for overall effectiveness of the delivery of services on the ground.

8. As part of the overall structure of UNIDO, the field network will continue to play an integral role both in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in fulfilling the renewed mandate of the Organization. Through its field offices, UNIDO plays a pivotal role in the overall implementation and reporting of Sustainable Development Goal 9 and other relevant and interlinked goals and targets, in line with the country priorities. UNIDO's programmatic contribution to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda will be conveyed through the United Nations Resident Coordinator (UNRC) system reports to the Secretary-General.

9. Since the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals the new quadrennial comprehensive policy review is expected to have implications on the level of engagement by the UNIDO field offices within the United Nations development system (UNDS). The field offices are central to UNIDO's inter-agency cooperation within the UNDS, in particular within the United Nations system-wide coherence

initiative and the Delivering as One initiative. Participation in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) allows UNIDO to work on the priorities of the countries and develop joint programmatic initiatives with other United Nations organizations where possible. Participation in the UNDAF also provides UNIDO with visibility at the country level.

10. The ongoing efforts to fully integrate the senior national officers serving as UNIDO Country Representatives into the United Nations Country Teams will continue. All UNRCs and host governments are requested to support this recognition of UNIDO's country presence.

11. As part of the implementation of the field policy action plan, the Secretariat is undertaking a review of its agreements with Member States hosting country and regional offices of the Organization. The aim of the review is to identify provisions in existing agreements that may need amendment in light of the new field structure and possible gaps in the legal arrangements for specific offices. It is anticipated that the amendments will generally be of a technical nature, such as to the required rank of a country representative or the name or area of coverage of an office. Appropriate proposals will be made to the Member States concerned in due course.

Action required by the Board

12. The Board may wish to take note of the report on the operationalization of the field policy action plan, as provided in the present document.
